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The Beth El Buzz

Volume 3 - 2022/2023



More Light on Chanukah

- Rabbi Jeff Clopper

As you read this article, the lights of *Chanukah* most likely are behind us. The *menorah* is wrapped up with a few small wax reminders of this year's lightings. But they will sit dormant in cupboards and closets, ready to come out again when next *Chanukah* comes.

I always love seeing the candles dancing gracefully in their holders; the lights reflected in the windows as we sing the blessing for lighting the *chanukiah* (the *Chanukah menorah*). In my neighborhood, and I imagine most neighborhoods in the greater Huntington area, while Christmas lights twinkle at most homes, the few scattered *menorahs* still are a welcomed site. They are a reminder that there are others who share this beautiful heritage that encourages us both to light lights AND to be a source of light.

I wish we could add several more branches to the *chanukiah*. Not so much to extend the holiday (and any need for additional presents); rather, it just feels that in the darkness of these days, adding more and more light gives us hope. With winter's official start in December, we currently see the shortest amount of daylight. On top of that natural darkness, add the ever-present gloom that comes from any number of adversities, including struggles with finances, health, relationships, work, and family, not to mention greater upheaval in the world of politics or personal rights and freedoms. Of course, the constant persistence of anti-Semitism surfacing almost on a daily basis doesn't help matters.

When there is light, we feel warmer. We can see more clearly what (and sometimes who) is right in front of us. With a little added light, we can better find our way forward and feel prepared for what life might have in store, both good and bad. Even in darkest times, though, I marvel at this community because I know this synagogue, and the people who are part of it (and yes, that means YOU!!), do so much to increase the light in our world. Each can of food, wrapped present, pet supply, and dollar collected, every little bit, add more light to this world. Perhaps that is why the best response to darkness is committing to add more and more light.

I am reminded of the two great rabbinic houses, Hillel and Shammai. When discussing the *chanukiah*, Shammai wanted the practice to start the first night with all 8 candles lit and then subtract one for each following night. However, Hillel said we should start with one and add one more each night as a symbol of how we should add more light with each passing day. As you might have guessed, Hillel won the argument and not just because he was a nicer guy, but because his message held more sway. Bring more light, adding to it each day, and we can dispel the darkness (or hopefully keep it at bay for a while).

Now that *Chanukah* has ended and 2023 lies just ahead, I hope it will prove to be a better year for all. More importantly, I hope we can continue to work together in the months ahead to strengthen one another and the people of the Greater Huntington community through continued acts of kindness, compassion, and understanding. Each interaction is an opportunity to see through any darkness and create many moments of warmth and light.

May the future ahead be bright and joyous for everyone!



Mazal Tov...

To Lauri and Andy Levenberg on the wedding of their son, Jack, to Lauren Layfield on October 22nd and the wedding of their daughter, Brielle, to Sam Macaluso on November 13th.

To Barry Rozen and Sarah Lichtenstein on the marriage of their son, David Rozen, to Mark Williams on November 18th.

To Pam and David Eysler on the marriage of their son, Brent, to Kathleen Niegocki on Saturday, October 29th.

To Rob and Lisa Fishman, on the baby naming of their grandson on Friday, December 9th.

To Leah Mendelsohn on becoming a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, December 17th at Temple Beth El.

To Suzanne and Larry Blum on the birth of their grandson, Wesley Connor, son of Jason and Deanna Blum, born on December 19th.







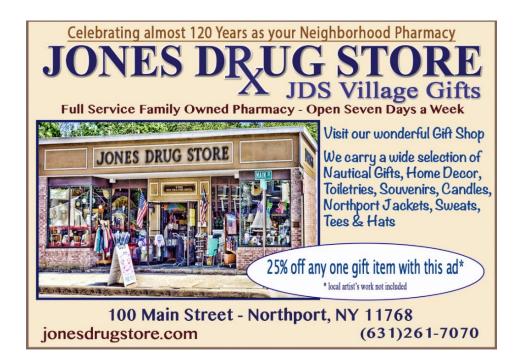


It's Been A Blast!

For the past seven years, I have considered myself lucky to work with leadership and our members as Content Editor for *The Buzz*. But now, it's time for a changing of the guard. If you are interested in being part of a wonderful editing team, please email me at thebuzz@tbeli.org and I will be happy to brainstorm. Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year to all.

- Li Josenhans

Content Editor, The Buzz



Chanukah and Gift Giving

- Peter Wayne, Chai Club President



For Jews around the world, *Chanukah* is marked by lighting candles on the *menorah* for eight nights, eating *latkes* and spinning the *dreidel*. But with the holiday's start, many Jewish Americans are focused on another tradition: gift-giving.

