



Temple Beth David

January, 2018

From the Rabbi

There is an inherent tension within Judaism between the individual and the community when it comes to God. While each of us makes an individual covenant (*Brit*) with God at the beginning of our lives or through conversion, the covenant is only fully realized in community.

In [Leviticus 22:32](#) God says, “I shall be sanctified *amidst* the children of Israel.” The ancient Rabbis understood this verse to be teaching us the power of public acts. If we do good things in private, they may only benefit us or the one we are acting for. If we do good things in public, they not only benefit us but they benefit others who see us acting for the good. The hope is that by doing good in public it will inspire others to do good as well and as a result, allows God to “dwell in our midst”. According to *Etz Chaim*, the Rabbis of the Talmud stated, “there is no greater achievement for a Jew than acting in a way that causes others to praise and respect the God of Israel and the Torah’s ways.” Being an example for others and being in community is one of the highest forms of mitzvah.

When you are one of the ten people to make up a *minyan* you are not sacrificing your individuality for the community. You are adding your individuality for the betterment of the group. According to Dr. Eli Munk, an Orthodox Rabbi and author, “It [the community] does not suffer deficiencies. What is lacking in one individual is made up by the other. The individual can only discharge their duties completely when they collaborate with the community. The Rabbis therefore place the strongest emphasis on *Tfillah B’tzibur*, prayer in the midst of the community.”

Being required to pray in community can feel burdensome and *Minyan* requirements could be interpreted as being an impediment to connecting with God. When we do not have a *minyan*, we are not allowed to say certain prayers without the community present. Prayers such as the *Mourners Kaddish*, the *Kedushah* in the *Amidah*, the *Barechu*, and Torah service all require a *minyan* to be recited. However, the idea of *Minyan* and *Kehilah Kedoshah* is really a Jewish proposal for brining as much holiness into our lives and into the world as possible. One person is a musician, a few are a band, a few more is an orchestra, but a large group is a symphony, which is what we become when we make a minyan. A group of individuals making beautiful music together.





President's Message

A new calendar year is upon us – 2018 – and whether you believe in resolutions or not, this is the time people make them. Sometimes it's to maintain a healthier lifestyle through better eating habits or more exercise. Others want to focus on learning, broadening their horizons. They pledge to read more, take a class, learn a new skill, and hone an old skill. These resolutions can be little or big – as long as they are meaningful, they are important.

The possible goals I've mentioned above are fairly common. A little more uncommon (or at least less talked about) are the vows for a spiritual (and possibly religious) resolution. I'm sure that there are many reasons for why this gets pushed into the background, but let's bring it to the forefront for a moment.

Temple Beth David is a place for its members to nourish their spiritual side. For each person, this means something different. For some, it may mean coming to Shabbat Services or Torah Study. For others, it may mean participating in a class. And there are those that get the most meaning out of assisting with TBDs call to social action, through programs like Abraham's Tent or clothing drives. Regardless, it's an invitation/opportunity to walk through the doors of Temple Beth David and be part of a thriving, vibrant community.

My challenge to you is to find a new way to engage with Temple Beth David. If you have never been to Torah Study, come give it a try (8:45 am Saturday mornings). If you normally only come to services around the Holy Days, check out a Ruach Shabbat service (our musicians are amazing). Been wanting to attend a Sisterhood function – now is the perfect opportunity. Have a burning question for the Rabbi? Bring it to a Lunch and Learn discussion. Is there a program you want to see happening? Let's discuss how we can make it happen.

Make 2018 a great year for you, and everyone around you, in every way possible! Share yourself with your Temple Beth David Community.

And now a special shout out to Liz Markman and Sue Cohen for the amazing job they did for coordinating Abraham's Tent at Temple Beth David. They, and their team of volunteers, made it possible for our guests to rest in comfort, have regular meals, and find a little peace of mind where normally they may not have it. Thank you to each and every one of you who contributed to making this amazing program work at Temple Beth David!

Kim Math, President

Welcome!

