



TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

APRIL NEWSLETTER

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Thursday, April 2

9:00am Conservative Passover
Day 1/Pesach I Service

Friday, April 3

6:00pm Reform Family Shabbat
Service

Saturday, April 4

9:00am Conservative Shabbat
Service with Torah discussion

Thursday, April 9

9:00am Conservative Passover
8/Pesach VII Service with Yizkor

Friday, April 10

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service
with Torah Reading and *Bat
Mitzvah* of *Shinshin* Eden Levy

Saturday, April 11

9:00am Conservative Shabbat
Service with Torah discussion

Monday, April 13

7:00pm Erev Yom HaShoah
Service with speaker

Friday, April 17

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 18

9:00am Conservative Shabbat
Service with Torah discussion

Friday, April 24

7:30pm Reform Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 25

9:00am Conservative Shabbat
Service with Torah discussion



From Rabbi Holtz's Study

Dear Friends,

I still have difficulty with the song, *Dayeinu*. Not with actually singing it; it's a catchy melody and the chorus is very easy to learn. I have trouble with its meaning. There are 15 separate verses, ending with the building of the Temple in Jerusalem. Each verse of the Hebrew poem says, "If God had done x, but not followed with y, it would have been enough for us." "If God had brought us out of Egypt but had not gotten us through the Red Sea, *dayeinu* - it would have been enough for us." But that is clearly not true! If we had not gotten through the sea, we would have all died or been returned to slavery!" In what way would that have been enough?

The rabbinic answer is one of "radical gratitude," we are grateful for anything that God does for us. Each of the fifteen steps in *Dayeinu* is a gift from God, and we should not expect/demand more, even as we hope that God will continue to be of help. I find this answer unsatisfying. Even for someone who believes that God acts in the world, when it is a matter of life and death, it is the final result that matters!

I prefer the mystical understanding of the Exodus from Egypt. We read in Deuteronomy: "My father was a fugitive Aramean. He went down to Egypt with meager numbers and sojourned there; but there he became a great and very populous nation." [Deut. 26:5]

The mystics saw this as a birth metaphor. In Hebrew, Egypt is called *Mitzraim* - "the narrow place." It may refer to the narrow band of cultivation and civilization along the Nile. The mystics wrote that, in the case of the Israelites, *Mitzraim* refers to the narrowness of the birth canal. They said that the Israelites came through Egypt, this narrow

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The Temple Office is closing at noon on Wed., April 1, and is closed Thur., April 2, Fri., April 3 and Wed., April 8 and Thur. April 9 for the Passover holiday

Religious School will be closed from Wed., April 1 through Wed., April 8 for Spring Break/Passover and will resume on Sun., April 12

The Children's Garden Center is closed from Wed., April 1 through Fri., April 3 for Spring Break/Passover and will resume on Mon., April 6



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

DIRECTORY

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Cantor's Notes

Passover is my favorite Jewish holiday. I love how individual families have developed their own traditions that were passed down from the generations that came before them. I love that different parts of the world have developed regional customs for celebrating Passover that have become disseminated more widely thanks to the advent of the internet and social media. And I love that there's a *haggadah* for everyone—feminist *haggadot*, baseball-themed *haggadot*, Harry Potter-themed *haggadot*, and even *haggadot* designed for those people who seek to complete an “express” version of the seder in 30 minutes or less.

But what I don't like about Passover is the cleaning. I don't like the reorganization of the pantry to clean out products that contain *chametz*. I despise scrubbing the refrigerator. And, of course, there's the daunting task of sweeping stale goldfish crackers out of my car—the perils of being a parent to young children.

Of course, in doing this cleaning I inevitably end up donating snack foods that the kids will no longer eat or throwing out expired items. In that sense, the yearly scheduled cleaning is actually a good thing—it forces me to move forward on a task that I would likely procrastinate on for as long as possible. It creates a beautiful double *mitzvah*—I'm able to donate much-needed food to the needy while simultaneously decluttering my house!

And then there's the concept of selling *chametz*. *Chametz* is any sort of leavened or bread product that we avoid consuming during Passover. In the past couple of weekly newsletters, we included a link to sell your *chametz*. If you missed it, you'll see a page in this bulletin that describes the act of symbolically selling *chametz* during the Passover holiday. We debated whether or not to publish this insert this year because you'll likely receive the bulletin right on the precipice of *Pesach* with seemingly no time to sell your *chametz*. However, all you actually need to do to sell your *chametz* is to fill out the form included in these pages. Rabbi Holtz will take care of the rest. Additionally, *halachic* authorities have ruled that online authorizations are acceptable for this sale. Technically all you need to do is send an e-mail authorizing Rabbi Holtz to sell your *chametz*, which he'll do on your behalf. Once you do this, you can put it in a designated area and close off access to it. We put ours in a locked closet in our basement. This is done to ensure that nobody will inadvertently eat it during Passover.

What does this symbolic act of selling *chametz* accomplish? It creates a mindfulness and awareness of the *mitzvot* associated with Passover. It also comes with a deadline that helps those of us who will inevitably procrastinate on their Passover cleaning. *Chametz* must be sold by 10:00am on 14 *Nissan*, which is the morning of first *seder* (this year on Wednesday, April 1—no fooling). The exchange made between the clergy and a non-Jewish *chametz* owner does not have to be much—it can be a penny or a dollar, or even a small item such as a pen.

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SHERRY SATURNO
 DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Dear Temple Beth Abraham Families and Friends,

Spring Joy, Renewal & *Pesach* Blessings to all of us.

As April arrives, we're greeted by longer days, blooming flowers, and a gentle sense of renewal all around us. This beautiful season reflects so much of what Temple Beth Abraham holds dear—growth, connection, and the warmth we share with one another.

This month, we also gather to celebrate *Pesach*, a time filled with meaning, memory and togetherness. Around our *seder* tables, we retell the story of liberation, reflect on the gift of freedom, and cherish the traditions that bind us across generations. It is a time that reminds us not only of where we come from, but of the strength and hope we carry forward—together.

