



TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday, January 3

5:00pm Tot Shabbat
5:30pm Oneg/Pre-Neg
6:00pm Family Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 4

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service
11:00am Jacob Burger son of Jasmin Farhangian & Benjamin Burger, will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah*

Friday, January 10

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service with Torah reading

Saturday, January 11

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service

Friday, January 17

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service
Shabbat *Tzedek* - Social Justice Shabbat

Saturday, January 18

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service

Friday, January 24

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 25

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service

Friday, January 31

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service

CLOSINGS

The Office will be closed on
Wednesday, Jan. 1
for New Year's Day and
Sunday, Jan. 20 for MLK, Jr. Day

Religious School will not meet on
Wednesday, Jan. 1 for Winter Break
or on Sunday, Jan. 19 or Monday Jan.
20 for MLK, Jr. Day, and Jan. 29 for
Lunar New Year



From Rabbi Holtz's Study

Dear Friends,

Over the past hundred years, the American Jewish Community and the African-American community have had a close, and sometimes complicated relationship. The historical discrimination against, and liberal leanings of the Jewish community made us natural allies with Black Americans only a few generations removed from slavery. A few examples:

Kivie Kaplan, the son of Lithuanian immigrants, was born in Boston in 1904. In 1924 he joined the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons) which had been founded only 15 years earlier. In 1966 he was elected president of the NAACP and served until his death in 1975.

Rabbi Joachim Prinz was born in Berlin in 1902, was expelled by Nazi Germany in 1937, and served Temple B'nai Abraham in Newark for nearly 40 years. He identified with the cause of African Americans, seeing parallels between their plight and that of the Jews under Hitler. He frequently spoke from the pulpit about the disgrace of discrimination, and he protested racial prejudice all around the country. In 1963 he invited Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to speak at his synagogue. A few months later Rabbi Prinz spoke immediately before Dr. King at the march on Washington.

These are just two of the many Jewish leaders who understood, in the words of Dr. King that, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." They were not so naive as to think that the entire Black community appreciated or welcomed their help. But they, along with leaders like Dr. King realized, as I too have taught, that the single best way to create a societal bulwark against any form of discrimination is to build coalitions of like-minded people. This involves establishing meaningful ties with other minority and ethnic groups, helping them by our very presence to see past the stereotypes repeated endlessly by haters. At the same time, we learn to see past the stereotypes we might hold about these other groups. No one group can fight hate alone; it must be a group effort.

Dr. King understood this very clearly, which was one reason he actively sought out the support of the Jewish community in combating segregation. And even while seeking help, he knew that we are all in this fight together. In what, to me, is one of his most moving speeches, Dr. King said, "If my Jewish brothers and sisters said to me amid antisemitism anywhere, 'we don't need your support, we have enough power to deal with this problem ourselves,' I would still take a stand against antisemitism because it's wrong, it's unjust, and it's evil."



TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM
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Cantor's Notes

Three Jewish Lessons from Wicked

Nearly twenty years after the hit musical *Wicked* opened on Broadway, the recently released movie adaptation of the first half of this epic tale has taken the world by storm.

The story of *Wicked* is essentially a literary midrash. Rabbis have historically used midrash to explain our history and to and teach moral lessons. Much like our sages and teachers have filled in gaps to help us make sense out of Biblical narrative, Gregory Maguire created a backstory to L. Frank Baum's classic, *The Wizard of Oz* to help us understand why the Wicked Witch of the West was so feared by the people of Oz.

At the beginning of the musical, Galinda asks the question, "Are people born wicked? Or do they have wickedness thrust upon them?" The musical goes on to explore whether Elphaba was inherently evil or if she was scapegoated and stereotyped into a villain.

As *Wicked* unpacks this question, the characters draw from several aspects of Jewish tradition. This may or may not be intentional. However, it is important to note that both *Wicked's* composer, Stephen Schwartz, and its screenwriter, Winnie Holzman, are Jewish. Schwartz has previously drawn directly from Jewish wisdom in works like *The Prince of Egypt* (based on the Passover story), *Children of Eden* (based on the book of Genesis) and *Pippin* (loosely based on the Biblical book of Ecclesiastes). "Wicked is not overtly Jewish-themed but it certainly resonates with many Jewish people's experience," Schwartz told the British publication *The Jewish Chronicle* in 2020.

Here are three ways in which the actions and decisions of characters of *Wicked* intersect with Jewish values and teachings:

Prophetic visions:

"I just had a vision not unlike a prophecy."

In the song, "The Wizard and I," Elphaba declares that she "just had a vision not unlike a prophecy...I swear someday there'll be a celebration throughout Oz that's all to do with me." This vision, of course, does come to pass after she is melted when Dorothy throws a bucket of water at her. All of Oz celebrates her demise. Of course, when Elphaba first has this vision, she thinks that it will be a positive celebration. After all, she just found out that she was going to achieve her lifelong dream of meeting the Wizard of Oz. By coming to pass - although differently than she would have imagined - we see evidence of Elphaba's otherworldly powers.

In the Hebrew Bible, we have an entire book devoted to prophets and prophecy. This comes in addition to other prophetic moments and visions that we find throughout the Torah. Moses, of course, is considered to be the most significant prophet in the Torah. He experiences visions of God in supernatural forms such as the burning bush (Exodus 3). He uses his outstretched arm to part the Red Sea (Exodus 14-15). And while most of his actions are considered to be positive, he does have his fair share of character flaws. Moses' biggest downfalls are his impatience and his temper. His two biggest mistakes are smashing the first version of the Ten

Continued on page 5



STESSA PEERS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

As we step into January, I find myself reflecting on the warmth and joy that filled our Temple Beth Abraham community throughout December. The Chanukah season brought us together in meaningful ways, and I'm excited to share some of those moments with you, as well as highlight some of the exciting events we have planned for this month.

