

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

The Reform Congregation of Jersey City
July—August 2023
Elul 5783—Tishrei 5784

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



If you've ever wondered how our newsletters are so vibrant, visually stunning, and so thoughtfully put together (and on time!), it's because of the care and dedication of our beloved long-time member, **Karen Cuttler**. We all owe Karen a tremendous debt of gratitude for helping our monthly newsletter for 15 years. At this reflective time of the year, I want to apologize for taking her quiet dedication for granted and neglecting to acknowledge and thank her publicly before now.

Karen has decided that now is the time to retire from this role and pass the newsletter and photo archive "yad" to others. Therefore, this will be our last monthly newsletter, at least in this format for a while. Splitting her time between Jersey City and Arizona and now with 2 grandchildren, we know both that she won't be far and that her newfound time will be lovingly and meaningfully enriched.

In the meantime, our leadership is exploring how best to disperse our news. We very much value feedback on how you would like to get your Temple news or if you would like to work on the team thinking through this idea. Please also let us know if you have graphic layout skills and would like to help pick up where Karen has left off. Please reach out to [Philip Gary](#), [Rabbi Moritt](#), or dmtf@betheljc.org

Rabbi Leana Moritt

To Blow Or Not To Blow?

What's Rosh Hashana without Shofar?

Trick question? Where in the Torah do the words Rosh Hashana appear? It's a trick question because it doesn't. It's a trick question because the holiday—still observed as declared in the Torah on the first of the Hebrew month of Tishrei—is called Yom Teruah "The Day of Sounding the Shofar." The book of Leviticus simply states, "In the seventh month on the first day of the month, you shall observe complete rest, a sacred occasion commemorated with loud blasts." Rosh Hashana continues to be inextricably linked to the shofar.

Unless Rosh Hashana falls on Shabbat.

After the Torah was written, the centuries went on and the mitzvot of rabbinic Judaism we follow today replaced the cultic sacrificial practices of Biblical Judaism. Originally, the shofar was only sounded in the Jerusalem Temple every Shabbat. After the Temple's destruction, however, the shofar's cry became heard wherever a Jewish court of justice ruled or at the center of Jewish spiritual practice. Other customs around shofar developed as well. One of these was the custom of not blowing the shofar on Shabbat at all.

This is odd because none of the rabbis considered blowing the shofar one of the 39 categories of melacha—prohibited Shabbat "work." Rather, the rabbis considered blowing the shofar an art, and hence, permitted on Shabbat. However, its blowing on Shabbat became prohibited due to one of the rabbis' famous "lest's." It was prohibited lest a shofar blower become tempted to consult an expert in order to practice and thus carry the Shofar on Shabbat. (Carrying an object from domain to domain is prohibited on Shabbat.) This is why more traditional congregations do not blow shofar on Rosh Hashana when the holiday falls on Shabbat. These synagogues will wait for Sunday and blow it on the 2nd day of Rosh Hashana only.



continued on page 4

All Shabbat services are live and in person in our sanctuary. We are continuing to livestream all our services for all who feel they need to participate from home. **Services that will be livestreamed from our sanctuary can be viewed [here](#).** Mishkan T'filah, our siddur, is no longer available online.

Friday, September 1	
Recovery Shabbat. Details on page 8.	6:30 pm
Oneg following services.	
Friday, September 8	
Kabbalat Shabbat Services	7:30 pm
Saturday, September 9	
Havdalah, film & discussion followed by S'lichot Service. Details on page 7.	6:30 pm
Friday, September 15	
Erev Rosh Hashana Services (see page 6 for a complete listing of our High Holy Day Services)	7:30 pm
Saturday September 16	
Rosh Hashanah 1st day services	9:45 am
Sunday, September 17	
Rosh Hashanah 2nd day services	10:00 am
Friday, September 22	
 Kabbalat Shabbat/Shabbat Shuvah	7:30 pm
Aufruf of Sarah Kronbergs & Benjamin Zakarin	
Sunday, September 24	
Kol Nidrei Services	6:15 pm
Monday, September 25	
Yom Kippur Services	10:00 am
Friday, September 29	
Erev Sukkot Dinner in the Sukkah	6:00 pm
Preregistration here by Tuesday, September 26.	
All are welcome to the <i>oneg</i> /dessert at 8.30 Details on page 8.	
Saturday, September 30	
Tot Shabbat in the Sukkah (not livestreamed)	10:30 am
Details on page 5.	
Friday, October 6	
Family Pot Luck and Vegetable Lasagna Dinner	6:00 pm
Religious School Consecration	6:30 pm
Simchat Torah Celebration	7:00 pm
Details on page 8.	
Saturday, October 7	
Shabbat/Simchat Torah Services.	10:30 am
Torah Reading & dancing. Simchat Bat of Lucy Evelyn Thorpe	
Kiddush following services	

