



# TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

### **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

#### **Saturday, February 1**

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service

#### **Friday, February 7**

5:00pm Tot Shabbat

5:30pm *Oneg/Pre-Neg*

6:00pm Family Shabbat Service/5th Grade Shabbat

#### **Saturday, February 8**

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service

#### **Friday, February 14**

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service with Torah reading

#### **Saturday, February 15**

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service

#### **Friday, February 21**

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service

#### **Saturday, February 22**

9:00am Conservative Shabbat Service

#### **Friday, February 28**

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service

### **CLOSINGS**

The Office and building will be closed on Monday, February 17 for Presidents' Day. The building will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 18 and 19 for maintenance. Staff will be working remotely.

Religious School will not meet on Sunday, February 16 through Wednesday, February 19 for the Presidents' Week holiday. School will resume on Sunday, February 23.



## From Rabbi Holtz's Study

Dear Friends,

In 1897, Theodor Herzl gathered representatives from all over the Jewish world in Basel, Switzerland, for the first World Zionist Congress (WZC). It became the deliberative body of the World Zionist Organization, which is, in effect, the parliament

of world Jewry.

It is the one Jewish body where democratically elected delegates of every Zionist organization in the world can come together to discuss issues affecting us all. In addition, the WZC controls four Israeli non-profits that together provide millions of dollars to Israeli society. To learn more about the WZC, visit [arza.org/wzc](http://arza.org/wzc)

Every five years the world Jewish community elects representatives to the WZC. Elections will begin this March! The American Zionist Movement (AZM) will have 145 seats in the next congress, with delegates chosen by popular vote across all the streams of American Judaism. We want AZM delegates who will advocate for the things we liberal Jews believe in: religious pluralism and equality, women's rights and peace with dignity. So it is absolutely imperative that every Reform and Conservative Jew participates so that we are well represented.

Here is a summary of the liberal Jewish platform:

- Women's Rights & Gender Equality - We strive to create a world in which gender equality is the rule - where men and women can pray, work and live together as equals deserving of the same respect and honor.
- Religious Equality - We envision and work for a society in which all denominations are treated fairly and with respect - and all of us are seen as Jews, regardless of our level of observance.
- Security in the Region - Lasting peace, security and stability for Israel, the Palestinians and the surrounding Middle East region is possible and although the road may seem long, we are building the path to that peace every day.

The Reform movement's Zionist body is ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America). The Conservative movement's equivalent is MERCAZ. A vote for either is a vote for the liberal Jewish values we hold dear.

In order to vote, you need to be at least 18 years old and consider yourself to be Jewish.



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

**DIRECTORY**

**Clergy/Senior Staff**

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Director of Early Childhood cgcdirector@tba-nj.org	Melissa McHugh ext. 107

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**Executive Committee**

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 Jamie Schaefer Wilson



**Cantor's Notes**

For the past 34 years, Temple Beth Abraham has been blessed with the presence of female cantorial voices. Cantor Naomi Hirsch assumed the pulpit in 1991, followed by Cantor Margot Goldberg's illustrious 29-year tenure from 1994-2023. I am fortunate to have followed in

Cantor Margot's footsteps beginning in July 2023, and for the past year and a half, I have had the honor of serving this joyful, spiritual, and dynamic sacred community.

TBA's long legacy of female cantors would not have been possible without the ordination sixteen years earlier of Cantor Barbara Ostfeld in 1975. Cantor Ostfeld was the first woman to be ordained as a cantor, paving the way for a field that is now filled with more women than men across liberal congregations in the United States. My own cantorial class, ordained in 2013, had ten women and no men. In reflecting upon her chosen profession, Cantor Ostfeld wrote, "Women cantors have altered the way in which prayer is offered, heard, and received."

Cantor Ostfeld also has a very important connection to our TBA community: she was the cantor who prepared Cantor Margot to become a *Bat Mitzvah* at Temple Beth El in Great Neck. Funnily enough, I also grew up in Great Neck, but at Temple Israel, the Conservative synagogue down the street. We had our own wonderful cantor, Cantor Raphael Frieder, who arguably has one of the best baritone voices in the business. Nevertheless, I wonder to this day whether I would have found my way to the cantorate sooner had I had a female cantorial role model like Cantor Ostfeld from an early age.

As we mark 50 years of women in the cantorate, the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) is embarking on a year-long celebration filled with special events, publications and other surprises. This summer's ACC convention in Washington, DC will be heavily focused on empowered female voices, culminating in a special gala concert. In addition, Transcontinental Music Publications will be publishing a special collection of choral music written by women in the cantorate.

