



# TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

### **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

#### **Friday, December 1**

5:00pm Tot Shabbat  
5:30pm Oneg/Pre-neg  
6:00pm Family Shabbat Service and  
4th Grade Family Shabbat

#### **Saturday, December 2**

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service  
11:00am Michael Arnett, son of Karen &  
David Arnett will be called to the Torah  
as *Bar Mitzvah*

#### **Friday, December 8**

7:00pm Channukah Shabbat  
Celebration

#### **Saturday, December 9**

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service  
11:00am Robbie and Sawyer Stein, sons  
of Brett & Marni Stein will be called to  
the Torah as *B'nei Mitzvah*

#### **Friday, December 15**

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service

#### **Saturday, December 16**

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service

#### **Friday, December 22**

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service

#### **Saturday, December 23**

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service

#### **Friday, December 29**

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service

#### **Saturday, December 30**

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service



### **From Rabbi Holtz's Study**

Dear Friends,

Whenever I prepare to write a bulletin article, I first go back to see what I have written for that month in previous years. I do this for two, somewhat conflicting reasons. On the one hand, I want to make sure that I'm not repeating myself. On the other hand, I want to see if I've written something that needs repeating. This month, I was absolutely gob-smacked by what I found. For the December 2012 bulletin I wrote a piece that, with the change of only a few details, would be not just relevant, but accurate today. It spoke about rockets from Gaza and Israel's response. Here are a few selected lines:

"As I write this, no one knows if the hostilities in southern Israel will end, continue or escalate..."

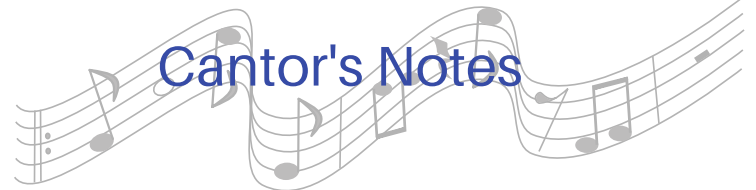
"I have been thrilled by the clear and unwavering support of America's leaders - President Obama and the Congress - for Israel, and for Israel's interpretation of the current conflict. It is heartening to hear the President say that the burden is on Hamas to de-escalate, because it was their rocket fire from Gaza into Israel that precipitated the violence. And it was surprising and encouraging to see much of Europe taking similar, if less unequivocal positions..."

"I have been appalled, as I usually am, by the coverage of most of the media, American and International. There are a variety of problems. Some reports play on the listeners' natural human feelings of sympathy for the downtrodden. They highlight the plight of Palestinian families who are suffering, without linking the cause of that suffering directly to Hamas' launching of rockets, and the intentional policy of basing the rockets in civilian neighborhoods..."

"Why can't we call certain behaviors evil, without adding qualifiers? Why, after saying that Hamas does not care about civilians' lives - theirs or ours - do some need to say something like, 'but that doesn't make the Palestinian suffering any less'? Why is there always a 'but'? Why can't statements of support for Israel, or condemnation of terror stand on their own, without the qualifiers?"



TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM  
 25 Leroy Avenue  
 Tarrytown, NY 10591  
 Tel: 914-631-1770  
 www.tba-ny.org



Presence, not Presents

My colleague, Cantor Jacob Niemi in Madison, WI, wrote an adorable Hanukkah song called 'Put the Menorah in the Window.' The chorus of the song reads as follows:

*We put the menorah in the window,  
 put it there for everyone to see.  
 We don't have to hide all the light we have inside,  
 So, we put the menorah in the window.*

Cantor Niemi's lyrics, based on the wisdom of Jewish tradition, resonate especially strongly amid current events. The Talmud teaches us that the lighting of Hanukkah candles is meant to be a ritual that we enact in public. Our sages suggest that the candles be lit outside one's doorway or in a street-facing window if one lives above street-level. We do this to demonstrate the miracle of Jewish survival - the victory of the tiny Maccabee army over the mighty Greeks - to the world at large. Though we are small in number, our collective resilience knows no bounds.

The October 7 attacks in Southern Israel have been the catalyst for rising anti-Semitism all over the world. This catastrophe marked the largest number of Jews killed in a single day since the Holocaust. In the wake of this catastrophic event, our safety as Jews has once again been put into question.

The Anti-Defamation League reported that antisemitic incidents in the United States since October 7 have risen by over 400%. 153 of such events took place between October 7 and October 18. Jewish delis have been vandalized. Playground swings have been burned in Jewish neighborhoods. Swastikas have been spray-painted on the walls of Jewish institutions. College campuses in particular have become petri-dishes of discrimination towards Israel and the Jewish people.

It is very natural for us to want to hide in the wake of this hatred - to refrain from wearing or displaying any symbols that might identify us as Jewish. This might seem like a year when we feel safer lighting our Hanukkah candles within the safety of our homes. However, Hamas' goal was to scare us. If we hide, they win. If we don't outwardly display our Jewish pride, who will?

If you're comfortable, I urge you to follow Cantor Niemi's advice to "put your menorah in the window" this Hanukkah season. Focus this year on creating presence, in addition to presents. At its very core, Hanukkah is about the survival of Jewish peoplehood. It is not simply a convenient excuse for Jews to have something to celebrate while the rest of the world partakes in Christmas festivities. In many ways, Hanukkah's proximity to Christmas has

Continued on Page 4

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## STESSA PEERS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

"Shine a light in a window, for the whole world to see."

When I was a kid, many winter nights were spent looking for pretty lights to pass the time. We would bundle up and pile in the car and drive around, mesmerized by the beautiful, twinkling lights. But one night, we passed a house decked out in blue and white, and I saw a chanukiah (a Chanukah menorah) lit in the window. The feeling of belonging was indescribable.

In today's world, many are struggling with how to be outwardly Jewish, to not only feel like they belong but to show it to the world. I think back to those winters when I was a child, and my subconscious desire to let my Judaism shine.