See page 6 for High Holy Days Service Schedule



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



UNION for REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית

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 & Education Director

Laura Breznick

cantorbreznick@betheljc.org

Philip Gary, President phil@betheljc.org

Karen Seemen Pinn, Vice President

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Tom Rosensweet, Vice President

Chris Eig, Treasurer

Deborah Lipp, Recording Secretary

Bob Kahan, Office Mgr admin@betheljc.org

Irwin Rosen, Past President

Tom Rosensweet, Past President

Shabbat & Holiday Candle Lighting

Friday, September 1 7:11 pm

Friday, September 8 6:59 pm

Friday, September 15 6:48 pm

(Rosh Hashanah)

Friday, September 22 6:36 pm

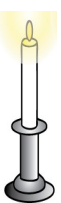
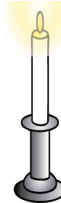
Sunday, September 24 6:32 pm

(Yom Kippur)

Friday, September 29 6:24 pm

(Sukkot)

Friday, October 6 6:12 pm





Shanah Tovah U'Metukah! A happy and sweet new year to everyone! I look forward to welcoming back all of our students who were with us previously and welcoming all of our new students. I am very excited for a great year ahead **starting on Sunday, September 10th at 9:30 am**. In addition to welcoming back our students that day, we invite our parents to join us for a **Parent Coffee and Schmooze**; come get to know your fellow Beth-El parents/families and our clergy.

As we start the month of September we are greeted with the High Holy Days—Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Please join us for our **Family Services on Saturday September 16th and Monday, September 25th**. For those services, we are excited to have some of our young people serve as ushers as well as shofar blowers. If you are interested in performing these sacred duties, please reach out to Cantor Breznick at CantorBreznick@betheljc.org. In addition, **we need some parents to help us build our Sukkah on Sunday, September 24th** so please be on the lookout for more information.

Speaking of the Festival of Sukkot, please join us for our **Community Dinner and Sukkah Decorating Event on Friday, September 29th**. After Sukkot comes Simchat Torah with my personal favorite service of the year, our **Consecration on Friday, October 6th**. Please join us at this special ceremony, where all of our new students stand with the clergy, sing the Shema, receive a special blessing, dance with the Torah, and have the awesome experience of seeing the entire Torah unrolled around them. It truly is a sight to see!

For all upcoming events/dates, please be sure to save the link to the religious school calendar, which you can access by clicking [here](#).

Building a strong *kehila* (community) is at the foundation of who we are as a school and as a synagogue. We offer many opportunities for family participation. Our dynamic clergy and inspiring staff look forward to working with you and your family.

In addition, we want to remind parents that your constant, open communication with us will help make this year even more successful for you and your child/ren. Help us stay in contact with you about programs, calendar updates and more. Make sure that the Religious School has your most up-to-date email address and contact information.

I thank you for trusting us with your children and are excited to partner with your family on your child's Jewish journey this year. Wishing you and your family a very happy, healthy and safe start to the school year.

Shanah Tova,

Cantor Breznick



Religious School Enrollment

The first day of school is Sunday, September 10. Register your child [here](#).

Make sure you renew your Temple membership before registering your children for school. Renew your membership [here](#).

See the School Calendar [here](#) and on page 13.



Membership Renewal

Please renew today [here](#).

In a changing and uncertain world, find meaning and connection in a community of our own.

Yes, it's that time of year. Temple Memberships expired on June 30. Our recommended Terumah/membership dues amount remains the same as last year and of course, Terumah is still on a free will basis. We continue to ask that you are as generous as you can be with us while being as realistic as you can with yourselves.

New: Please consider joining our **Benefactor Circle** with a Terumah pledge of \$3600 for this coming year.

Autopay: If you have already subscribed to autopay with your debit/credit card for your Terumah/dues, you are automatically renewed and you are all set!

Rabbi's Message *(continued from page 1)*

But wait a minute, Rabbi! Didn't you say that Torah itself calls the holiday "Yom Teruah," the day of sounding the Shofar? How could a synagogue ignore the Torah and omit the shofar on Rosh Hashana?

