

Volume 52 Issue 1 (bi-monthly)

January-February 2025

Tevet/Shevat 5785

*À La Vie! L'Chaim!*  
*Temple Rock Paris 2025*



*Temple Rock Paris 2025*

**CÉLÉBREZ NOTRE COMMUNAUTÉ TBE!**

**Saturday, February 1, 2025 at 7 p.m.**

Cocktails Classiques

Merveilleux Buffet

Fantastique Auction with Colin Cosell

Très Chic Attire

Danse au Hot Club of Black Rock

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**WHERE TO FIND IT**

Michael Knopf, Senior Rabbi	Page 3
Katie Kaplan, Cantor	Page 3
Joshua Hammerman, Rabbi Emeritus	Page 5
Beth El Cares	Page 7
Men's Club	Page 11
Sisterhood	Page 12-13

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**OUR STAFF IS MOST EAGER TO ASSIST YOU****Monday-Thursday, 9am-5:00 pm | Friday, 9am - 2:00pm****Phone: 203-322-6901 Fax: 203-322-0532**

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## MICHAEL ROSE KNOPF, SENIOR RABBI

A few weeks ago, our weekly Torah portion focused on the story of the ancient twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. In my sermon that Shabbat, which several folks encouraged me to share here (It's too long for this column but can be read in full online: <https://www.rabbiknopf.com/post/keep-your-humanity-face-the-horror-parashat-vayera-5785>.), I shared how this story is a cautionary tale about a society so morally bankrupt that it sealed its own destruction. The people of Sodom, according to tradition, had built a culture of cruelty, turning selfishness into law, and even punishing acts of kindness.



Against this backdrop, the family of Abraham's nephew, Lot, offers us glimpses of courage and humanity. In a society that criminalized compassion, Plotit, who according to rabbinic tradition was one of Lot's daughters, risked everything to feed a starving stranger. Tragically, her morally courageous actions led to her public execution — but it was her cry that reached heaven and compelled God to intervene.

Lot's wife, Idit, is also a profile in courage. Contrary to the common assumption that Idit was punished for looking back at her burning city by being turned into a pillar of salt, closer analysis reveals that her gaze wasn't a sin but rather an act of defiance. She turned back, not out of longing for the past, but because she couldn't ignore the cries of her neighbors, her friends, her community. In a world of overwhelming horror, she refused to look away. She could not simply move on without bearing witness, even at great personal cost. Her courage reminds us that confronting injustice often requires witnessing and acknowledging suffering, even when it's difficult or costly.

The examples of Plotit and Idit remind us that justice begins with refusing to avert our eyes and committing to becoming involved. It requires facing the world's brokenness and taking action without losing our values or compassion. The bravery exemplified by these two extraordinary biblical women invites us to ask: How will we respond to injustice in our time? Will we ignore it, turn away, or choose the harder path of seeing and acting?

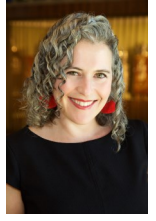
As we look ahead to the new secular year, we at Temple Beth El are renewing our commitment to confronting injustice in our world and engaging in meaningful action. Guided by the values of our tradition, we are dedicating time and energy to taking our congregation's social justice work further and deeper, strengthening inclusion and mutual support internally, and advancing a more just and compassionate community beyond our walls through direct action and advocacy around systemic issues. To lead this effort, we are re-building our Tzedek Committee as a hub for education, advocacy, and action.

I hope you'll join us in this sacred work. Whether you've been engaged in justice work for years or are just beginning, your voice and heart are needed. Please join us for the

*Continued on page 4...*

## KATIE KAPLAN, CANTOR

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."  
-- Henry David Thoreau



It isn't always easy to follow one's heart or dreams, especially once reaching middle or advanced age. The act of embracing a "beginner's mindset" takes a lot of unlearning of the ways in which we think we are supposed to be good at things, or talented. We often find ourselves admiring the creative lives of people around us, but often fail to realize how much work and effort goes into cultivating the creative arts, whether they be music, art, theater, or poetry. What might appear as someone being, "talented," may very well be true, but as we all know by now, talent can only get someone so far. If you are at a point where you look at the creative pursuits of someone else and think that you'd like to be doing that, if only you had the talent, well then, I'm sharing this for you (And I think that is pretty much all of us.) It takes guts and *chutzpah* to set off and do something that we aspire toward, to start anew with building skills in an area we had previously ignored or abandoned, but it can be some of the most fulfilling practice.

Over the past year, I embraced a beginner's mind with the pursuit of my poetry practice. I was reading the written work of so many friends and colleagues with admiration and, I'll admit, a bit of jealousy that they were able to write so beautifully. Well, you know how the saying goes, "If you want to be a writer, write!" and, "If you want to be a singer, sing! I know this is easier said than done. I had been writing as part of my spiritual practice for a long time but was desirous to study poetry and make deliberate progress toward turning my daily journal writing into poetry. I found a poet I admired, reached out, and asked if she worked 1:1 with emerging poets. To my surprise and bliss, she replied that she did and that she would be happy to begin working with me on ZOOM, from Colorado.

I was terrified and excited. I had never studied poetry before outside of an English class in school and here I was going to work with an award-winning poet who I admire greatly. Despite my fears, I decided to give myself complete permission to be a beginner and I went into these sessions with the desire for playful expression and wanting to, "write into the fullness of my humanity."

I learned so much and took one of my earliest poems through several iterations until I landed with this piece that I'd like to share with you as we enter the secular New Year. In this poem, *Ripple*, I attempt to touch the cyclical passage of time and the complexity of intergenerational connection.

*Ripple* by Cantor Katie Kaplan

A rock, tossed long ago  
into the Sea of Fate  
sends ripples out  
through time and space.  
I bend down at the water's edge

*Continued on page 4...*



to pick it up.

Here, at the intersection  
of past and future  
I meet my loneliness.  
I've been moving through rituals,  
striving to make my life  
add up to something  
tangible as this rock,  
a legacy to pass down,  
a testament to having lived.

I sift through memories  
seeking the strength and wisdom  
of my ancestors—  
the fortitude of my father's father  
the tenacity of my mother's mother.  
But it's my own blurred reflection  
gazing back at me  
on the surface of the water.