The ACC plans to begin its official celebration of this milestone on *Shabbat Shira* (Shabbat of Song), which this year takes place during the weekend of February 7-8. *Shabbat Shira* is the Shabbat during which we read the Torah portion *Beshalach*, which contains the song that the Israelites sang as they crossed the Red Sea into freedom. This section of Torah is known as *Shirat Hayam*, or the Song of the Sea. The Haftarah that coincides with this portion comes from the Book of Judges and also contains a Biblical Song - in this case, it is the military victory song that Deborah sings after the Israelites defeat the general of the opposing army. Both the Torah and Haftarah portions on *Shabbat Shira* are driven by music and by strong female voices. This makes it an opportune time to honor women in the cantorate.

Much of the music we will sing during Shabbat evening services on February 7 will highlight female composers. Some of you might be worried that focusing on music by female composers means that we'll be doing a lot of new music for *Shabbat Shira*. That is actually not the case! This year, February 7 happens to be a Family Shabbat. Our opening medley for

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## STESSA PEERS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

February's bulletin is one of my favorites to write because I get to talk about a special program that we run every year. The *Mishloach Manot* program is both TBA's Religious School's, and our Pincus Fund's, largest fundraiser and is also our Third Grade's *Mitzvah* Project.

This fundraiser is also how we're able to provide our TBA members with *Mishloach Manot*, a beautiful tradition of sending gifts to friends and community members during Purim. By participating, you're not only contributing to our community but also helping to make this meaningful *mitzvah* a reality!

I am sure you have some questions... What is *Mishloach Manot*? What is the Pincus Fund? How exactly does the Third Grade *Mitzvah* Project tie into it? Don't worry; I'll give you the inside scoop!

### What is *Mishloach Manot*?

*Mishloach Manot* means, literally, sending portions. *Manot* comes from the word *manna*, which is what our ancestors ate in the desert. *Mishloach Manot* are Purim baskets containing gifts of food or drink that are sent to family, friends, and others during Purim. In the Book of Esther, it states, "Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwallied towns, made the 14th day of the month of Adar a day of gladness and feasting, a holiday, and of sending portions to one another." It is a *mitzvah*, an actual commandment, to participate in sending *Mishloach Manot*! It ensures that everyone has enough food for Purim and is meant to increase love and friendship amongst our Jewish community.

### What is the Pincus Fund?

The Kate and Harry Pincus Religious School Scholarship Fund (The Pincus Fund) exists because Sherman Pincus, z"l, and his family believed that Jewish education should be attainable for all families regardless of their financial situation. The Pincus Fund gets replenished by major contributions made at Purim time through this fundraiser. It is very important to our school and our community. While "scholarship" is the word that we sometimes use, it is this fundraiser that enables us to make sure that everyone can receive a Jewish education at Temple Beth Abraham. It also is an incredible way to get involved at TBA and feel connected. Those who participate are listed on our *Mishloach Manot* scroll!

### How does the Third Grade *Mitzvah* Project tie into it?

Here is where the Third Grade *Mitzvah* Project comes in. For those in our community who are home-bound and unable to attend the Purim service and *Shpiel*, our Third Graders and their families will be delivering *Mishloach Manot* on March 16th. The Third grade *mitzvah* project encompasses *Talmud Torah*, which is the commandment to study and teach Torah and, further, to help others understand or experience Judaism. If you are home-bound and would like a *Mishloach Manot* basket delivered to you, please email [SPeers@tba-ny.org](mailto:SPeers@tba-ny.org). Then, on March 16th, if a family arrives at your door, please do not be startled; they most likely are there from TBA to perform the *mitzvah* of *Talmud Torah* and bring you *Mishloach Manot* greetings and goodies from your TBA family!

At Temple Beth Abraham, we believe in lots of different values, or *Middot*, that make us who we are. This year, each grade received Jewish values that are woven throughout their curricula, like *Chesed* (Loving Kindness), *Kavod* (Respect), *Ometz Lev* (Courage), *Sakranut* (Curiosity), *Rachamim* (Compassion), and *Savlanut* (Patience). Each of these *middot* helps us become better people, better *mensches*. One way we do this is by making Jewish community and Jewish education accessible for everyone. Through this fundraiser, we are able to add to the Pincus Fund, which in turn makes Jewish education more accessible for all. This is exemplified by this fundraiser; whether you receive your *Mishloach Manot* at our Purim Services and *Shpiel* on March 13th, or have it delivered by our 3rd graders on March 16th, we make sure that there is a *Mishloach Manot* basket for each family.