We are especially looking forward to a truly meaningful evening at our Annual Gala on Saturday, April 25, as we celebrate our beloved Rabbi David Holtz and honor his retirement. Rabbi Holtz has touched so many lives with his wisdom, kindness, and steady presence, and this gathering will be a chance for our entire community to come together in gratitude and appreciation. We hope you will join us as we share memories, laughter, and heartfelt thanks for all he has given.

In the spirit of spring and *Pesach*, TBA continues to blossom with moments of connection—from uplifting Shabbat gatherings to opportunities to learn, celebrate, and simply be together. Whether you've long been part of our community or are just finding your way here, you are truly part of what makes this place so special.

May this season bring renewal to your spirit, joy to your home, and a deep sense of peace to all. *Chag Sameach*—wishing you a meaningful and joy-filled *Pesach*!

L'shalom,
 Sherry

Shabbat and Holiday Candle Lighting
APRIL 2026

- Wednesday, April 1, *Nissan 14* _____ light holiday candles at 7:02 pm
- Thursday, April 2, *Nissan 1* _____ light holiday candles after 8:03pm from a pre-existing flame
- Friday, April 3, *Nissan 16* _____ 7:05 pm
- Tuesday, April 7, *Nissan 20* _____ light holiday candles at 7:09 pm
- Wednesday, April 8, *Nissan 21* _____ light holiday candles after 8:10pm from a pre-existing flame
- Friday, April 10, *Nissan 23* _____ 7:12 pm
- Friday, April 17, *Nissan 30* _____ 7:20 pm
- Friday, April 24, *Iyar 7* _____ 7:27 pm



STESSA PEERS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Dear TBA Families,

This bulletin article is going to be a little different, and a little more personal, than my typical one. Most of the time, my bulletin articles are about our programs, our learning, and all of the incredible things happening in our community. And while all of that is still very much true, this moment feels like one where I want to share something a little more personal as well. Because at the heart of everything we do here, it's not just about curriculum or calendars, it's about people, it's about relationships, and it's about showing up for one another in real and meaningful ways.

I've said for many years (almost 30!!) that TBA is my home and that I am so proud to be a part of it, especially for all of those reasons. But I don't think I fully understood just how much that meant until I needed our community in ways I hadn't before.

On February 25th, we had school, and I led a Board of Education meeting on Zoom while driving home because the roads were slick and I wanted to get back safely. It was a great meeting, and when I walked in the door, I joyfully started making tacos. Not long after, I looked at my fiancé and said, "Something is not right."

A lot happened during the time I was in hospitals, but that is not really the point of why I am writing this. The point, for me, is perspective.

I was devastated to learn that I would not be able to be at Purim, to be with our families, or to go on an upcoming trip. But for the first time in a long time, I was the one who needed my community to fill my cup instead of being the one filling everyone else's. I am so incredibly lucky to have TBA's community by my side, because the texts, emails, calls, voice messages, flowers, cards, and meals did not just support me, they gave me strength and hope in a way that is hard to fully put into words.

Speaking of hope, one night I found myself crying quietly, really letting it sink in how sad I was to be missing Purim. My roommate whispered through the hospital room curtain, "It's going to be okay, sweetheart... it's going to be okay." We started talking, and while I did not have much of a voice at that point, I listened. I came to learn that the woman who was comforting me was going through something incredibly difficult herself and did not have the kind of community around her that I did. It reminded me just how much that kind of support matters, and I am grateful that she now has that here in Westchester with me and with my family.

I met so many people in both hospitals who were dealing with so much, from broken bones to heart conditions to memory loss and bodies that were not cooperating in the ways we need them to. While the nurses and many of the doctors were wonderful, there was something especially powerful about the compassion shared between patients. Again and again, people would say, "Well...I'm here...so it could always be worse." While that mindset is not always one I subscribe to, it is one that resonates for me right now.

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Shabbat Torah Readings

- April 4 ----- *Chol HaMo-eid Pesach, Holidays Exodus 33:12-34:26*
- April 11 ----- *Sh'mini, Leviticus 9:1-11:47*
- April 18 ----- *Tazria - M'tzora, Leviticus 12:1 - 15:33*
- April 25 ----- *Acharei Mot - K'doshim, Leviticus 16:1-20:27*



Melissa McHugh Director of Early Childhood Education

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CGC

March was a joyful and busy month at the CGC Preschool! The excitement of Purim filled our school as students celebrated with a special Purim story and lively songs led by Rabbi David and Cantor Lauren. Children decorated their own costumes in their classrooms and proudly showed them off during a festive parade throughout the building.

Our 3's/4's took an imaginative trip to "Ireland," where they explored color and light through a collaborative Pop Art rainbow project and a beautiful stained glass study. The children learned about the process of creating stained glass and worked together to bring their colorful designs to life.

We were also lucky to enjoy some early hints of spring weather during Dinosaur Study Week. The warmer days inspired outdoor exploration, including exciting dinosaur egg hunts that had students searching, discovering, and learning through play.

The month concluded with two wonderful community events. Parents gathered for a relaxing and creative Parents Night Out, where they enjoyed a "Tree of Life" paint-and-sip evening together. The following day, families joined us for a special outing to Wave Hill in the Bronx, where we explored the beautiful grounds and welcomed the signs of the new season through a tour entitled "Walk with the Senses."

As we look ahead to April, we are excited to fully embrace spring. Classrooms will hold mock seders as students learn about Passover traditions in age-appropriate ways. We will also begin preparing our outdoor garden for the growing season. In honor of Earth Day, we will actually celebrate Earth Month! Students will explore conservation, nature studies, and participate in hands-on farm-to-table cooking projects, helping them understand where food comes from and how to care for our planet.

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is in full swing, and we have only six spots remaining! Please help us spread the word to friends and families who may be interested in joining the warm and vibrant community at the CGC Preschool.



A Letter From The President



This is a remarkable moment for Temple Beth Abraham.

In recent weeks, our congregation voted to appoint Rabbi David Z. Vaisberg, who will begin his service as our next rabbi on July 1. At the same time, we have continued building momentum around *Strengthen & Sustain* and begun refreshing parts of our building so they can serve our community well into the future.