Consider the 2nd day of Rosh Hashana. According to the Talmud, the two days of Rosh Hashana are considered a "yom arichta," one long day. (No, I'm not confusing it with Yom Kippur, another very long day.) Therefore, someone waiting until the 2nd day of Rosh Hashana to hear the shofar would still be considered as having observed the mitzvah of hearing the shofar on Rosh Hashana. (The mitzvah is to hear the shofar, not to blow it.)


Before we fast forward to modern times, consider also a teaching from Rabbi Abahu, a 3rd century Talmudic rabbi. When visiting Alexandria, the story is recounted that he had the congregation perform the mitzvah of waving the lulav on Shabbat. The holiday is different, but the principle is the same (shofar/Rosh Hashana=lulav/Sukkot). What we learn from him is that we don't let the concern about the possibility of one transgression get in the way of omitting a mitzvah from the Torah entirely. Of course, we must be vigilant and remain cautious, but also be careful not to miss the "forest for the trees."

Now fast forward to our day and our Temple. Our synagogue is no different from many Reform synagogues in that while we observe 2 days of Rosh Hashana, many of our members either only observe one day or only go to synagogue on the first day. This is why, in discussion with Temple Beth-El's Religious Practices Committee, we will blow the shofar on the first day of Rosh Hashana this year, Saturday, September 16. In this way, all who attend our services and who want to fully observe the holiday may do so.

Still there is power in yearning for something that is not. So, I offer a spiritual practice that may be meaningful for those of you who will be present on both days that honors both traditions. Memory and imagination are powerful drivers of motivation and change, a key theme of the High Holy Days. I invite you to take a moment on the first day of Rosh Hashana, when the sound of the Shofar is but a memory, and call forth its sound in your mind. Try to summon the vibrations and the piercing cry from the first time you heard the shofar or a time in your life when you were most moved by its power. Stay with the sound and feel the presence of its absence or the absence of its presence. Recall where you were and what it stirred in you, even if it was long ago. Allow the memory of that stirring reawaken you to wonder and possibility. Allow its vibration and power fuel the vision for your life and what these Days of Awe remind us that our life can be.

Shana tova, with blessings for health and joy in 5784,

Rabbi Leana Moritt



Yom Kippur Memorial Book

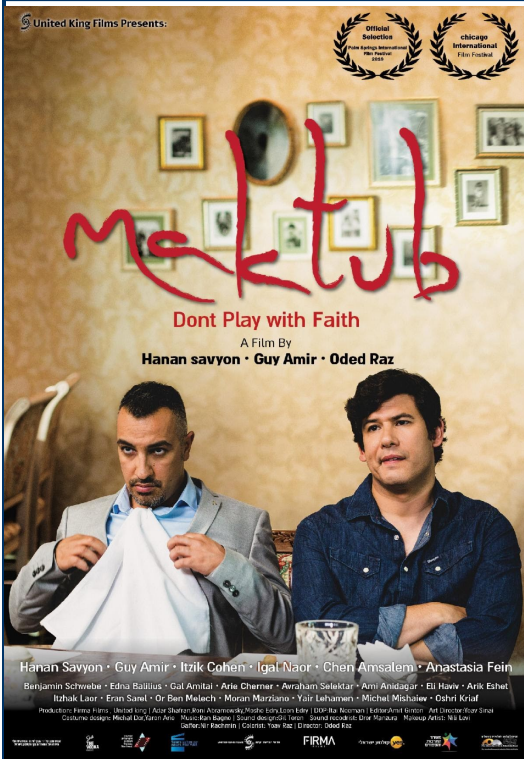
Temple Beth-El's Yom Kippur Yizkor Memorial Book is distributed at the Yom Kippur Yizkor Service as a way to honor the memories of deceased family members and friends.

Members and non-members are welcome to participate in this mitzvah. If you would like your loved ones listed, please complete the form online [here](#).

In keeping with the Jewish tradition of combining memorial observance with acts of Tzedakah (charity), it is customary to include a donation to the Temple with each submission.

If you have submitted names for our Yom Kippur Yizkor Memorial Book in the past and there are no changes from your previous submission, please so indicate on the form. To see last year's book go [here](#).

The closing date for inclusion in the Memorial Book is September 8.



S'LICHOT

Saturday, September 9 @ 6:30pm

Pre-High Holy Day Preparation: Havdalah, film and discussion, followed by Slichot prayers and the installation ceremony for our High Holy Day Torah Mantles.

Maktub

After surviving a bomb attack, two low-level mobsters in Jerusalem set out to change their ways and make amends. Becoming flesh and blood angels, they remove people's prayer notes from between the sacred stones in the Western Wall and set about making those strangers' prayers come true. In a hilarious way, the film invites questions rich for the High Holy Day season discussion.