Mark Your Calendars! We are so excited to announce that our teen-led Purim Carnival (and youth group fundraiser) is BACK on March 9th!

I hope you will all get involved in, and donate to, this year's *Mishloach Manot* Fundraiser, Purim Carnival, and Purim Services and *Shpiel*. More information will be sent out soon, but if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

L'Shalom,

Stessa



**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**

**"With my own two hands, I can change the world"**

At The Children's Garden Center, we study a different virtue each month. In January we learned about the amazing Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his bravery and pursuit of peace. We learned the poem, "With my Own Two Hands," and talked about ways we can be kind to people, animals, and the earth with our own two hands. We examined what peace feels like in our bodies and read "Peace Around the World," learning how to say "Peace" in different languages.

In February, we will study the virtue of love, and we will mail love letters to our families, read books about friendship, family, and being loving to others. Even our littlest of humans can feel, express, and demonstrate these amazing emotions and attributes with their hearts and "own two hands."

Thank you to William Cember's family for taking us on a "trip" to Hong Kong in January for our *Passport Around the World* monthly study. We read books about the Chinese New Year, sang songs and had a parade, and practiced using chopsticks while we enjoyed rice and lo mein together. We looked at photographs of William and his family in Hong Kong.

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is in full swing. Our next Open House is on March 2nd and we offer tours on Wednesdays and Fridays (by appointment). Please spread the word about our beautiful CGC.

Happy 2025! May we welcome a time of peace and love in our world!

Melissa McHugh

**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](mailto:CGCdirector@tba-ny.org)  
 (914) 631-1770  
 25 Leroy Ave, Tarrytown, NY 10591

THE IAN & EMILY COHEN CHILDREN'S GARDEN CENTER  
 AT  
**TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM**  
 25 LEROY AVE, TARRYTOWN NY 10591 (914) 631-1770 TBA-NY.ORG

Rabbi's Article Cont'd from Page 1

To register with ARZA, go to [www.vote4reform.org](http://www.vote4reform.org)

To register with MERCAZ, go to [www.mercazusa.org/votemercaz2025](http://www.mercazusa.org/votemercaz2025)

To vote, go to the American Zionist Movement, [www.azm.org/elections](http://www.azm.org/elections)

Do it now! Help us help like-minded Israelis to build the society of we all envision.

L'shalom,

Rabbi David Holtz

Cantor's Article Cont'd from Page 2

Family Shabbat services is already an all-female affair, featuring the sounds of Elana Arian (*Hinei Ma Tov*) and Faith Rogow (*Shiru Shiru*). Other female composers that we typically incorporate into our Family Shabbat services include Debbie Friedman (*Mi Chamocho* and *Mi Shebeirach*), Debbie Jacobson (*Bar'chu*) and myself (*Avinu Shebashamayim*). The fact that such a large percentage of the most beloved Shabbat melodies at TBA are written by women is a testament to how far women have come in Jewish life, culture, and leadership over the past fifty years.

In addition, our fifth grade class will be helping us lead the service that night. *Morah* Marla and I have been teaching our learners about the significance of *Shabbat Shira* while introducing them to important texts and melodies about freedom and female empowerment. They'll be leading two well-known settings of texts from *Parshat Beshalach* (*Ozi V'Zimrat Yah* by Shefa Gold and "Miriam's Song" by Debbie Friedman). They are also learning what I believe to be one of the most important pieces of Israeli music: *Al Kol Eileh* by Naomi Shemer. Shemer was literally a pioneer among the pioneers who settled in Israel, having been born in 1930 in *Kvutzat Kinneret*, a Kibbutz in the Galilee that her parents helped to found. "Al Kol Eileh" teaches us about the important partnerships between humanity, nature, and God. Essentially, you can't have bitterness without sweetness – and vice versa. This is important to remember as we read the Song of the Sea because while the Israelites were able to pursue their path towards freedom, many Egyptians drowned once the waters came back together.

On this particular *Shabbat Shira*, closing our service with the poignant words of *Al Kol Eileh* will be a wonderful way to connect the voices of two pioneer women: Naomi Shemer and Cantor Barbara Ostfeld. Shemer succeeded and excelled in a male-dominated music industry, writing many of Israel's most beloved pieces of music (*Yerushalayim Shel Zahav* and *Lu Y'hi* are also in her catalogue). Cantor Ostfeld bravely enrolled in an all-male cantorial program. "Up until that time, if you saw a woman on the *bima* in a synagogue, she was giving the sisterhood report, or making announcements, or saying something about the *oneg*," she told the Milken Archive of Jewish Music.