At the center of it all is the legacy of Rabbi David Holtz, whose leadership has shaped Temple Beth Abraham for more than three decades.

On Saturday evening, April 25, we will gather as a community for our Annual Gala honoring Rabbi Holtz and celebrating his 33 years of dedication to this congregation. The celebration will take place right here at TBA in our Social Hall, which is currently getting a bit of a facelift in time for the occasion. Several families have already stepped forward to help make the Social Hall refresh possible. Their generosity will help ensure this space continues to serve our community for years to come. It feels especially fitting to celebrate Rabbi Holtz in a room that has hosted so many of the gatherings, celebrations, and community moments he helped bring to life.

The gala will be a joyful evening of gratitude and community. More than anything, it is an opportunity for us to come together and thank a rabbi who has guided generations of TBA families through life's most meaningful milestones.

There are several ways to take part.

First, join us on April 25. A full room of congregants, friends, and families will make the evening exactly what it should be. Many members have already marked the evening on their calendars.

Second, consider sharing a tribute in the Gala Journal. Members are already adding tributes to share a memory, express appreciation, or simply say thank you.

And of course, the silent auction is always one of the liveliest parts of the evening. This year it will feature a variety of great items and experiences, including a rare Taylor Swift-autographed guitar. It is a fun way to take home something special while also supporting Temple Beth Abraham.

As we prepare to welcome a new rabbi this summer, we also have the opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary leadership that brought us to this moment. The community Rabbi Holtz helped build will soon begin its next chapter under Rabbi Vaisberg's leadership.

I hope you will join us as we come together to celebrate Rabbi Holtz and mark this special moment in the life of Temple Beth Abraham.

Warmly,

Brian Schneider
President



Rabbi's Article Cont'd from Page 1

place, and then through the birthing waters of the Red Sea, and entered Sinai as a newborn nation. It was quite literally "the birth of a nation." This is why the first month of the Jewish calendar is *Nissan* - it is our birth month!

If we were "born" at Passover, the forty year period of wandering which followed was our childhood. It was a period which allowed for the growth and maturation of the Jewish people. Throughout the journey we faced hardships: hunger, thirst, disease, and enemy attacks, to name just a few. We also experienced remarkable salvation, military victories and the revelation of the Torah! The Israelite nation that entered the Promised Land was very different from the one which was birthed in Egypt.

As it was with the Israelites as a whole, so it is with individuals. We are shaped and changed by all the things that have happened to us since birth, both good and bad. We are the product of what we do and of what is done to us. As you relive the birth of the Jewish nation at your seders this year, I encourage you to spend a few moments thinking about, or even discussing, the life moments that stand out to you from this past year. What has brought you to be the person you are at this moment in your life? There will be, we expect, many more moments, large and small, in each of our lives. For the moments we have lived so far, are we able to say, "Dayenu!"?

From my family to yours, a prayer for a sweet and peaceful Passover!

L'Shalom,
Rabbi David Holtz



Cantor's Article Cont'd from Page 2

In addition to symbolically selling *chametz*, many Jews partake in a search for *chametz* on the night before the *chametz* is to be disposed of. The search is traditionally conducted with a feather to dust for crumbs, a candle (or flashlight) to see them clearly, and a spoon to scoop them up. The next morning, any crumbs that are found - as well as any *chametz* leftover from breakfast - are burned. At this point, we declare the following:

All leaven or anything leavened which is in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have observed it or not, whether I have removed it or not, shall be considered nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth."

May your physical *chametz* - as well as any burdens you may carry - be mindfully disposed of this *Pesach*.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful and meaningful holiday.

L'Shalom,
Cantor Lauren Phillips Fogelman



bit.ly/StrengthenSustain

Stessa's Article Cont'd from Page 4

Right now, I am able to say that I get to be back in my community, that I get to be with our kids, our families, and all of you, and that is something I do not take for granted.

The first Shabbat I prepared during my recovery, our Caring Committee sent me a meal. Together with an engagement gift—a challah cover and challah board from a family—and candlesticks from my mom, I was able to welcome Shabbat once again in a way that felt important, meaningful and full. It reminded me of exactly what community looks like in action.

That is exactly what community is and should be. We care for each other and we lift each other. And while I am so excited to be the one helping to lift everyone again soon, I want to take a moment to thank all of you for lifting me when I needed it most. To our staff, our clergy, our Religious School Assistant Kira, our teachers and substitutes, our Board of Education and especially our chairs Amy and Emily, and to our families, kids, teens, and all of our congregants, I am so deeply grateful, and I love you all so much.

As we move toward Passover, I keep thinking about the idea that we never fully know the narrow places that will eventually lead us toward freedom, just as the Israelites' journey through *Mitzrayim* gave way to their own liberation. While my experience was not one I would have chosen, it has given me a renewed sense of gratitude. Right now, I feel a kind of freedom in simply being on the other side of it, no longer in a hospital gown, no longer surrounded by wires and monitors, but instead moving forward, healing, and deeply appreciative of what will come next.

L'Shalom,
Morah Stessa



Build the Future of TBA

Legacy Giving at Temple Beth Abraham

- Temple Beth Abraham exists today because earlier generations planned for the future. Legacy giving allows each of us to do same.
- Include TBA in your will, retirement plan, or estate plans to help secure our congregation's future.
- Legacy gifts sustain our programs, clergy, and community for the long term.

Interested in learning more?
Speak with synagogue leadership or contact the office for a confidential conversation.

Together we can ensure that Temple Beth Abraham continues to thrive for generations.



**Saturday, April 25, 2026
7:00pm
TBA Gala honoring
Rabbi David Holtz
on his retirement from Temple
Beth Abraham**

TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

**PURCHASE TICKETS BY APRIL 18
PURCHASE JOURNAL ADS BY APRIL 3**

Purchase tickets, sponsorships and Journal ads at:
bit.ly/TBAGala2026

Try your luck in our 50/50 raffle—half the pot could be yours,
and proceeds benefit TBA programs!

Winner need not be present to win.