As an adult, I've taken to wearing my name in Hebrew, or using Hebrew conversationally, but this Chanukah season I have begun to think about the mitzvah of lighting a chanukiah.

The Sages taught: It is a mitzvah to place the Hanukkah lamp at the entrance to one's house on the outside, so that all can see it. If you live upstairs, you place it at the window adjacent to the public domain. But in a time of danger, when decrees have been issued to prohibit kindling lights, you may place it on the table and that is sufficient to fulfill one's obligation.

For some of us, we may be scared to publicly be Jewish. But I take comfort in what our Sages taught because it means there have been Jews before me who were nervous, or worse.

Being together has been a source of strength for me, and for many children and teens in our community. From making Jewish "Taylor Swift-esque" friendship bracelets, baking, creating art and learning together, to praying, singing, and making gelt, we have created a community where we can be authentically, and proudly, Jewish.

There are many ways for us to connect coming up in December that I'm so looking forward to. At our December family Shabbat (12/1), our 4th graders will help lead the congregation in song and then receive their prayer books, siddurim, with personalized dedications from their families. After services, our 7th graders will meet for a shul-in, their temple sleepover, which is going to be so much fun! Next up is our annual book fair fundraiser, along with Latkepalooza (12/3), followed by our 7th graders creating their personalized yads for their BMitzvah (12/4).

And this is just the first four days of the month!  
So much light to be brought in, together, at TBA.

I know that this year I will be lighting my chanukiah, publicly. If you do the same, you never know who might drive by and see it, and get a little extra light this year too.

L'Shalom,  
Stessa

Rabbi's Article continued from page 1

The more things change... Of course there are major differences in the events then and now. Sadly, though not surprisingly, the outlines are much the same. It could be enough to drive one to despair. But in the midst of the darkness comes a flicker of light. At just the right moment, Chanukah's story of victory over evil reminds us that all is not lost. There is reason to be strong in our belief that goodness can, at least for a time, defeat barbarism.

What is less clear to me is the path going forward. We Jews are told that "in every generation" an enemy will rise up against us. The centuries long battle for Jewish sovereignty in the land of Israel did not begin with the Maccabees, and likely will not end even with the defeat of Hamas. Does this mean that hopes for peace and security are merely dreams? Absolutely not!

Following a visit to Buchenwald, Elie Wiesel said that after the Holocaust "we had the right to give up on humanity." But, he said, "we rejected that possibility...we said, no, we must continue believing in a future."

As we experience another war in Israel and a rise in antisemitism around the world, I am buoyed and inspired by Wiesel's strength. As we kindle the Chanukah candles this year, may we find hope and strength in their increasing light. May we stand fast in our pride. And may we continue to work for the day when "all will sit in peace under their vine and under their fig tree, and none shall make them afraid."

Peace and blessings,  
Rabbi David K. Holtz



Cantor's Article Cont'd. from Page 2

allowed us to raise our small but mighty Jewish voice as a religious minority - quite successfully, I might add. The amount of real estate given to Hanukkah merchandise in stores has increased significantly over the past decade. This is a huge win. I know I'm not the only one who loves that I can dress my children in adorable "Hanukkah Pajamukas." This year, Target offered an abundance of thoughtfully curated Hanukkah paraphernalia such as make-your-own gelt kits and "Happy Pawnukeh" dog outfits - all of which flew off the shelves like hotcakes (or, more appropriately, latkes).

But let's not make Hanukkah the only time of year where we aim to make our presence known. The next step is for us to find ways to proudly display our Jewish pride beyond the winter holiday season. There are opportunities to do this year-round. Build a sukkah in the fall. Wear a costume on Purim in the spring. Have a BBQ for Lag B'omer in the summer. You don't even have to do these activities alone. You can come to TBA and join your synagogue family in partaking and learning about each of these rituals. In order to educate and enlighten our friends, families, and retailers about the richness of our traditions, we need to fully embrace and understand them for ourselves.

Love and Light,  
Cantor Lauren

### CLOSINGS

**The Office will be closed on:**  
Monday, December 25  
for the Christmas Day holiday  
and on January 1  
for New Year's Day

**Religious School will be closed from:**  
Sunday, December 24  
through Monday, January 1  
School will resume on Wednesday, January 3



## Chavurah Program

### What is a chavurah?

A chavurah is a small group of temple members who are brought together based on common interests.

A chavurah group is made up of individuals and/or families who usually get together monthly.

This program is available to all TBA members and provides a wonderful way to get to know others and to build lasting friendships with fellow synagogue members.

#### How do I join?

Call the office and request an application and return it to: Member Services at Temple Beth Abraham.

#### Not sure yet? Want to learn more?

Contact Erica Newman at [enewman@tba-ny.org](mailto:enewman@tba-ny.org).



## Bring Your Menorahs and Candles and Join Us For the Second Night of Chanukah

Friday, December 8, 2023

7:00pm Latkes & Menorah Lighting

7:30pm Service and Singing

8:30pm Sufganiyot (Jelly Donuts), Dreidels & Gelt!



Please scan and RSVP so we know how many are coming and we don't run out of latkes!

<https://bit.ly/TBA-Chanukah-Celeb>





Walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama I got the chills I thought I would. Standing in the spot of the first of three civil rights marches to Washington, D.C., the one where the aptly named Bloody Sunday took place, gave me a sense of place and history that reading about it just didn't. This was part of a three-day Civil Rights trip I took with a Jewish philanthropic organization, and I vowed our own TBA would do one, too.

The Legacy Museum (sometimes called the lynching museum for obvious reasons), Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke, and the Rosa Parks Museum were just a few of the astonishing and moving places we visited. History was brought to life as we spoke with a woman who had been beaten on the Edmund Pettus Bridge as a child, as well as the daughter of one of the white people who helped drive protestors and was murdered for her involvement. Experiencing this with fellow Jews was especially moving as we learned how Jews were - and weren't - helpful to the Civil Rights cause.