The world at large – and our TBA community in particular – is richer because of the contributions of these two remarkable women. Like Shemer, Cantor Ostfeld is a wordsmith, author, and artist. She wrote the following blessing in celebration of 50 years of women in the cantorate:

"Bless all who pray beneath a crowded tent and all who pray in isolation. Bless everyone who hears a chanting voice and all who sense its power. We who chant gather your sounds, the ring of your timbrels braiding them holy, sending them up."

*B'shirah* (In song),

Cantor Lauren Phillips Fogelman

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOMEN IN THE CANTORATE

reprinted from the American Conference of Cantors (ACC)



In 1975, just 50 short years ago, Barbara Ostfeld was ordained as the first female Cantor by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Prior to that, while there had been women serving as prayer leaders (*zogerin*), women singing and recording *hazzanut*, and even women who were given the professional title of Cantor, there had never been a woman ordained and recognized as a full member of the clergy.

According to accounts dating back to the 12th century, women have long used their voices to lead the Jewish people in prayer. While most remain nameless, the gravestone of Urania of Worms (d. 1275), states she “chanted *piyyutim* (liturgical poems) and supplications for the women.” Technological innovations over the last century have brought us recordings of such beloved *Khazantes* as Lady Cantor Madam Sophie Kurtzer (1896-1974), Jean Gornish (known as Shaindele di Khaznte, 1915-1981), and Fraydele Oysher (1913-2003). Their voices, and so many others, led the way for the women who would become Cantors after them.

Before the 1970s, women studying at HUC-JIR in the School of Sacred Music, now the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, were preparing to serve in congregations as music teachers and choir directors. Following the 1972 ordination of Sally Priesand as the first female rabbi, the Reform Movement began to consider formal ordination of women Cantors.

Within just a few short years of Cantor Ostfeld’s ordination, her impact was seen and heard. Many more women followed her into the ranks of the cantorate, changing the sound of Jewish music as they went. Throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s, women cantors greatly influenced the character of the profession and of Jewish American life in general. Cantors Vicki Axe and Judith Rowland were the first women presidents of the American Conference of Cantors (ACC), raising the female voice in leadership to a new level of significance.

Today, there are more women than men serving as Cantors of liberal congregations in the US. Adding women’s voices to the cantorial canon has changed the sound of Jewish music and our Jewish community. Composers can now write new works for a variety of vocal ranges. Congregants can now see a full range of gender expressions on the bimah leading services. Indeed, the language of our liturgy now often reflects the inclusion not just of women, but also of those who identify as non-binary and transgender. In reflecting upon her chosen profession Cantor Barbara Ostfeld wrote, “Women cantors have altered the way in which prayer is offered, heard, and received.”

## Torah Readings

February 7 *B’shalach* Exodus 13:17-17:16

February 14 *Yitro* Exodus 18:1-20:23

February 21 *Mishpatim* Exodus 21:1-24:18

February 28 *T’rumah* Exodus 25:1-27:19



As I reflect on the past two and a half years in the Director's seat, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your patience and support as I learned the ropes of this important role. It has been an incredible journey, and I couldn't have done it without each of you.

While I will no longer be sitting at this desk, please know that Rob and I intend to remain members in the pews, so this is not a goodbye—merely a "see you around."

I am excited to announce that I will be starting a new position as the Executive Director at my childhood synagogue, Temple Beth El in Stamford, CT. This opportunity allows me to bring all that I've learned at TBA back to the Jewish community where I grew up which means a lot to me. My family has deep roots at Beth El dating back to 1928 so it is a *l'dor v'dor* moment nearly 100 years in the making.

Thank you for all the warm wishes and encouragement during this transition. I'm confident that you will extend that same support to whomever steps into this role after me.

-Erica Newman



**Thank you, Erica Newman, for  
your years of service to  
Temple Beth Abraham!**

**Your dedication and creativity  
have made a lasting impact,  
and we're grateful for  
everything you have done.**

**Herb Baer & Brian Schneider, Co-Presidents,  
on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Congregation**

# ! ANNOUNCEMENT !



The Temple Building will be closed on February 17, 18, and 19 for maintenance and repairs.

The office is closed on Monday, February 17 for the Presidents' Day Holiday.

Staff will be working remotely on Tuesday February 18 and Wednesday, February 19.



