

Temple Beth El Bulletin

Volume 52 Issue 6 (bi-monthly)

November-December 2025

Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5786

Shabbat A



Superheroes Among Us, sponsored by UJF, recognized all Stamford community superheroes on September 7, 2025 including TBE President Jeff Cohen and Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg.

Annual High Holiday Food Drive to Benefit Person to Person



**Semi-Annual
Sisterhood
Clothing Drive**



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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

Over the High Holy Days, many of you asked me to share the *Prayer for the United States of America* that we recited together. I am grateful for that response, and I thought I might not only share the words, but also a bit about how this particular version came to be.



Prayers for the welfare of the country are part of a very old Jewish tradition. The prophet Jeremiah, writing to the exiled Jewish community in Babylon, instructed them: “Seek the peace of the city to which I have exiled you, and pray to God on its behalf, for in its peace you shall find peace” (Jeremiah 29:7). Jewish communities have long taken that charge seriously, offering prayers on behalf of the nations where they lived.

American Jews have composed many prayers for the U.S. over the years, often sharing a common theme: That democracy, with its ideals of liberty, equality, and justice, is fragile, and it requires both divine blessing and human commitment to endure. We thrive when those ideals are upheld; we suffer when they are eroded.

Around 2018, I began to feel that the traditional versions of the prayer for the U.S. did not quite capture the challenges I believed we were uniquely confronting in our country at that time: Corruption and abuses of power, the targeting of vulnerable communities, and the need for all of us to take seriously our responsibilities as citizens. Out of that desire, I wrote my own version, drawing on Jewish liturgy, biblical language, and American civic ideals. That prayer was a way of channeling both my gratitude for this country and my concern for its direction into words of faith and hope.

Ever since composing that version, I have been regularly using it in worship, and even published it in my 2021 book, [No Time for Neutrality: American Rabbinic Voices from an Era of Upheaval](#).

But as I approached this year’s High Holy Days, I came to feel that it needed to be reshaped. In recent years, it has become painfully clear that democracy is not guaranteed. The institutions and norms that have safeguarded our community — and so many others — are more vulnerable than we may have realized. At the same time, new forms of cruelty and division threaten to corrode our shared life together.

The new version I composed, which we read this year during the High Holy Days and which I am sharing below, grew out of my reflections on the moment we are living in now. It keeps the same basic structure as my previous prayer but shifts its emphasis. It still gives thanks for the blessings of America — the ideals and institutions that have been our safety and our strength — but it now asks that we be fortified against unjust decrees, that we find the courage to hold leaders accountable, that we not stand idly by when others suffer, and that we refuse to surrender to despair. It insists that “We the People,” in all our diversity, are siblings

Continued on page 18...

KATIE KAPLAN, CANTOR

Introducing Leo Linder, Cantorial Intern



At this point in time, most of you are probably familiar with our fantastic director of the Kesher Beth El religious school, Leo Linder. But you may not be aware that Leo is also currently serving this fall as a Cantorial Intern! This role is part of their studies at the Academy for Jewish Religion (AJR) where they are pursuing Kol Bo Ordination as BOTH a Cantor and a Rabbi (You may have heard of one of AJR’s illustrious graduates, Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg!). As part of their time in this role, you may find Leo leading more of the davening during services, assisting in life cycle events, and uplifting our congregation by providing musical and spiritual support. I’d like to turn the rest of this column over to Leo so that they can tell you a little bit more about their Jewish journey.

Cantor Katie Kaplan



Chazanut is in my blood. My zeyde, the “Reverend” Shimon Paktor, led services for many years at his shul in Schenectady, though he was never ordained. One of my strongest memories of him is from when I was preparing for my B’Mitzvah: I called to share what I had learned in my first lesson on Haftarah trope, and he stopped me in my tracks. “That is not the chazanish way to do it!” he scolded, and he taught me his (admittedly much cooler) style. I still use that version today, though most of the other melodies I’ve learned come from another important cantorial influence in my life, Cantor Joel Caplan of Agudath Israel in West Caldwell, NJ. Under Cantor Caplan’s leadership, I became a Jewish choral singer, starting in elementary school with the Tov M’od choir before graduating to the HaZamir teen choir. I even talked him into letting me join the adult High Holiday choir at 11! That’s around when I started reading Torah, and got very into my favorite holiday, Simchat Torah. So, when I went off to college, what could I do but step up as a service leader in Hillel? While I did have a bit of a detour in my previous career (I spent 15 years teaching Latin and Ancient Greek.), I’ve been slowly inching towards the cantorate my whole life, and I’m so excited to be officially on the path towards this lifelong dream!

Leo Linder



ABBY ALLEN, RABBINIC INTERN

Hi TBE! My name is Abby Allen, and I am excited to be the rabbinical intern at Temple Beth El this year. I am a third-year student at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

As part of my internship this year, I am excited to be working with Rabbi Knopf and others at TBE to launch a new initiative, *Beth El B'Yachad - TBE Together*.