Did they search for me years ago  
when the routine of living  
wore them down?  
Did they hope I would one day  
find in their longing,  
a message of truth  
tumbled and smoothed  
by years of heartache and love?

Turning the rock over in my hand,  
I feel the certainty  
of our unbroken connection  
and for a moment,  
face to face with the eternal,  
this gift  
makes perfect sense,  
resting gently in my palm.

*Cantor Katie Kaplan*

**Save this date!**  
**ANNUAL CANTOR'S CONCERT**  
**Sunday, April 6, 2025**

**IMPORTANT!**

Please note that when school is cancelled due to bad weather, so is morning minyan on Thursday and Sunday mornings.

**CHECK US OUT ON**  
**facebook**

[facebook.com/tbestamford/](https://facebook.com/tbestamford/)

Tzedek Committee's organizational meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 7:30 pm.

RSVP here: [www.tinyurl.com/tbejustice](http://www.tinyurl.com/tbejustice). For more information, contact Julie Rosenberg ([julierosenbergsjp@gmail.com](mailto:julierosenbergsjp@gmail.com)) or me ([rabbiknopf@tbe.org](mailto:rabbiknopf@tbe.org)).

Let us face the challenges of our time with courage and compassion — and let us do it together.

*Rabbi Michael Knopf*

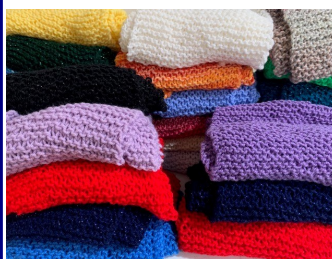
**LISTENING TOUR GATHERINGS**

Rabbi Knopf is eager to get to know our TBE members and learn about their experiences at TBE as well as their ideas for our congregation's future.

If you'd like to attend and/or host one of these "Listening Tour Gatherings" ("LTG's"), please email Lisa Manheim ([lisago1@gmail.com](mailto:lisago1@gmail.com)), who has generously offered to help coordinate these LTG's.

**BETH EL CARES**

Once again, Beth El Cares provided warm clothing, gifts and food to local shelters for Christmas.





## WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US ON SHABBAT MORNINGS

We warmly welcome you to show up for services on Shabbat in whatever way is meaningful to you. A reminder: you don't have to attend services to come for lunch on Shabbat! Services begin at 10 am, and we get to lunch around 12:15 pm. You can also show up for and/or leave services any time:

- From 10 until about 10:30 am, we sing the joyous and soulful melodies of P'sukei D'zimrah, the preliminary service.
- From about 10:30 to 10:45 am is the morning service, Shaharit (including greatest hits like Shema and the Amidah).
- We take the Torah out at about 10:45 am, and chant from the Torah and Haftarah portions until about 11:30 am.
- The D'var Torah (sermon) takes place around 11:30 am.

Between 11:45 am-12:15 pm, we conclude the service with Musaf, Aleinu, and Adon Olam (we always invite children up to help lead some of these final prayers, and any kid who helps lead gets to pick a prize from the Rabbi's "Tchotchke Chest"!).

And for those who wish to partake, you are welcome to make a "L'chaim!" with us on a beverage of your choosing (whether alcoholic or non-alcoholic) after services. I can personally guarantee good bourbon, an awesome and creative signature cocktail based on the weekly Torah portion, and even better schmoozing!

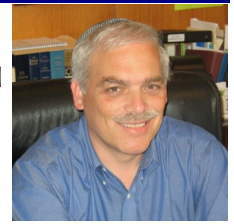
## CELEBRATING HANUKKAH AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTER WITH MAYOR CAROLINE SIMMONS



## JOSHUA HAMMERMAN, RABBI EMERITUS

### One On Foot

### In Tribute to Alberto Eyzaguirre and in Remembrance of Ellen Gottfried



When I heard that Alberto Eyzaguirre was leaving TBE after 50 years of dedicated service, and since I was unable to attend the service where he was honored, I knew that I had to send this note of thanks, not just on my behalf, but on behalf of all the clergy that I partnered with during his time here. I know that Rabbi Goldman and Hazzan Rabinowitz in particular would want to chime in, were they able – so I speak for them too.

It took me many years to figure out how to pronounce Alberto's last name. But I finally figured out the key to remembering how to do it. The last syllable of that name is also a Hebrew word, *Ger*. In Hebrew it literally means stranger, but in the Bible, it has a special meaning. A *Ger toshav* was a very special member of the community. He wasn't so much a stranger as a resident stranger. It almost seems a contradiction in terms. But this resident who wasn't quite a member of the tribe, was supposed to be treated with the utmost of respect, and to have most of the privileges of membership, including resting on Shabbat, ample food and clothing, everything.

This highly respected person, this *Ger toshav*, played an important role. As Jewish history evolved, it became clear that non-Jews were often needed to perform tasks that Jews were forbidden to do, like turn on the synagogue lights on Shabbat. And the *Ger toshav* was so highly regarded because here was a person who didn't have to cast his lot among us, but who chose to, in every way. And finally, the *Ger toshav* played a very important role in teaching Jews and their children the merits of hospitality. How could we expect to be a Godlike people if we can't even treat those living amongst us with kindness?

The beloved educator at JTS, Rabbi Joseph Lukinsky z'l, one of the preeminent scholars in the field of Jewish education of the past century, used to teach his classes of rabbinical students that the synagogue had no more significant educator on its staff than the custodian. That was certainly true for Alberto. Alberto was so much more to us than a mere employee. He always went above and beyond the call, and always with a smile. He was the first to welcome guests here, and the first to smile back pleasantly, even on those rare times when congregants might have treated him with somewhat less courtesy than he deserved. He was in many ways the face of TBE. He never complained, even when this rabbi changed his mind five times about a set-up and asked him to do something at the last minute. He taught us about *hachnasat orchim*, welcoming guests, he taught us about greeting everyone with a smile, he was a mensch in every sense of the term, and our primary role model for *menschlichkeit* in the building.

And everybody loved him, the kids too. When my

*Continued on page 6...*

## SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday Night services are held at 7:00 pm

Shabbat Morning services are held at 10:00 am

Our services may be seen on livestream

<http://www.tbe.org/tbe-live/>

All are welcome!