December was a month of celebration and learning. Our youth engaged in hands-on activities during a Chanukah probability program with *Meshugena STEAM*, sparking curiosity and creativity. The month also featured a special Chanukah puppet show for our youngest learners, led by Morah Jilly, whose puppeteering brought Chanukah to life.

Our 4th-grade mitzvah project focused on *hachnasat orchim*, welcoming guests. Learners and their families opened their hearts to TBA guests of all ages, sharing a morning of conversation, breakfast, singing, games, and crafts. It was a beautiful demonstration of kindness and the strong bonds within our community.

Continued on page 7

December at TBA





Melissa McHugh
Director of Early Childhood Education
The Ian and Emily Cohen Children’s Garden Center
at Temple Beth Abraham

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CGC

As we bid farewell to the old and embrace the new, I find myself reflecting on the wonderful journey we have shared at The Ian and Emily Cohen Children's Garden Center so far this school year. The past few months have been filled with laughter, learning, and countless heartwarming moments. As we step into a brand-new year, I want to express my gratitude.

First and foremost, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the CGC families for giving us the joy of caring for and educating their precious little ones. It is a privilege to be part of their formative years, and we are committed to fostering a nurturing environment where they can thrive and flourish.

Looking back on 2024, I am immensely proud of the growth and development our little ones have shown. Each milestone achieved, every friendship formed, and every smile shared has contributed to the vibrant and loving community we have built together.

I also want to give a special thank you to TBA for being so inclusive of CGC and making our first year back a beautiful one. There have been many people behind the scenes who, before I came on as director, piloted the reopening of the school with tireless commitment and dedication. To all of you, I say, "thank you."

I also want to give a special "shout out" to the incredible team of CGC educators and staff who work enthusiastically to create a positive and supportive atmosphere for our children. Their passion, dedication, and love for what they do are the driving forces behind the success of the preschool.

Continued on page 7



Rabbi's Article Cont'd from Page 1

Here in the Rivertowns, the African-American churches and their parishioners have been staunch supporters of our local Jewish community. And they have stood by us after October 7, asking me how they can be of help.

These are the reasons that I participate each year in the MLK Day service at Foster Memorial AME Zion Church in Tarrytown. It is the right thing to do, and it helps build bridges and break down stereotypes. Your presence is needed. If you truly want to make MLK Day a day of service, **I urge you to join us at noon on January 20 at Foster Memorial, 90 Wildey Street in Tarrytown.**

Peace and blessings,
Rabbi David Holtz

Cantor's Article Cont'd from Page 2

Commandments after he sees the Israelites worshipping a golden calf (Exodus 32). In addition, although God encourages him to speak to a rock to draw forth water, he doesn't listen and instead strikes it violently (Numbers 20). The latter cost Moses his chance of making it to the Promised Land; instead he stood upon the mountaintop looking in and paving the way for a new generation to settle into freedom.

While Moses was mostly viewed as good in spite of these character flaws, Elphaba's fate was quite different. Like many of the prophets we find in Judaism, Elphaba was on a mission to bring goodness into the world: We learn from Wicked that Elphaba became vilified beyond just her green skin after embarking on a well-intentioned path towards activism. Her intentions were good, but society focused purely on the fact that she was different and that her ideas did not align with Oz's leadership. In her case, wickedness was largely thrust upon her. This made it impossible for her to use her prophetic voice for good.

Name changes:

"It's Galinda with a Ga!"

Elphaba and Galinda are students at Shiz University, where they study with Doctor Dillamond. Doctor Dillamond is a goat who has the ability to speak and interact with humans. In another generation, talking animals were commonplace in Oz - in fact, it is thought that Shiz was once actually run by animals, who at the time were viewed as being equal to humans. However, the current Ozian leadership, under the Wizard of Oz, wants to do away with talking animals and places great prejudices upon them. Because of this, many animals have chosen to leave Oz. Doctor Dillamond was determined to stay at Shiz and to make positive changes. However, he was arrested and taken away for trying to protect his fellow animals. Incidentally, Doctor Dillamond, while is able to speak, does have a slight speech impediment coupled with a goatish warble. He struggles to pronounce Galinda's name. He can't say the "Ga." Instead, he calls her Glinda - which prompts snickers from many of their classmates.

When Elphaba is invited to visit the Wizard of Oz, she intends to talk to him about advocating for the animals - that is, until she learns that he is the very person taking their rights away. By this point, Elphaba and Galinda's friendship has begun to solidify, which prompts Elphaba to invite Galinda to join her in Oz. Upon this invitation, Galinda makes a bold statement and decides to officially change her name to "Glinda" in support of Doctor Dillamond and the other animals. This represents a huge change for the historically self-involved Glinda - she changes her name in the hopes of looking out for others.

In the Hebrew Bible, name changes are often used to demonstrate significant character development or milestones along a figure's heroic journey. When Avram and Sarai decide to go forth as pioneers and leaders of the Jewish people, their names were changed to reflect their communal mission: Avram was simply the father of Aram, his own birthplace, while Sarai was singularly "my princess." Adding an "h" sound of "hay" to their names affirmed their new mission as communal personalities. Adding the "H" sound to Avram made him father of all nations and not just his place of origin. Adding an H to the end of Sarai's name transformed her into Sarah, making her "the princess" - a leader and example to all. Abraham's name

Continued on page 6

Cantor's Article Cont'd from Page 5

change is announced first (Genesis 17:1-5), while Sarah's change comes a few passages later (Genesis 17:15).

Later on, in Genesis, Abraham and Sarah's grandson, Jacob, faces an overnight struggle with a mysterious figure or angel (Genesis 32). Some believe that he was literally wrestling with God. Despite facing a deep struggle and an injured hip, Jacob refused to let go of the figure until he received a blessing. This blessing changed his name from Jacob, which means "one who follows" to Israel ("Yisrael" in Hebrew) which means "one who wrestles with God." Eventually, the Jewish people become known as the "Children of Israel", which also becomes the name of our homeland. We are inherently God wrestlers, following Jacob's faith, determination, and ability to ask questions.