Beth El B'Yachad - TBE Together is about strengthening our community. Judaism is reliant on community; we cannot call ourselves to prayer without a minyan. We cannot say the mourners' Kaddish without a group of ten. Our tradition is devised to be one of connection. In the moments when we may seek to isolate, Judaism insists that we gather. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote, "Community is the human expression of Divine love. It is where I am valued simply for who I am, how I live, and what I give to others. It is the place where they know my name."

So far this year, I have had the privilege of joining the TBE community for Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat morning services, Sunday morning minyan, and Kesher Beth El. Each of these spaces is distinct, yet they all foster a shared sense of warmth and belonging. But community connections go beyond the walls of the synagogue. To be in community is to share hobbies, life stages, and cultural identities.

Beth El B'Yachad - TBE Together will bring members together in small groups to connect through shared interests, identities, and life stages. *Beth El B'Yachad* is an opportunity to build meaningful relationships and deepen our connections within the TBE community.

Groups may gather weekly, monthly, or even just a few times a year. Some may meet for a shared activity, like a weekly walk; others might host a Shabbat dinner to share life experiences or discuss a thought-provoking article or book. Examples of the types of groups are: Walking Group, 20s & 30s Group, Parents of School-Age Kids Group, or Interfaith Families Group. While these groups will all be lay led, we'll provide everyone with guidance and support along the way.

Over time, our goal is for every TBE member to be part of at least one of these small groups. If you are interested in joining or starting a group – whether any that are listed above, or on another topic or for a different identity you hold – we would love to make that happen! Reach out to me at aballen@jtsa.edu to learn more about *Beth El B'Yachad - TBE Together*.

Abby Allen, Rabbinic Intern



JOSHUA HAMMERMAN, RABBI EMERITUS

On One Foot



I'm delighted to be sharing a new three-part adult ed seminar on Zoom this fall, a look back at one of the key moments for American Jewry over the past generation, the airing of the 9-part PBS series Abba Eban's "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews." We'll look back at what the series meant for us and how things have changed. At the same time, we'll look at the contents, which span 3,000 of Jewish history, and draw lessons from each episode. Viewing the broadcasts is recommended but not required for the class. The seminar is free, but registration is required and space is limited.

Go to <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/hammerman> to sign up. Sessions will be at 7:00 pm on November 12, 19, and December 3.

Go to <https://rabbiJoshuaHammerman.substack.com/p/register-for-my-series-heritage-civilization> to watch the videos.

Looking forward to seeing you then!

Rabbi Joshua Hammerman

Abba Eban's "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews" One Generation Later



Join Rabbi Joshua Hammerman on Zoom, on November 12 at 7pm.

ABBA EBAN

At a time when some Jews are questioning their heritage, we look back at a project from 40 years ago that made lots of American Jews swell with pride.

Back in 1984, Abba Eban's PBS series, "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews," made an enormous splash, was viewed by 50 million people and won a [Peabody Award](#). This nine-part series tells the Jewish story from ancient times in Mesopotamia, through Roman antiquity and the Middle Ages, through the Holocaust to present-day America and Israel. In three Zoom sessions, we'll take a fresh look at Eban's work - and Jewish history itself - and discuss how his vision holds up 40 years later, at a time where world Jewry is in a very different (and some would say more perilous) place. At the same time, we'll follow the series in exploring the threads that define the Jewish experience, including 3000 years of its interaction with other civilizations.

The seminar will be led by Rabbi Emeritus Joshua Hammerman, author and award-winning journalist, and creator of the Substack, "[In This Moment: A Rabbi's Notebook](#)."

The nine "Heritage" videos are available for free online, including on [Rabbi Hammerman's Substack feed](#). Watching at least the first video in advance of the first session on November 12 is recommended but not required. Subsequent sessions are scheduled for November 19 and December 3.

The first session (November 12) will cover the ancient and rabbinic periods (the first three episodes), the second will span the Middle Ages to the dawn of modernity and the third will focus on the past few centuries, including America, the Holocaust and Israel, adding our own updated speculations on how Judaism has changed since October 7.

The sessions are free but RSVP (see link in my article above) is required in order to receive the Zoom link, which will be sent out as the first class draws near.

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 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.

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.

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 "Tchotchk 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.



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 Jon Eisenstein at jon.eisenstein@gmail.com

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

B'NAI MITZVAH

November 22, 2025

SLOANE COOPER

Daughter of Kahla and Gordon

Sister of Gavin

Attends Scofield Middle Magnet School

Mitzvah Project: Schoke Jewish Family

Service Kosher Food Pantry



MAZAL TOV TO...

Susan and Carl Shapiro on the birth of a granddaughter, Sophie Warren Shapiro, born to Maddie and Mitchell Shapiro.