## CELEBRATE SPECIAL OCCASIONS ON SHABBAT MORNING

Celebrate a birthday with our TBE family! We warmly invite you to celebrate your birthday with the congregation on Shabbat morning. During that service, we will invite you for a celebratory Aliyah. We hope you will share in that joyous moment. If possible, please let us know ahead of time which Shabbat you'll be attending, and we will gladly provide you with an Aliyah at that time. Please also note that we are proud to continue marking special milestone birthdays with personal blessings in addition to this new ritual. If you fall into that category, you may contact Eileen H. Rosner at [rosnereileen@gmail.com](mailto:rosnereileen@gmail.com) to make the appropriate arrangements.

Celebrate an anniversary! On behalf of the entire congregation, we invite you to celebrate your wedding anniversary with the congregation with an Aliyah on Shabbat. If possible, please let us know ahead of time which Shabbat you'll be attending, and we will gladly provide you with an Aliyah at that time.

While it is most certainly not expected, if you would like to elevate your birthday or anniversary celebration and the congregation's joy by helping to sponsor Kiddush on the Shabbat of your Aliyah, we would be most grateful for your generosity. Please call Mindy Rogoff at 203-322-6901, ext. 301 or [office@tbe.org](mailto:office@tbe.org).

## Special Occasion?

**Sponsor the Shabbat Announcements**  
(emailed every Thursday afternoon)

or

**Rabbi Knopf's Shabbat Reflections**  
(emailed every Friday morning)

**Donation of \$118**

**All sponsors will be acknowledged at the top of each of the eblasts and also listed in our bi-monthly Bulletin.**

**[Click here](#) to reserve your date.**

## JOSHUA HAMMERMAN, continued from page 5...


family went to the movies once back when my kids were young, I recall Ethan tugging at me and saying, "There's Alberto," and sure enough there he was, with his family, and my kids ran over to say hello. I ran over too, after first doing a double take, amazed that he wasn't still at TBE setting up for the next day, knowing how incredibly busy that weekend had been for us.

Alberto was always here for us in other ways as well. Not just with his hands, but with his heart. He was always asking about Judaism, and when he wasn't working, he was listening to the service and often could recall my messages years later. And, like the *Ger toshav* of old, he has truly cast his lot with us. Our house was his house, and he cared more for every corner of it more than anyone else. And even when I began to move into my new home here in Madison, Alberto offered to make the 50-mile drive – on his own time – and do a few quick repairs that we needed. I rode with him, and it was one of the best talks we ever had. It was at that time, just days before my own final service, when he mentioned that he was facing the pivotal decision to retire, after so many years of service. He loved his work and this community, but he knew that his time was fast approaching.

One other great talent that he had: Alberto was a genuine dog whisperer, a definite job necessity when so much of his work was at the rabbi's house, and the rabbi had multiple dogs. When they saw Alberto coming, they yelped with anticipation, but also knew that they had best not yelp too much. One little gesture from Alberto snapped them right into line.

My deepest thanks to Alberto, and to Patty, who also gave of herself for our community (and babysat for my kids too). We are all so grateful for all that you have done.

And while I'm at it, another note of appreciation, this one sadder. Many of you will recall Ellen Gottfried, who worked in our office for a number of years, often giving special assistance to clergy and the Hebrew School, and working on our weekly announcements. Ellen passed away several weeks ago. Hers was not an easy life, and she found great fulfillment and purpose in her work at TBE. We also were a valued support system for her as she confronted life's challenges. I know that many of you were personally blessed by the special attention she gave people when they called with an urgent request. As with Alberto, Ellen demonstrated Rabbi Lukinsky's lesson about every staff member at a synagogue being integral to the message of holiness, a kindness that we try to project all the time – which our current staff members continue to do.

 May Ellen's memory be for a blessing.

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman

P.S. And as we enter 2025, I invite you to stay in touch with me by subscribing to my fast-growing Substack newsletter, by heading to <https://rabbijoshuahammerman.substack.com/> You can also contact me directly by emailing me at [joshuah@tbe.org](mailto:joshuah@tbe.org). Note the extra "h" tacked onto my first name. I have no phone extension at the Temple, but I check my email frequently, so that's the best way to reach me. I always love to hear from old friends.



## MAZAL TOV TO...

*Maxine and Jay Freilich on the birth of a granddaughter, Arabella Flora, born to Danielle and Gary Freilich.*

*Binnie Ditesheim on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Ada Joy, born to Abigail and Eric Frick.*

*Hannah and Michael May on the birth of a son, Ezekiel Nathan.*



Share your family's simcha (engagement, marriage, birth, Bar or Bat Mitzvah of a child or grandchild) and other joyous event. Just contact the TBE office at [office@tbe.org](mailto:office@tbe.org) or 203-322-6901, ext. 301.

## HONORABLE MENSCHEN TODAH RABAH TO OUR TORAH READERS

ALEX COHEN ☆ JONATHAN COHEN ☆ BARRY ERNER  
AMANDA GEFFNER ☆ DEVRA JAFFE-BERKOWITZ  
ZOË JAFFE-BERKOWITZ ☆ NEIL KATZ ☆ BERT MADWED  
SUSAN SCHNEIDERMAN ☆ MARGE SHAMEER  
MIA WEINSTEIN

## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING KIDDUSH

SHERRY and KENNETH COHEN  
ADRIENNE and WAYNE DOMEIER  
LISA and JEFF MANHEIM

## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THE SHABBAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUE FRIEDEN  
TBE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CLERGY & STAFF

## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING SHABBAT REFLECTIONS

SUE FRIEDEN  
TBE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CLERGY & STAFF

## SEEKING SHABBAT GREETERS

Do you like getting a warm "Shabbat Shalom" as you enter shul on Saturday morning?

Our greeting program has been extremely well received. To keep this program going, we need volunteer greeters like you.

For more information Contact Eric Sigman at [esigman1@gmail.com](mailto:esigman1@gmail.com)

Thanks for helping make Temple Beth El a warm and welcoming place to be.

## BETH EL CARES

*Beth El Cares focuses on chesed and tzedakah by helping the poor and unfortunate through mitzvot, both in our synagogue and the greater Stamford community. We welcome volunteers! This is the work we are currently engaged in. If you are interested in volunteering in any of these endeavors, please contact the person listed.*

**Reyut (Friendship):** Committed to serving the needs of those in our TBE community, including friendly visits, assistance with errands and transportation, Shabbat bag delivery to hospitalized patients. Contact Melanie Massell at [reyut@tbe.org](mailto:reyut@tbe.org) or 203-274-1708.