Mourning rituals:

"No One Mourns the Wicked" – *Yimach Shmo* (May their memory be erased)

As *Wicked* unfolds, it becomes clear that perhaps Elphaba is not as evil as society makes her seem. However, her death is celebrated throughout Oz in the musical's opening number "No One Mourns the Wicked."

When a loved one dies in Judaism, we use the phrase "*zichrono livracha*" (may their memory be for a blessing). Since the Jewish people have certainly faced their share of wickedness, we use a different phrase when one of our enemies dies: "*Yimach Sh'mo*" (may their name be erased). This tradition is based on the words of Psalm 109, which refers to the idea of "blotting out" our enemies. In our scripture, this concept refers to Haman in *Megillat Esther* as well as the instruction to obliterate the memory of Amalek, which the Torah refers to in Deuteronomy 25 and Exodus 17. Haman is likely a descendent of Amalek, which serves to connect these verses.

The Amalekites were considered to be enemies of Israelites and the descendants of Jacob's son, Esau. As the Israelites escaped Egypt, the Amalekites ambushed the Israelites at Rephidim (Exodus 17). In Numbers 14, they attack again. Because of this, we are reminded many times to blot out the name of Amalek.

The lyrics of "No One Mourns the Wicked" are essentially an extended way of saying "*Yimach Sh'mo*." Had there been a Rabbi in Oz, he or she would have declared the death of Elphaba Thorp, *Yimach Sh'mo*.

Traditional Jewish mourning rituals are based on the idea of being in community. You can't say the Mourner's *Kaddish* for a loved one unless you are in the company of ten Jewish adults – a reminder that we are not alone in our grief. In contrast, "No One Mourns the Wicked" notes that "the wicked die alone." Glinda sorrowfully repeats the line, "she died alone," – perhaps in recognition of the deep friendship that the two women once shared.

All three of these Jewish lessons from *Wicked* come from the first half of the movie. The second half, *Wicked: For Good* is scheduled to be released on November 21, 2025. Stay tuned for more Jewish lessons as the rest of this epic tale unfolds.

Wishing you all good things in 2025,
Cantor Lauren Phillips Fogelman



Torah Readings

January 3	<i>Vayigash</i> Genesis 44:18-47:27
January 10	<i>Vayechi</i> Genesis 47:28-50:26
January 17	<i>Sh'mot</i> Exodus 1:1-6:1
January 24	<i>Va-eira</i> Exodus 6:2-9:35
January 31	<i>Bo</i> Exodus 10:1-13:16

Stessa's Article Cont'd from Page 3

Our youth groups shared the joy of giving by making and sharing Chanukah snow globes, as well as Chanukah fudge, thanks to a fantastic recipe from TBA-er, Jane Rubin.

Family Services were particularly special, with our 4th graders leading us in song and receiving their siddurim, marking a significant milestone in their Jewish education. The 7th graders enjoyed their Shul In, an evening filled with games, learning, and bonding, strengthening their connections within our community.

Latkepalooza was incredible, with the building buzzing with energy. Pre-K through 6th graders participated and explored our Book Fair fundraiser, while families joined after school for arts and crafts and shopping for gifts at the Vendor Fair. It was a morning of lots of latkes (thank you to the Lewin Family and the Schneider Family!) and community spirit.

A big highlight was our 125th Anniversary Concert, celebrating 125 years of TBA through the magic of Broadway. Performances by Rabbi David, Cantor Lauren, Cantor Margot, Shira Holtz, Erin Shafranek from our CGC preschool, and myself, alongside my brother Aram, accompanied by TBA musician Katia Kravitz filled the room with love and laughter, capturing the spirit of TBA and the season of light.

Throughout December, the aromas of latkes (thanks Morah Marla for making lots of latkes!) and *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts) filled our building. Our 7th graders concluded their last class of the year by preparing these traditional treats, ensuring the warmth of Chanukah was felt by all.

Looking ahead, January brings new opportunities for learning and connection. We are honored to again welcome *sofer* (scribe) Neil Yerman on January 5th, offering our 2nd graders and their adults a unique opportunity to engage with the sacred art of Torah writing and restoration.

Our first-ever Pre-K Family Education program is scheduled for January 12th, designed to involve our youngest learners and their families in interactive and meaningful Jewish educational experiences.

On January 26th, we have the 6th Grade *B'Mitzvah* Meeting 2, an important step in our students' journey toward becoming *B'Mitzvah*, where we'll discuss preparations and expectations for this significant milestone.

Additionally, our 10th-grade students will be traveling to Washington, D.C., with Rabbi David and me to participate in the Religious Action Center's *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar. This program empowers teens to explore Jewish values and social justice issues, culminating in the opportunity to advocate on Capitol Hill.

As we embrace the new year, I am filled with gratitude for the vibrant and compassionate TBA community. I am excited to continue to learn, grow, and celebrate together, making 2025 a year of connection, joy, and Jewishness at TBA!

L'Shalom,
Stessa

Melissa's Article Cont'd from Page 4

As we embark on the new year, we have some exciting plans and initiatives in store. We are committed to enhancing our educational programs (e.g. "Fun to Be One" program on Friday mornings), introducing new engaging parent-education programs (please see an example of this in our coffee talk schedule), and fostering a sense of curiosity and exploration in our little learners through our passport program, arts-rich curriculum, spanish immersion class, and Learning without Tears curriculum.