A big welcome to new temple members Donna and Randy Greenberg

January Events

5th	Introduction to Hebrew, 5:00pm. Family Shabbat Service, 6:30 pm	25 th	Lunch & Learn, 12:00 pm, Brush & Bordeaux, 7:00 pm
6th	Torah Study, 8:45 am	26 th	Shabbat Evening Services 7:30
10 th	Spirits & Spirituality, 7:00 pm	27 th	Torah Study, 8:45 am
11 th	Lunch and Learn, 12:00 pm	28 th	Story Hour: Tu B'Shevat
12 th	MLB service, Hamden, 7:30 pm		
13 th	Torah Study, 8:45 am		
18 th	Lunch and Learn, 12:00 pm		
19 th	Shabbat Evening Service 7:30 p.m		
20 th	Torah Study, 8:45 a.m.		
24 th	Mysticism & Torah, 7:00 pm		

News from the Religious School



Shalom! During a time of year when receiving gifts is woven though our culture, the students at TBD spent their time and tzedakah giving to those less fortunate. A few highlights December's activities:

- Our students voted and decided that their collective tzedakah for the first half of the year would go to Puerto Rico and hurricane relief efforts.
- At their Chanukah party, they decorated murals to cover the windows for privacy in our social hall, decorated lunch bags and filled drawstring bags for our Abraham's Tent guests. They also created cheery cards to send on to our military men and women.
- One of our teens, Sydney Carim, started a coat collection for clients at IRIS in New Haven. Our students and their families brought in many coats, finally needed as the snow began flying last month!
- The call went out for toiletries, candies, socks, gloves and so many other items for those in need. Our students proudly toted in all kinds of bags filled with all kinds of items knowing they were benefitting those less fortunate.

How can you continue to foster that spirit of giving at home? Jennifer Cooper, blogger and contributor to PBS Parents Adventures in Learning, suggests the following:

- Disasters are opportunities to build compassion. After seeing news reports about natural disasters, ask, "What can we do?" Collect supplies for troubled areas, donate money, or buy toys for others.
- Reflect on giving at the dinner table. At dinner, ask, "What gifts did I receive today? What am I grateful for?" This can be followed by, "What did I give today? How can I help someone?"
- Look for need in the news. Save newspapers so that everyone can read a front page and circle areas of need. Have a discussion about how they might be able to help and create a plan for helping. See if there is an established charity that already supports that cause.
- You can also check out The Family Dinner Project and Giving Tuesday Collaboration for more resources for giving as a family

(Cooper, Jennifer. "Charity Starts at Home (Video)." PBS, Public Broadcasting Service, 1 Nov. 2013, www.pbs.org/parents/adventures-in-learning/2013/11/teaching-kids-about-charity/.)

As you know our kids have a history of good works: our "Little Free Library", "Look for the Good Project" and bringing our High Holiday food collection to the food pantry come to mind. Let's all keep encouraging our students' creative ideas and find ways to keep our little corner of the world involved in its continual repair!

L'Shalom,
Jodi Harris, Religious School Director

Ritual

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS -

On Friday, January 12, 2018, Temple Beth David will NOT hold our regular Shabbat Service. We have an opportunity to join in a communal service at Congregation Mishkan Israel honoring the Memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. This Shabbat Service will begin at 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker is Professor Michael Wishnie who is a clinical professor of law at Yale Law School. Professor Wishnie is involved with the Refugee Ban and in Immigrant Rights advocacy. Rabbi Herbert Brockman will lead the Service, joined by other Faith Leaders from the Jewish, Christian, Catholic, Muslim, Bahai, and Unitarian traditions. The Afro-Semitic Experience will be musical guests.

Congregation Mishkan Israel is located at 785 Ridge Road, Hamden. If you haven't been there before, you may want to allow time to enjoy their hallway artwork. Whenever I'm there, I see something new - these are nostalgic memories of days and events some of us have witnessed or only just heard about - the display on these walls intensifies the experience.

This month we are also planning a Tu B'Shevat celebration. The lunar month of Shevat begins the evening of January 16. "Tu" is the hebrew equivalent of 15, and Tu B'Shevat (15th day in Shevat) begins the evening of January 30. Stay tu-ned for updates as they become available.