**Project Ezra:** Providing pre-shiva meals to the bereaved in the congregation. Contact Joy Katz at [joyakatz@yahoo.com](mailto:joyakatz@yahoo.com) or 203-329-3359.

**Serving the homeless: Help prepare and serve food — you can do either or both throughout the year.** Contact Julie Rosenberg at [julierenbergsip@gmail.com](mailto:julierosenbergsip@gmail.com) or 203-273-6794.

**High Holiday Food Drive:** Contact Sharon Turshen at 203-323-3872

**Christmas dinners at local homeless shelters:** Contact Julie Rosenberg at [julierenbergsip@gmail.com](mailto:julierosenbergsip@gmail.com) or 203-273-6794.

## BETH EL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Information about the Beth El Cemetery Association, Inc. is available from:

Allan Lang at 203-327-6418  
or  
Eileen H. Rosner at 203-461-0506

## Get involved, please...

Help Wanted! In order to maintain our vibrant and dynamic community, the Fund-Raising Committee needs more members to support TBE and volunteer their skills and talents. Many of these opportunities ask for very small-time commitments. Please consider getting involved with the:

Annual Appeal | Temple Rock | Cantor's Concert

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us and we will give you more information.

Thank you!

Contact Ron Zussman [rmzussman@gmail.com](mailto:rmzussman@gmail.com) or Steven Lander [execdir@tbe.org](mailto:execdir@tbe.org) for information.



Temple Beth El, Stamford  
and  
Congregation Beth El, Norwalk  
Proudly Present:

**KESHER BETH EL**  
*Beth El Connections: Two Synagogues,  
One Learning Community*



**IN PERSON SUNDAY MORNINGS GRADES K-7**  
**ZOOM HEBREW TUTORIALS THURSDAY**  
**AFTERNOONS GRADES 3-7**

- Monthly Sunday Morning Learning Program for ages 3-4
- Amazing Holiday Celebrations
- Experiential, Interactive Learning
- Small Group Hebrew Learning
- Weekly Tefilah (worship service) led by our clergy, teachers, and students
- **TRY US OUT FOR A YEAR!** For grades K-2, registration for the first year is open to non-members; tuition is reduced 50% for the first year for members.

For more information contact Leo Linder:  
[eddir@tbe.org](mailto:eddir@tbe.org), or register at [tinyurl.com/kbe24-25new](http://tinyurl.com/kbe24-25new).

**K'TANIM**

A monthly Jewish learning Sunday drop-off program for 3 and 4 year-olds.  
9:00am-11:45am

**GAMES! MUSIC! TORAH! HOLIDAYS!**  
**STORIES! CRAFTS! BLESSINGS! FUN!**

You do not need to be a member of a synagogue to participate.

Register here: [www.tinyurl.com/kbe24-25new](http://www.tinyurl.com/kbe24-25new)

Questions? Contact Dayna Patashnik at [tbeengagement@gmail.com](mailto:tbeengagement@gmail.com) or Leo Linder at [eddir@tbe.org](mailto:eddir@tbe.org).



**TeeBeEs and Keshet Beth El Havdalah**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**TeeBeEs Havdalah BimBam**  
**Saturday, January 25, 2025**  
**6:00 pm**

**For families with children**  
**ages 0-5 years**

**Watch for details!**





## TBE HANUKKAH CANDLE LIGHTING ON ZOOM

led by

**Cantor Katie Kaplan**

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025  
5:30 pm**

Light your favorite menorah and share it with fellow congregants on Zoom, from wherever you may be, as we light the 8th candle of Hanukkah.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81499356121>

Meeting ID: 814 9935 6121 | Passcode: 500495

Temple Beth El  
350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT  
203-322-6901 | [www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org) | [office@tbe.org](mailto:office@tbe.org)



צדק צדק תרדוף  
Justice, justice you shall pursue!  
- Deuteronomy 16:20

Temple Beth El Tzedek Committee Meeting  
Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Be part of organizing Temple Beth El's Tzedek Committee, a group dedicated to leading and coordinating our congregation's efforts to pursue social justice. Rooted in our Jewish values and commitment to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), this committee will spearhead initiatives to address pressing societal issues and inspire meaningful action.

Whether you've been deeply engaged in social justice work for years or are just beginning to explore how to make a difference, we'd love for you to join us. Together, we can create a powerful force for positive change.

RSVP: [www.tinyurl.com/tbejustice](http://www.tinyurl.com/tbejustice)

For questions or more information, please contact Julie Rosenberg ([julierosenbergsjp@gmail.com](mailto:julierosenbergsjp@gmail.com)) or Rabbi Knopf ([rabbiknopf@tbe.org](mailto:rabbiknopf@tbe.org)).

Let's make a difference together!

Temple Beth El  
350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT  
203-322-6901 | [www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org) | [office@tbe.org](mailto:office@tbe.org)





# *Meditation and Guided Imagery*

*led by Cantor Katie Kaplan*

*Thursday evenings, 7:00pm  
Nov 14, Dec 12, Jan 9*

Join Cantor Katie Kaplan  
on a meditative journey utilizing  
guided imagery and chant.

All are welcome!

Zoom link:

[www.tinyurl.com/meditation-tbe](http://www.tinyurl.com/meditation-tbe)

Meeting ID: 841 5685 6725

Passcode: 741015

Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford, CT  
203-322-6901 office@tbe.org www.tbe.org



