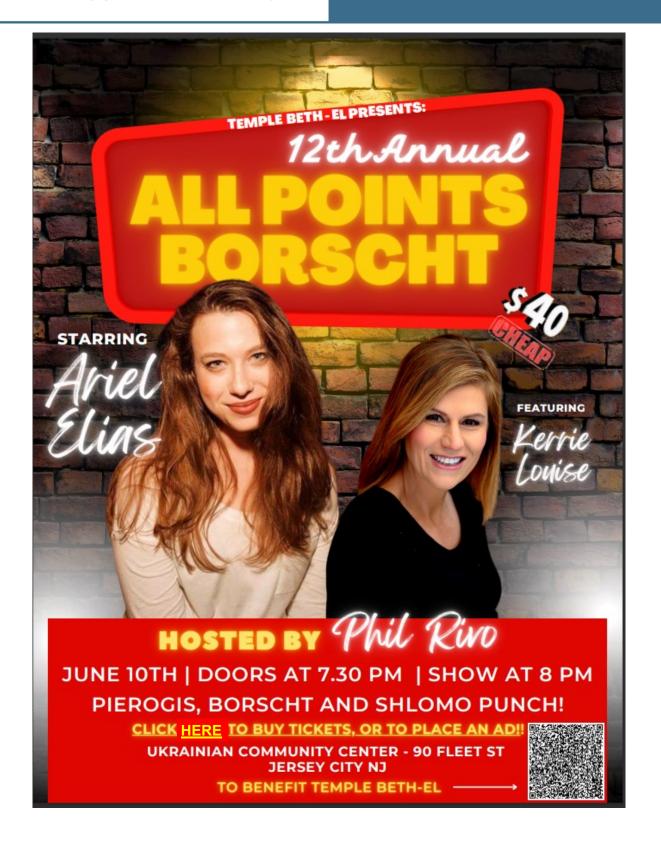


2419 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07304 www.betheljc.org ph 201.333.4229 office@betheljc.org

The Reform Congregation of Jersey City April 2023 Nissan—Iyar 5783

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





TAKE THE CHALLENGE





HELP US GO FROM 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

Costs not Covered by Fema*: Mitigation costs: 478K

Restoration costs:

Codes and Standards: 1.29 MIL 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

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 CODE & 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.





TAKE THE CHALLENGE



Thank you to all our members and friends who are helping to make the transformation of our School and Social Hall a reality by stepping up to make a donation since the launch of the Chai Challenge:

Adam & Karen Baumwoll

Beth Achenbach Stephanie Chaiken Raimy & Brian Cheyne

Alison Cohen Adrienne Cohn

Erik & Marla Decker

Jonathan & Alexandra Donenfeld

Chris Eig & Jennifer Dusel

Philip Gary & Amanda Resnikoff Gary Irwin Rosen

Suzanne Goldstein Smith & John

Thompson

John Hallanan

Mark & Deborah Kahn

Laura Katzive & Dan Ackman

Marina & Jason Kirschner

Joseph Koskuba & Michael Dzenis

Robb & Jill Kushner Jamie & Seth Lieberman Michele & Craig Linder

Rochelle Linder Deborah Lipp

Rabbis Leana Moritt & Steven Kushner
Jonathan Pinn & Karen Seemen Pinn

Alan Porwich Irwin Rosen

Tom Rosensweet & Barbara Hines

Lisa Sackett

Nancy & Nathan Sambul

Howard Tarplin

Robert & Hillela Ward

Jennifer Nadler Wright & Roy Wright

Bequests:

The Estate of Molly Heitner Charles & Esther Krieger Foundation

Add your name by clicking here for a 12-month Chai Challenge donation.

You know you've been meaning to do it.

It's not too late and we are still looking for

100% congregational participation.

Donations are still very, very much needed.



- 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, April 7

First Friday Family Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:30 pm with Cantor Jeff. Passover Oneg after services.

Thursday, April 13

Yizkor Service (Zoom only) 9—10:00 am

Friday, April 14

Kabbalat Shabbat Services 8:00 pm

Aufruff blessing the upcoming marriage of

Rosa Escandon & Samuel Wild.

Oneg sponsored by Rabbi Leana Moritt & Philip Wild

Friday, April 21

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

Saturday, April 22

Tot Shabbat (not livestreamed) 10:30 am

Friday, April 28

Kabbalat Shabbat Services. 8:00 pm

Aufruff blessing the upcoming marriage of

Mollie Kahn & Benjamin Plotnick

Oneg sponsored by Debbie & Mark Kahn.