Chanukah celebrates the rededication of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem around 200 B.C., and how a small amount of oil miraculously lasted for eight nights. As the story is described in the first and second Books of Maccabees rather than the Bible, Chanukah is deemed less important religiously than other holidays like Passover, Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah. It wasn't until the early 20th century that the holiday gained some traction in the U.S.

By the early 1900's, American Jews had become accustomed to seeing Christmas gift giving flourish. Not wanting their children to feel left out as their peers received presents every December, Jewish parents adopted the gift giving custom, creating joy for their children on *Chanukah*. Evidence of the shift can be seen in Yiddish-language U.S. newspapers from the 1920s, which would advertise the giving of gifts in honor of *Chanukah*.

With the tradition of gift giving at *Chanukah* ingrained in our Jewish culture, let me introduce you to the tradition of giving a *Chanukah* gift to Temple Beth El's *Chai* Tribute Fund. Your gift can be given to honor, provide well wishes, or memorialize friends and loved ones. And if you're a *Chai* Club member, you're eligible to provide recommendations to the *Chai* Club Board for expenditures on specific projects, equipment, or other needs that benefit TBE and the membership! You can make a gift to TBE's *Chai* Tribute Fund online at www.tbeli.org or contact Lisa Bennett in the temple office. On behalf of the *Chai* Club Board, I want to wish you a joyous *Chanukah*, and good health and happiness in the New Year!

Adult Hebrew Class: Beyond the Aleph Bet

Delving Into Hebrew Vocabulary, Roots and Grammar with Cantor Alison Levine FREE class on Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Do you recognize Hebrew letters? Would you like to be able to follow along with the prayers during services? Would you like to study some prayers and learn how to say and understand them? If the answer is YES, come join my Adult Hebrew Class!

Last year, we learned the Hebrew Aleph Bet; this year, we're continuing with a beginner level course that is open to all TBE partners with familiarity reading Hebrew. Join us as we:

- > Delve further into the Hebrew language with a focus on our prayer book
- Continue reading practice and do writing exercises to enhance vocabulary
- Increase familiarity with the Hebrew roots and grammar
- Learn basic prayers of our liturgy
- Gain skills for our next Adult B'nei Mitzvah class
- Understand and appreciate our prayers on a deeper level



All you need to purchase is the book, *Aleph isn't Enough: Hebrew for Adults (Book 2)* by Linda Motzkin (available for order online). Please email me at cantoralison@tbeli.org if you are interested in joining the class or have any questions!

Room Rentals

Temple Beth El is open for in-person events. Did you know we rent out space during times when the temple building is not in use? We can host theater productions, seminars, various classes of all types, meetings, etc. This is a great way to utilize our building during down times and also provides us with additional revenue. Call (631) 421-5835 for information.

Got Leftovers? We Can Help!

If you've recently had an event (a *shiva*, luncheon, party, etc.) and find yourself inundated with lots of leftover food, don't toss it - we can help! We have volunteers who can pick it up or you can drop it off at the temple and we'll make sure it goes to a local organization or food pantry. Email Sue at sseiler27@gmail.com or Carol at cwerblin@hotmail.com.









Put Temple Beth El On Your Giving List!

It's that time of the year when many people are considering giving their support to worthy organizations. It's a time to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity and we hope you'll think of Temple Beth El. Your donation helps to cover the costs of our operating expenditures. Whether you're putting together your 'giving list' for the holidays or preparing last minute donations for the 2022 tax year, please consider Temple Beth El in your planning.

Donations can also be made through our website at www.tbeli.org. If you need more information, please call the temple office. May the New Year usher in a time of joy and well-being for you and your family.

Matching Contributions

Do you work for a company that makes matching donations to non-profit organizations? Your Partnership Pledge, and other donations to Temple Beth El, are eligible for a matching donations. This is a great way to maximize your contribution! Call (631) 421-5835 for information.

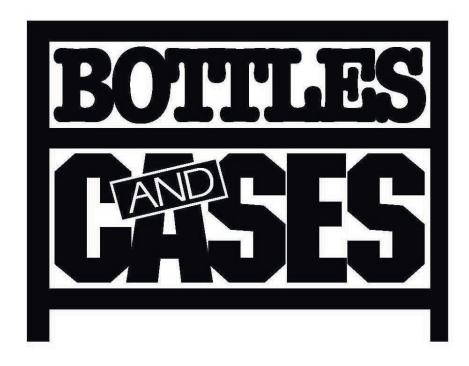


Ner Tamid: Planned Giving

Join those who have made a provision for Temple Beth El in planning their estate. Your gift helps to assure the long-term viability of the temple. If you have already included the temple in your estate plan and would like to be recognized, or for more information, please call (631) 421-5835.