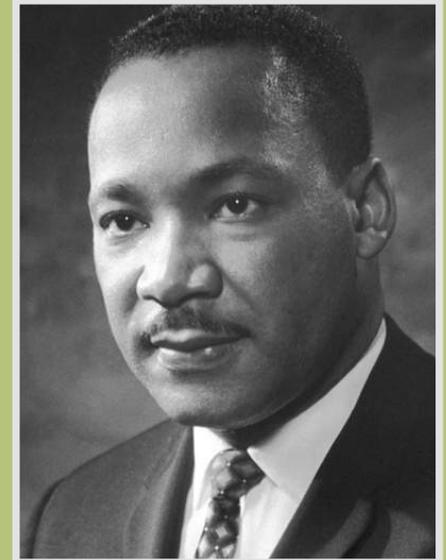
Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is officially open. We will continue to offer classes for ages 18 months-age 5 with half day, full day, and before- and after-care options. If you or someone you know is interested, please email cgcdirectoretba-ny.org.

Wishing you and your families a year filled with joy, laughter, and endless possibilities. Here's to 2025-growth, resilience, and cherished moments for all!

With Light and Gratitude,
Melissa McHugh

Join Us for *Shabbat Tzedek* (Shabbat of Justice)

Each year, the Reform Movement honors the legacy of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We celebrate the hard-fought victories of the civil rights movement by commemorating the Shabbat around MLK Day as a *Shabbat Tzedek*.



We hope to see you **January 17th at 7:30pm** and **January 18th at 9:00am** to reflect on and recommit to fighting racial injustice

Shabbat Services Friday evening will include special readings and music with themes of righteousness.

Services on Shabbat morning will include a special reading about equality in commemoration of MLK.



*Please join Rabbi David
and Cantor Lauren at the*



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY SERVICE MONDAY, JANUARY 20 AT NOON

The church itself has strong ties to the abolitionist and civil rights movements. When the church was founded, it was an important stop on the Underground Railroad, and many freed African Americans settled in the area with the aid of church members.

The church was active during the civil rights movement and has worked to bring about equality in Tarrytown and the surrounding community.

The service is popular, so arrive early if you want to assure yourself a seat.

Foster Memorial AME Zion Church, 90 Wildey Street, Tarrytown

Organizational Announcement



We are writing to inform you of an important transition at Temple Beth Abraham. Erica Newman, who has been our amazing Director of Operations and Member Engagement since the summer of 2022, will be stepping down from her role effective as of February 7, 2025.

During her tenure, Erica has made remarkable contributions to TBA, including the successful implementation of several substantial grants and championing the relaunch of the Ian and Emily Cohen Children's Garden Center, our beloved early education center. Under her direction, we have improved our member on-boarding and communications, bolstered our fundraising and

development, and strengthened our endowment. Her leadership and vision have left a lasting impact on our mission and community, and we are deeply grateful.

Erica will be embarking on a new adventure as the Executive Director at Temple Beth El in Stamford, CT, a congregation with which her family has a long and meaningful history and connection.

Erica and Rob will continue to be part of our community as congregants at Temple Beth Abraham, just as they were before Erica took on her role as Director. We look forward to their continued participation as active volunteer leaders within our community.

The Board of Trustees is working diligently to ensure a smooth transition, and we will provide updates on this process.

Herb Baer and Brian Schneider, Co-Presidents

LATKEPALOOZA

We would like to thank the following vendors for their participation at Latkepalooza this year:

[A2Z Loungewear](#)

[Ariane's Jewel Box](#)

[Baked by Jane for Tikkun Olam](#)

[Barbara Barak for the IDF](#)

[Crochez Moi](#)

[Jan's Timeless Gems](#)

[Jewelry by Wende](#)

[Jewish Children's Books with Authors](#)

[Kimberly Marcus and David Sherrin](#)

[Jodi and Rachel's Estate Collection](#)

[Marci Gifts, LLC](#)

[Mice for Peace](#)

[Origami Owl-Think Goodness](#)

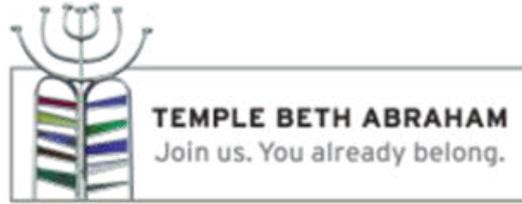
[Pixielane](#)

[Red Gems](#)

[Tallit by Ina Bearak Helfand](#)

[Unique Beaded Jewelry by Nancy](#)

Click on the underlined name to be brought to that vendor's website



“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!

We're short on donations to fulfill the needs of this program!

Scan the QR Code or go to bit.ly/TBALight1Candle to make a donation online



Thank You

The Family of the late Dr. Joseph Doctor would like to thank Rabbi David Holtz, Cantor Lauren Phillips Fogelman, the Ritual Committee, and the entire Congregation of Temple Beth Abraham for all your efforts and fundraising to obtain a new Torah in memory of Joseph Doctor. I understand the initial torah purchased in 1990 was in disrepair and we were grateful that the Temple made the decision to replace the Torah.

At this time there is only a small group at the Temple who knew Joe. We have been congregants since 1979, and from the beginning Joe embraced the Conservative Congregation and became a very active member of TBA, serving as a Trustee until his death in 1989. For years he recited the Haftorah during the Reform Yom Kippur services and blew the shofar every Rosh Hashanah during Conservative services. Temple Beth Abraham was a very important part of his life. He grew up in an Orthodox home, and grew up with a love of Judaism.

Having the Torah dedicated to Joe is truly the highest honor. I cannot thank you enough for all your efforts to make this happen.

Ida Doctor

The TBA Directory is here!