Saturday, April 29

Shabbat morning services and bar mitzvah 10:30am of Amelie Mentha

Friday, May 5

First Friday Family Kabbalat Shabbat Services & 6:30 pm 3rd & 4th grade shabbat with Cantor Jeff.
Aufruff blessing the upcoming marriage of Kiana Kiyohara and Stephen Leicht.
Oneg and cake honoring the grade 3/4 children



and the couple after services.

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



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: Tuesdays 11am – 4pm

Thursdays 11am – 6pm

Remote office hours:

Wednesdays 11am – 4pm Friday 11am – 2 pm

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.

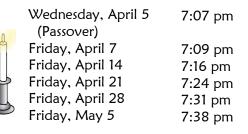
Deborah Lipp, Recording Secretary

Bob Kahan, Office Mgr admin@betheljc.org

Kay Magilavy, Past President

Irwin Rosen, Past President

Shabbat & Passover Candle Lighting





On the Eve of her 75th Birthday, Israel's Democracy Hangs in the Balance

It's April, and what could be more present in the Jewish world than Passover? This year, my hands are in the kitchen and the seder table, but my heart is in Israel. As I write this, developments are now quickly unfolding. After literally hundreds of thousands—likely millions—of protesters (including me along with a few hundred Reform Rabbis) who have been demonstrating uninterrupted since December, we all have a stake in the outcome of this sacred relationship with Israel.

First a little context. Last December is when Benjamin Netanyahu—who is currently under indictment on a number of criminal charges including corruption—retook the helm as prime minister by forming a radically ultranationalist right-wing ultra-Orthodox government coalition with only a hair-thin narrow majority.



Rabbi Moritt protesting in Tel Aviv with Knesset Member Rabbi Gilad

Remember, you don't get to be prime minister of Israel by being elected to it. you only get the job if you head the party with the most votes and then

are able to form a coalition with other parties to constitute a majority of the legislature (Knesset). Netanyahu is Israel's longest-serving prime minister. Israel has suffered through his leadership through sixadministrations: for three years in the late 1990s and for 12 of the last 14 years.

But this time, working fast after his re-election, his administration has been trying to bulldozing a law that would give the Knesset the power to set aside any judgement of the Supreme Court, even with a simple majority, thereby completely nullifying the balance of power and decimating the democratic checks and balances in the country. These proposed laws also completely change how the Supreme Court Justices are chosen, further politicizing it.

In Israel, just as in every functioning democracy, the balance of power and the checks and balances come from the Judiciary—the court system and, like the US, the Supreme Court. And it is these checks and balances, this democracy that has millions taking to the streets in Israel.

Netanyahu is working to dismantle the court because over the last few decades, the court has been the only power pushing back on his ruling conservative legislature. It has been the court which in many cases has upheld the rights of women, LGBTQ, Arabs and other minority citizens, immigrants, and all non-Orthodox Israelis in striking down conservative laws passed by the Knesset. It is also the court that continues to uphold Netanyahu's indictments and which has barred many of his previous ministers from further serving in the government after their own convictions.

Over the last 20 years or so, it has been easy to equate Israel with Netanyahu's policies. Because of the consistently right-wing and ultra-Orthodox coalitions, these are the policies that have consistently worked to support the continuing settlement activity in the West Bank; to undermine the growth of solid, honest Palestinian West Bank leadership; to actively work to undermine the rights of women, Palestinian citizens, LGBTQ folks and anyone who isn't Orthodox. Up until now, security concerns have continually supported increasingly slim conservative election outcomes.

But the message from Israel now is coming through loud and clear. This is not who we are! Israelis of all stripes are taking to the streets: religious and secular; Muslim, Christian and Jew; Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Mizrachi;



Rabbi's Article continued from page 5

soldiers; teachers; high tech entrepreneurs. When I was there protesting late last month with all of those above, the two words people were chanting that rung out were "democratia!" and "busha!" Meaning: "democracy" and "shame—shame on you—you should be ashamed of yourself." And, mind you, that among hundreds of thousands of people, not for one moment did it feel dangerous or violent. Determined, yes, but in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, it was entirely orderly and respectful. There was no need for any police, nor were there any in sight.

Since my return, more and more Israelis are demanding this judicial overhaul legislation be stopped. This is why members of elite military units have refused to train; why even the defense minister spoke out about it (and was summarily fired by Netanyahu); why Netanyahu's translators refused to accompany him on a diplomatic trip to Italy. It is why hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of Israelis are disrupting everyday life, blocking streets, highways and flights at Ben Gurion International Airport; not going to work or sending their kids to school; going on strikes. It is why high-tech companies are making serious plans to pull out of Israel.