You can contribute by:

- > Making a bequest to the temple in your will
- > Making a gift of stocks or securities
- > Making a life-income charitable gift annuity
- > Making a gift using real estate



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Our monthly brunches have been a resounding success providing an opportunity to discuss issues of importance, new ideas, and offer suggestions for a way forward in this post-COVID world. All Partner households are being invited and your invitation will arrive soon! A big THANK YOU to those who have already attended. For everyone else, keep an eye out for your invitation.

Aside from enjoying the wonderful food (provided by Brotherhood and the *Chai* Club) we've enjoyed the camaraderie so missed during pandemic shutdowns. Need more information? Contact Patti Kresner at PresElect@tbeli.org or Lisa in the temple office at (631) 421-5835.

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December Yahrzeits: Remembering Our Loved Ones

As a community, we remember our loved ones on the anniversary of their deaths. May their memory be a blessing.

December 1-7

Jerry Camens

- father of Shelley Camens Louis Reich
- father of Charles Rich Miriam Willinger
- aunt of Harriet Copel Jeanette Gollon
- mother of Linda Greenwald Irving Rapaport
- father of Jane Shallat Harold Wagner
- father of Robin London Jerold Epstein
- husband of Judith Epstein Joy Marilyn Baine
- mother of Sherri Goldman Morris Dietz
- father of Sheldon Dietz Helene Gendron
- aunt of Norman Copel Rachel Jackson
- great-grandmother of Ellen Gray Steve Zakarin
- brother-in-law of Carol Werblin Esther Datlow
- mother of Jay Elzweig Colman Lopatin
- grandfather of Cantor Alison Herbert Stone
- uncle of Beth Gilman

December 8-14

Carol June Seager Fuller

- mother-in-law of Ruth Fuller Florence Leeds
- aunt of Janice Groden Ruth Levey
- grandmother of Hal Levey Marjorie Schaeffer
- mother of Bernie Schaeffer Robert Feinstein
- father of Brian Feinstein Leon Joseph
- father of Jeffrey Joseph Gloria Kindler
- sister of Burt Masnick Morris Rosen
- uncle of Carol Rosen Jodi Cohn
- friend of Carol Werblin Joe Goodridge
- grandfather of Elana Goodridge Margaret Zucker
- mother of Bob Zucker

Martin E. Monat

- father of Lawrence Monat Florence Ringer
- grandmother of Jennifer Stabile Samuel Lipkind
- grandfather of Victoria Wilson

December 8-14 (cont'd)

Kevin Patrick Dunne

- brother of Rosanne Stein Norma Fallenberg
- mother of Debi Fallenberg Aaron Goldberg
- brother of Fran Simowitz Berdie Kasman
- mother of Richard Kasman Joan Turkell
- mother of Laurel Atkinson Carol Adelson
- grandmother of David Bernstein Florence Baskir
- mother of Mark Baskir Herbert Berkovitz
- father of Linda Wattel Gerald Klein
- father of Lisa Tricomi Gertrude Krawitz
- mother of Paul Krawitz Jenny Yeazell
- aunt of Louise Spangle

December 15-21

Helen B.H. Cohen

- grandmother of Ilene Messina
- grandmother of Denise Spencer Shirley Flanagan
- mother of Noreen Fremed Gerson Hall
- father of Sharon Smolen Mel Jackson
- father of Melanie Jackson Donald Moss
- brother-in-law of Cantor Sherry Daniel Roth
- cousin of Susan Goldman Kurt Saunders
- father of Paul Saunders Arnold Brotman
- father of Andrea Marino Bertha Fenenbock
- grandmother of Margaret Roche Harriet Goldberg
- sister of Arnold Shindler Moe Herman
- father of Steven Herman Ruth Klein
- mother of Paula Klein Isaac Pardo
- brother of Marilyn Pardo Irving Simmons
- brother-in-law of Fran Simowitz Herman Wattel
- father of William Wattel Ly Herz Brettler
- mother of Cora Brettler
- Eleanor Herman mother of Steven Herman
- mother of Gloria Barton

Sarah Rimens

December 15-21 (cont'd)