(\$20-1, \$50-3, \$100-7 tickets):

bit.ly/50-50-Raffle

THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT SPONSORS:

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Host a “Shinshin!”

an 18-year-old Israeli emissary

What’s it all about?

<https://bit.ly/ShinshinVideo>

for more information, contact Karen Avneri at KarenA@JAFL.org or (917) 355-4359



Join our Westchester community as we march up 5th Avenue in the world’s largest gathering in celebration of Israel. We will march with the Westchester Jewish Council.

For more information and to order your free t-shirts, contact Marla Peers by May 15 at israelcommittee@tba-ny.org. Tshirt sizes are limited (S-XL)

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026
11:30am - 4pm • 62nd-74th St. on Fifth Ave.

Join us at the world’s largest parade in support of Israel LIVE on FOX’s My9 and IsraelDayOn5th.com starting at Noon EDT. A project of JCRC-NY.
Limited spectator areas - first come first served. No backpacks permitted.



IsraelDayOn5th.com Israel Day on Fifth @israeldayon5th jrcrny_israeldayonfifth

Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center and Westchester Jewish Council

Present the: **Annual Westchester Countywide**

Yom HaShoah Commemoration Holocaust Remembrance Day

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

12:00 - 1:00pm

Garden of Remembrance 148
Martine Avenue, White Plains, NY

Featuring reflections from Joseph Gosler, Holocaust Survivor, the procession of Westchester’s rescued Holocaust Torahs and remarks from County Executive Ken Jenkins

Free and Open to All Rain or Shine

For additional information on this event, please contact: mjasper@hhrecny.org or pam@wjcouncil.org

New this year...Bring your own shofar and join the first ever county-wide community shofar gathering to awaken us to the sanctity of this moment



Westchester Commemorates- YOM HAZIKARON

זִכָּרוֹן

Israel's Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror

"Soon We Will Become a Song"

Monday, April 20

7:15 PM

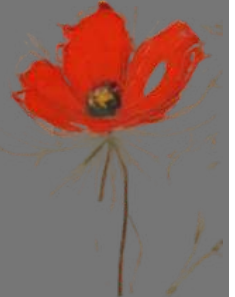
Central Winchester
Location provided upon registration.

The Westchester Mislachat (Israel Emissaries) invites the community to come together to remember and honor Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror. The ceremony will include testimonies as well as musical tributes and songs.

Register [HERE](#) or scan the QR:



For more information please contact: Hilamad@jafi.org



Westchester Celebrates Israel at 78

Yom Ha'atzmaut Community Celebration

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 3-5 PM

Central Westchester
Location will be provided upon registration

ACTIVITY FAIR

Arts & Crafts

Bouncy Castle

Games

Food and Treats



Esek Israeli Market

Support Israel's small businesses



LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE

NOAM BUSKILA

An engaging Israeli music experience

What's Happening & When?

3 PM Explore the activity stations and discover the Israeli "ESEK Market." Enjoy unique gifts, Judaica, arts & crafts, and support small businesses from Israel!

4:15- Live Performance - Noam Buskila



Free and open to all!
Register [HERE](#)
or scan the QR



For more information, please contact: Hilamadejafi.org

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!





Passover begins with the first Seder on Wednesday, April 1, and continues through Wednesday April 8, in the Reform tradition and Thursday, April 9, in the Conservative tradition.

Join us for Services

Thursday, April 2 at 9:00am for the First Day of Passover in the Conservative tradition
Thursday, April 9 at 9:00am for the 8th Day of Passover in the Conservative tradition with *Yizkor*.

Helpful Information for a Joyous Passover

On the eve of the fourteenth of *Nissan*, the first *Seder* night, Jews all over the world assemble with family members and friends in homes or public places to commemorate the deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage over thirty-four hundred years ago.

The *Seder* ceremony is comprised of many elements of historical narration and ritual, special foods, and prayers. They follow one another in a certain order – in fact, the word *Seder* means “order” – just as they have for hundreds of years. It’s easy for one or more members of the household to conduct the *Seder*, and for everyone at the table to participate, because everything to be done and to be said is compiled in one book, the *Haggadah*. With a little preparation, anyone can lead a *seder*!

The Holiday with Four Names

- ***Chag ha-Matzot* - The Festival of Unleavened Bread**
- ***Chag ha-Pesach* - The Festival of the Paschal Offering**
- ***Chag ha-Aviv* - The Festival of Spring**
- ***Z’man Cherutenu* - The Season of our Liberation**



UJA PASSOVER INFO:

These handpicked resources will help you reflect, connect, and pursue justice during your Passover celebrations.
bit.ly/URJ-Passover

Add a new dimension to your seder with this printable supplement focused on welcoming and protecting immigrants:
tinyurl.com/URJ-Immigration-Seder

The Seder Plate and Table Both Traditional and New

There are at least five foods that go on the seder plate: shank bone (*zeroa*), egg (*beitzah*), bitter herbs (*maror*), vegetable (*karpas*) and a sweet paste called *haroset*. Many Seder plates also have room for a sixth, *hazeret* (another form of the bitter herbs). All of them are meant to remind us of the primary theme of Passover: the Jewish people's transition from slavery to freedom. There is generally only a small, symbolic amount of food on the Seder plate, with additional dishes of *karpas*, *maror* and *haroset* set out for people to eat from during the Seder. But other fruits and vegetables have showed up recently, representing everything from solidarity with oppressed Jewish communities to welcoming the intermarried.



Orange: Many families and congregations have begun adding an orange to the Seder plate as a way of acknowledging the role of people who feel marginalized within the Jewish community. Professor Susannah Heschel explains that in the 1980's, feminists at Oberlin College placed a crust of bread on the Seder plate, saying, "There's as much room for a lesbian in Judaism as there is for a crust of bread on the Seder plate." Heschel adapted this practice, placing an orange on her family's Seder plate and asking each attendee to take a segment of the orange, make the blessing over fruit, and eat it as a gesture of solidarity with LGBTQ Jews and others who are marginalized within the Jewish community. They spit out the orange seeds, which were said to represent homophobia.