We are thrilled to welcome Yakov Orentlikher as our new Facilities Supervisor at TBA.

Yakov, originally born in Azerbaijan when it was part of the Soviet Union, brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our team. He has an advanced degree in mechanical engineering and extensive experience managing building operations.

You are as likely to find him rolling up his sleeves with a paintbrush in hand, as you are to see him sitting at his computer typing up quotes for building repairs. His journey at TBA has just begun, but Yakov is fitting-in well with the team - and he said he feels right at home here.

Please say hello and welcome Yakov when you happen to catch him around the building.





## Adult Education



### Torah Study

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

**Torah Study will meet ONLY ON ZOOM on Wednesday, February 19**

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 Monday, February 17 or Wednesday, February 19**

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, February 19**

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.

## Movie Mavens



**Saturday, February 15, 7:00pm on Zoom**

This month's movie: *Tel Aviv on Fire*

Salam, an inexperienced young Palestinian man, becomes a writer on a popular soap opera after a chance meeting with an Israeli soldier. His creative career is on the rise - until the soldier and the show's financial backers disagree about how the show should end, and Salam is caught in the middle.

Winner 2019 Best Screenplay, Israeli Film Academy  
*Cohen Media Group, 2018, 100 mins., not rated, subtitled*

## TBA Book Clubs

### Books & More

Fri., March 14 at 10:00am

*Street Corner Dreams*

By Florence Reiss Kraut

### Books@Night

Wed., March 19 at 7:00pm

*Ways to Disappear*

by Idra Novey



# Women's Circle at Temple Beth Abraham

Friday, February 21, 5:45 pm – 7:15 pm



## Becoming a Jew by Choice A Panel Discussion Led by Loretta London

Come share the personal journey of three TBA congregants as they talk about their decision to become Jews by Choice, how it has transformed their lives, and the spiritual fulfillment and gratification that has resulted.



Please register (in person or zoom) <https://bit.ly/TBAWomenFeb212025>



Looking to stay informed and engaged with Israeli current events, culture, and business?

Check out our curated list of webcasts and in-person events from a diverse range of organizations. From expert insights on the latest developments to explorations of Israeli innovation and culture, there's something for everyone.

### SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL-RELATED WEBCASTS AND IN-PERSON EVENTS

Visit the [TBA Israel Committee's webpage](#) to explore the current lineup and register for upcoming events.

Stay connected and discover more!



Hosted by  
The Israel Committee Temple Beth Abraham

**WE ARE MORE THAN TBA UNCORKED!  
WE'RE PICTURE-PERFECT!**

We're pulling out all the stops!

In addition to our great selections of wines and spirits presented by **Aged Cork**, Yoni Rabino, co-founder of **Neversink Spirits**, will be on hand to discuss his perfect-for-Pesach apple-based gin

*plus*

**Photography Exhibition by Gideon Vardi**

whose astounding eucalyptus tree photographs  
will form the backdrop for our program

**Sunday, March 16\***  
**from 4:00-6:00PM**

*free delivery*

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and Israeli wines and spirits.  
Learn about Neversink's products. Meet the  
photographer. Make your selections.  
Preorder option available.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/tbawine25>

Wine and spirits list available  
upon registration

\*Snow date: March 23

SHOW US YOUR INNER ROCK STAR!

# KARAOKE NIGHT AT TBA!



MARCH 22 7:30PM

at Temple Beth Abraham

All are welcome!

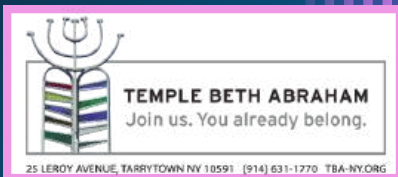
\$54 cover charge

[bit.ly/TBA-Karaoke](http://bit.ly/TBA-Karaoke)

*It's a FUNdraiser for TBA!*

*Sing your favorite song - over  
1,000 to choose from!*

*Come as a group, a duet, or  
solo. Or just hang out with  
friends and enjoy the  
performances!*



Temple Beth Abraham's February

# Family Shabbat

Friday, February 7th, 2025

5:00pm Tot Shabbat

5:30pm Oneg: Snack and Schmooze

6:00pm Family Services - 5th Grade Family Shabbat Service

After Services: 5th Grade Shul In

## Join us for 5th Grade Family Shabbat!

### What is Family Shabbat?

Family Shabbat is a service geared towards children and families. 5th Graders will participate in the service by leading us in prayer and song

### What is a Shul In?

Shul ins are a sleeover at TBA!  
After services, 5th graders will meet for a sleep over that will end at 8:00am the following morning.