Michael Goldman

- cousin of Marjorie Levy Florence Hafetz
- aunt of Carol Berliner Harry Krawitz
- father of Paul Krawitz Frieda Alperstein Bonner
- mother of Sandy Crain Margaret D. Camardella
- mother of Denise Montague Martin Fallon
- father of Michael Fallon Murray Podgainy
- father of Martin Podgainy Stella Rozen
- mother of Barry Rozen Michelle Haley Toran
- granddaughter of Bill & Phyllis Toran Madeline Donders
- mother of Arlen Donders William Feeney
- husband of Myra Feeney Frank Gold
- father of Audrey Gold Zelda Starr-Finkel
- grandmother of Gail Helfand Carol Werblin
- sister-in-law of Carol Werblin

December 22-31

Joel Fazekas

- husband of Karen Fazekas Max Kalkstein
- brother of Aleta Kalkstein Mae Wong
- mother of Janet Widawsky Samuel Zusman
- father of Barry Zusman Joan Gray
- mother of Ellen GrayKevin McDonagh
- brother of Tom McDonagh Rose Ochser
- grandmother of Alan Goldberg

December 22-31 (cont'd)

Janice Sandler

- mother of Amy Blumenthal Joseph Bionda
- husband of Judith Siger Pauline Finkel
- mother of Wil Finkel (z"l) Fanny Grandma
- grandmother of Elana Goodridge Felicia Karolyi
- friend of Janice Groden Joseph Ochser
- grandfather of Alan Goldberg Leo Eysler
- grandfather of David Eysler Evelyn Hall
- mother of Sharon Smolen Lillian Mitnick
- great-aunt of Carol Clopper
- Ethan Murphy nephew of Amy & Dan Bernzweig
- Herbert Walerstein
 husband of Janet Walerstein (z"l)
- father of Douglas Walerstein Sylvia Waltzer
- mother of Karen Arnold Bookheim
- father of Linda Widerman Lois Ann Klein
- mother-in-law of Alan Roberts Eugene Schwartz
- father of Steven Schwartz Lori Young
- sister of Janis Dombrower Corinne Holtzman
- aunt of Beth Gilman Rose Maver
- grandmother of Elisa McDonagh Herbert Newman
- father of Lynne Eig Julian Wilson

Edward Sinder

- uncle of Victoria Wilson
- father of Eileen Shindler



January Yahrzeits: Remembering Our Loved Ones

As a community, we remember our loved ones on the anniversary of their deaths. May their memory be a blessing.

<u>January 1-7</u>

Sonia Aronson

- mother of Mark Aronson lack Kellerman
- father of Beth Gilman
- Abraham Loss
 father of Debbie Rimler
- Ben Pearlman
- father of Allan Pearlman Zelman Schoenbart
- father of Karyn Sporkin
- Suzanne Strom
- sister of Doug Gilman
- Richard Baez
- brother of Michael Baez Martin Danis
- brother of Suzanne Danis (z"l)
- Sarah Gartzman
- grandmother of Barbara Schenk Sydney Honig
- father of Ilene Sharp Adolph Benjamin Stern
- father of Howard Stern
- Rose Eisner
- mother of Ethel Winkler
- Laura Jakob
- mother of Jody Schlanger
- Rubin Grass
- uncle of Robin Grass Rita P. Huebschman-Siesel
- grandmother of Melissa Radgowski
- Melvin Rosen - father of Patricia Kresner
- Dora Rosenbaum
- grandmother of Joan Feilbogen Asher Strod
- father of Rosalie Goldstein James Barber
- father of Alina Ricci Carol Sherman
- mother of William Sherman Max Zeiler
- grandfather of Danielle Greenwood
- father of Joel Zeiler
- **Morris Cupit**
- father of Gerald Cupit Frieda Noumoff
- mother of Marlene Kasman Harry Warshaw
- grandfather of Sarah Lichtenstein Charles Williams
- father of Jeffrey Williams

January 8-14

Esther Copel

- mother of Norman Copel Rita Helfand
- mother of Andrew Helfand Charles Kasinoff Jr.
- uncle of Carol Clopper

January 8-14 (cont'd)

Harry Klayman

- father of Burt Klayman Marvin Korobow
- father of Amy Korobow George Brookes
- grandfather of Pam Eysler Rose Hoffman
- mother of Sandy Hoffman Frieda Everett
- mother of Joyce Pifko Janet Klein
- mother of Cecelia Stuchin Jerome Moskowitz
- father of Kenny Moskowitz Sadie Cutler
- mother of Cantor Sandy Sherry Carol Fleischman
- sister of Sandy Masnick Isabelle Goldman
- mother of Carol Slippen
 Simon Lamhut
- uncle of Sandy Masnick
 Michael Teicher
- father of Scott Teicher Cathy Gindin
- sister of Judith Cole
- Alan Helfand - father of Andrew Helfand Pauline Levy
- mother of Lucy Raskin Pauline Stuchinsky
- mother of Sidney Stuchin (z"l)
 Peter Talbot
- husband of Irma Talbot Samuel Gartzman
- grandfather of Barbara Schenk