Potato: In 1991, Israel launched Operation Solomon, a covert plan to bring Ethiopian Jews to the Holy Land. When these famished, downtrodden Jews arrived in Israel, many were so hungry and ill that they were unable to digest substantial food. Israeli doctors fed these new immigrants simple boiled potatoes and rice until their systems could take more food. It highlights that the Passover story is not merely about the ancient past, but a continuous journey of rescue and freedom.



Fair Trade Chocolate or Cocoa Beans: The Fair Trade movement promotes economic partnerships based on equality, justice and sustainable environmental practices. We have a role in the process by making consumer choices that promote economic fairness for those who produce our products around the globe. Fair Trade certified chocolate and cocoa beans are grown under standards that prohibit the use of forced labor. When included on the seder plate they remind us that although we escaped from slavery in Egypt, forced labor is still very much an issue today.

Olives: A few years ago, olives started showing up on the seder plate as a call for Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation and solidarity. Introduced in the 2000s, this addition symbolizes the desire to break the cycle of violence and destruction of livelihoods, often representing hope and the "olive branch" of peace.



Banana: During the summer of 2015, the world was shattered by images of a lifeless little boy on a Turkish beach during the Syrian refugee crisis, Aylan Kurdi, 3, drowned with his brother, Galip, 5, and their mother, Rihan, on their exodus to freedom. Aylan and Galip's father, Abdullah, survived the harrowing journey, and in teaching the world about his sons, he shared that they loved bananas, a luxury in their native, war-torn Syria. As Rabbi Dan Moskowitz of Temple Sholom in Vancouver, British Columbia, said, "We place a banana on our seder table and tell this story to remind us of Aylan, Galip and children everywhere who are caught up in this modern day exodus. May they be guarded and protected along their journey to safety, shielded by the love of their parents, watched over by God full of mercy and compassion."

The Seder Plate and Table Both Traditional and New



Pinecone: Temple Israel in Boston, MA, added a pinecone to their seder plate: "We 'pass over' pinecones every day. Inside each of these pinecones is among the most precious of all nuts - the pine nut. Most of us pass more pine nuts in a single day than one could count in a year. Yet they remain hidden, unseen. Moreover, they're nearly impossible to extract with our own hands. The pinecone 'imprisons' its seeds, and only hard work on the part of nature compels it to open up." The addition of a pinecone to the seder plate is a reminder of mass incarceration and the work it will take to repair this injustice. "This Passover, we refuse to pass over our prisons because we know that inside is God's most precious fruit of all: the human soul."

Cashews: Rabbi Wesley Gardenswartz of Temple Emanuel in Newton, MA, started the tradition of adding cashews to the seder plate to honor our troops. The idea came from a sign at a drug store that asked customers to consider buying bags of cashews to send to troops stationed in Iraq; an employee whose son was serving abroad explained that the salted cashews provided sustenance and hydration in Iraq's desert climate, compelling the rabbi to make the addition to his congregation's Seder plate.



Tomato: The tomato brings our attention to the oppression and liberation of farm-workers who harvest fruits and vegetables here in the United States. And it reminds us of our power to help create justice. A tomato purchased in the United States between November and May was most likely picked by a worker in Florida. On this night when we remember the Jewish journey from slavery to freedom, we remember numerous cases of modern slavery that have been found in the Florida tomato industry. The tomato on our Seder plate might have been picked by someone who has been enslaved.

Elijah's Cup: On the Seder table we have the cup for Elijah the Prophet. Elijah's cup, in Judaism, the fifth ceremonial cup of wine poured during the family Seder dinner on Passover. It is left untouched in honor of Elijah, who, according to tradition, will arrive one day as an unknown guest to herald the advent of the Messiah.



Miriam's Cup: Some people have added Miriam's Cup to their tables. This custom celebrates Miriam's role in the deliverance from slavery and her help throughout the wandering in the wilderness. Place an empty cup alongside Elijah's cup and ask each attendee at the Seder to pour a bit of water into the cup. With this new custom, we recognize that women have always been - and continue to be - integral to the continued survival of the Jewish community. The pouring of each person's water is a symbol of everyone's individual responsibility to respond to issues of social injustice. Learn more about Miriam's Cup, and use the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's Miriam's Cup reading insert in your Seder to honor the women in your life and remember Miriam's contributions to the Exodus. You can find it here: <https://rac.org/sites/default/files/miriamscup.pdf>

Passover Vocabulary

Chametz

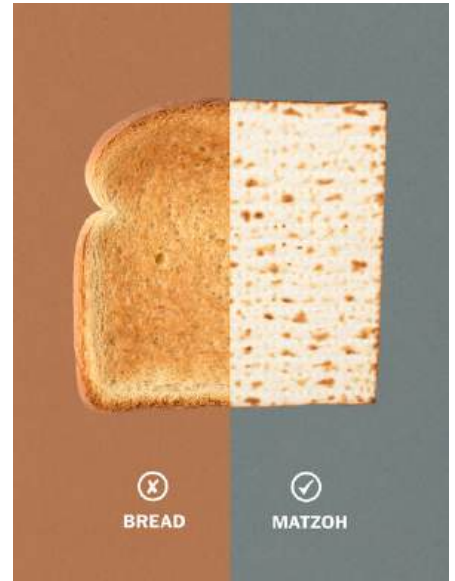
Dough that has not been prepared according to the rules of Passover, or any food that has come in contact with it is *Chametz*.

Dishes and utensils that have touched *chametz* become *chametzdik* and should not be used during Passover. *Chametz* is also known as "leavened bread."

Bedikat Chametz (The Search for and Removal of Leaven)

On the night before Passover, the family does a "formal search" to find any stray crumbs hidden in corners or cabinets, some of which will be deposited deliberately so that they may be found. Kids love this! Traditionally, we use a candle for light, but you might substitute a flashlight. The crumbs are swept with a feather into a little bundle, and on the next morning all is burnt.

The short prayers, which are to be recited as part of these rituals, may be found at the beginning of any *Haggadah*.