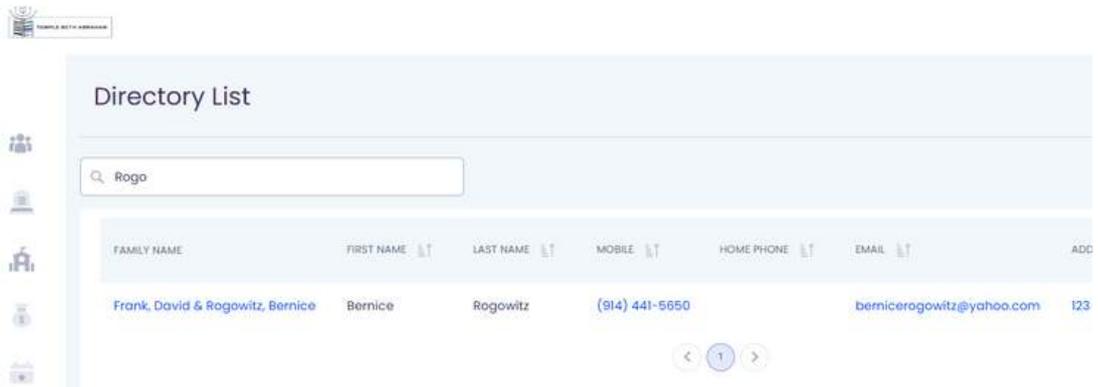
One of the benefits of our transition from ShulCloud to Easyshul is that we now have an online Directory! Just log on and click on the Directory tab and you can look up the names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails of your fellow congregants. Now you can easily find contact information for people you meet, check to see who lives in your town, and reach out to new and old friends. It is easy to customize the information that is shown about the adults in your family (see below). Please note that this information is not to be used for business or political purposes.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at (914) 631-1770.

How Do I Get to the Directory?

Go to TBA's Easyshul site: <https://tba-ny.easyshul.com/>

1. Enter your email and choose "submit." A verification code will be emailed to you.
2. Enter this code in the box when prompted, and select "submit" to access your Easyshul account.
3. You will be brought to your account on EasyShul. On the navigation bar to the left, click on the "Directory" icon.
4. Click or add your query to the search bar.
5. To control what information you share in the member Directory, click on the "Settings" icon and then the "Directory" icon. You will see choices of what you can choose to opt out of sharing. Each adult can only opt out of sharing information for themselves, not others on their account.





By Bernice Rogowitz
Green Horizons Task Force Chair

At Temple Beth Abraham, our operating budget is supported by Annual Contributions, by donations, by fees and investments, and through participation in Fundraising events. These sources, however, do not fully

cover our expenses, and this is not sustainable in the long term. The relaunch of the Children’s Garden Center is an exciting new initiative, which we anticipate will bring in new net revenue. The Green Horizons task force is exploring and developing additional revenue streams for Temple Beth Abraham.

To get the ball started, we held a brainstorming session at the end of the summer. More than 25 members, from all ages and stages, met over bagels and coffee to propose projects, plans, and initiatives that could bring fresh revenue to TBA. Three main themes emerged from this exercise, and three groups have been formed around these topics. These groups will explore the opportunities and challenges for various ideas and bring proposals to the board. The idea is to create sustainable and profitable programs that minimize staff and volunteer hours, which do not interfere with normal programs and operations at TBA, will mesh with the goals of our committees and clergy, and which adhere to safety, security, and legal standards.

Here's a quick outline of the three groups and their progress so far. We are still on the ground floor, so plenty of time to jump in! Everyone is welcome, and if you have specialized experience in non-profit development, marketing, law or business operations, we can definitely put those skills to work!

Legacy Giving (Team lead: Erica Newman)

The goal of this group is to broaden our awareness of the many ways we can ensure TBA’s legacy through donations to our operating budget or Endowment Fund. Are people aware that if they donate appreciated stock to TBA, they do not have to pay taxes on any capital gains, and may also be able to deduct the contribution from their taxes? Looking longer term, the group will be developing materials and communications that will educate us about Legacy Giving. This can involve including TBA in our wills, or may be as simple as adding TBA as a beneficiary to an IRA, bank account, or insurance policy. Even a small percentage can make a big difference to TBA!

Events (Team lead: Jon Strom)

The basic idea of this group is to develop events that are open to TBA members, but are primarily designed to bring in revenue from the larger pool of non-TBA participants. We are looking at recurring and one-off events. There was a lot of enthusiasm about Bingo. The team went on a field trip to First Hebrew Congregation in Peekskill to observe the game and its operation. For them, Bingo is a very productive revenue source, but it is also very volunteer-intensive, and there are many legal and security dimensions to manage. The team will also be exploring one-off events, and is especially drawn to the idea of holding concerts for the public. We will be reviewing TBA’s history of hosting open events, both in our spaces and in rented halls, and learning more about the logistics of attracting talent and event management.

Space Rental (Team lead: Jason Stein)

Our beautiful newly-renovated building makes TBA an attractive venue for external renters. But what spaces are amenable to rent, to what audiences, and under what terms? Building on examples from other temples, we will be taking a deep look at our kitchen, social hall, lobby, and conference rooms as possible revenue producers. What can we learn about the advantages and challenges of TBA’s spaces from past rentals for *B’Mitzvah* receptions, social group meetings, and business recognition events? Our goal is to propose a plan that will utilize our assets to increase revenue, and also build community engagement.

As I hope you can see, our three areas cast a large net, and a lot of exploration, evaluation, and synthesis will be required to turn these into concrete, manageable, and profitable endeavors. So, whether you love to track down history, contact groups with relevant experience, create new programs, wrestle with financial, legal or security challenges, identify creative talent, or have a background in marketing, or just want to chip in - we need your help! This is a great way to get to know new people, build our community, and help ensure our future. **Please join us!**



Adult Education



Torah Study

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

Torah Study will NOT meet on Wednesday, January 1 or January 15

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

Wednesdays, 7:00pm-9:00pm, in Person

Mah Jongg will NOT meet on Wednesday, January 1 or Monday, January 20

Play Mah Jongg in a friendly, non-competitive (no betting) gathering at Temple Beth Abraham on Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings.

Nominal charge for guests.