To register: <https://bit.ly/5thshulin25>



TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM  
Join us. You already belong.

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

For more information,  
email [SPeers@tba-ny.org](mailto:SPeers@tba-ny.org)

# FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUPS

## **ZEETYKatan (Kindergarteners-2nd Graders)**

February 23, 2025: 11:00am-12:30pm

## **ZEETYTeeny (3rd-5th Graders)**

February 9, 2025: 1:00-2:30pm

## **ZEETY678 (6th-8th Graders)**

February 23, 2025: 11:00am-12:30pm

## **ZEETY (9th-12th Graders)**

February 9, 2025: 1:00-2:30pm

**To Register: <https://bit.ly/feb25yg>**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT OUR  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT,  
STESSA PEERS, AT [SPEERS@TBA-NY.ORG](mailto:SPEERS@TBA-NY.ORG)



TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM'S  
ANNUAL YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

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**PURIM  
CARNIVAL  
IS BACK!**

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**TEEN LED!**

**SAVE THE DATE!**





**TEEN LED!**

**MARCH 9**

MARCH 9, 2025 | 11:00AM-1:00PM  
FOLLOWING SUNDAY SCHOOL

GAMES | SPIN ART | SNACKS | RAFFLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO VOLUNTEER OR TO DONATE, EMAIL:  
SPEERS@TBA-NY.ORG



TBA Purim Shpiel

**SUPERPURIM!**

Thursday, March 13

**Honor a Cast Member or Cantor Lauren with an ad in our SuperPurim Shpielbill**

Your advertisement and/or good wishes will be displayed on the sanctuary screens prior to Purim services and then on our website and social media platforms, as well!

The sizes below reflect how large your ad will appear on the lobby TV screens at TBA:

- FULL SCREEN AD (16:9 aspect ratio or 7.7"w x 4.3"h) \$54.00
- 1/4 SCREEN AD (16:9 aspect ratio or 3.85"w x 2.15" h) \$36.00
- WELL WISHER (Name listing in congratulations to cast) \$18.00

**Purchase your ad using our online form.**

**Go to: [bit.ly/TBA-Shpielbill](http://bit.ly/TBA-Shpielbill)**

**We can help design an ad for you, if you tell us what you would like to say.**

# MISHLOACH MANOT



It's easy to order  
and pay online!

Click [HERE](#) or scan  
the QR code to  
participate!



**It's a Purim Tradition to send sweet treats and warm wishes (*Mishloach Manot*) to family and friends!**

**For Purim on March 13, TBA will be giving *Mishloach Manot* to each member family, along with a scroll listing the names of all the families who are participating in this fundraiser benefitting the Religious School's Pincus Scholarship Fund.**

**Two levels of participation are available this year:**  
**Sponsor Level: \$180.** All Sponsors will be listed in the Sponsor section of the scroll. In addition, sponsors will receive an additional treat in their *mishloach manot* bag!  
**Member Level: \$72.** All members who pay \$72 will have their names included on the scroll which is distributed with each basket.

**Additional baskets may be purchased for \$18 each.**

**You may also make a contribution to the Pincus Fund (in an amount of your choosing) using the link or QR code above.**



## Mishloach Manot FAQs



### **What are *mishloach manot*?**

*Mishloach manot* (sometimes referred to as Purim baskets) are gifts of food that family and friends exchange on Purim. We are instructed in the scroll of Esther (9:19) to send gifts to one another. Often presented in baskets, *mishloach manot* include at least two different types of food, including hamantaschen, the traditional three-sided pastry eaten on Purim. Many families purchase or bake hamantaschen to include in these baskets and to enjoy at home. *Mishloach manot* may also include a wide variety of foods and treats. These gifts may also be referred to by their Yiddish name, *shalachmanos*.

### **Why order *mishloach manot* through TBA?**

There are many reasons to order through us. While some people enjoy making and distributing their own *mishloach manot*, others want to partake in the tradition but don't have the time to bake, buy, assemble, and distribute *mishloach manot*. We do all this for you! In addition, this is the major fundraiser for the Harry and Kate Pincus Religious Scholarship Fund. Profits from the sale of *mishloach manot* allow TBA to provide tuition assistance to all families at TBA who are in need.

### **What happens when I order *mishloach manot* through TBA?**

TBA makes one bag of Purim treats for every member household. These bags are available for families to pick up at the Purim Shpiel and during the week of Purim. We include a personalized letter to each household listing the names of those who sent them Purim greetings. When you order *mishloach manot* through us, you are adding your name to the list of members who sponsored these Purim greetings.