Nancy and Jerry Kapchan on the birth of a granddaughter, Scarlett June, born to Aly and Brett Ackerman.



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 or 203-322-6901, ext. 301.

HONORABLE MENSCHEN TODAH RABAH TO OUR TORAH READERS

BARRY ERNER ★ AMANDA GEFFNER

RABBI GERRY GINSBURG ★ DEVRA JAFFE-BERKOWITZ

RABBI ABE FRIEDMAN ★ GARY KNOPF ★ LILAH KNOPF

RACHEL KNOPF ★ JOSH LEVINE ★ BERT MADWED

JENNA NAPACH ★ RABBI KLIEL ROSE ★ ZAKAI ROSE

JUDITH ROSENBAUM ★ SUSAN SCHNEIDERMAN

LAEL SHAPIRO

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING KIDDUSH

DR. FRANCES GINSBURG

LESLIE and DAVID NAPACH

WE THANK OUR VOLUNTEERS

LORI DRUCKER, SUE SHAPIRO

SHARON TURSHEN, JEFF TURSHEN

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THE SHABBAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

LESLIE and DAVID NAPACH

**CHECK US OUT ON
facebook**

facebook.com/tbestamford/

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 or 203-274-1708.

Project Ezra: Providing shiva meals to the bereaved in the congregation. Contact Debbie Adler-Klein at dakmd75@gmail.com or 203-253-1664.

Serving the homeless: Help prepare and serve food — you can do either or both throughout the year. Contact Julie Rosenberg at julierosenbergslp@gmail.com or 203-273-6794.

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

Christmas dinners at local homeless shelters: Contact Karen Resnick at kmr925@sbcglobal.net or 203-536-3115.

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 or Erica Newman 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.

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.

Questions? Contact Leo Linder at eddir@tbe.org.



We've had a great start to the year in Kesher! Classes have explored the fall holidays, brushed up on their Hebrew and *tefillah* skills, and jumped into Jewish values. And we've also gotten to know the clergy, as students study the parsha and rabbinic teachings with Rabbi Knopf, sing and chant trope with Cantor Kaplan, and dance and speak Hebrew (not at the same time!) with Rabbi Paskind. There are so many awesome things to look forward to, as well, like the 6th and 7th grade trip to the Anne Frank exhibit in NYC and our Havdalah Fest in November.

Interested in joining us or want to learn more? Email me (eddir@tbe.org) for more info, or to arrange a trial day!

Leo Linder
Kesher Director



We welcomed families back to Kesher with a musical Opening Day Assembly in the TBE Sanctuary.



Emissary Koren Levi led our students in games and team-building activities while teaching students about his life in Israel.



Students from all grades made decorations to liven up the sukkah at each shul!

In tribute to Dr. Hesh Romanowitz, z'l



THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN YIDDISH THEATER

A musical overview with **ZALMEN MLOTEK**, Artistic Director
of the National Yiddish Theater Folksbiene

NOV. 6 2025 7PM

Temple Beth El

350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT
203 322-6901

Register at:
tinyurl.com/yiddish11-6

This program is free of charge

A NOSH WILL BE SERVED
FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM, VU DEN?

Co-Sponsors

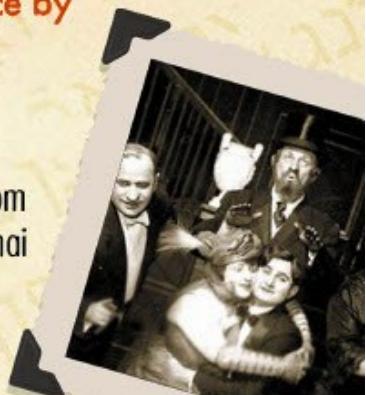
Bennett Center for Judaic Studies, Fairfield University | United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien | UJA – JCC Greenwich | Congregation Agudath Sholom
Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County | Temple Beth El | Temple Sholom Temple Sinai
Young Israel of Stamford

Presented in tribute to Dr. Hesh Romanowitz ז'ל and his parents, Eva and Abe Romanowitz ז'ל, lovers of the Yiddish theater.

A one-of-a-kind journey of the Yiddish theater, from its European Roots to Ellis Island, Second Avenue and beyond. Translating as he sings, Mr. Mlotek weaves storytelling-in-song which take us from despair to hope to entertainment with musical influences of operetta, Tin Pan Alley and Broadway.



Featuring a special appearance by
Cantor Katie Kaplan!



TBE Musical Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, November 7 at 7:00pm

Kabbalat Shabbat led by

Cantor Katie Kaplan



Rabbi Michael Knopf



Leo Linder



Featuring special musical guests Em Lebow & Barbara Orwick



Can't join us in person? Join us on Livestream:
<http://www.tbe.org/tbe-live/>

Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT 06902
203-322-6901 www.tbe.org



Temple Beth El Welcomes Guest Speaker

EDEN REFAELOVICH

UJF Community Shlicha

Topic:

Being A Child During Wartime



Friday November 7, 2025

Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:00pm

Presentation at 8:00pm

Eden will speak about her personal experience growing up during conflict in Israel. She will recount living through the Second Lebanon War, and the impact on her family when a missile hit her home in 2006.