Canasta

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

Canasta will NOT meet on Wednesday, January 1

Learn the rules. Play the game.

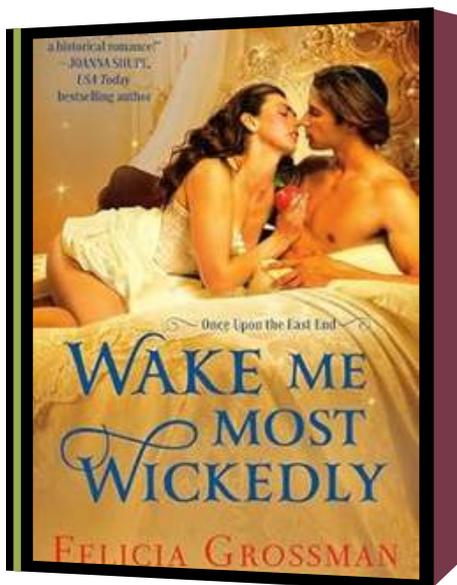
Meet new friends, spend fun time with old friends, or take a coffee break.

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.

TBA Book Clubs

Books & More

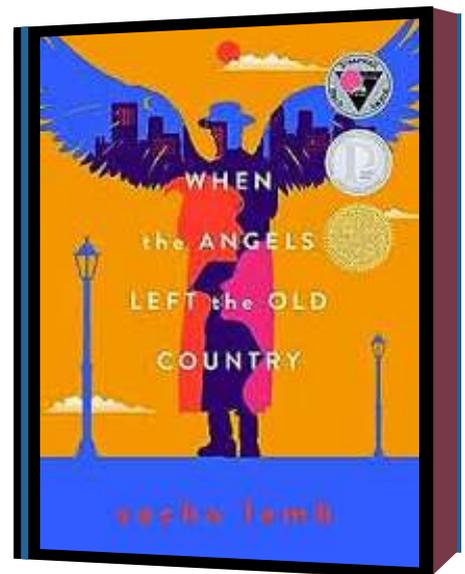


Wake Me Most Wickedly

by Felicia Grossman

Fri., January 10 at 10:00am

Books@Night



When the Angels Left the Old Country

by Sacha Lamb

Wed., January 15 at 7:00pm

Temple Beth Abraham's Adult Education Committee presents:

Masters & Stewards: Jewish Environmental Ethics with Rabbi Marla Feldman

Wednesday January 29
at 7:30pm on ZOOM

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

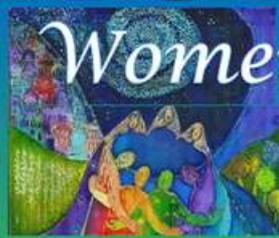


Judaism has much to teach us about our relationship to the natural world and our obligation to care for God's creation as responsible stewards. This textual approach to Judaism and the environment will examine relevant texts from Biblical, Rabbinic, and Medieval tradition and consider what these teachings mean for us today.

Rabbi Marla Feldman is a lawyer and published author of "Biblical Women Speak: Hearing Their Voices Through New & Ancient Midrash." She has written Reform Movement Action Manuals including "Speak Truth to Power," "Khilat Tzedek: Creating Communities of Justice," and "From Tzedek to Tzedakah: Social & Economic Issues of Concern for Women and Children."

Temple Beth Abraham | 25 Leroy Ave | Tarrytown, NY 10591 | (914) 631-1770 | TBA-NY.ORG

[f tbatarrytown/](https://www.facebook.com/tbatarrytown/) [i templebethabrahamny](https://www.instagram.com/templebethabrahamny)



Women's Circle at Temple Beth Abraham

Friday, January 17, 2025 5:45 pm – 7:15 pm



Mandi Beckenstein

Growing up Jewish in South Africa



Bring your supper
Bring a nosh to share

Please register (in person or zoom)
<https://bit.ly/TBAWomenJan2025>

Children's Garden Center Preschool

AT TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM
Registration is open
for 2025-2026!
18 months- 5 years

- ✓ Half day: 9:00-noon
- ✓ Full day: 9:00-3:00
- ✓ Before and after care available

CONTACT US TO SCHEDULE A TOUR
CGCdirector@tba-ny.org
 (914) 631-1770
 25 Leroy Ave, Tarrytown, NY 10591



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE LIFE

#OPERATION_DUGO

WESTCHESTER EATS FALAFEL
Thursday, January 16, 2025



DATE:
JANUARY 16, 2025

David "Dugo" Leitner was just 14 years old when he was forced to join the Death March alongside 60,000 Auschwitz prisoners.

Against all odds, Dugo survived and eventually made his way to Israel. In his testimonies, he shared that the one thing that kept him strong during the harrowing journey was a dream of reaching Israel and eating round buns. When he finally arrived in Israel and visited the bustling Machane Yehuda Market in Jerusalem, he came across a falafel stand.

The falafel balls reminded him of the round buns he had envisioned during those dark days, the very symbol of hope that sustained his spirit throughout the march.

✉ HilamadeJafi.org

Every year, on January 18th, Dugo honored his journey and resilience by eating falafel, a tradition that has spread worldwide. Thousands of people now join in, celebrating his story of survival and hope.

How Can you Participate?

Take a picture of yourself eating Falafel on January 16th
 (the 18th is Shabbat)
 Holding a sign:

"Am Israel Chai"!