(Comedy 2017, Hebrew with English subtitles)

REVERSE TASHLICH

10 SEP 2023 • WORLDWIDE

Join our Reverse Tashlich event on Sunday, September 10!

We're excited to announce that Temple Beth-El will be participating in this year's global [Reverse Tashlich](#) event sponsored by Repair the Sea.

Come join this important global movement by cleaning up part of Jersey City's own waterfront. From 1 pm—3 pm on September 10, TBE and the Historic Paulus Hook Association in Jersey City are teaming up to pick up trash and debris at Morris Canal Peninsula Park at 155 Washington Street (across from Portside Towers) in downtown Jersey City. Gloves, bags and other materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your own.

As part of a Jewish ritual called Tashlich, Jews around the world symbolically cast their sins into a body of water on Rosh Hashanah. For too long, humans have also thrown trash and debris into bodies of water, harming our local ecosystems and littering our waterfronts. As the organizers explain, "[t]he Jewish community has shown we can cast sins in, now let's take them out."

You can sign up [here](#), but RSVP not required.

Questions? Please drop us a line at socialaction@betheljc.org. Hope to see you on September 10!



Registration for High Holy Days

Welcome the new year with music and majesty. As a community with Rabbi Moritt, our wonderful new Cantor Laura Breznick, and longtime accompanist Ben Rauch, we will celebrate life renewed and the power of transformative change.

Once again, we will **require pre-registration** for all who will be attending our High Holy Day services, members and non-members alike. Priority entrance will be given to members in good standing. If you have not yet done so, [renew your membership here](#) before registering for High Holy Day Services.

After renewing your membership, [register for High Holy Day services here](#). If you are signed up to autopay your Terumah/dues on your credit/debit card, your membership is automatically renewed and you do not need to repledge. However, you **must still register** for High Holy Days.

If you are not now a member, we encourage you to join. You can learn about membership [here](#). Act now so that your membership can take effect before the High Holy Days.

As always, we remain committed to providing a home for the High Holy Days for all who want to celebrate the holidays with us. In order to do that, we ask all who benefit from having a place at TBE for the High Holy Days to donate to the Temple and ensure that we can continue to provide our services for all who need them

This year, we will not be requiring or collecting vaccination information for Covid-19 or masking. However, there will be a mask-only section for those who feel more comfortable sitting near others who are masked. Masks will be required in this section. We will also livestream all of the sanctuary services for home viewing.

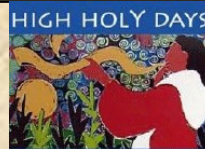
L'shalom,

Kristin Michaelson, Chair, Religious Practices

Philip Gary, President

Rabbi Leana Moritt

Yamim Nora'im 5784 High Holy Days 2023 Schedule of Services



SLICHOT

Saturday, September 9 **Program & Services** 6:30 pm

ROSH HASHANAH

Friday, September 15 **Erev Rosh Hashanah** 8:00 pm

Saturday, September 16 **Rosh Hashana Day 1**

Morning Service 9:45 am

Shofar & Shmooze on the Temple steps 1:30 pm

Family Services for Rosh Hashanah 2:30 pm

Tashlich in Liberty State Park 4:30 pm

Sunday, September 17 **Rosh Hashanah Day 2** 10:00 am

YOM KIPPUR

Sunday, September 24 **Erev Yom Kippur—Kol Nidre** 6:30 pm

Monday, September 25 **Yom Kippur Day**

Morning Services 10:00 am

Meditation Walk led by Robb Kushner 1:30 pm

Family Services for Yom Kippur 2:00 pm

Yizkor 3:45 pm

Mincha/Ne'ilah & Havdalah 5:15 pm



Want to chant
Torah or
Haftarah over
the High Holy
Days?

Help make our services more meaningful and participatory through your presence!
Contact [Rabbi Moritt](#).



Shofar Blowers Wanted!

We are short shofar blowers for this Rosh Hashana this year. You don't need to be an expert or perfect, but you can make a big difference in our congregation's experience of this sacred season.

If you can blow shofar please contact [Rabbi Moritt](#) with a generosity of spirit.

Social Hall Update — or It's About Time!

With the High Holidays just around the corner, you might be wondering if we will have our traditional Break the Fast event downstairs in the Temple Beth-El Social Hall. This wonderful event brings so many of us together in one room over one meal, for a communal conclusion of all the services, prayers and activities that we observe at this time of year.