Please join us from May 9-12 in Selma and Montgomery, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia as Billy Planer of Etgar 36 (the best guide I've ever had anywhere) walks and talks us through this journey. Click [here](#) if you are interested in joining.

Sharon DeLevie  
JEDI Council (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion)

**CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNEY**

**MAY 9 TO MAY 12, 2024**

FOR ANYONE 14+  
SINGLES, COUPLES,  
GROUPS OF FRIENDS

Interested?  
Let us know!

JOIN US ON A CONGREGATIONAL TRIP TO SELMA, MONTGOMERY, BIRMINGHAM, AND ATLANTA AS WE LEARN ABOUT THE STRUGGLES OF BLACK PEOPLE TO GAIN EQUALITY IN THE 1950'S AND 60'S AS WELL AS DISCOVER HOW JEWS WERE INVOLVED IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE. WE WILL VISIT THE ROSA PARKS MUSEUM, EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE, AND JOIN IN SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES AT EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH WHERE DR. KING AND HIS FATHER HELD THE PULPIT.

**SELMA** **MONTGOMERY** **BIRMINGHAM** **ATLANTA**

Scan the QR code to let us know if you are interested: or go to: [bit.ly/TBA-Civil-Rts-Trip-Inq](https://bit.ly/TBA-Civil-Rts-Trip-Inq)

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ETGAR 36

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

## TBA FAMILY



The following events reflect the known sorrows and simchas of our TBA Family:

### **REFUAH SHLEIMA TO:**

**Norman Braun**  
**Bunny Solomon**  
**Steven Wilson**

### **MAZEL TOV TO:**

**Diane Werner Osborn** on the marriage of her daughter, Emma, to Alex Greenberger  
**Susan Kronish Grotenstein and Alan Grotenstein** on the engagement of their son, Josh to Rachel.

### **CONDOLENCES TO:**

**Steven Haber** and his family on the death of his father, Michael Haber  
**Lauraine Harrison** on the death of her mother, Dorothy Elle Freda  
**Senny Josephs** on the death of her sister, Neshama  
**Marcy and Zachary Levitan** on the death of their husband and father, Jeffrey  
**Mangala Narasimhan Weitzen** on the death of her father, Melatur Narasimhan

## DONATIONS



### **BIMA FLOWERS**

**in loving memory of Stanley Hesel** from The Hesel Family

### **BRIDGES FUND**

**in loving memory of Toby Goldberg and Ruth Bermas** from Margot, Barry and Tamir Goldberg

### **CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**in loving memory of Laura Goldsmith** from Donna & Jim Goldsmith  
**in loving memory of Rachel Cohen** from Robin & Stuart Feldman  
**with gratitude for leading the shiva minyan** at our home for our sister, Susan Hochman, from Daniel Nienaltow & Liza Karsten  
**with gratitude for Cantor Lauren's support for Noah's Bar Mitzvah** from The Stein Family (Melissa, Jason, Noah & Emily)

## DONATIONS



### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

**in loving memory of Mark Bauer** from David Frank & Bernice Rogowitz  
**in loving memory of Michael Haber** from David Frank & Bernice Rogowitz  
**in loving memory of Evelyn Mahoney Seymour Goldberg, and Peter Bermas** from Margot, Barry and Tamir Goldberg

### **HIGH HOLYDAY APPEAL**

Stuart & Arlene Kolbert  
Michael & Marcia Lechner  
Mark Mishler & Cynthia Barr-Pfeffer  
Marcus & Lori Peterzell  
Richard Weiss & Joan Levy

### **ONEG FUND**

**in honor of Camden and Bennett's B'nei Mitzvah** from Carol Bennett Bluestein & David Bluestein

### **PINCUS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**in loving memory of Robert (Robby) Fischer** from Eva Fischer  
**in loving memory of Rosa Fischer** from Eva Fischer

### **PLAYGROUND FUND**

**in loving memory of Michael Buitekant** from Michael & Jennifer Povman  
**in loving memory of Arnold Rich** from Bob & Marilyn Harris

### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**in loving memory of Michael Alexander** from Daniel Alexander  
**in loving memory of Rose Engelman** from Jacqueline Egelman  
**in loving memory of Arnold Rich** from Marianne Rich  
**in loving memory of Tilly Lerer, Norman Lerer, Richard Lerer, Gladys Plosky, and Ellen Plosky** from Paula Lerer  
**in loving memory of Martin Z. Klein** from Teddi Klein  
**with gratitude for Rabbi Holtz** from Amy & Peter Herzog  
**with gratitude for leading the shiva minyan** at our home for our sister, Susan Hochman, from Daniel Nienaltow & Liza Karsten  
**with gratitude for Rabbi Holtz's support for Noah's Bar Mitzvah** from The Stein Family (Melissa, Jason, Noah & Emily)

# DONATIONS



## SECURITY FUND

**in honor of Loren Ratner and Paul Levy** - *Am Yisrael Chai!* from Judith Ratner

## TEMPLE FUND

**in loving memory of Michael Buitekant** from Arlene Hanson  
**in loving memory of Stanley Licker** from Carol A. Miller  
**in loving memory of Jacobo Handszer** from Bernardo & Ida Handszer  
**in loving memory of Arnold Rich** from Donald Kumka & Jane Silverman  
**in loving memory of Stan Licker** from Donald Kumka & Jane Silverman  
**in loving memory of Arnold Rich** from Herb & Melissa Baer  
**in loving memory of Michael Buitekant** from Howard & Stephanie Paul  
**in loving memory of Dr. Milton Hyman** from Leonard & Judith Hyman  
**in loving memory of Arnold Rich** from Marvin & Joyce Jeshiva  
**in loving memory of Michael Buitekant** from Marvin & Joyce Jeshiva  
**in loving memory of Arnold Rich** from Michael Friedman  
**in loving memory of Sidney Eagle** from Carole Eagle  
**in loving memory of Fred Grubel** from Eva Fischer  
**in loving memory of Isaac Yorkowitz** from Geri Singerman  
**in loving memory of Esther Kessler** from Rochelle Kessler  
**in loving memory of Stanley Licker** from Phyllis Scheer  
**in loving memory of Sylvia Levine** from Roz Schechter  
**to celebrate a happy, healthy New Year and peace** from Barbara and Michael Herzog  
**to wish a speedy recovery to Rochelle Kessler**