Mechirat Chametz (Selling One's Chametz)

Observance of Passover is more than avoiding the eating of bread. Full observance also includes the removal from our homes of all leavened food (*chametz*) as well as all dishes and utensils that have been "connected" with *chametz* during the rest of the year. That's a big job! In order to lessen the hardship, the Rabbis decreed that all non-Passover items may remain in one isolated spot in your home (e.g., a closet, the basement), as long as it passes out of your ownership. From this arises the custom of "selling *chametz*." To avoid having *chametz* in your possession during Passover, please fill out the "Sale of *Chametz*" form below and return it to the Office so that Rabbi Holtz can arrange this for you.



Mechirat Chametz (Selling One's Chametz)

I _____ hereby authorize Rabbi David Holtz to act as my agent to sell any *chametz* that is in my possession, wherever it may be - at home, place of business or elsewhere - in accordance with the requirements of Jewish Law as incorporated in this special contract for the "Sale of *Chametz*."

Home Address:

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Other Address:

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Passover Recipes

Charoset Recipes

Israeli

- 2 red apples
- 2 bananas
- 2 oranges
- 1/2 cup pitted dates
- 1/2 cup white grape juice
- Cinnamon

Ashkenazi

- 3 red apples
- 1/4 cup grape juice
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 cup raisins
- cinnamon

One of the best things about making charoset? It requires no cooking—the only effort required is chopping. After chopping your ingredients, add them to a bowl along with any liquid, raisins, honey, and, cinnamon. Stir to fully combine, then be patient and let it sit for 30 minutes to allow all of the flavors to meld together.

Greek

- 1 orange, peeled and seeded
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup pitted dates
- Cherry preserves
- Dark grape juice
- Ground ginger
- Cayenne pepper
- Sugar
- 1 Tbs dark grape juice

Sephardic

- juice of 1 lemon
- 3 large apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- 1 cup pitted dates
- 1 cup dried apricots
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/4 cup sweet Passover wine
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Hebrew School Recipe

- Apple sauce
- Cinnamon
- Raisins
- Banana chips
- Dark grape juice

Matzo Toffee - Martha Stewart Living

This crunchy-sweet treat is perfect for Passover and so good, you'll crave it all year!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups coarsely crumbled matzos
- 1-1/2 cups sliced almonds
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup packed light-brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with parchment. In a bowl, toss matzo pieces with almonds.
2. In a saucepan, bring butter, sugar, salt, and 2 tablespoons water to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Working quickly, drizzle matzo mixture with syrup, and toss.
3. Using a heatproof spatula, spread mixture onto prepared sheet. Bake until golden, about 30 minutes. Remove from oven; sprinkle with chocolate chips. Let chocolate melt 5 minutes; spread chocolate over matzo toffee. Refrigerate until chocolate has set. Break into pieces, and serve. (To store, refrigerate in an airtight container, up to 5 days.)



Passover Resources 5786

Looking for some Passover inspiration for kids, teens, and adults?

click the links below:

**Check out Morah Stessa's visual [Barbie Seder](#),
[Taylor Swift Seder](#), [Pop Queen Seder](#), [Passover Google Classroom](#),
[Hot to Go Passover Parody](#)**

Cantor Lauren's Passover Parodies: [Four Cups of Wine Dip!](#), [Matzah Balls \(Popular\)](#)

TBA Religious School Comic Hagaddah with GORF

**Haggadot and Seder Enrichment:
Toddler/Younger kid Passover Haggadah Placemat
10 Minute Seder**

**Short Seder (and user guide)
Morah Stessa's Teen Friendly Seder Additions
Morah Stessa's Science Seder experiments
Passover "Fortune Teller"**

**PJ Library Hagaddah, 15 Minute Hagaddah, and PJ Library Passover Prep
Printable Kid Friendly Hagaddah**

AND more:

Passover Activities for Kids and Adults from ReformJudaism.org

When Are We Free? A Seder Activity for All Ages

How is this Passover Different From all Other Passovers?

10 Great Discussion Topics for Your Passover Seder

Avodah Social Justice Resources

Alternative Seder Plate items

PJ Library Passover Resource Hub

Keshet LGBTQ+ Resources

That Jewish Moment



THE GREAT BIG JEWISH GOODBYE

SAVE THESE DATES FOR EVENTS IN HONOR OF RABBI DAVID'S RETIREMENT

**SAT
APRIL 25**

ANNUAL GALA HONORING RABBI DAVID HOLTZ

7:00–11:00 PM | DINNER, DANCING, SILENT AUCTION, HONORS AND LOTS OF FUN!
 JOURNAL ADS DUE BY APRIL 3: BUY TICKETS, RAFFLES BY APRIL 18
 FOR ADS & TICKETS: [BIT.LY/TBAGALA2026](https://bit.ly/tbagala2026) FOR RAFFLE: [BIT.LY/50-50-RAFFLE](https://bit.ly/50-50-RAFFLE)

**SUN
MAY 3**

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

12:30 PM | DISCUSSION AND LUNCHEON: RABBI REFLECTS ON HIS 39 YEARS
 IN THE RABBINATE: FREE FOR MEMBERS, \$18 PER GUEST RSVP BY APRIL 29
 RSVP HERE: [TINYURL.COM/RABBI-LUNCHEON](https://tinyurl.com/rabbi-luncheon)

**SUN
MAY 17**

TBA FUN DAY IN HONOR OF RABBI DAVID HOLTZ

11:00AM-1:00PM | PARTY IN HONOR OF RABBI DAVID HOLTZ & LAST DAY OF
 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL - FOR ALL AGES! FEATURING "THE SKAM" ROCK BAND
 RSVP: [TINYURL.COM/TBAFUNDAY](https://tinyurl.com/tbafunday)

SHABBAT SHALOM RABBI DAVID

**FRI
JUNE 5**

FAMILY SERVICE SENDOFF CELEBRATION

6:00 PM | FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE - INCLUDING CAMP BLESSINGS AS WE
 SEND OUR KIDS OFF FOR SUMMER AND RABBI INTO RETIREMENT. WITH
 SURPRISES FOR RABBI DAVID.