If you're a relatively new member of the congregation, you may not have experienced the Break the Fast. The last one was four long years ago. First came Covid, and then Hurricane Ida, which filled the Social Hall with mold, requiring a total gut down to the studs and cement underflooring.

For all intents and purposes, we have no Social Hall, so we have virtually no social events. The people who are able to get to services on Friday nights have the opportunity to see and get to know one another, as do the people who bring their kids to Religious School every Sunday morning. But there was something so special, so meaningful, about the Break the Fast, when you could see *everybody* and remember what a joy it is to be a member of this community. And the same is true of our annual Second Seder. While we have managed to hold Borscht, our big spring fundraiser, elsewhere for the past two years, we haven't had a Fall Fundraiser or any adult education events since 2019. Our sense of community has been deeply and negatively affected by the loss of our Social Hall.

After two years, it may seem like nothing is happening. Actually, a lot has happened, but it is taking much more time than we ever imagined...and the end result will be even better than we imagined. Before the flood, we were planning to install partitions in the Social Hall so we could move the Religious School back there after many years upstairs and in the choir loft.

The flood necessitated a total renovation. It took time, but we found out that FEMA would pay for a significant portion of the cost. It took time — well over a year — but we worked with them until they agreed to pay \$2.4 million for this work, with another \$300,000 under discussion. It has taken time, but we have received a very large gift from Congregation B'nai Jacob, which sadly had to close their doors last year.

Just as the High Holidays mark both the end of the previous year and the beginning of a new one, the end of the FEMA negotiations led to the beginning of negotiations with the Jersey City (and State and Federal) Historical Preservation Offices. This will also take time, something we and our FEMA team didn't fully appreciate when we held the Groundbreaking ceremony back in February. Once the Historic authorities conclude their in-depth study of our plans and we finalize all the details, we will finally — finally! — be able to commence construction. We now hope to hold next year's Break the Fast in the Social Hall for the first time since 2019. It's about time!

Tom Rosensweet



Saturday, September 30 @ 10:30 am
in the sukkah at Temple Beth-El!
(weather permitting)

Calling all children 0-5 and their grownups! Join your TBE friends, Rabbi Moritt and Cantor Breznick for singing, dancing, storytime, kiddush, motzi, and an age-appropriate craft. Meet Bracha the Bear's new friend, Tefillah Teddy!

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.

Upcoming events: October 21 November 18 December 16

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



sponsored by


Friday, September 1 is National Recovery Shabbat

Services at 6:30pm Guest Speaker: Philip Wild



September is National Recovery Month, and National Recovery Shabbat is an important way for us to bring awareness of addiction and recovery to our community. Addiction is a very real scourge in our world and the Jewish community is not immune. Come learn, support and celebrate every step in recovery.

Philip Wild is a music business attorney with a private practice in New York City. Phil has held various senior positions at major record labels such as Arista Records, Atlantic Records and Capitol Records. Phil is going to share his experience, strength and hope in finding a spiritual solution to the challenges of recovery.

**Catered Erev Sukkot Community Shabbat
Dinner & Sukkah Decoration
Friday, September 29 @ 6 pm**



Happy Sukkot

Bring and make decorations for our communal sukkah and stay for dinner! All attendees must pre-register [here](#) by Tuesday, September 26. Check "Shabbat Dinner." Cost: \$18/adult \$10/child 3-13. All help with cleanup. We suggest you bring wine to share (juice will be provided.)

(Next Community Shabbat Dinners: November 10 December 22)

**ALL SCHOOL EVENT! Friday, October 6
Religious School Consecration and Simchat Torah**

6:00 pm: Family Pot Luck Dinner

We'll supply the vegetarian lasagna
You bring salads/sides or and desert
All will help with cleanup

6:30 pm: Religious School Consecration

All our students will be celebrated and offered blessings
before the Ark at the bimah.
Certificates and Caramel Apples for all

7:00 pm: Simchat Torah Celebration

Celebrate the cycle of Torah with dancing and music.
Witness the unrolling of the entire Torah as we
envelop our children with the majesty of the scroll.
Hear the end and beginning of the Torah chanted as we start
the cycle anew!



Who Doesn't Love a Good Kugel?

Does your family have **THE BEST** kugel recipe?
 Want to sample some of the best kugel's from our TBE community?

Come join us on Saturday, November 4 at 5.30pm for the first

Great Temple Beth-El Bake Off!