### **If I want to order additional bags to give to family/friends outside of TBA, is that possible?**

Of course! Some families purchase additional bags to personally deliver to family and friends. When placing your order in the online system, you can tell us how many additional Purim bags you want. We'll make them and have them available for you to pick up during the week of Purim.

### **I want to order, but I want to pay with a check?**

You can still order online, just choose the "bill my account" option. Then, mail or drop off your check, payable to "Temple Beth Abraham."

### **I want to order, but I don't want to order online?**

We can accommodate that, too! Simply call the office at (914) 631-1770, and we will add your order to your account!

### **I still have questions. Who can I contact?**

We know this can be confusing, so we are here to answer your questions or help you with your orders. Email [tbaoffice@tba-ny.org](mailto:tbaoffice@tba-ny.org) or call (914) 631-1770, and we will get back to you.

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

**Judaism is Your Superpower!**

**March 28–30, 2025**



With  
Jordan B.  
"Gorf"  
Gorfinkel

Graphic  
artist

Veteran  
editor  
of DC's  
"Batman"  
comic  
books

**Friday, March 28:**

7:30pm During Reform *Kabbalat Shabbat* (welcoming the Sabbath) Service

**Exodus – The Dark Knight and Being a Super Hero**

*Oneq sponsorships available (\$36)*

**Saturday, March 29:**

9:00am During Conservative *Shabbat Service*

**TorahVision**

12:00pm Luncheon - \$10 *couvert*

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

7:30pm Evening (following *Havdallah*)

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

**Sunday, March 30:**

*During Religious School*

**Jewish Cartoon Workshop**

11:15am

**Book signing  
and light refreshments**

Sponsored by Temple Beth Abraham's  
Fran Friedman Fund for the Enrichment of Children  
and  
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**

**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**

Please RSVP to Melissa McHugh  
at [cgcdirector@tba-ny.org](mailto:cgcdirector@tba-ny.org)





# Save the Date!

## May 3, 2025

Enjoy an evening of appetizers, dinner and dessert at the homes of your fellow congregants. A great way to make new TBA friends!

**Appetizers**  
6:30-7:30pm

Everyone starts out together at one location

**Main Course**  
8:00-9:30pm

We break up into smaller groups

**Dessert**  
10:00-11:00pm

Everyone comes together again at one location

**Let us know If you can host the main course!**  
**You provide the home and the meal.**  
email [fundraising@tba-ny.org](mailto:fundraising@tba-ny.org)

# Bring Israel into your Home!



**We are looking for families interested in learning more about hosting a Shinshin!**

## Who are the Shinshinim?

The Westchester Shinshinim are 18 year old Israeli emissaries, whose mission is to bring Israel culture to our community. They create a living bridge between Westchester and Israel.

For more information contact Karen Avneri at:  
917-355-4359  
KarenA@jafi.org

## Requirements to host:

A private room, food and a nurturing environment.

Duration: 4-5 months

## Participation in our community

They take part in Israeli education and engagement programs at over 40 partner institutions.

*\*Each Shinshin is provided with an insured car, a cell phone, health insurance and a financial stipend*



# TBA FAMILY



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

## CONDOLENCES TO:

- **Herb, Melissa, Emma and Ethan Baer** on the death of their mother and grandmother, Gladys Baer
- **Herb and Melissa Baer** on the death of Melissa's uncle Donald Simms
- **Irene and Jonathan Metz** and family on the death of Irene's mother, Helen Silver
- **Beth Propper, David Rubin** and family on the death of Beth's father, Emil Propper
- **Beth Propper, David Rubin** and family on the death of David's sister, Sandy Fein

## MAZEL TOV TO:

- **Pam and Jim Barkley** on the engagement of their daughter, Hope to Jake Forman
- **Audrey and Ben Gelfand** on the engagement of their daughter, Hannah to Itai Rubin
- **Robin Kolodzinski** on the engagement of her daughter Arielle to Josh Rotenberg
- **Irene and Jonathan Metz** on the birth of their granddaughter, Shayna Romi. Parents are Isabel (Metz) and Gabe Tarshish
- **Marla and Jerry Peers** on the birth of their granddaughter, Lyanna Maeve Perlowitz. Parents are Jacey (Peers) and Eric Perlowitz. Mazal tov to the proud aunt, **Stessa Peers**, uncles, **Mike Izzo** and **Aram Peers**
- **Judith and Mark Pomerantz** on the birth of their grandson, Solomon. Parents are David and Mary Pomerantz