A special Oneg Shabbat will follow in honor of the release of the hostages co-sponsored by Marilyn and Mitch Sofer and Debra Adler- Klein.

All are welcome!

Can't join us in person? Watch on livestream: <http://www.tbe.org/tbe-live/>



Temple Beth El

350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT

www.tbe.org | 203-322-6901 | office@tbe.org



TBE Adult Learning

**Tradition! What ritual,
Jewish law & equality are in
21st Century practice**

Learn with Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg as he examines thoughtful, contemporary questions about egalitarian practices, including time-bound mitzvot, kippah/tallit/tefillin, leading services and commandedness.

A three-session mini-course on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on November 9, 23 and December 7.



Come early (optional) and also join us for morning minyan at 9 am.

You can register for the course at bit.ly/tr21c.

All backgrounds are welcome. No prior knowledge is necessary.

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



Presented by the Adult Education and Kulanu Committees

Reel Time

Israeli and Jewish-themed movies in the TBE social hall
with facilitated discussions after the film

GREGORY
PECK

DOROTHY
McGUIRE

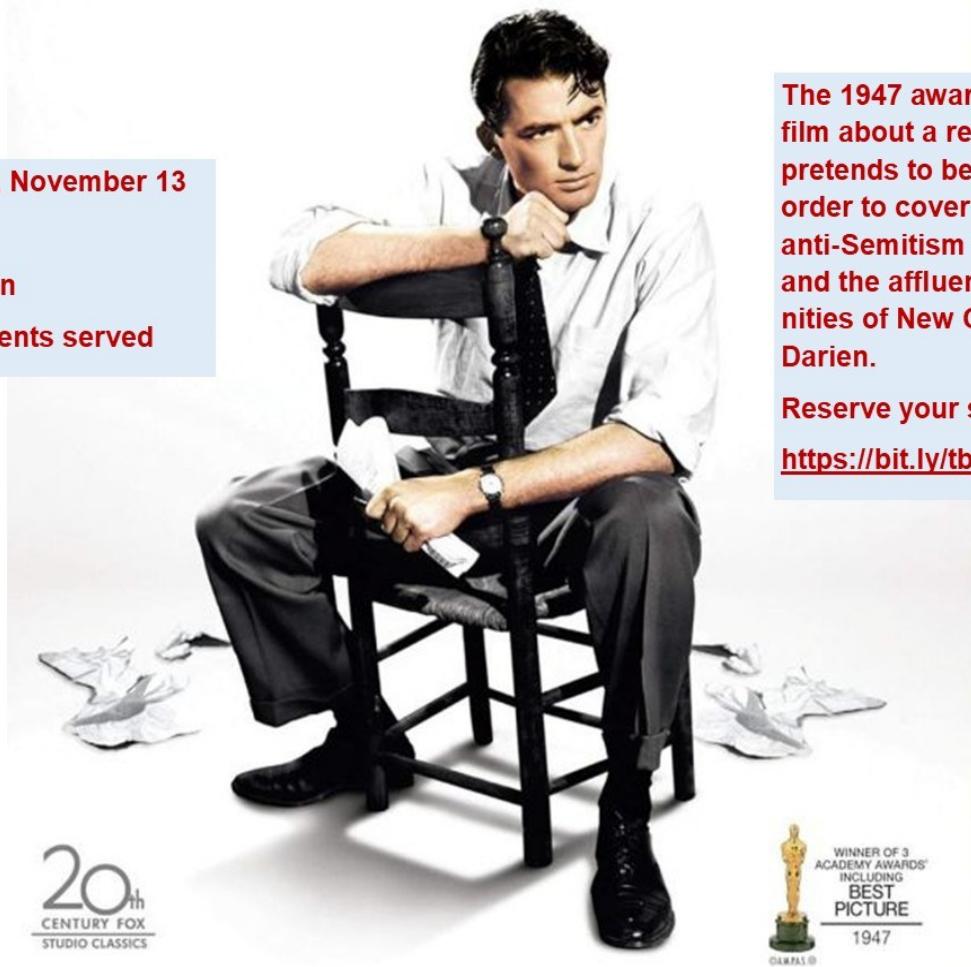
JOHN
GARFIELD

GENTLEMAN'S **AGREEMENT**

Thursday, November 13
7:00 pm
\$18/person
Refreshments served

The 1947 award-winning film about a reporter who pretends to be Jewish in order to cover a story on anti-Semitism in NYC and the affluent communities of New Canaan and Darien.