*Prizes will be given to the best Kugel in both an **adult** and a **juniors** competition! **Sweet** and **Savory** categories!*

*Contest winners will be chosen by both **Celebrity Chefs** and by **Fan Favorites!***

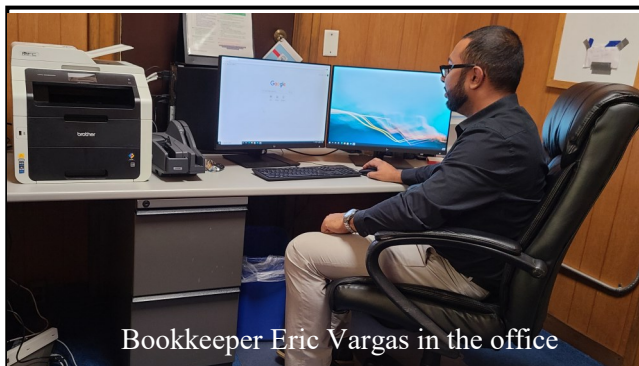


Food, drinks, raffles and other prizes will be available to all guests and participants. Each guest will receive one complimentary raffle ticket, get to sample all of the kugels, and vote for fan favorites.



Buy Tickets, Enter your Recipe(s), Donate to the Raffle, or help Sponsor the event [here](#)

*Would you like to help plan the competition or the event?
 Know someone who would like to sponsor this event?
 Join the fun at BakeOff@betheljc.org*



Bookkeeper Eric Vargas in the office

Thank you to Bill Etkin, who donated all his beautiful Knoll office furniture, lots of computer equipment and three computers, all a huge upgrade from our old equipment and furniture.

Major thanks also to Nathan and Nancy Sambul, who carried all the pieces into the office, set them up and connected them. And thanks to Angela Todaro of Axe Creatives, a computer consulting firm in Hauppauge, Long Island, who led Nancy through the set-up process.



Get yummy fresh CHALLAH every week! Subscribe today! A Triple Mitzvah!

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

\$180 for a 15-week subscription, \$360 for a 30-week subscription

Challah pickup at the Temple:

Thurs: 11 am-6 pm Fri: At Shabbat Services Sun: At Religious School

Challahs are kosher parve/dairy-free.

Fall subscriptions: Beginning 9-7-23 (excluding 9-14, 11-23, 12-21, 12-28, 1-11) and ending 1-18-24

Spring subscriptions: Beginning 1-25-24 (excluding 2-15, 4-25) and ending 5-16-24

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

To order, click [here](#). Check the box for **Event Ticket/Fundraising Initiative**.

From the drop-down menu elect "Challah Subscription" and total quantity you are buying. Pay online, or send a check payable to Temple Beth-El of Jersey City, to 2419 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07305. Please write "Challah Subscription" in the memo.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

JEWISH FEDERATION OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

TRAINING SERIES

STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

Tuesday,
September 19 | 10AM – 1PM

In person

50 Eisenhower Drive, Paramus

Spaces are limited. Light Kosher refreshments.

This training explores the factors that may inhibit or encourage bystander intervention, especially in situations involving bias, harassment and discrimination. Participants will investigate:

- ★ Cognitive and psychological influences regarding whether and how people get involved.
- ★ Delve into strategies for intervening. Participants will also learn about the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and consider the importance of bystander intervention within the context of civil rights law.

REGISTER: [JFNNJ.ORG/PART1](https://jfnnj.org/part1)

TRAINING SERIES

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:

Learn what your New Jersey Civil Rights are and how to protect them.

Wednesday,
September 27

10AM – 12PM

virtual

Attendees will learn directly from the Division of Civil Rights about what their NJ Civil Rights are, how to enforce them, how to report violations of civil rights, and more.

REGISTER: [JFNNJ.ORG/PART2](https://jfnnj.org/part2)



Introduction to Judaism begins Wednesday, Nov 1 @ 7:30 pm 20 week program

Register [here](#) or email Rabbi Moritt for details.

If you're curious about Judaism and what this 3,000-year-old tradition has to offer you or your family's life, welcome!

Open to all, our class is designed for individuals and couples from Jewish and various faith traditions and cultural backgrounds and those who have had no religious upbringing. It is perfect for interfaith couples wanting to broaden their understanding of Judaism or who are raising or plan to raise Jewish children. It is equally appropriate for seekers or Jews who want a meaningful adult Jewish learning experience.

Our class will focus on the "hows" and "whys" of Judaism and cover highlights, core concepts, master stories, key figures and the building blocks of Judaism. We will cover ethics, the Sabbath and holidays, prayer, life cycle events, dietary customs, the Jewish people and Israel. We will delve into Jewish theology, history and the meaning and practice of Jewish living. Each session will be a conversation, encouraging multiple perspectives, inquiries and questions. Inspiring readings for each week will be assigned ahead of time, and additional readings and viewing option will be suggested as the course progresses.