# DONATIONS



## ADULT EDUCATION

- **Ellen & Robert Stone**

## BIMA FLOWERS

- **Ann Adenbaum & Alan Schramm** in loving memory of Charlotte Betty Adenbaum

## Bricks

- **Jared & Amy Zerman** in honor of Gary Haber's 90th birthday
- **Lynn Alter** in loving memory of Morris & Maxine Alter

# DONATIONS



## CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- **The Lane Family** in honor of Jessica's bat mitzvah
- **Ira & Harriet Weinbaum** in honor of Cantor Lauren Fogelman & Cantor Margot Goldberg with appreciation for the Cantors' Concert

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

- **Kevin & Joan Frankel** in loving memory of Murray & Myra Frankel

## CARING COMMITTEE

- **Rena Milchberg, Sarah Convissor, and Dan Convissor** in loving memory of Sam Convissor and in appreciation of Rabbi Holtz and others in the community who supported Daniel Convissor and his family after Sam's death

## CONSERVATIVE KIDDUSH FUND

- **Barry & Jane Agdern** in loving memory of Reuben Agdern
- **Richard & Donna Fleming** in loving memory of Lillian Sosan
- **Kevin & Joan Frankel** in loving memory of Murray & Myra Frankel
- **Saara Gallin**
- **David & Meryl Gordon**
- **David & Beth Rubin** in honor of Neil Bruckner and Erica Newman for their support
- **Gordon Swartz & Deborah Doyle**

## ENDOWMENT FUND

- **Cantor Margot, Barry and Tamir Goldberg** in loving memory of Don Hirschhorn
- **Paul Levy & Loren Ratner** in loving memory of Helen Silver
- **Erica & Robert Newman**
- **Adrienne & Harlan Pincus**

## FRAN FRIEDMAN FUND FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF CHILDREN

- **Richard Weiner & Katherine Meinhold** in loving memory of Martha Weiner

## HIGH HOLYDAY APPEAL

- **James Fowler & Susan Weinstein**

# DONATIONS



## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

- **Jeffrey & Lisa Bergman**
- **Jared & Jennifer Lewin**
- **Jenny Libien & Richard Goodwin**
- **Irene & Jonathan Metz**

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- **Jennifer & Jared Lewin**

## PINCUS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- **Rebecca & Jonathan Greller** in loving memory of Arthur Mintz
- **Ann Schwab** in loving memory of Murray Schwab

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- **Stacey Panzer and Amy Aberman** in loving memory of Carole Fischberg and in gratitude to Rabbi Holtz for his kind support
- **Elaine Kaplan** in honor of Rabbi David Holtz for performing the baby naming ceremony for Haley Pacewicz
- **The Lane Family** in honor of Jessica's *bat mitzvah*
- **Marilyn Miller** with gratitude to Rabbi Holtz for his warmth and support after the death of Malcolm Miller
- **Kenneth & Joanne Sold** in gratitude for the opportunity to attend Family Service on the High Holy Days

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

- **David & Rochelle Greenspan** in loving memory of Helen Silver

## TEMPLE FUND

- **Susan Bannon** in loving memory of Nathan Epstein
- **Mira & Robert Fein** in loving memory of Honey Black Kay, Stephen Kay, Milton Fein, and Lee Fein
- **Eva Fischer** in loving memory of Wilhelm Fischer
- **Eva Fischer** in loving memory of Lisa Grubel
- **Rochelle Kessler** with gratitude for *Mi Shebeirach* prayers



## Reliable, Responsive, Respectful

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*Michael L. Rosenthal*

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**491 Mamaroneck Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10605**

**[www.rosenthalmemorial.com](http://www.rosenthalmemorial.com)**

## TEMPLE FUND (Continued)

- **Linda & Harry Lubell** in loving memory of William Lubell
- **Phyllis Mandel** in loving memory of Meyer Mandel
- **Rick Mishkin & Sally Hammond**
- **Adrienne & Harlan Pincus**
- **Beth & David Rubin** in loving memory of Emil Propper
- **Beth & David Rubin** in loving memory of Sandy Fein
- **Larry Schwartz** in loving memory of Barbara Schwartz



**TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM**  
Join us. You already belong.

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

Deadlines for upcoming issues:  
February 7, 2025 for March 2025  
March 7, 2025 for April 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)

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Contributed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Temple Beth Abraham  
25 Leroy Avenue, Tarrytown, NY 10591