Reserve your seat now!
<https://bit.ly/tbe1113>



FAITH IN ACTION: JEWISH VALUES AND THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE



Join us for a yearlong pilot program for Temple Beth El teens in grades 8-12 that explores how Jewish faith and values inspire action in the world. The program will empower students to engage with social justice through learning, discussion, relationship-building, and a culminating justice-themed trip.

Led by Rabbi Michael Knopf



4 IN PERSON GATHERINGS*

NOVEMBER 15

DECEMBER 20

JANUARY 31

FEBRUARY 21

Back up date if needed: March 28



EVENINGS



TEMPLE BETH EL

350 Roxbury Rd
Stamford, CT 06902



\$180/student plus cost of trip
[Click here](#) to register

CAPSTONE TRIP: SPRING 2026

A one-day, justice-centered travel experience to explore Jewish identity and activism in context. Due to travel logistics, this year's pilot will focus on locations within a day's reach.

Trip options will include New York City, Boston, Newport or Philadelphia.

*Participation in at least 3 of 4 cohort sessions is required to join the trip.

Trip date: Sunday, April 19, 2026

2025 Sisterhood Exclusive Paid-Up Membership Bunch!

Sunday, November 16, 2025
9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

Then stay for A Very Special Presentation from 11:00 AM ~ Noon

in conjunction with **TBE Kulanu**

with our very own, **Cantor Katie Kaplan**

Healing the Past: Reclaiming German Citizenship and Bearing Witness



Brunch is **FREE** for all paid-up Sisterhood Members and begins at **9:45AM**

- Dues are still only \$36.00! If you would like to join Sisterhood and attend the brunch, click [here](#).
- Members, click [here](#) to RSVP

Cantor Katie Kaplan's program starts at **11:00AM** and it is open to the entire TBE Community with a dessert buffet

Healing the Past: Reclaiming German Citizenship and Bearing Witness:

This past June, Cantor Katie Kaplan traveled to Germany with her father and sister to visit the towns where her grandparents had lived before fleeing Nazi persecution. After years of research and personal healing, she reclaimed her German citizenship and journeyed to honor her family's memory by laying and visiting Stolpersteine (stumbling stones). Hear her story of healing, gratitude, confronting antisemitism, teshuvah, return, family, and tikkun.



TEMPLE BETH EL YOUNG FAMILIES INVITES YOU TO...

FALL FESTIVAL

SNACKS - CRAFTS - GAMES - HAYRIDES

NOVEMBER 16

3:00 PM - 5:00PM

350 ROXBURY ROAD STAMFORD

IN THE TBE SOCIAL HALL

REGISTER HERE

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
YOUNGFAAMILIESTBE@GMAIL.COM



Let's play mah jong and canasta!



TBE Sisterhood invites you to a fun night!

mah jong

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

We have instructors and refreshments!!!

Canasta

Canasta lessons will be offered to a maximum of eight beginners. Advanced players are welcome if we have groups of four.

Tuesday, November 18 & December 9 at 7:00pm
in the TBE social hall

Fee: \$10 per person to cover security cost

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

Temple Beth El Sisterhood, 350 Roxbury Rd, Stamford, CT 06902
www.tbe.org | 203-322-6901

Rap with the Rabbi

Real talk, real Torah, real connection.

**Open Office Hours with
Rabbi Michael Knopf**

Thursday,

November 20

1:30–3:00 PM

Temple Beth El

350 Roxbury Rd



Photo: Rabbi Michael Knopf

Come by, pull up a chair, and connect.

This is your chance to ask questions, share ideas, or just chat with Rabbi Knopf in a relaxed, group setting.

No agenda—just conversation, curiosity, and community.

RSVP required so we can plan appropriately. [Click here.](#)

ALL
ARE
WELCOME!

WHISKEY TASTING

Co-sponsored by:

CAS Men's Club of Congregation Agudath Sholom
The Men's Club of Temple Beth El
The Brotherhood of Temple Sinai
United Jewish Federation

Come join us for an evening of camaraderie, conversation, and the chance to sample fine whiskeys (including one Israeli whiskey) and local kosher chocolates.

Early registration
appreciated at:
<http://www.ujf.org/whiskey>

\$20 per person
Early bird pricing
\$25 after Nov 1st.

Temple Sinai Stamford
458 Lakeside Drive



NOV 20

7:30 PM



ROOTS SHABBAT

Friday, November 28 and December 26, 2025

7:00 pm

Step into an unplugged Shabbat evening service that blends the depth of tradition, the warmth of connection, and the energy of joyful community.

Through a fuller Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv, focused on traditional prayers, familiar melodies, and spirited congregational participation, we'll create an intimate, vibrant, and uplifting atmosphere.

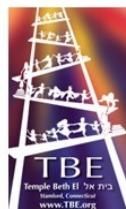
Celebrate Shabbat with song, connection, and the warmth of shared spirit – where ancient roots meet resonant voices.

All are welcome!