For non-Jewish participants, this class can serve as preparation for conversion to Judaism; however, commitment to conversion is not required at any point in the program. Rabbi Moritt is also available to meet privately with students exploring conversion. Synagogue membership is not required.

An optional Introduction to Hebrew class will be offered 30 minutes before class begins starting December 6.



INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM
is an engaging multi-session course for anyone who wants to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish life. Discover what could be meaningful to you in liberal Judaism.

All people, perspectives, and questions are welcome!

ReformJudaism.org
Jewish Life in Your Life

Supported by the National Center to Encourage Judaism, which funds programs that welcome people new to Judaism.



Temple Beth-El
Jersey City, NJ

20 Weekly Classes
Wednesdays 7:30pm - 9:30pm
beginning Nov. 1, 2023

Instructor:
Rabbi Leana Moritt

For more information,
please contact:
RabbiMoritt@betheljc.org
201.333.4229

Classes held in person at
2419 Kennedy Blvd.
Jersey City, NJ 07304

← To register,
scan QR code

 Temple Beth-El
www.betheljc.org



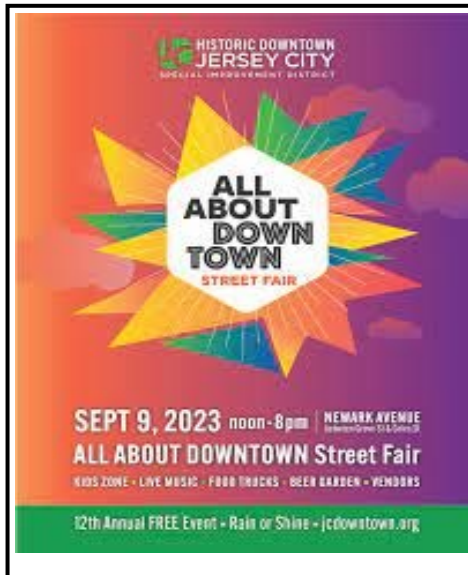
- Help bring TBE to those at home by pushing a couple of buttons. Join the tech crew and work our Livestream equipment at a Shabbat service. Contact [Seth Lubin](#)
- Love to schmooze? Want to help our building renovation plans become reality? Help the Temple talk up and grow our Kadimah! Development 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 [Laura Katzive](#)



We had a great time at the [Jersey City LGBTQ Pride Festival](#) over the weekend! We handed out bracelets, Pride flags, TBE LGBTQ Resource Guides, Calendars, TBE pins, information, and challah! Thanks to our volunteers and for those of you that stopped by to say Hello! At the table: Beth Achenbach, Deborah Lipp, Rabbi Leana Moritt, Nancy Gurwitz Sambul, Nathan Sambul, Alex Schkrutz, and Robin Rosenzweig Schkrutz,



Mazal tov to the happy couple! Sarah Kronbergs & Ben Zakarin will celebrate their aufruf at services on Friday, September 22.



In recent years, this event has attracted over 40,000 people to walk, eat, listen to music, shop and explore downtown Jersey City.

Temple Beth-El will have a table, and we need members to volunteer. Sit/stand at our table and tell passersby all about our temple.

Sign up [here!](#)



Shabbat Dinner on August 25 honoring Tom Rosensweet on his retirement as President of Temple Beth-El.



wine & cheese
"pre-neg"
before services

October 20
December 15

Temple Beth-El Religious School

5784 Calendar (2023-2024)

SCHOOL DAYS, Sundays, 9:30a – 12:00n

September 10, 24
 October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
 November 5, 12, 19
 December 3, 10, 17
 January 7, 21, 28
 February 4, 11*, 25
 March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
 April 7, 14, 21
 May 5, 12, 19
 *Feb 11 - field trip



GRADE LEVEL SHABBAT SERVICES, 6.30p

- ✧Save the Dates!✧
Attendance at First Friday Services are part of the school curriculum!
- November 3 - Grades 5/6
 - December 1 - Grade 4
 - February 2 - All Grades feat. Jr. Choir
 - March 1- Grade 7
 - April 5- Grades 2/3
 - May 3 - Grades K/1

MISHPACHA MEMORIES & PARENT EVENTS

Sun, Sep 10 - Parent Coffee & Shmooze Welcome
 Sun, Sep 24- Parent Sukkah building
 Sun, Dec 3 - Hanukkah Together
 Sun, Mar 17 - Purim Together
 Sun, Apr 21 - Pesach (Passover) Together
 Sun, May 19 - Lag B'omer/Last Day of School Picnic