I know I am not alone in shaking my head with disappointment and despair in the policies of one Netanyahu administration after the other in the last 25 years, especially as it pertains to the treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank and other minorities. Yet, from my front-row seat at these Israeli protests last month, my faith in and my love for Israel was reawakened and reaffirmed. What was crystal clear to me there is that Israel, the Israeli people—the Israeli heart and soul—must not be confused with its current, stale and corrupt government. Israel is not Netanyahu and his politics.

Israelis are standing up to say this is not why Israel was founded and how it was defined. This is not what they fight and die for—what they send their children to fight and die for. This is not the Israel they live for and love. This is not the Israel they will tolerate.

As we prepare ourselves for Passover and the great liberation and redemption of our people, we need to remember both that Israel is the home to about half the Jews in the world and what the world was like for Jews before there was a state of Israel, a short 75 years ago. Israel is the only place in the world where any of us can go and immediately claim citizenship and make a home. Israel is the only democracy, the only safe place for many—Jews and non-Jews—in the entire Middle East.

American Jews were ambivalent at best toward the safety and justice of the almost 10 million European Jews on the eve of the 2nd World War. Today, too, it has become far too easy to turn a judgmental and dismissive eye toward Israel—as an "issue." "They" do things we don't agree with. Busha. Shame on the Israeli government for some of them.

Ours is a sacred relationship. On Passover we read the section of the Bible called Shir Hashirim, the Song of songs. It is poetry recalling what it is like in the flush of new love in the budding sacred relationship between God and the people Israel. May it be that this Passover, we are all able to rekindle that passion for our faith in and support for *Medinat* Israel's democracy and goodness, and the inviolable relationship we have with her and all her people.

Chag Sameach. I wish you all a sweet and liberating Pesach and a re-energized Yom Ha-atzmaut on Israel's 75th birthday on April 25/26.

Rabbi Leana Moritt

April 2023 page 7



It's wedding season!

3 wonderful couples will be blessed and celebrated at an aufruff under the chuppah at services over the next month. Join us for the joy, celebration and oneg,





April 14 Rosa Escandon & Samuel Wild



April 28 Mollie Kahn and Benjamin Plotnick

Rabbis attended a

at the North Jersey Islamic Education City in Union City



May 5 Stephen Leicht and Kiana Kiyohara



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



Rabbi Naomi Kalish, Sheikh Mohammad Moussa of the North Hudson Islamic Education Center and Rabbi Moritt



Clockwise from top left: Arif Khalil, Father Gene Squio, unknown, Rabbi Moritt, Alex Lalaoui, Rabbi Naomi Kalish

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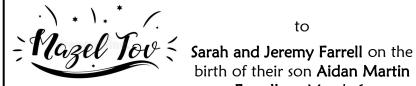


Amélie Louise Mentha, daughter of Jennifer Strong and the late Alain Mentha, will become a bat mitzvah on April 29. Amélie is in the seventh grade at Primary Prep in Jersey City, and her favorite subjects are math and social studies, and particularly, debate. She also enjoys singing in Glee Club there, as well as playing piano. Most recently she has taken up drawing in her free time. Since 2014 until recently, Amélie has enjoyed studying ballet, tap, jazz and lyrical dance at Performing Arts Workshop and Nimbus, downtown dance studios, and hopes to go on pointe in ballet in the next year.

Amélie's family joined Temple Beth-El in 2014 and she began Hebrew School that year. Judaism is an important part of Amélie's life, and it is a deep connection to her father, who embraced the local community and chaired the social action committee for several years. She will always cherish her memories of performing in the Purim plays with him (during and pre-Covid!) and co-hosting together lively Passover meals for friends and neighbors, singing and reciting her prayers in Hebrew from an early

In preparing for her Bat Mitzvah, Amélie has particularly enjoyed studying her Torah portion and thinking more deeply of what it means to welcome the stranger, as she has been helping and participating in activities for many years at Welcome Home Fun Club, the non-profit organization her father helped form and grow, which serves to support local refugees, asylees and asylum-seekers. She has also enjoyed all her teachers over the years at Temple, and speaking with them in very small group settings to learn the traditions and the history.

Amélie is eager to share her bat mitzvah day with all of her family and friends! She would like to thank Rabbi Moritt, Cantor Jeff, and the support of various community friends, and Great-Aunt Robin and Cousin Alex, for bringing her to this place. We are all so proud of her.



Farrell on March 6.

Leah Firestone and Niv Tschaikov on the birth of their son Gefen Tschaikov on March 9.