Can't join us in person? Join us on live stream: <http://www.tbe.org/tbe-live/>



Temple Beth El
350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT
www.tbe.org | 204-322-6901 | office@tbe.org



Koleinu Shabbat

*Friday, December 5, 2025
7:00 pm*



"Koleinu" means "our voices," and this special Shabbat evening service invites us to join our voices in song, prayer, and reflection.

With seating in the round, we'll create an intimate and uplifting atmosphere, blending traditional Hebrew prayers, soulful melodies, and moments of quiet intention to foster connection and spiritual renewal.

Stay to enjoy an Oneg Shabbat after the service.

All are welcome.

Due to the special setup for this service and its location in the social hall, there will be no livestream.

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



Join TBE Hosts at Home for TASTE OF TBE!

Mingle with fellow congregants while enjoying a delicious home-cooked meal! L'Chaim!

When: Saturday, December 6th, 7pm

Where: A Host Home in Stamford!

Cost: \$75 per person *100% goes to TBE

Click here to register and view the meal types being offered. Select your top three choices and find out where you'll be dining the week of December 1.

Thank you to our hosts for their generous hospitality!

Kerrin & Stephne Behrend

Jeffrey & Lisa Manheim

Barry Erner & Melissa Dreyfus-Erner

Mitch & Marilyn Sofer

Neil Katz & Leslie Glenn

Jeff Cohen & Malerie Yolen-Cohen

Alan Benet & Sheila Romanowitz

Sue Frieden

Parry Berkowitz & Devra Jaffe-Berkowitz

Bob Schumacher & Joyce Resnick

Jeffrey Perry & Robin Evans

Ron & Nicole Zussman

DONATE ONLINE
Go to: 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

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.

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:

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

Call the office for information 203-322-6901.

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.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE?

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 GINSBURG FAMILY'S DONATION OF A PULPIT COVER

DEDICATED TO RABBI GERRY GINSBURG

Marilyn & Mitch Sofer, Sue & Carl Shapiro

THE BIRTH OF MARGOT ADLER

Liz & Scott Krowitz, Lois Stark & Gary Lessen

MARY C. SILBERMAN ON HER BIRTHDAY

Carol & Allen Krim

BRUCE KAHN ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Carol & Allen Krim

THE BIRTH OF BENJAMIN SCHNEIDER

Zeena Hine

THE MARRIAGE OF MORGAN TEMPE AND BEN HULBERT

Caryl Ferber Poser & Peter Poser

RABBI MICHAEL KNOPF MITZVAH FUND

In honor of...

Rabbi Michael Knopf for his teachings and spirituality during the High Holidays by Shirley Halprin

Lilah Knopf becoming a Bat Mitzvah by Susan Frieden, Robin Evans & Jeffrey Perry, Karen & Daniel Davis, Linda & Joe Rothman

In memory of...

Eric Kirch, z'l by Madelyne Kirch

Daniel Shameer, z'l by Marge Shameer and Sherry Cohen

CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN MITZVAH FUND

In honor of...

Cantor Katie Kaplan for musically and spiritually lifting us during the High Holidays by Shirley Halprin

The birth of Benjamin Schneider by Marlyn & Rich Agatstein

In memory of...

Norman Stone, z'l by Joan & Harvey Bucholtz, Susan Frieden

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In honor of...

My TBE family for their love and support by Mindy Rogoff

In memory of...

Norman Stone, z'l by Rhonna & Brian Rogol

FRANK AND ROSE ROSNER MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of...

Malvina Rothman, z'l by Linda & Joseph Rothman

In honor of...

Eileen H. Rosner by Meryl & Hank Silverstein

RABBI MICHAEL ROSE KNOPF continued from page 3...

created in God's image. And it points us back to the vision of the prophets: Justice rolling down like water, peace embracing the earth.

I wrote this prayer to affirm commitments I believe we all can hold in common: Justice, human dignity, compassion, and the health of our democracy. My hope is that these words not only lift us in prayer but also inspire us to live as partners in the sacred task of building a society that reflects the image of God in every human being.

A Prayer for the United States of America (2025)

by Rabbi Michael Knopf

Our God and God of our ancestors, bless and protect the United States of America, and help us preserve, renew, and advance the ideals and institutions that have been our security and our strength — ensuring equal opportunity and justice for all, eradicating oppression, both within and beyond our borders.

Guard us against the corrosion of our common life — from cruelty becoming custom, from deception becoming doctrine, from violence becoming virtue. Shield us from those who would criminalize dissent, intimidate opposition, and scapegoat the vulnerable and marginalized. Fortify us to oppose unjust decrees, remembering that “any law that uplifts human dignity is just, and any law that degrades the human spirit is unjust.”

Protect us from leaders who abuse their power, who sow fear and division, corrupt justice, and trample the defenseless. Grant us the courage to remind them — through our voices and with our votes — who they serve, and before Whom they stand.