**FRI
JUNE 19**

REFORM SHABBAT FAREWELL CELEBRATION

7:30 PM | DETAILS TO FOLLOW

**SAT
JUNE 27**

CONSERVATIVE SHABBAT FAREWELL CELEBRATION

9:00 AM | DETAILS TO FOLLOW

All events take place at Temple Beth Abraham.
 Each event will be unique, so please consider joining us for as many as you can so you don't miss a thing!

Adult Education



Torah Study

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

Torah Study will not meet on April 8 due to the Passover holiday

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, April 1 or April 8 due to the Passover holiday

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, April 1 or April 8 due to the Passover holiday

Learn the rules. Play the Game.

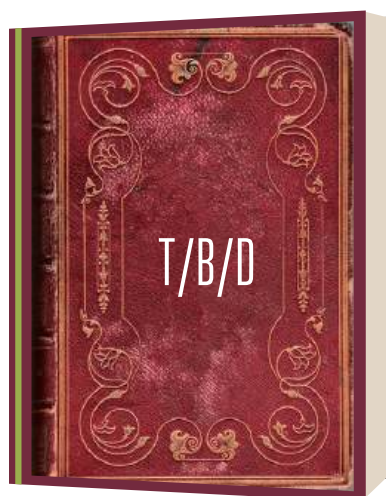
Meet new friends, spend fun time with old friends, or take a coffee break.

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.

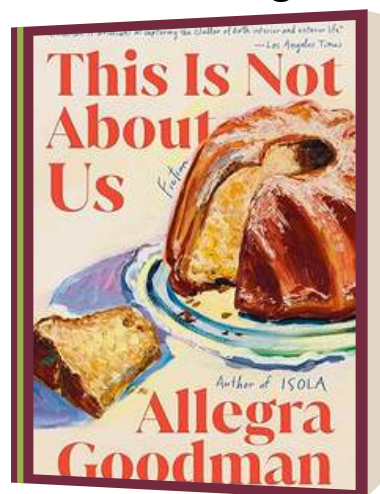
TBA Book Clubs

Books & More



Friday, May 8 at 10:00am
Selection to be determined

Books@Night



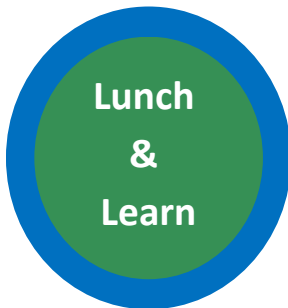
Tuesday, May 26 at 7:00pm
This is Not About Us
by Allegra Goodman



Women's Circle

Friday, April 17 at 5:45pm

A special presentation by Risa Swersey for Yom HaShoah
look for more information in our e-newsletters



To Everything There is a Season
Practical Life Lessons from 39 years in
the Rabbinate
A Discussion with Rabbi David Holtz

Sunday, May 3, 2026

“As I’ve been reflecting on more than half a lifetime in the congregational rabbinate – teaching, counseling, praying, sermonizing and more - I’ve realized that there are certain Jewish/ethical/practical ideas and behaviors that have guided my life and my work. They all have their roots in the texts that have shaped the Jewish people – Torah, Talmud, Midrash and more. In this unique program, we’ll look at some of these life lessons, and discuss how we might apply them for ourselves, our families and our community. I truly hope you’ll join me.”

– Rabbi David Holtz

Discussion and Luncheon 12:30pm-3:00pm

All are welcome. Free of charge for members, \$18 for guests.

Please RSVP at tinyurl.com/Rabbi-Luncheon

so we know how many to expect (deadline April 29).



בת המצוה
של
עדן לוי

Please join our
Temple Beth Abraham Family
as
Eden Levy

is called to the Torah
as a Bat Mitzvah

Erev Shabbat/Friday
April 10, 2026 at 7:30pm
25 Leroy Avenue, Tarrytown, NY

*Followed by a special Oneg
in her honor*

Mazal Tov! to our very
own
Loretta London
recipient of the
31st Annual
Julian Y. Bernstein
Distinguished Service
Award

כָּל הַכָּבוֹד Kol Hakavod



The 31st Annual Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished
Service Awards Ceremony

Temple Israel Center of White Plains
280 Old Mamaroneck Rd.

April 28 at 7:30pm

Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

RSVP requested:

www.wjcouncil.org/31st-annual-julian-y-bernstein-distinguished-service-awards-dsa/



Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance) Service

Monday April 13

7:00pm

Our powerful and moving Yom HaShoah service will feature a presentation by

Ernest “Ernie” Brod



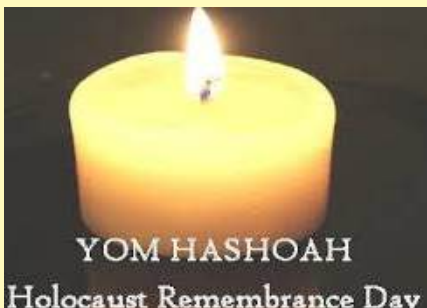
Born in Vienna in April 1938, just weeks after Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria. His father died in prison after the family's film business was confiscated, and as anti-Jewish persecution intensified, his mother secured passage for Ernie and herself to the United States in 1941 while his older brother escaped earlier on the Kindertransport to England.

This presentation is appropriate for everyone 9 yrs. old and older.



Yellow Candle Program

Each member recently received their *Yom HaShoah* Yellow *Yahrzeit* candle in the mail. Please light your candle on the evening of **Monday, April 13, Erev Yom HaShoah**, in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. We encourage you to place the candle in your window as a visible reminder—to yourself and to your neighbors—of the tragedy of the Holocaust, and of our shared responsibility to ensure that, through remembrance, it never happens again.



All proceeds from the Yellow Candle program support our Pincus Scholarship Fund, helping make Religious School education accessible to all.

To make a donation, please visit <https://bit.ly/YellowCandle> or mail your check to TBA using the form enclosed with your candle.