## TIKKUN OLAM PROGRAMS

**in loving memory of Stanley Licker** from Bob & Marilyn Harris  
**in loving memory of Stanley Licker** from Stuart & Arlene Kolbert

# DONATIONS




## TREE OF LIFE

**to celebrate the baby naming of Arden Yael Margalit Pié** from Kelley Lieberman

## YOUTH GROUP FUND

**with gratitude for the loan of your Torah** from Cantor Dana Anesi




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*Rosenthal Memorial Chapel is independently-owned and operated. With care and compassion, we offer a full range of Jewish funeral services.*

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TORAH READINGS

DECEMBER

2023

December 1	Vayishlach Genesis 32:4-36:43
December 8	Vayeishev Genesis 37:1-40:23
December 15	Mikeitz Genesis 41:4-44:17
December 22	Vayigash Genesis 44:18-47:27
December 29	Vayechi Genesis 47:28-50:26



## YEAR-END GIVING STRATEGIES

Take advantage of charitable giving with potential tax breaks before the year ends!

Don't miss these opportunities:



### STOCK:

Donating appreciated stock that you have owned for at least a year provides a double tax benefit. You may qualify for a charitable income tax deduction and avoid capital gains tax you would owe if you sold the stock yourself. Contact the office for more information and instructions.



### QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD):

If you are at least 70 1/2 years old, you can make a gift directly from your IRA, up to \$100,000 each calendar year, and exclude the amount of the QCD from your gross income for federal tax purposes.



### DONOR ADVISED FUND (DAF):

DAFs allow donors to make a charitable contribution and receive an immediate tax deduction on that gift. Donors can then recommend grants from the fund over time. If you don't already have one, consider establishing a DAF for your charitable contributions.

**Please consult your personal financial or tax advisor for additional information**

If your checks are dated before the end of December, or if your credit card transaction processes this calendar year, this may provide you with tax benefits for 2023.

## PUZZLED BY HOW TO CARE FOR AN ELDERLY RELATIVE

**Geriatric Care Manager can help put the pieces together.**

- Evaluate clients level of function and make recommendation for home modifications, nursing home placement and home care services.
- Medicaid applications.
- Assist in cleanouts and moves.
- And much more.

Call Sue Stone-Groppe OTR/MS  
at 914-779-0031  
or e-mail [ssgotr@aol.com](mailto:ssgotr@aol.com)  
website: [www.elderservicesny.com](http://www.elderservicesny.com)



# LATKEPALOOZA

December 3, 2023

10:30am-2:00pm

in the social hall

**Community-Wide Hanukkah Celebration and Gift Boutique**

**Latkes!**

**Gifts  
for Sale**

**Crafts for  
Kids &  
Adults**

**Baked by Jane  
Loaf Cakes**

benefitting Tikkun Olam

**Handmade  
goods**

**Teacher  
Gifts**

**Raffle**

**Jewelry**

**Clothing**

**Custom  
Tallit**

### FEATURED VENDORS:

*Click on the vendor's name, below, for more information:*

- [A Strongwater Designs](#)
- [Ariane's Jewel Box](#)
- [mermadebrooklyn.ny](#)
- [Pixielane](#)
- [The Tea Experience](#)



Temple Beth Abraham 25 Leroy Avenue Tarrytown New York (914) 631-1770 [www.tba-ny.org](http://www.tba-ny.org)

# AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND LIGHT

All proceeds will go to the  
UJA Israel Emergency Fund  
to support the Jewish Agency for Israel's  
Victim of Terror Fund.

**PLEASE JOIN US AT  
TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM  
25 LEROY AVENUE, TARRYTOWN, NY  
THURSDAY - DECEMBER 7  
CANDLE LIGHTING AT 7:30PM**

FOLLOWED BY A PERFORMANCE OF  
BEETHOVEN'S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 5 AND OTHER  
PIECES

**ELISHA ABAS - PIANO AND MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
RONN YEDIDIA - PIANO  
YASH POZIANUR - PIANO  
DENNIS KARASNOKUTSKY - VIOLIN  
ADRIENNE WALSH - VIOLIN  
TAMAR SAGIV - CELLO  
JONATHAN GREENSTEIN - SAXOPHONE**

Refreshments will be served.

\$118.00 per person  
(all proceeds go to UJA)  
to register: click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code:

sponsored by:  
UJA Westchester, Westchester Jewish Council, and  
The Jewish Agency for Israel



# Adult Education



## Torah Study

**Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00am, in Person and via Zoom**

Rabbi Holtz leads a class every Wednesday morning, which goes at its own pace through the *Tanakh* in English. No previous knowledge is required, and you can join in at any point in the cycle.

On Saturdays, join us at 9:00am for a lively discussion of this week's Torah reading during Conservative Services.



## Mah Jongg

**Mondays, 1:00pm-4:00pm, in Person**

**Mah Jongg will not meet on December 25 (Christmas Day). Instead we will meet on Thursday, December 28 that week.**

Play Mah Jongg in a friendly, non-competitive (no betting) gathering at Temple Beth Abraham on Mondays (When there is a holiday on a Monday, Mah Jongg will move to Thursday). Free for temple members. \$3.00 per session for guests.