PARENT PROJECT DAYS

(Help around the Temple)
 Sep 10 (meet & greet)
 Oct 15 Feb 4
 Nov 19 Mar 17
 Dec 17 Apr 14
 Jan 21 May 19

SPECIAL ALL-SCHOOL EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

- Sun, Sep 10 - Parents' Welcome Coffee & Shmooze
- Sat, Sep 16 - Rosh Hashanah Family Services
- Mon, Sep 25 -Yom Kippur Family Services
- Fri, Sep 29- Sukkah Decorating, Dinner in the Sukkah, Lulav & Etrog & Song
- Fri, Oct 6, 6pm - Sukkot Dinner, Consecration and Simchat Torah
- Sun, Nov 5 - B'nai Mitzvah Parents' Mtg. with Rabbi Moritt and Cantor Breznick
- Guest Sofer Educator and Torah Restoration (tentative)
- Sun, Feb 11 - All-School Field Trip (Superbowl Sunday)
- Sun, Feb 25 - B'nai Mitzvah Mtg. for 6th Graders *only* (6th Gr. - 12:30 pickup)
- Sat, Mar 23 - Purim Celebration, Shpiel, and Megillah Reading
- Sun, May 19 - Lag B'omer/Last Day of School Picnic

NO SCHOOL ON:

September 17 - Rosh Hashanah
 November 26 - Thanksgiving
 December 24 & 31 - Winter Break
 January 14 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 February 18 - President's Weekend
 April 28 - Pesach (Passover)

KEEP IN TOUCH

- Visit our Facebook Family page
- Email Cantor Laura Breznick, our Cantor/Education Director at CantorBreznick@betheljc.org
- Not receiving Parent/Family communications? Please contact Bob at admin@betheljc.org

✧All children (regardless of grade) are expected to attend services once a month as part of our school curriculum.✧



Change the World With One Hour of Your Time

Food Pantry Every Thursday at Temple Beth-El

The Temple Beth-El Food Pantry Urgently Needs Volunteers

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

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

Yahrzeits



Week Ending September 2

Joseph Schonberger
Claire Werner

Week Ending September 9

Maurice A. Brickman
Max Joseph Greengold
Marcel Mordecai Gutman
Toby Rosen
Sol Smith
Morris "Jibby" Wellen

Week Ending September 16

Julius Bleiweis
J. Leon Brodsky
Jack Karten
David Schteingart
Milton Wegodsky

Week Ending September 23

Abraham Goldberg
David E. Padlipsky

Week Ending September 30

Phyllis A. Canter
Pamela Sue Chaiken
Dan Fulop
Abby Portney

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

Posh Pods

*Summer Learning and Play Pods

*Concierge Camp Pick-Ups

*Back-up Care

How old does my child need to be?

Our Pods are for children 3-13. (Must be potty-trained.)

How does it work?

Children are put in Pods of up to 3 children (5 with an additional Childcare Specialist). Children spend most of their time on outdoor adventures but we have private indoor playspace as needed.

CHILDCARE SPECIALISTS THAT WILL BE THERE WHEN YOU CANNOT...FOR AFTER-CAMP/SCHOOL PICK-UP AND PLAYTIME.

WWW.POSHPODS.ORG

215-431-1600 (TEXT OR CALL)

@POSHPODSHBK

Posh Pods is an initiative of TBE's Kristin Michaelson

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 [here](#)

Just for You: One-to-one Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom

Develop your skills in reading/chanting prayers/Torah portions

הוזה אבגד

All ages, including Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and adults

Ultimate flexibility! I will customize lessons to meet your needs

Contact: Robb Kushner at robbkushner@gmail.com

Or text me at 201-349-4481



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Temple Beth-El has burial grounds in **Mount Moriah Cemetery** in Fairview, NJ.

Mount Moriah is a beautiful and well-maintained cemetery that has served 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

Tributes

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

Sustaining Fund

Donations were made by
Meagan Sackett & Guillermo Cancio
Rabbi Leana Moritt & Rabbi Steven Kushner
William Funk
Lisa Berkowitz

A donation was made by *Marc Epstein*
 In memory of his father

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Donations were made by
Lynn Brownstein
Diana Shelkov

A donation was made by *Robb & Jill Kushner*
 In thanks for their vow renewals by Rabbi Moritt

Kadimah Fund

A donation was made by *Robb & Jill Kushner*
 in honor of Tom Rosensweet