Erica Gomez and Edward Ratush and their sons, Raffa and Iggy, on the birth of their daughter and sister, Yeva Yael Tziporah Ratush on March 13.





It's not too early to think about camp for next summer! Learn about Camp Harlam here.



Sunday, May 7* 20 10am

Hebrew School-wide Lag B'Omer picnic and outdoor game day

Tot Shabbat and prospective Religious School families heartily welcome. *Rain date May 14.

April 2023 page 9





wine & cheese "pre-neg" before services

> Friday, April 21 Friday, May 19 Friday, June 16



- Help bring TBE to those at home by pushing a couple of buttons. 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 Rabbi Moritt
- Are you a Social Media maven and want to help TBE stay visible and current? Contact Beth Achenbach or Rabbi Moritt and join the social media team.
- Want to create fun, welcoming and meaningful Temple events? Be part of our Religious Practices/Ushering team or Membership committee. Contact Rabbi Moritt
- Want to help feed the hungry and change the world? Contact <u>Laura Katzive</u>



Saturday, April 22 @ 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.

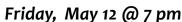


May 13 June 10 July 15 August 26 September 30 October 21

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

Sponsored Library

Our next Community Shabbat Dinner at TBE:





All attendees must pre-register <u>here</u> by May 9. 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 destruction of our Social Hall by Hurricane Ida in 2021 and the closing of sale of B'nai Jacob in March, 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

April 2023 page 10





Our Purim Family Fun Day was wonderful!

Our sixth and seventh graders did an amazing job with the mishloach manot baskets, finished early, and had time to do some of the activities as well. The older students seemed to enjoy the different activities. They were able to use the art materials to make their Purim projects their own. They put their creative minds to work and made beautiful projects! All the teachers were instrumental in making this work! They all had their activity areas, necessary materials, and the schedule for the morning rotations.







A HUGE Thanks to our Purim Bag sponsors

Nancy & Nathan Sambul, Gold Sponsors

Philip Gary & Amanda Resnikoff-Gary, Silver Sponsors

Bronze Sponsors:



Allison Pilgrim-Bell & Michiel Bell

Arnold & Renee Bettinger

Eric Bleich

Rabbi Kenneth Brickman

Lynn Brownstein & Alexander Haviland

Joel Caminer & Ellen Simon Sarah Cohen & Jeffrey Galvani

Yale & Kelsey Cohen

Adrienne Cohen

Raimy & Brian Cheyne

Sarah Colker & Joe Moskowitz

Karen & Gary Cuttler Rebecca & William Davis Robin & Terry Ewert Elliott & Stacey Goldstein

Suzanne Goldstein-Smith & John Thompson

Laura Katzive & Daniel Ackman

Rebecca Mitchell

Mike Noveck & Meghan Howard-Noveck

Sam Pesin

Jonathan Pinn & Karen Seemen-Pinn

Stuart Portnoy

Irwin Rosen

Robin & Alex Schkrutz Eric & Maureen Schnabolk

Jennifer Strong (IMO Alain Mentha)

Mike Zacuto Paul Zajac Temple Beth-El April 2023 page 11



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. <u>Android Apple</u> Signing up through the App will make it easier for us to track. Team leaders (those with keys) should not sign up. Just let <u>Karen</u> and <u>Laura</u> 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 <u>here</u>, 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 Avital Romoff
Nancy & Nathan Sambul in memory of Alain Mentha

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 <u>here</u> 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



Shave the date: Shavuot Community Picnic & Ice Cream Social

Saturday, May 27 at noon (immediately following our Shavuot morning services)

facebook

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 <u>here</u> 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!

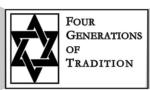


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Temple Beth-El has a plot of burial grounds in Mount Moriah Cemetery in Fairview, NJ.

Mount Moriah is a beautiful and wellmaintained 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 April 1

Andy Lackowitz Irving Vogelman

Week ending April 8

Libby Bergen Lothar Daniel Joseph Hanan Lennox McKell Nathan Schnur Rose Sternberg

Week ending April 15

Yetta De Noble Arlene Hysen Leon Sambul Deborah Baker Terry Howard R. Weil Week ending April 22

Ellen Baker Herman Bardack Rabbi Samuel A. Berman Elizabeth Daniel

Liliyen Meshell-Chiltern

Week ending April 29

Florence Berman Florence Goldberg Anna Padlipsky Eugene Rottenberg Philip Sandick

Week ending May 6

Fred G. Moritt

Yahrzeits Remember and Honor

To update your family's yahrzeit listings go to the <u>TBE yahrzeit list</u> or call or write the office.