## Canasta

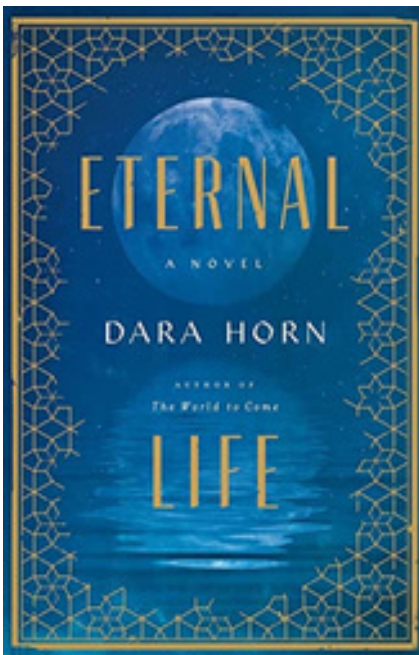
**Wednesdays, 1:00pm-3:00pm, in Person**

Learn the rules. Play the Game.

Meet new friends, spend fun time with old friends, or take a coffee break.

Learn how to play from a knowledgeable instructor or brush up on your playing skills

Free for temple members, \$5.00 per session for guests.



## BOOKS@NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 7:00PM

**ETERNAL LIFE BY DARA HORN**

Rachel is a woman with a problem: she can't die. Her recent troubles are only the latest in a litany spanning dozens of countries, scores of marriages, and hundreds of children. In the 2,000 years since she made a bargain to save the life of her first son she's tried everything to free herself, and only one other person in the world understands: a man she once loved who has been stalking her through the centuries, convinced they belong together forever.

Suggested donation: \$3.00 for guests.

# It's OK to Play with Your Food

Join Jane Rubin in the TBA Kitchen

to

## Bake a Menorah!

Tuesday December 5

at 11:30am

Space is limited to 8 people



Jane will demonstrate how to make a vegan-friendly, gluten-free applesauce cake and decorate it to resemble a menorah.

Participants will leave with a fully baked cake ready to decorate at home with the kids or grandkids, using a selection of candies supplied by Jane.

All supplies are Included.  
Please bring an apron

To register please click [HERE](#)  
or scan the QR Code



Temple Beth Abraham's

# MOVIE MAVENS

Saturday, December 9 at 7:00 pm

## A Matter of Size

After losing his job because of his weight, Herzl, a morbidly obese Israeli, finds new employment washing dishes safely out of view from patrons in the kitchen of a Japanese restaurant. When Herzl's coworkers and new boss introduce him to sumo wrestling, he realizes he has found his calling. Energized, Herzl orchestrates a mutiny among the miserable ranks of a local weight-loss boot camp to recruit members for his own sumo wrestling club.

No charge for Temple members. \$5.00 per person for guests.



Menemsha Films, 2009, 90 mins.  
subtitled  
Not Rated (Recommended 13+)





# Chanukah Candle Lighting

## Light the first candle on Thursday evening, December 7

The lights of Chanukah are a symbol of our joy. In time of darkness, our ancestors had the courage to struggle for freedom: freedom to be themselves, freedom to worship in their own way. Theirs was a victory of the weak over the strong, the few over the many, and the righteous over the arrogant. It was a victory for all ages and all peoples.

*The candles are placed in the Chanukiah from right to left, and kindled from left to right. Always light the newest candle first*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech haolam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.  
Praised are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, who makes us holy through Your mitzvot, and who commands us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech haolam she-asah nissim la'avoteinu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.  
Praised are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old, at this season.

*This prayer is said on the first night only*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעַנוּ לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech haolam shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu lazman hazeh.  
Praised are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this joyous season.

## Ner Shel Tzedakah Blessing

*A Blessing to recite on the 6th night of Chanukah, December 12, 2023*

As we light this "Ner Shel Tzedakah" tonight, we pray that its light will shine into the dark corners of our world, bringing relief to those suffering from the indignity and pain that accompany poverty. May our act of giving inspire others to join with us in the fight against the scourge of hunger, homelessness, need and want. Together, let us raise our voices to cry out for justice, and may that clarion call burst through the night's silence and declare that change must come.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל צְדָקָה

Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Haolam, Asher Kidshanu B'mitzvotav, V'lamdeinu L'Hadlik Ner Shel Tzedakah.

Blessed are You, Eternal, our God, who makes us holy through the performance of Mitzvot, and inspires us to light the Candle of Righteousness.





**"Hanerot Halalu"**

We kindle these lights because of the wondrous deliverance You performed for our ancestors. During these eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred; we are not to use them but only to behold them, so that their glow may rouse us to give thanks for Your wondrous acts of deliverance.

**Maoz Tzur (Rock of Ages)**

Ma-oz tzur y'shu-a-ti,  
 l'cha na-eh l'sha-bey-ach.  
 Ti-kon beyt t'fi-la-ti,  
 v'-sham to-dah n'za-bey-ach.  
 L'eyt ta-chin mat-bey-ach,  
 mi-tzar ha-m'na-bey-ach.  
 Az eg-mor b'shir miz-mor,  
 cha-nu-kat ha-miz-bey-ach.

מְעוֹז צוֹר יְשׁוּעָתִי  
 לְךָ נִאֶה לְשָׁבֶח  
 תִּכּוֹן בַּיִת תְּפִלָּתִי  
 וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח  
 לְעֵת תִּכּוֹן מִטְבְּחִי  
 מִצָּר הַמְּנַבֵּחַ  
 אֶז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר  
 חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ

Rock of ages, let our song  
 Praise thy saving power;  
 You, amid the raging foes,  
 Were our sheltering tower.  
 Furious, they assailed us,  
 But your arm availed us,  
 And your word broke their sword,  
 When our own strength failed us.

Children of the Maccabees,  
 Whether free or fettered,  
 Wake the echoes of the songs,  
 Where you may be scattered.  
 Yours the message cheering,  
 That the time is nearing,  
 Which will see all men free,  
 Tyrants disappearing.



[HOME](#)[JEWISH HOLIDAYS](#)[HANUKKAH](#)

## A Holiday Travelogue: 9 Hanukkah Customs From Around the World

Cantor Lauren Phillips Fogelman

In many parts of North America, we dream of a white Hanukkah (or we wish for the opposite); other Jewish communities – Australia, for example – celebrate the Festival of Lights in the heat of summer or, as in Alaska, in constant darkness.