Share and Tag the Israeli Mislachat
 📷 [#Westchester_Mislachat](https://www.instagram.com/Westchester_Mislachat)

📍 Use our special 15% discount for Falafel at: Seasons Scarsdale and Falafel Taco Pleasantville

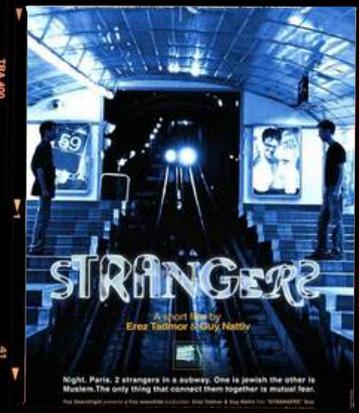
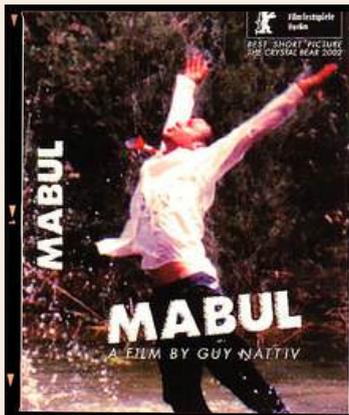


Temple Beth Abraham's

MOVIE MAVENS

Saturday, January 18 at 7:00pm
IN PERSON

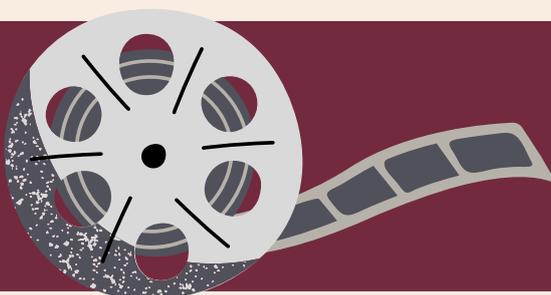
Four Short Films by Guy Nattiv



Guy Nattiv is an Israeli film director, screenwriter and producer who lives and works in the United States. His film *Skin* won an Oscar for best short film at the 91st Academy Awards. As of May 2021, Nattiv and Moshe Mizrahi were the only Israeli directors to have won an Academy Award.

We will be screening:

- ***Mabul (The Flood)***, 2002, 28 mins., Subtitled
- ***Strangers***, 2003, 7 mins.
- ***Offside***, 2006, 7 mins.
- ***Skin***, 2018, 21 mins



Discussion following film

January Youth Group Hangouts!

ZEETYKatan: Kindergarteners-2nd Graders
January 5, 2025
11:00am - 12:30pm

ZEETYTeeny: 3rd-5th Graders
January 12, 2025
11:00am - 12:30pm

ZEETY678: 6th-8th Graders
January 5, 2025
1:00pm - 2:30pm

ZEETY: 9th-12th Graders
January 12, 2025
1:00pm - 2:30pm

To Register: <https://bit.ly/janyg25>

For More Information,
Please Contact our Director of Education and Youth
Engagement, Stessa Peers, at SPeers@tba-ny.org



TBA FAMILY



THE FOLLOWING EVENTS REFLECT THE KNOWN SORROWS AND SIMCHAS OF OUR TBA FAMILY SINCE OUR DECEMBER BULLETIN:

CONDOLENCES TO:

- **Marilyn Miller** on the death of her husband, Malcolm Miller

MAZEL TOV TO:

- **Sharon Delevie** on the birth of her granddaughter Lila DeLevie-Nussbaum. Parents are Sophia (DeLevie-Orey) and Zach Nussbaum.
- **Sydni Holtz and Jarrod Randall** on their marriage.

DONATIONS



BIMA FLOWERS

- **Roy Solomon** in loving memory of Morris Solomon, Lee Solomon, Philip Solomon, and Bunny Solomon

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- **Bradley & Shannon Kushner** to thank Cantor Lauren for preparing Cameron for his Bar Mitzvah
- **Marc & Nancy Solomon** in loving memory of Toby Schiff
- **Scott & Stacy Ziluck** in loving memory of Roseanne Ziluck

CONSERVATIVE KIDDUSH FUND

- **Saara Gallin**
- **Trudy Klein** in loving memory of Victor Klein
- **David & Beth Rubin**
- **Doron Shapira** with thanks for hosting PRS *smicha* candidates and their families

ENDOWMENT FUND

- **Cantor Margot & Barry Goldberg** in loving memory of Mary Ellen Marx
- **Cantor Margot & Barry Goldberg** in loving memory of Seymour Goldberg

FRAN FRIEDMAN FUND FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF CHILDREN

- **Lawrence & Muriel Neidich** in loving memory of Fran Friedman
- **Richard Weiner & Katherine Meinhold** in loving memory of Helen Beckman

DONATIONS



HIGH HOLYDAY APPEAL

- **Paul Levy & Loren Ratner**
- **Pearl Ann Schwartz**
- **Liz Ross & Bernie Tolpin**
- **Howard & Honey Sackelman**

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

- **Herb & Melissa Baer**
- **Cantor Mandi Beckenstein**
- **Melissa Dickman**
- **Cantor Lauren & Dan Fogelman**
- **Cantor Margot & Barry Goldberg**
- **Harold Gross**
- **Randi Hecht & Glen Weiner**
- **Wayne & Sherri Heller**
- **Faith Kasanofsky**
- **Michael & Stacy Katz**
- **Sharon Kirschner**
- **Morrie Kleinbart**
- **Jared & Jennifer Lewin**
- **Jenny Libien**
- **Joyce Licker**
- **Richard & Linda Okrasinski**
- **Jerry & Marla Peers**
- **Stessa Peers**
- **Liz Ross & Bernie Tolpin**
- **Steve & Roberta Rothkin**
- **Eric & Jennifer Siegel**
- **Sarah & Adam Smiley**
- **Marc & Nancy Solomon**
- **Risa & Kevin Swersey**
- **Jaime & Luz Valencia**
- **Carol & Bradley Wank**
- **Douglas & Andrea White**
- **Sarah Winston**