January 15-21

Esther Eisenberg

- grandmother of David Plosky Harold Kay
- father of Stuart Kay Hyman Pater
- father of Amy Podhurst Charles Statman
- stepfather of Rabbi Bart Shallat Sherry Eisner
- cousin of Joseph Madenberg (z"l)
 Rosalind Riyka Greenbut
- Rosalind Rivka Greenhut
 mother of Michael Greenhut
- Jack Klesman
- father of Laura Klayman Dorothy Lipkind
- grandmother of Victoria Wilson Allan Lurie
- father of Diane Berg Roslyn Wohle
- mother of Elissa Gordon Michael Jackson
- brother of Melanie Jackson

January 15-21 (cont'd)

Laurence Simon

- stepbrother of Debi Fallenberg Sidney Stein
- father of Melvyn Stein Joan Goldspiel
- mother of Ilene Davis

Mildred Meyer

- mother of Marjorie Goldner Aaron Eig
- father of Barry Eig Harry Gothelf
- father of Inez Wachtel Joan Hirsch
- mother of David Hirsch Zena Camens
- mother of Shelley Camens Bernie Muller
- stepfather of Randy Kaplan Bonnie Braun
- mother of Linda Braun Sydney Budd
- sister of Alan Freeman Irving Lakowitz
- cousin of Janice Groden

January 22-31

Harriet Kaplan

- mother of Randee Epstein Cynthia Mandel
- mother of Liza Tenner Shirley Pater
- mother of Amy Podhurst Henry Brozinsky
- father of Ed Brozinsky Katherine Ebert
- aunt of Carol Clopper Howard Schneider
- husband of Miriam Rosen Dr. Stuart Seiden
- father of Peter Seiden Milton Shaiman
- father of Norman Shaiman Lillian Stein
- mother of Melvyn Stein Harold Goldman
- father of Floyd Goldman Gayle Scopin
- sister of Joan Yakuboff

January 22-31 (cont'd)

Barbara Somach

- mother of Brian Moss Etta Alter
- mother of Irma Talbot David Faber
- father of Stephen Faber Paul Plosky
- uncle of David Plosky

Morton Harris Schaeffer

- father of Bernie Schaeffer Sidney Stuchin
- husband of Cecelia Stuchin Charles Hirsch
- father of David Hirsch Selma Kay
- mother of Stuart Kay Harriet Rachman
- grandmother of Danielle Greenwood
- mother of Frann Zeiler
 James Shifrin
- father of Laurel Atkinson
- Frances Brozinsky

- mother of Ed Brozinsky Joshua Helfand

- nephew of Gail & Andrew Helfand
- Florence Kishinsky
 mother of Susan Goldman

Mildred Levinson

- mother of Mark Baskir

Judith Scheinfeld

- mother of Laurel Scheinfeld Grace Stern
- mother of Howard Stern
- Phyllis Susswein mother of David Susswein
- Freda Witrick
 mother of Randy Witrick
 Barbara Eysler
- mother of David Eysler Irwin Bialer
- uncle of Amy Podhurst
- Terri Green - sister of Richard Pitch
- Leon Kaplan - father of Stuart Kaplan
- Saul Mittman - father of Lisa Shaiman

Condolences...

To Jackie Goldberg and family, on the death of her father, Sol Geldzahler, father-in-law of Alan, grandfather of Emily and Sam, on November 16, 2022.

To Allen Brown and family, on the death of his mother, Doris Brown, mother-in-law of Clare Cohn-Brown, grandmother of Sarah Brown, on December 14, 2022.

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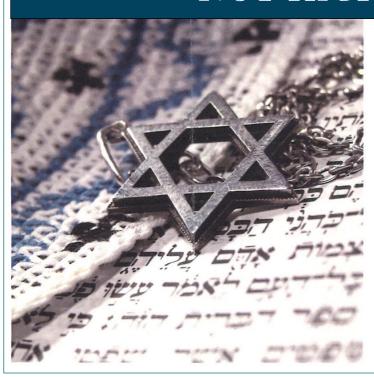
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