Here are some of the unique Hanukkah traditions of nine countries around the world – some warm and some cold – to inspire you this year. What are your family's holiday customs?

### 1. CUBA

In their cooking, Cubans use plantains in much the same way Americans and Canadians use potatoes: mashing them, baking them, and frying them. It should not come as a surprise, then, that Cuban Jews make fried plantains, otherwise known as tostones or patacones, for their Hanukkah celebrations. Here's a plantain recipe you can try at home.

### 2. SYRIA

The Jews of Aleppo were descendants of Sephardic Jews expelled from Spain in 1492. When they finally found a safe haven in Syria, they vowed to light an additional shamash (helper candle) on Hanukkah as a sign of thanks.

Today's Syria is a much different country. This Hanukkah, consider adopting the Syrian Jewish tradition of lighting an additional shamash in solidarity with refugees who have fled their homes in search of shelter and peace.

### 3. FRANCE

In the wine-making region of Avignon in the south of France, it is customary to end the Shabbat that falls during Hanukkah by opening a new bottle or cask of wine.

After Havdalah, Jews would travel around the neighborhood to various homes, tasting the wines and toasting the holiday. This is a fantastic way to build community and celebrate the holiday with family and friends

### 4. MEXICO

In Spanish, Hanukkah is known as Januca or Lucenarias – the feast of lights. Mexican children play a game called toma todo (winner takes all), which is similar to the version of dreidel that we play except the top has six sides instead of four. The toma toda dreidel is known as a pirinola.

For a true multi-cultural experience, Mexican Jews often break a dreidel-shaped piñata filled with Hanukkah trinkets and treats.

[A Holiday Travelogue: 9 Hanukkah Customs From Around the World." Reform Judaism, 6 Dec. 2019, [reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/hanukkah/holiday-travelogue-8-hanukkah-customs-around-world.](https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/hanukkah/holiday-travelogue-8-hanukkah-customs-around-world.)]

## 5. ITALY

On Tishah B'Av, we read the Book of Lamentations, often in complete darkness. There is an Italian custom of saving the candle that was used to help us read on Tishah B'Av to help us light the menorah during Hanukkah.

On Tishah B'Av, we mourn the destruction of the Holy Temple; on Hanukkah, we celebrate its rededication. Using the same candle for both occasions connects the two events: On Tishah B'Av we are sad, but on Hanukkah we rejoice as we rekindle this same light as the shamash for our festival of freedom.

## 6. KURDISTAN

Although there is no longer a distinguishable population of Jews in Kurdistan, many Kurdish Jews still observe two unusual Hanukkah customs.

The first is similar to the giving of Hanukkah gelt, but with a twist: a week before the holiday, children lock the doors to their rooms. Their parents must give them coins in order to gain entry.

The second custom was developed by Jews too poor to afford a hanukkiyah. They used eggshells as cups for wicks and oil, lighting the required number of cracked shells every night.

Be creative and find other ways to repurpose everyday objects as a sign of light and hope on Hanukkah!

## 7. MOROCCO

Jews in Morocco extended the joy of Hanukkah into a ninth day, which became known as "the day of the shamash." On that day, children would go from house to house, collecting leftover Hanukkah candles. Then, they would make a giant bonfire, dancing and singing around it, and jumping and leaping over it.

It was believed that jumping over the fire could bring good luck. Single women would jump over the fire in the hopes of getting married. Married women struggling to conceive would jump over the fire in the hopes of being blessed with a child.

(As an aside: Another fun way to repurpose extra Hanukkah candles is to soak three candles in hot water, then twist the softened wax together for an instant miniature Havdalah candle.)

## 8. ISRAEL

In Israel, Cantor Evan Kent writes that, "Hanukkah is a holiday without the limitations of other holidays: we can go shopping, we can drive, the buses and trains run. And yes, everyone is seemingly in a good mood. The sufganiyot help the atmosphere, of course. It's impossible to be in a bad mood while eating a jelly donut."

He continues: "But Hanukkah isn't only about the donuts. It's about the entire city coming together in a rare show of cultural solidarity to observe the holiday." Read more about Hanukkah in Israel in Cantor Kent's own words.

## 9. TUNISIA

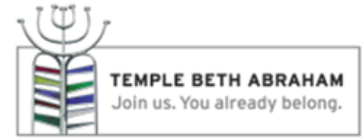
The seventh day of Hanukkah coincides with Rosh Chodesh Tevet, the beginning of the Hebrew month of Tevet, which has become a holiday within a holiday for Tunisian Jews.

Known as Chag haBanot (Festival of the Daughters), girls and women celebrate the courageous act of Yehudit, the Jewish woman who saved the Jewish nation by killing the general sent by Antiochus, the evil ruler of the Syrian-Greek Empire.

In celebration of the day, women do no work and instead visit each other, eating doughnuts and honey cookies. The holiday is particularly special for young women engaged to be married in the coming year.

Wishing you a Hanukkah that is filled with love, light, and the celebration of your own unique family customs!

Cantor Lauren Phillips Fogelman (she/her) serves Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown, NY. A proud member of the American Conference of Cantors, she lives in northern Westchester with her husband Dan and sons Alex and Evan. For more information, please visit [cantorlauren.com](http://cantorlauren.com).



## “Light One Candle” on your menorah to help bring joy to local families this holiday season!

The “Light One Candle” program gives the power to purchase gifts to parents of La Asociacion de Familias Hispanas de los Tarrytowns (AFHT).