Spare us from standing idly by. Where we see degradation or persecution, move us to march. Where we see tyranny, rally us to resist. And when we feel despair, grant us the audacity to hope.

Enable us to remember that “We the People” — of every skin color and national origin, every ethnicity and creed, every gender identity and sexual orientation, every ability and disability — are all siblings, created equally in the Divine image, and called upon by our Heavenly Parent to safeguard one another and to dwell together in peace.

Ready us to join together in that spirit, so that we may make “justice roll down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream,” and speedily bring about the day when “nation will not take up sword against nation, and they will never again know war.”

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to You. And let us say, “Amen.”

Rabbi Michael Knopf



REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES



Gail & Jack Abrams.....**BESS ABRAMS**
 Beverly & David Stein.....**SEYMOUR ABRAMS**
 Susan & Richard Blomberg**NORMAN BLOMBERG**
 Susan & Richard Blomberg**PHILIP BLOMBERG**
 Susan & Richard Blomberg**ROSE BLOMBERG**
 Susan Rich**JERRY COHEN**
 Stacy and Donald Cooper**JOSEPH COOPER**
 Joan & Robert Rosenthal**EVE DOCTOR**
 Amy Fishkow**YETTA FISHKOW**
 Susan Wise**HYMAN FRANKEL**
 Madge & Michael Kellick**LOUISE GREEN**
 Lori & Stuart Ratner**EDYTHE LAVINE**
 Barbara Malloy**HOWARD MALLOY**
 Melanie Massell.....**LEONARD MASSELL**
 Roni & Allan Lang**RUTH LANG**
 Lori & Stuart Ratner**JEROME RATNER**
 Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg**ESTELLE ROSEN**
 Meira Rosenberg & David Friedman ... **SEYMOUR ROSENBERG**
 Rosenblum Family.....**HARRIET ROSENBLUM**
 Jim Rothkopf**SALLY ROTHKOPF**
 Roslyn & Merritt Nesin.....**PEARL SHAPIRO**
 Marsha Kaiser Shendell & Family**JEFFREY SHENDELL**
 Mary C. Silberman**ALAN SILBERMAN**
 Karen & Mark Feder**SUZANNE STERN**
 Ronnie & Edward Fein**WILLIAM VAIL**
 Phyllis Walzer**FRED WALZER**
 Debora & Paul Weinstein.....**ALBERT WEINSTEIN**
 Harriet & Seymour Weinstein.....**GOLDIE WEINSTEIN**
 Dana Horowitz & Peter Wolly.....**VAL WOLLY**

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 or 203-322-6901, ext. 301.

RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN MITZVAH FUND

In memory of...

George Wolfson, z'l by Sheila & Daniel Wolfson

STEVEN AND LIEBA LANDER LECTURE FUND

In memory of...

Norman Stone, z'l by Sharon & Jeff Turshen

IN MEMORY OF:

NORMAN STONE, z'l

Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen, Ellie Mirne & Jim Popper, Alan Benet, Phyllis & David Amerling, Denise & David Greenman, Kinneret Chiel, Roni & Allan Lang, Debbie & Jack Goldberg, Harriet & Seymour Weinstein, Rosalea & Dick Fisher, Liz & Scott Krowitz, Marsha Matthews, Loralee & Phil Granowitz, Phyllis & George Heller

CAROLYN NADEL FARIN, z'l

Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen

MICHAEL MANHEIM, z'l

Marsha Colten & Robert Cohen

MIRIAM MADWED, z'l

Marsha Colten Cohen & Robert Cohen

GARY TEITELMAN, z'l

Miriam & Steve Sosnick, Denise & David Greenman, Sharon & Jeff Turshen, Liz & Scott Krowitz, Jaffa & Pinchas Gross, Marsha Matthews

CRAIG SUCHIN, z'l

Marsha Matthews

EMMET MANHEIM PLAYGROUND FUND

In memory of...

Michael Manheim, z'l by Dayna & Arin Hayden, Shira & Marc Nerenberg, Liz & Scott Krowitz, Irma Ross, Temple Beth El Board of Trustees

Emmet Manheim, z'l by Fredda & Edward Goldstein

SHABBAT BAG FUND

In memory of...

Paula Shulman, z'l by Caroline Temlock Teichman

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF...

GARY TEITELMAN, brother of Dana Weinberg

CHUCK ALBERT, father of Dayna Patashnik

DANIEL SHAMEER, son of Marge Shameer

and brother of Sherry Cohen

ALAN RICH, father of Michelle Moskowitz

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) and click "Shiva Notices" under the WHAT'S NEW menu.

Happy Hanukkah

from

***The Staff and Board of Trustees
of Temple Beth El***

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 Kesher Beth El.



Is honored to serve the Stamford Jewish Community with
compassion, affordability and personal service.



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aviva maller

203-554-6758

magical & meaningful events

While the planner envisions the ambiance of celebration, her concept is inspired by the soul and spirit of her celebrants.