# TBE Men's Club presents Outlook for the Financial Markets in 2025

with TBE members



**Steve Katz**

Principal, Blue Chip Financial



**Steve Sosnick**

Chief Strategist, Interactive Brokers

**Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 7:30 pm @ TBE**

**Open to all members of TBE.**

**There is no charge.**

**Questions? Contact Carl Shapiro, Men's Club President, at  
[cshapiro@optonline.net](mailto:cshapiro@optonline.net)**

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**TBE**

# **MLK Shabbat**

**Friday, January 17  
7:00pm**

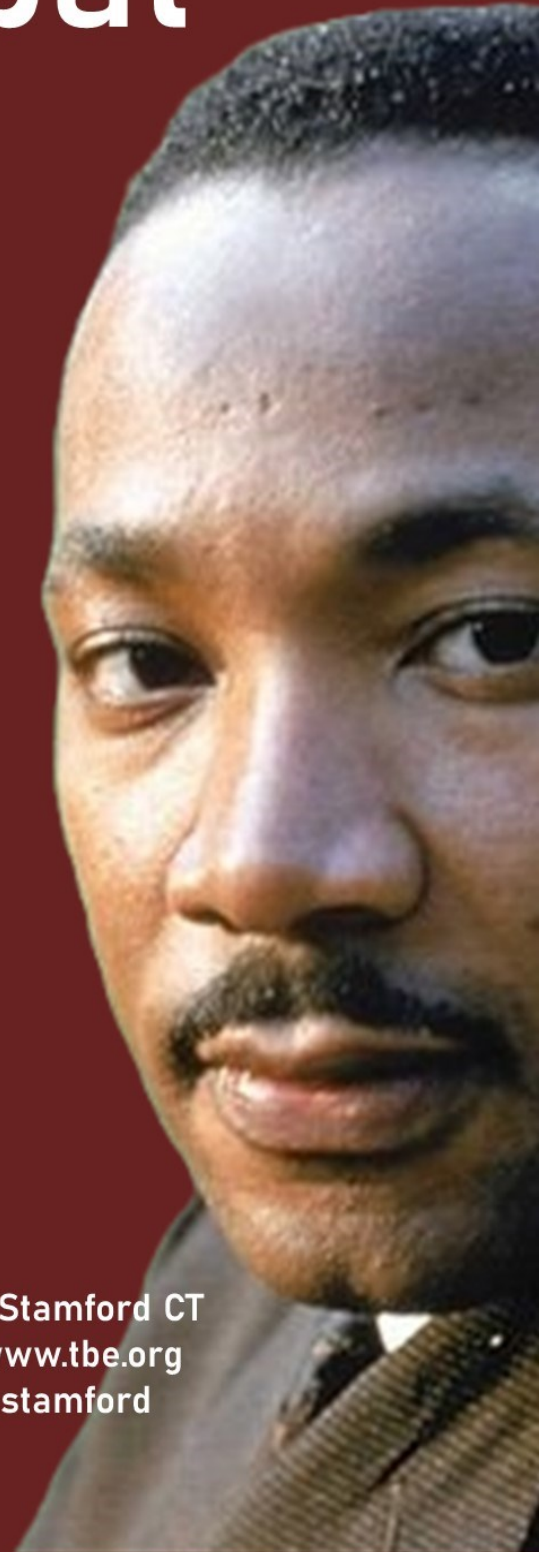
**A Shabbat service celebrating  
the life and legacy of  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

**Join Rabbi Knopf and  
Cantor Kaplan for a special musical  
Service featuring musical guest  
Barbara Orwick.**

**Can't attend in person? Join us online!  
<https://www.tbe.org/tbe-live/>**



**Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford CT  
203-322-6901 office@tbe.org www.tbe.org  
<https://www.facebook.com/tbestamford>**





# Let's play mah jong!



**TBE Sisterhood invites you to a fun night!**

Beginners and advanced players welcome.  
Bring your friends - members and non-members.

We have instructors and refreshments!!!

**Tuesday, January 21 and February 18 at 7:00pm**

In-person only in the TBE social hall.

Fee: \$5 per person to cover security cost.

PLEASE RSVP, so we know how many tables we need, to  
Fran Ginsburg at [ginsstamf@gmail.com](mailto:ginsstamf@gmail.com) or  
203-979-9570.

Temple Beth El Sisterhood, 350 Roxbury Rd, Stamford, CT 06902  
[www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org) | 203-322-6901



# TBE Sisterhood Presents



## THEATER NIGHT STEEL MAGNOLIAS

Thursday, January 23 at 7:30 pm

Doors open at 7:00 pm

at

Curtain Call - Dressing Room Theater  
1349 Newfield Avenue, Stamford, CT

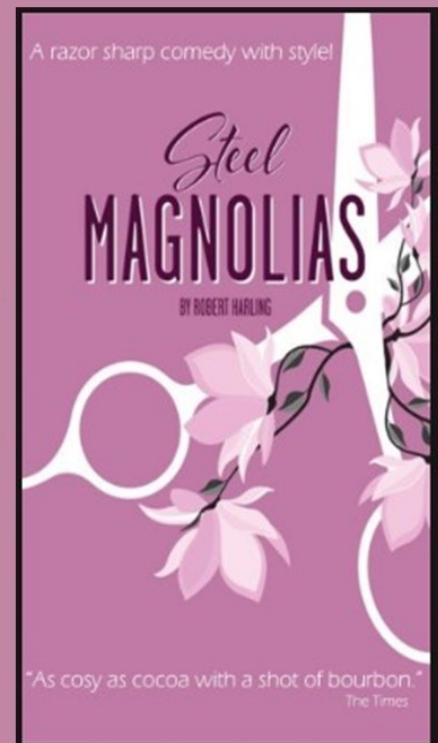
A limited number of tickets available at \$30 each.  
First-come, first-served.

Click here to reserve: [www.tinyurl.com/drama-jan23](http://www.tinyurl.com/drama-jan23)

This theater has a BYOEverything format. Food and drink are welcome.

Questions? Contact Nancy Kapchan 203-435-0389.

The action is set in Truvy's beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, where all the ladies who are "anybody" come to have their hair done. Helped by her eager new assistant, Annelle, the outspoken, wise-cracking Truvy and the town's rich curmudgeon, Ouiser, ("I'm not crazy, I've just been in a bad mood for forty years"); an eccentric millionaire, Miss Clairee, and the local social leader, M'Lynn, whose daughter, Shelby, is about to marry a "good ole boy." Filled with hilarious repartee and not a few acerbic but humorously revealing verbal collisions, the play has a more poignant side, too which gives the play, and its characters, the special quality to make them truly touching, funny and marvelously amiable company in good times and bad.







TBE Adult Learning

## SACRED DAYS: EXPLORING THE HOLIDAYS

Join Rabbi Knopf and Rabbi Ginsburg over the upcoming year 5785 as they each take a holiday and examine its origins, significance, customs and special prayers.

On Saturday, February 8, Rabbi Ginsburg will lead the discussion on the holiday of Tu B'Shevat.