**Each \$30.00 donation becomes a coupon that they purchase for \$5.00.** With that \$35.00, La Asociacion parents shop for a gift for their child at “All Together Now,” the small local business/toy store on Main Street in Tarrytown. **Support a local business and this amazing program!**

*La Asociacion de Familias Hispanas de los Tarrytowns (AFHT) is a Kids' Club and Tarrytown school district-sponsored Family Literacy Program to help develop vital literacy skills in underserved youth and their parents in our community. The program runs three times a week at John Paulding school, and provides opportunities for parents and children, working together, to become exposed to developmentally appropriate educational activities, as well as enriching social and cultural experiences.*

**“Light One Candle” is a great way to make an important impact on the lives of local families and share the spirit of the holidays!**

**Scan the QR Code to make a donation online**





# SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MOVIE MAVENS EVENT!

## DINNER & A MOVIE

DEC. 23, 2023

DINNER AT 6:30PM

MOVIE AT 7:30PM



What could be more Jewish on Christmas?  
Join us for a Kosher Chinese buffet dinner\*  
at 6:30pm  
Stay to watch and discuss:

### “Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas”

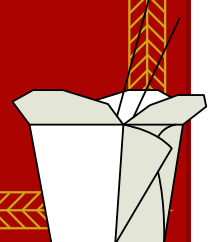
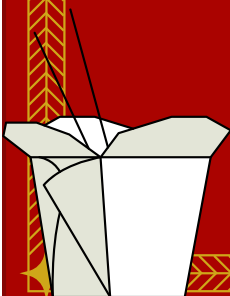
An offbeat, irreverent musical documentary that tells the story of a group of Jewish songwriters who wrote the soundtrack to Christianity’s most musical holiday.

And, for the kids, Kosher Chinese buffet dinner\* and a screening of:

### Disney’s “Full Court Miracle”

\*\$25.00 per adult,  
\$20.00 per child for dinner.

Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code  
to make your reservation by December 19





*A Night To Remember*

# TBA FOLLIES

Save the Date:  
Saturday, February 10, 2024

Join us for an evening of food and entertainment at a TBA Variety Show!  
More information and details about auditions will be announced soon!

Save The Date!

**THEN AND NOW**  
THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

June 1, 2024

Annual Fundraiser Celebrating TBA's 125th Anniversary!

Look for special "swag" for sale at Latkepalooza!



# Women's Circle

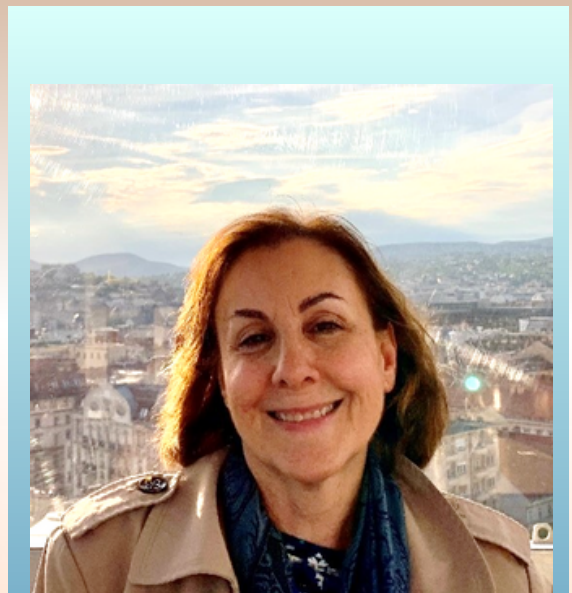
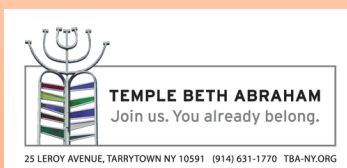
at Temple Beth Abraham

Friday, December 15, 2023 5:45– 7:00pm

## Shelley Greenspan Holocaust Remembrance: The Second Generation Tells the Story

My parents' horrific experiences during the Holocaust had a big impact on my upbringing. Teaching their stories to High School students has raised many questions. Can we use the lessons of the Holocaust to **teach** our youth that all people should be treated with dignity and respect no matter our differences? What challenges do we face in conveying these lessons? How is it different now that many survivors are no longer alive to tell their powerful stories?

**Register at:** <https://bit.ly/TBA-WC-12-15-2023>  
or scan this QR code:



Shelley Greenspan is a frequently-invited speaker in local schools where her family's experience in the Holocaust is a springboard for discussions about ethics, antisemitism, and the power of words.

*New this year: Bring a light supper to enjoy at Women's Circle*

BER 9/2023

**Join us for TBA's  
4th Grade  
Family Education  
Program!**

**FOR LEARNERS AND THEIR ADULTS**

Sunday, December 17, 2023  
9:00-10:00am  
with B Mitzvah Meeting from 10:00-11:00am

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL  
SPEERS@TBA-NY.ORG

IT'S A SHUL IN!!  
GET EXCITED FOR  
A SLEEPOVER AT TBA

**7TH GRADE  
SHUL IN**

**RESCHEDULED!**  
DECEMBER 8, 2023 (AFTER SERVICES)  
TO DECEMBER 9, 2023 AT 8:00AM

To register: <https://bit.ly/7shulin23>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL:  
SPEERS@TBA-NY.ORG

IT'S A SHUL IN!!  
GET EXCITED FOR  
A SLEEPOVER AT TBA

**9TH-12TH  
GRADE  
SHUL IN**

**DECEMBER 15, 2023 (AFTER SERVICES)  
TO DECEMBER 16, 2023 AT 8:00AM**

To register: <https://bit.ly/shulindec912>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL:  
SPEERS@TBA-NY.ORG

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM'S  
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL'S  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

**BOOK  
FAIR**


December 3, 2023

LEARNERS WILL GET TO BROWSE WITH THEIR CLASS FOR 20 MINUTES,  
BUT THE BOOK FAIR WILL REMAIN OPEN WITH LATKEPALOOZA

TO BROWSE OR PURCHASE ONLINE:  
<https://www.mainstreetbookfairs.com/tba>

ACCEPTED PAYMENTS:  
CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD (WITH FEE)

For More Information,  
Email: [SPEERS@tba-ny.org](mailto:SPEERS@tba-ny.org)



# December Youth Group Hangouts!




ZEETYKatan (k-2nd grade)  
December 10, 2023: 11am-12:30pm

ZEETYTeeny (3rd-5th grade)