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- **Deborah Braver** in loving memory of Joseph Mandel
- **Marvin & Ruda Klein** in loving memory of Harold Rose
- **Bradley & Shannon Kushner** to thank Rabbi David for preparing Cameron for his *Bar Mitzvah*
- **Marcy Levitan** in loving memory of Jeffrey Levitan on his unveiling
- **Phil Rothenberg** in loving memory of Toby Schiff
- **Marc & Nancy Solomon** in loving memory of Toby Schiff
- **Scott & Stacy Ziluck** in loving memory of Roseanne Ziluck

DONATIONS



TEMPLE FUND

- **Harry Gudenberg** in loving memory of Albert and Erna Gudenberg
- **Michael & Barbara Herzog** in honor of Amy, Peter, Jenna, and Ryan Herzog
- **Rich & Marianne Isaacson**
- **Charles & Linda Kaplan** in loving memory of Betty Kaplan
- **Rochelle and Stuart Kessler** with gratitude for *Mi Shebeirach* prayers
- **Barbara Rabinowitz** in loving memory of Harry Rabinowitz
- **Marianne Rich**
- **David & Beth Rubin**
- **Roz Schechter** in loving memory of Sylvia Levine
- **Marc & Nancy Solomon** in appreciation of Cantor Margot Goldberg officiating at the burial of Toby Schiff
- **Marilyn Trichon** in loving memory of Shirley and Jerry Rosenblum
- **Carol & Bradley Wank** in loving memory of Rita Geiger
- **Carol & Bradley Wank** in loving memory of Lillian Schwartz

TIKKUN OLAM PROGRAMS

- **Jane Rubin**

TORAH RESTORATION FUND

- **Barry & Jane Agdern** in loving memory of Victor Klein

TREE OF LIFE (LEAF)

- **Stephen & Linda Gerstman** in honor of the birth of their great grandson Elias Flynn Fullerton

YOUTH GROUP FUND

- **Cantor Dana Anesi**



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Happy New Year!

The Clergy, Staff and Board of Trustees of Temple Beth Abraham

Wish you a happy and healthy New Year!



Temple Beth Abraham Presents: SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

Judaism is Your Superpower!

March 28–30, 2025

With Jordan B. “Gorf” Gorfinkel—graphic artist and veteran editor of DC’s “Batman” comic books



Friday, March 28:



During *Kabbalat Shabbat* service (welcoming the Sabbath)

Exodus – The Dark Knight and Being a Super Hero

Saturday, March 29



During *Conservative Shabbat* service

TorahVision

Luncheon



The Secret Origin of Super Heroes – Moses, Superman, Esther, Wonder Woman – What Super Heroes Teach about Torah and What Torah teaches about Super Heroes



Evening Program

The Four children: Super Hero, Super Villain, Mentor, and Sidekick

Sunday, March 30



Brunch

Jewish Cartoon Workshop



Save the dates!

Details and pricing coming soon!



Sponsored by the Fran Friedman Fund for the Enrichment of Children and the Harriet Verter Fund for Jewish Education



**CGC'S FIRST THURSDAY
COFFEE TALKS
FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS
from 9:15-10:15am
in the coffee bar lobby at TBA**

January 9th - Angela Barraco and Melissa McHugh: “Emotional and Physical Spa Time” Angela (mom of a four year old and marathon runner) will talk about programs to enhance your physical well being, strength, and wellness. Melissa will lead a vision board for mental and physical health project.

February 6th - Stephanie Rosenthal, owner of *Prepared for Life CPR* will lead a CPR course covering child and adult CPR. Invite your friends and family.

March 6th - Awilda Young from *Cozy in the Crib*, a Pediatric Sleep Specialist, will teach you proven strategies to get your baby, toddler, or older child to sleep.

April 3rd - Claire Zucker, TBA member and Speech/Language expert, will address, “Speech, Language, and Phonemic Awareness: The Readiness Tools for Reading.”

May 1st - Stephanie Patsiner, mother and SEPTA (Special Education Parent Teacher Association) representative, will share her experience raising a neurodivergent child. She will provide information on support systems in the community, and discuss the triumphs and tribulations of “twice-exceptional” individuals.

June 5th - Information to follow





Click on the image above to see the playbill!

**Thank you to
Cantor Margot,
Cantor Lauren,
all the
performers,
and the
Fundraising Team
for a fabulous
celebration of
TBA's 125th
Anniversary!**



(You can see the recorded performance online!)

If you missed it, you can get a taste of the event by clicking on the song titles below:

[Matchmaker](https://youtu.be/vjYiFkVNCmU) - <https://youtu.be/vjYiFkVNCmU>

[Shy](https://youtu.be/iP9QBhFk1XM) - <https://youtu.be/iP9QBhFk1XM>

[Prayer, featuring the TBA choir](https://youtu.be/N2Z-C48AQrA) - <https://youtu.be/N2Z-C48AQrA>

You can still support this fundraiser and get access to the full concert by purchasing a livestream ticket for \$36.

We will email you the link and password to view the event online after you register.

Click [HERE](#) to purchase the recording of the livestream or scan the QR code





TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM
Join us. You already belong.

25 LEROY AVENUE, TARRYTOWN NY 10591 (914) 631-1770 TBA-NY.ORG

Deadlines for upcoming issues:
January 3, 2025 for February 2025
February 7, 2025 for March 2025



LEAVES FOR LIFE CYCLE EVENTS ON OUR TREE OF LIFE

Our synagogue is proud to possess the *Etz 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 that may be inscribed to highlight or commemorate such joyous events as births, weddings, anniversaries, *b-mitzvot*, 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* as a permanent dedication to the meaningful and happy events that touch the lives of our community. **Please note that the creation of a leaf may take up to 8 weeks.**

The price per leaf is \$360.00 for members and \$450.00 for non-members.
For more information, please call the Temple office at (914) 631-1770

PLEASE PRINT THE INSCRIPTION EXACTLY AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR
Maximum of 5 lines of text (24 characters per line, including spaces)



Contributed by: _____ Phone Number _____

Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Temple Beth Abraham
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