You are also invited to attend the Shabbat service at 10:00 am and/or the Kiddush lunch prior to the class. Class will start at approximately 12:45 pm.

Registration is requested at [bit.ly/tbe0208](https://bit.ly/tbe0208).

All backgrounds are welcome. No prior knowledge is necessary.



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**SISTERHOOD 2024-2025**

**SISTERHOOD MEETING SCHEDULE\* Location TBD @7pm**

Tuesdays: January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 9

Meetings are typically held in-person at TBE social hall, or may be held at other locations (venue/member's home). Zoom meetings may take place during inclement weather.

**MAH JONG + MORE SCHEDULE @TBE /7pm**

January 21, February 18, March 18, April 22, May 20, June 17

**SISTERHOOD PROGRAMS & EVENTS - MORE EVENTS WILL BE ADDED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

**Thursday, January 23 2025 – Curtain Call, “Steel Magnolias”**

Sisterhood is organizing a Carpool List to enable members who cannot drive to attend events. Reach out to either Nancy ([morahnancy1958@gmail.com](mailto:morahnancy1958@gmail.com)) or Juli ([jaharris99@aol.com](mailto:jaharris99@aol.com)) and let us know if you can either volunteer to be a driver, or if you need a ride yourself.

Over 70 women attended our Sisterhood annual paid-up member brunch on Sunday, November 17, 2024. There was an abundance of good food, lots of schmoozing, raffles and a fascinating panel of authors sharing their journeys, lives and words.

Moderated by Rosalea Fisher, Sisterhood members

heard from three talented TBE authors, Susan Greenwald, Sarah Darer Littman, and Meira Rosenberg, as they discussed their evolution as writers, their creative process and how they bring their work to fruition.

The event was a resounding success thanks to the hard work and creativity of our Sisterhood volunteers. Marian Bauer and Paula Shulman, co-chaired the event. Cathy Bernstein, Dora Salm and Karen Resnick were invaluable in the planning and organizing of the brunch.

Attendance at our regular monthly mahjong nights is growing. Whether you're a novice or an accomplished player please join us for a fun evening! Our next two mahjong nights are scheduled for January 21 and February 18, 2025. For those interested in learning or playing canasta, contact Fran Ginsburg at 203-979-9570.

We have a busy calendar of activities for the next few months, join us on Thursday evening, January 23, 2025, at the Curtain Call Theater, to see **Steel Magnolias**. A limited number of tickets are available.

If you are interested in learning about Sisterhood, our programming, or getting more involved, come to our next meetings on Tuesday, January 7 and Tuesday February 4, 2025. Reach out to us at [Sisterhood@tbe.org](mailto:Sisterhood@tbe.org). We look forward to seeing you soon!

Juli Harris & Nancy Kapchan, co-Presidents

# Sisterhood Annual Membership Brunch

Sunday, November 17, 2024



**Three authors shared their writing and thoughts...**

- Susan Greenwald**
- Sarah Darer Littman**
- Meira Rosenberg**
- Moderator: Rosalea Fisher**

**DONATE ONLINE**  
Go to: [www.tbe.org/donate/](http://www.tbe.org/donate/)

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

- Adult Education Fund
- Paver Walkway Campaign
- Beth El Cares
- Rabbi Knopf's or Cantor Kaplan's Mitzvah Fund
- Goldberg Scholarship Fund
- Emmet Manheim Memorial Playground
- Kiddush Fund
- Matthew Klein Memorial Sanctuary Garden Fund
- Music Fund
- Project Ezra
- Religious School Fund
- Frank and Rose Rosner Memorial Fund
- Security Fund
- Shabbat Bags
- Youth Fund

### MEMORIAL PLAQUES



Inscribe the names of your loved ones on a plaque in our Chapel foyer along with a light to commemorate their *yahrtzeit* and *yizkor* observances throughout the year.

For details, contact Mindy at [office@tbe.org](mailto:office@tbe.org) or 203-322-6901, ext. 301.

### TREE OF LIFE



A beautiful way to commemorate a special occasion is to purchase a "leaf" on our beautiful "Tree of Life" sculpture adorning our Temple lobby. There are many more leaves available for your own personal inscriptions.

The following categories are still available:

<b>Triple Chai</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Silver Leaves - Gold Border</b>	<b>\$750</b>
<b>Silver Leaves (very few remaining)</b>	<b>\$250</b>

### INFORMATION FOR YOU...

When making a donation an acknowledgement will be mailed to the designee for donations of \$10 or more. Donations of less than \$10 will be acknowledged only in the Bulletin. All donations will be published in the Bulletin unless you state that you wish to be anonymous.

### PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE

Go to [www.tbe.org/donate](http://www.tbe.org/donate) and click on member payments.

Questions? Contact Linda at 203-322-6901, ext. 302 or [lindar@tbe.org](mailto:lindar@tbe.org).

### CONTRIBUTING SHARES OF STOCK TO TEMPLE BETH EL

One way to boost your charitable contributions to Temple Beth El is to give shares of appreciated stock instead of cash. You do not pay any tax on your capital gain, and your charitable deduction is the shares' entire fair market value.

Beth El members may contribute shares of stock to satisfy their dues pledge, their annual fund pledge, and other contributions to the Temple.

After consulting your tax advisor, please contact the TBE office at 203-322-6901.

### DID YOU KNOW?

TBE offers free family membership for the first year to any member's child on the occasion of his or her marriage. For more information, contact Mindy Rogoff at 203-322-6901, ext. 301.



### CRITICAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BUILDING ONE COMMUNITY (B1C) IN STAMFORD

B1C has a terrific tutoring program for elementary students but doesn't have enough tutors. 14 volunteers (adults or teenagers) are needed on Monday - Thursday from 4:30pm-5:45pm. The kids speak English so you do not need to speak another language but Spanish or French would be useful. Each volunteer works with up to three children.

Volunteers must commit to a minimum of three consecutive months for one session a week, have basic technology skills and familiar with how math is currently taught at the elementary level. Teenagers must be 16 years of age or older. To volunteer, register on the B1C website at <https://building1community.org/engage/volunteer-form/> and indicate it is for the Homework Club. You can also contact Margarita Zimmerman, B1C's Volunteer Director at [mzimmerman@b1c.org](mailto:mzimmerman@b1c.org)

### HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE?

[www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)

Find out about the latest news and upcoming activities ... access our online membership directory ... register for events and make donations ... connect to TBE's Twitter and Facebook pages ... and much more.



## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

### IN HONOR OF:

#### THE BIRTH OF ARABELLA FLORA FREILICH

Denise & David Greenman, Betsy & Peter Kempner, Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen

**RABBI MICHAEL KNOPF, CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN, JEFF COHEN, DEVRA JAFFE-BERKOWITZ AND STEVE LANDER**  
Romanowitz Family

**EILEEN H. ROSNER FOR HER KINDNESS AND SUPPORT**  
Kobliner Family

#### THE BIRTH OF MASON DON BORKENSTEIN

Fruithandler Family, Lois Stark & Gary Lessen, Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz

#### LESLIE GLENN & NEIL KATZ FOR INVITING US TO STEAK & SUSHI IN THE SUKKAH

Eileen & Seth Cohen

#### THE BIRTH OF EZEKIEL NATHAN MAY

Liz & Scott Krowitz

### MUSIC FUND

#### *In memory of...*

Arthur Schneiderman, z'l, by Meryl & Hank Silverstein

### EMMET MANHEIM PLAYGROUND FUND

#### *In memory of...*

Sari Jaffe, z'l, by The Lubliner Family

### SHABBAT BAG FUND

#### *In memory of...*

Jenny Segal, z'l, by Meryl & Hank Silverstein

### RABBI MICHAEL KNOPF MITZVAH FUND

#### *In honor of...*

In appreciation by Michael Kohn

The birth of Romi Emma Berman by Marsha Matthews

The birth of Mason Don Borkenstein by Sharon & Jeff Turshen

Oz Manheim on his third birthday by Carol & Allen Krim

#### *In appreciation...*

Marcia Braunstein

#### *In memory of...*

Al Solove, z'l, by the Magida Family

Irving Warsaw, z'l, by Barbara & Stan Friedman

Julian Melmed, z'l, by Sharon & Jeff Turshen

Cynthia Ottaviano, z'l, by Sharon & Jeff Turshen

Arthur Schneiderman, z'l, by Sharon & Jeff Turshen, Laura Markowitz

Sari Jaffe, z'l, by Ellen Bromley & Tom Gizicki, Magida Family, Lorraine & David Kweskin, Beverly & David Stein, Sue Frieden, Pamela Tinkham, Barbara & Stan Friedman

### CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN MITZVAH FUND

#### *In appreciation...*

Karen & Ed Gartner, Barbara & Michael Kaplan

#### *In memory of...*

Cynthia Ottaviano, z'l, by Juli Harris-Sekuler & Scott Sekuler

### SISTERHOOD

#### *In memory of...*

Cynthia Ottaviano, z'l, by Judy Schneiderman, Rose Silver, Anonymous

### ADULT EDUCATION

#### *In memory of...*

Sol Sesnowitz, z'l, by Suzanne Horn & Norman Stone

Sari Jaffe, z'l, by Dvora & Herschel Scher

Sally Rothkopf, z'l, by Barbara & Stan Friedman

### BETH EL CARES

#### *In memory of...*

Myra Graubard, z'l, by Andrea & David Cohen

Cynthia Ottaviano, z'l, by Melanie Massell

Sari Jaffe, z'l, by The Hass Family

### MATTHEW KLEIN MEMORIAL GARDEN

#### *In memory of...*

Steven Shindler, z'l, by Kathy & Len DePas

Sari Jaffe, z'l, by Barbara Aronica & Peter Buck

### Beth El Cares 2024



**Volunteers served Christmas dinner at Pacific House**





## REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



Joanne & Marshall Goldberg .....**RUTH ABRAMS**  
 Sheila & Gordon Brown..... **HINDA ASHER**  
 Binnie Ditesheim..... **RUTH ATKINS**  
 Maddy Shapiro & Family .....**MORRIS BELITZ**  
 Susan & Richard Blomberg .....**PHILIP BLOMBERG**  
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 Ilene & Jim Locker & Family .....**FANNIE BUFFERD**  
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 Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg ..... **NATHANIEL GINSBURG**  
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 Leonor Lopez..... **CAROLINA HALPERN**  
 Gail & Harvey Hecht ..... **SAMUEL HECHT**  
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 Susan Frieden ..... **NORMAN HILFER**  
 Alan Jaffe ..... **DAVID JAFFE**  
 Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz & Family..... **DAVID JAFFE**  
 Evelyn & Bruce Kahn ..... **PHYLLIS KAHN**  
 Julius Lasnick ..... **FLORENCE KAPLAN**  
 Sharon & Steven Katz .....**HERBERT KATZ**  
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 Kathy & Howard Kraus..... **ALVIN KRAUS**  
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 Ilene & Jim Locker & Family .....**YALE KWESKIN**  
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 Binnie Ditesheim.....**RONI PORDY**  
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 Mary C. Silberman ..... **JAMES SILBERMAN**  
 Meryl & Hank Silverstein ..... **LOUIS SILVERSTEIN**  
 Lorelee & Phil Granowitz ..... **IDA WALLACH**  
 Harriet & Seymour Weinstein ..... **ADOLPH WEINSTEIN**  
 Nancy Wolfson & Family ..... **JAMES WOLFSON**  
 Wolly/Horowitz Family .....**VALENTINE WOLLY**

## IN MEMORY OF:

**SALLY ROTHKOPF, z'I**  
 Maxine & Jay Freilich, Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz  
**CYNTHIA OTTAVIANO, z'I**  
 Marilyn & Mitch Sofer, Carol & Allen Krim, Liz & Scott Krowitz, Jamie Morvitz & Matthew Miller  
**ARTHUR SCHNEIDERMAN, z'I**  
 Carol & Allen Krim, Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg, Suzanne Horn & Norman Stone, Jamie Morvitz & Matthew Miller  
**MYRA GRAUBARD, z'I**  
 Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz, Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg  
**GRACE GOLDSTEIN, z'I**  
 Helen Mattson  
**SARI JAFFE, z'I**  
 Suzanne & Rob Fruithandler, Josh Robin, Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen, Lynn & David Greenberg, Bracha & Jerry Silber, Miriam & Steve Sosnick, Lois Stark & Gary Lessen, Suzanne Horn & Norman Stone, Drassinower & Urbina Families, Maxine & Jay Freilich, Dana Horowitz & Peter Wolly & Family, Robyn & Mark Winarsky, Susan & Art Greenwald, Marilyn Galler-Sofer & Mitch Sofer, Evelyn & Bruce Kahn, Malerie Yolen-Cohen & Jeff Cohen, Sandy & Alvin Siegartel, Judy Schneiderman, Susan Schneiderman, Anonymous  
**ALAN BRIER, z'I**  
 Dana Horowitz & Peter Wolly & Family  
**ELAYNE BERKOWITZ, z'I**  
 Barbara & Stan Friedman