APRIL YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

AT TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

ZEETYKATAN (KINDERGARTENERS-2ND GRADERS)

APRIL 12, 2026 11:00AM - 12:30PM

ZEETYTEENY (3RD-6TH GRADERS)

APRIL 19, 2026 11:00AM - 12:30PM

ZEETY678 (6TH-8TH GRADERS)

APRIL 12, 2026 1:00 - 2:30PM

ZEETY (9TH-12TH GRADERS)

APRIL 19, 2026 1:00 - 2:30PM

TO REGISTER: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/YGAPR26](https://bit.ly/YGAPR26)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT OUR
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, STESSA PEERS,
AT SPEERS@TBA-NY.ORG**





TBA
FUN DAY

**PARTY IN HONOR OF RABBI DAVID HOLTZ
& LAST DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

For all ages!

SUNDAY, MAY 17 11:00am-1:00pm

Lunch, baked goods, treats, games, music, and celebrating Rabbi's retirement and our amazing community!

This event is free of charge but please RSVP and note any food allergies

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:
THE SKAM
ALTERNATIVE ROCK BAND**

REGISTER NOW:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/TBAFUNDAY](https://tinyurl.com/TBAFUNDAY)



CGC Art Show

Come celebrate the beautiful artwork across all mediums created by the students at CGC!

Friday, May 1, 2026
4:00pm-5:00pm

Refreshments will be served. Please stay for music and storytime at Tot Shabbat immediately following at 5pm.

Midnight Run **MIDNIGHT RUN** **Midnight Run**

MAY 23, 2026

ONGOING COLLECTION-BINS CAN BE FOUND IN THE LOBBY
FOR QUESTIONS OR TO GET INVOLVED TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME
PLEASE REACH OUT TO MELISSA DICKMAN (MLDICKMAN123@GMAIL.COM)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| CLOTHING | SUPPLY LIST | TOILETRIES |
| T-SHIRTS/LONG SLEEVES HOODIES/SWEATSHIRTS JEANS (DARKER WASHES) (ALL SIZES OF CLOTHING) | please send items to the temple by May 20 | TRAVEL SIZE HAND SOAP, AND TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, DEODORANT (ALL STORE BOUGHT) |
| SHOES | <u>SIGN UP TO HELP!</u> | STORE BOUGHT MENS SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR (ALL SIZES) |
| SNEAKERS/ATHLETIC SHOES/ BOOTS (SIZES 9-14) | | |



DOROT's Aging Alone Together®

Wednesdays, Apr 22 through May 27 from 1:00pm-2:30pm

Sessions are held in person or online via Zoom.

DOROT's six-week series is designed for individuals to build community as they learn, discuss, and reflect on the logistical and social challenges of aging with independence. You need not live alone or without family to participate in and benefit from this program. Participants are invited to be part of a continuing community of learning and socializing with others who have completed this program.

Thanks to the generosity the Westchester Men's Giving Circle, UJA Federation of New York), there is no cost to participate.

[Register Here](#)

For more information, go to: www.dorotusa.org/programs/aging-alone-together/



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491 Mamaroneck Avenue

White Plains, NY 10605

www.rosenthalmemorial.com

TBA FAMILY



THE FOLLOWING EVENTS REFLECT THE KNOWN SORROWS AND SIMCHAS OF OUR TBA FAMILY SINCE OUR LAST PUBLICATION:

REFUAH SHLEIMAH (A COMPLETE HEALING) TO

- **Stessa Peers**

MAZEL TOV TO:

- **Ida Doctor** on the birth of her granddaughter, Joni Faye Rosenberg. Parents are Leah Doctor Rosenberg and Adam Rosenberg.
- **Jodie Lane** and **Richard and Diane Lane** on the marriage of their daughter and granddaughter Leah Lane to Sawyer Harrington-Verb

DONATIONS



ADULT ED

- **Kevin Joseph Feehan**

BUILDING FUND - SOCIAL HALL RENOVATION

- **Sarah Czeladnicki & Robert Pease**
- **Fran Freidman Fund for the Enrichment of Children**
- **Steven & Julia Gosset**
- **Neil Klein & Susanne Jones**
- **Jane Silverman & Don Kumka** in loving memory of Bess and Morris Silverman
- **Rick & Donna Misrok** in honor of Ian and Abbey's *aufruf* with thanks to Rabbi and Cantor
- **Pearl Ann Schwartz**
- **Danielle Barrocas & Peter Stein** in loving memory of Dr. Jonathan Stein

CONSERVATIVE KIDDUSH FUND

- **David & Jennifer Halperin** in loving memory of Harris Halperin

ENDOWMENT FUND

- **Harold Gross** in support of TBA's *Strengthen & Sustain* Initiative
- **Rick Mishkin & Sally Hammond** in honor of Rabbi David Holtz upon his retirement
- **Pearl Ann Schwartz** in loving memory of Mary Perchick
- **Linda Shulman** in support of TBA's *Strengthen & Sustain* Initiative

DONATIONS



GALA 2026 DONATIONS

- **Andy Goren and Kristina Allen** for use of the axe throwing game
- **Sheldon & Susan Manspiezer** in honor of Rabbi David Holtz upon his retirement

HIGH HOLYDAY APPEAL

- **Rick & Donna Misrok**

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

- **Jerry & Marla Peers Jerry** in loving memory of Lynn Goldberg

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- **Wayne & Sherri Heller** in loving memory of George Heller
- **Marvin & Ruda Klein** in loving memory of Jeff Bonné

TEMPLE FUND

- **Rochelle Kessler** for *mi shebeirach* prayers
- **Rochelle Kessler** in loving memory of Paul Rothenberg
- **Carole Thuor** in loving memory of Irwin Thuor
- **Eileen & David Weiner** in loving memory of Pauline Liebman
- **Katherine Meinhold & Richard Weiner** in loving memory of Al Beckman

YOUTH GROUP FUND

- **Herb, Melissa, Emma & Ethan Baer** in honor of Morah Stessa & the TBA Religious School Staff
- **Jennifer & Michael Povman** in celebration of the Purim Carnival





TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM
Join us. You already belong.

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

Deadlines for upcoming issues:

April 6, 2026 for May 2026

May 4, 2026 for June 2026

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
25 Leroy Avenue, Tarrytown, NY 10591