Israeli Dance classes offered at Temple Beth El

Beginner classes!

Prior experience is not required

Learn classic and modern dances to popular songs;
Enjoy the social aspect! Reap physical & mental benefits.

Thursday evenings: 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM

Sunday afternoons: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Special events: Available to teach, lead and/or perform:
Temple events, Hebrew school, weddings, bridal showers, birthdays,
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, assisted living venues

Contact Leng Phone: 203.912.4086 IsraeliDanceTeacher@gmail.com
www.CTIsraeliDance.com



Check out our special website
Dedicated to TBE's event space

www.thebigeventspace.com

Please let your friends and business associates know how we can fulfill their celebratory and meeting needs.



aviva maller

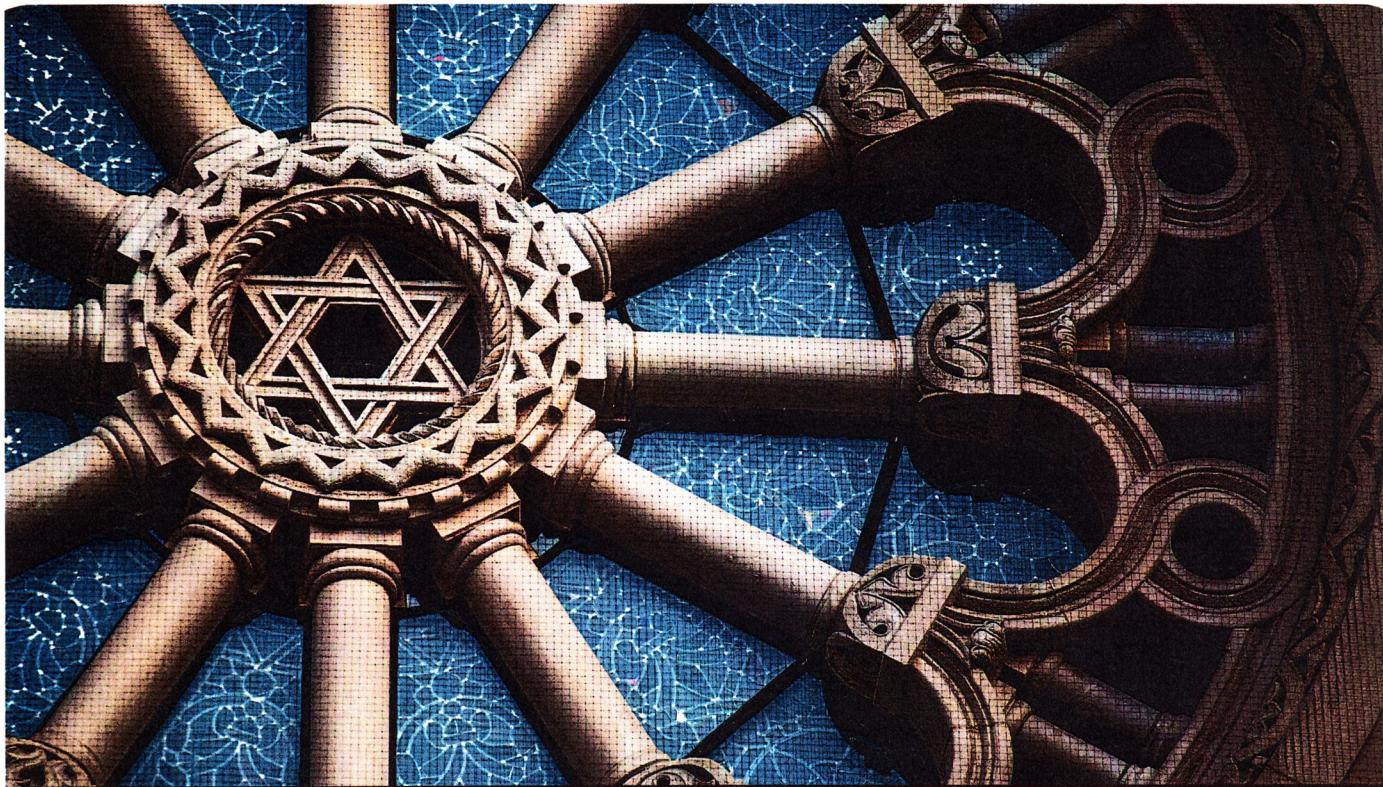
P H O T O C H A R Y

WHILE THE PHOTOGRAPHER IS
NEVER IN PHOTOGRAPHS;
HER REFLECTION IS SEEN IN THE EYES

Celebrations | Bar/Bat Mitzvahs | Weddings | Corporate Events
Galas | Performances | Family Photos | Headshots



The deadline for the
January-February 2026 Bulletin
will be Monday, December 1, 2025.



TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER
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WE'RE PROUD TO SERVE our community with personal, compassionate care.
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