## WE MOURN THE PASSING OF...

**KENNETH FRIEDMAN**, brother of Robert Friedman  
**CYNTHIA OTTAVIANO**, sister of Nancy Kapchan  
**ARTHUR SCHNEIDERMAN**, father of Susan Schneiderman  
**BOBBE EVANS**  
**SARI JAFFE**, wife of Alan Jaffe  
 and mother of Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz  
**ELLEN GOTTFRIED**  
**ALAN BRIER**, father of Rachel Friedman  
**ELAYNE BERKOWITZ**, mother of Suzanne Fruithandler  
**HARVEY WALZER**, husband of Phyllis Walzer

## SHIVA NOTICES AVAILABLE ON-LINE

Congregants who are looking for shiva information can now quickly look online instead of searching their inbox for the announcement or calling the synagogue office. Just go to TBE's website ([www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org)) and click "Shiva Notices" under the WHAT'S NEW menu.

# Noah's Ark



Have you seen our replica of Noah's Ark in the lobby by the main office? It is walnut, measures 76" by 72", and has 149 plaques and 18 larger animals that can include engraved messages in honor of a family's children or anyone else, or in honor of a significant family event .

We are asking you to consider honoring your children (or anyone else) by donating \$250 to this project and buying a plaque. We hope that you might be further moved to buy one of the remaining animals for a donation of \$1,000.

*Proceeds to benefit Keshet Beth El.*



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THE AMBIANCE OF CELEBRATION,  
HER CONCEPT IS INSPIRED BY THE SOUL  
AND SPIRIT OF HER CELEBRANTS.

The deadline for the  
March-April 2025 Bulletin  
will be Monday, February 3, 2025.

## HOW WILL YOU ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS?



Commit to leaving a legacy and help ensure that Temple Beth El will be part of the fabric of the Stamford Jewish community for many years to come. [Click here](#) for our LIFE & LEGACY Honor Roll.

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To create your legacy contact Steven Lander  
execdir@tbe.org | 203-322-6901, ext. 304



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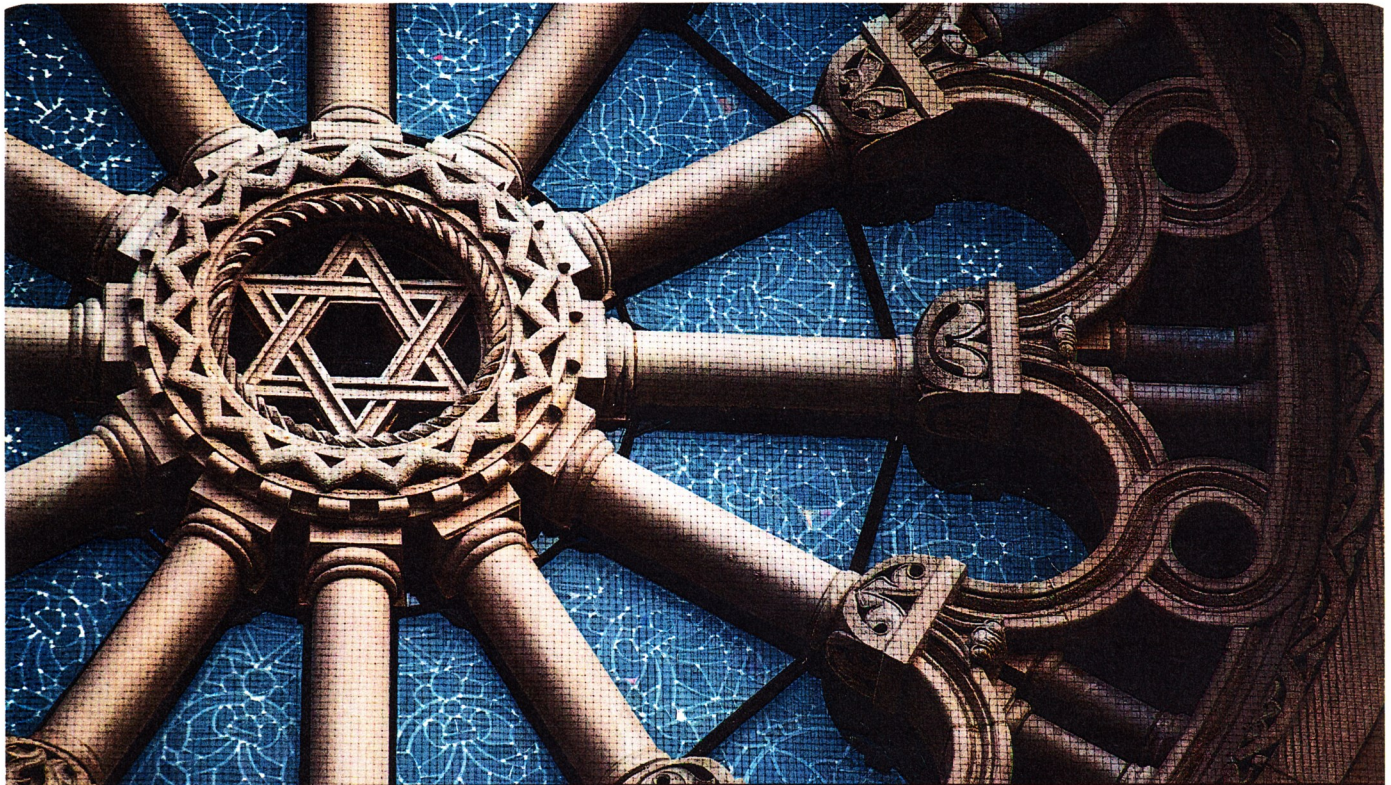
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