December 17, 2023: 1-2:30pm



 ZEETY678 (6-8th grade)

December 10, 2023: 11am-12:30pm

ZEETY (9th-12th grade)

December 17, 2023: 1-2:30pm

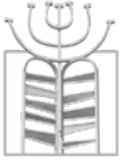
To Register: <https://bit.ly/DECYG23>

For More Information, Please Contact our Director of Education  
and Youth Engagement, Stessa Peers, at [SPeers@tba-ny.org](mailto:SPeers@tba-ny.org)





**JOIN US at 7:30PM  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024**



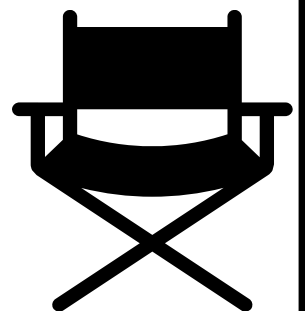
**Temple Beth Abraham's Tikkun Olam Committee  
Presents a movie screening and live panel discussion:**

## **“The Interview” | The New Yorker Documentary**

The Dehumanizing Theatre of the Parole Process- How T'shuva or redemption, relates to the thousands of New Yorkers currently serving brutally long prison terms because the parole process is designed to punish/re-sentence rather than acknowledge change and transformation.

Join us at TBA for an insightful evening which includes:

- A showing of this 25-minute film
- Panel discussion with those affected by the parole system in New York State
- Light Refreshments will be served



**BEND THE ARC**  
jewish action  
riverdale, ny

Temple Beth Abraham \* 25 Leroy Avenue \* Tarrytown, NY \* (914) 631-1770 \* [www.tba-ny.org](http://www.tba-ny.org)



# SAVE THE DATE: Friday, January 19, 2024

Temple Beth Abraham is proud to  
announce the installation of



## CANTOR LAUREN PHILLIPS FOGELMAN

and welcome her and her husband,  
Dan Fogelman,  
as well as their children,  
Alex and Evan  
to our Temple Beth Abraham  
community

How fortunate we are that our worship  
is already uplifted by  
Cantor Fogelman's beautiful voice and  
ruach (spirit)  
and we are proud and grateful  
to have her on our bima!



Temple Beth Abraham and Woodlands Community  
Temple Adult Education Committees present:

# Film Shul's presentation of FUNNY GIRLS

moderated by Film Historians  
Laurence Lerman & Irv Slifkin

Wednesday, January 24

at 7:30pm on ZOOM

Click [HERE](#) to register or scan the  
QR code:



Beginning with Jewish mother caricatures in the silent era through their evolution to becoming an indispensable segment of the Hollywood storytelling machine, Jewish women captured the big screen with their attitudes, intelligence, appearance, style and Jewish wit. From attention grabbers like Totie Fields, Joan Rivers and Belle Barth to superstars like Fanny Brice, Gertrude Berg, Bette Midler, Barbra Streisand, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Molly Picon.



# Temple Beth Abraham Presents: SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

## *The Intersection of Science and Religion*

With Rabbi Geoffrey A. Mitelman

March 15-17, 2024



Friday, March 15:

### *Has Science Replaced God?*

For centuries, religion provided answers for our ancestors to all of life's questions. But as modern Jews, we usually look to science to tell us where we came from, who we are, or even how we should act. So how should we look at, think about, and talk about the relationship between science and religion in today's world?

During Kabbalat Shabbat (welcoming the Sabbath) services - Sanctuary  
Oneg follows services - Social Hall

Saturday, March 16:

### *The Cosmos and the Covenant: Just How Special are We?*

As we discover more exoplanets, and learn just how expansive our universe is, how do we situate ourselves in the cosmos? Are we insignificant, or are we special?

12:00pm Luncheon - Social Hall

Lecture follows luncheon with opportunity for dialogue with Rabbi Mitelman

Sunday, March 17:

### *Intelligence, Consciousness or a Soul? Some Jewish Views on AI (Artificial Intelligence)*

How do we define "intelligence" and how do we define "artificial"? Does AI have consciousness? A soul? And while traditional Jewish texts wouldn't know about ChatGPT, what analogies can we draw from Biblical, Rabbinic and later Jewish texts?

12:30pm Luncheon - Social Hall

Lecture follows luncheon with opportunity for dialogue with Rabbi Mitelman

*Sponsored by TBA's Harriet Vertter Fund for Jewish Education*



TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM  
Join us. You already belong.

21 LEROY AVE, TARRYTOWN, NY 10591 | 914.631.1700 | TBA-NYC.ORG

Save the date!

Details and pricing coming soon!



Deadlines for upcoming issues:  
 January 2, 2024 for February, 2024  
 February 1, 2024 for March, 2024

## LEAVES FOR LIFE CYCLE EVENTS ON OUR TREE OF LIFE

PHOTOGRAPH BY NATHAN GENDZIER



Our synagogue is proud to possess the Eytz Chaim, our "Tree of Life". This original sculpture by the noted synagogue artist, Sanford Werfel, is permanently displayed in the Temple Beth Abraham lobby. The branches of

the tree contain leaves which can be inscribed to highlight or commemorate such joyous events as births, weddings,

anniversaries, *bar* and *bat mitzvahs*, graduations or simply to honor parents, family or friends. Share your happy occasions by inscribing your family "*Simchas*" on our synagogue's "Tree of Life". This will be a permanent dedication to the meaningful, and happy events that touch our lives. The price per leaf is \$360.00 for members and \$450.00 for non-members. For more information, please call the Temple office at 631-1770.

### "TREE OF LIFE" order form

Occasion	Date of Occasion    /    /
Name of Honoree	
(PLEASE SPELL NAME EXACTLY AS YOU WISH IT TO BE ENGRAVED)	
Contributed By	Phone number
Address	
Amount Enclosed \$	

Make checks payable and send to TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM, 25 Leroy Avenue, Tarrytown, NY 10591