Roz Croog: croogrz@att.net
Eileen Geffin: egeffin@cox.net



Sisterhood

Shalom TBD! On Jan 25th TBD will be hosting a JCC Brush & Bordeaux painting event from 7-9 pm. All TBD congregants are invited to attend, I would love to see a strong presence from our TBD community! Sisterhood has done a paint night in the past and it was a lot of fun for those of us who attended. Contact jccnh.org/rsvp for details. In February, Sisterhood will be having a hamantaschen baking workshop on Sat 2/17. Join us with your favorite recipes or come to learn how to make hamantaschen for yourself. Sampling may be involved to ensure we have tasty treats for Purim!

PLEASE NOTE CALENDAR CHANGE: Sisterhoods soup/salad/game event originally scheduled for Jan 7th is being rescheduled for March 18th.

On a personal note. David and I, and our entire extended family cannot thank our TBD community enough for your support after the recent passing of David's father. To those who provided or coordinated meals (Cindi Williams, Deb Gaudette, Mindy Fricke, Bobbi Geisser and their families), those who brought food for Shiva (too many to list) and those who supported us with your presence, hugs, phone calls and messages we say Toda Raba! We are blessed to belong to the TBD community!

Kathy & David

Oneg List

January 5 - Family Service - Fern, Wendy and Deb Feldman.

January 12 - **No Oneg at TBD.** Service will be at Mishkan Israel for Martin Luther King program.

January 19 - Wendy Firtel, Sally Laden

January 26 - Orna and Jim Swartz, Larry Levine and Elaine Shapiro

February 2 - Family Service - Elizabeth Alexander and Dana Golden

February 9 - Ruach Shabbat - OPEN

February 16 - Eileen Geffin, OPEN spot to help Eileen

February 23 - Larry and Leslie Rosenfield, and Jeri Butlein

If you have not selected an oneg date, or donated in lieu of, please consider filling one of our openings. As always, your help is much appreciated!

Torah Study

A Very Busy Month

December began with a special *Torah* Study featuring the illustrious Rabbi David Ellenson who is, not coincidentally, Rabbi Micah's father. We took a break from our usual pattern and studied a very interesting 19th Century *responsum* ostensibly dealing with circumcision, but really addressing sin, repentance and acceptance.

We then resumed our journey through the lives of the patriarchs, tracing the stories of Jacob, Judah and Joseph and the lessons we can learn from their failings and triumphs. In January, we will pass over into *Exodus*.

We now convene every Saturday morning at **8:45 AM**, for bagels plus. In that way we can have a full hour of study starting at 9 and not have to talk with our mouths full!

Marty Cobern

Preschool Story Hour

Come celebrate the "New Year of the Trees" with your little one on Sunday, January 28 for our Tu B'Shevat program. From 10-11am in Temple Beth David's social hall, we will sing songs, enjoy a Tu B'Shevat snack, and create an eco-friendly craft. Story time activities are appropriate for children from birth to age five, accompanied by a parent or other caregiver. Community participation is encouraged, so call a friend and invite them along! To ensure we have enough materials for everyone, pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Please email education@tbdcheshire.org to RSVP.

Coming up this winter, we'll be celebrating a Purim story hour on Sunday, February 25. Hope to see you there!

Elyse Krantz, elyse.krantz@gmail.com

Consider Temple Beth David's Social Hall for your next event!

The trustees of TBD have recently revised rental fees for members and non-members interested in using the Social Hall for an event. We want to encourage rental of the social hall so have implemented lower fees to make them more accessible to everyone. Besides a refundable security deposit and a clean-up fee, there is a reasonable hourly rate which includes use of our tables and chairs and set up according to your specifications. A small kitchen fee is added on if you will be using the kitchen for preparing and serving food to your guests. **Remember:** There is a food policy regarding which foods are acceptable to serve in the Social Hall. For more information and specific fee breakdown please contact Cynthia in the temple office.



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Or, just click on the AmazonSmile banner on the tbdcheshire.org website!

Donations

Inspiring worship, engaging study, meaningful social action; all are made possible by your generosity. While membership contributions sustain our community at the basic level, your additional donations of the heart have allowed us to do so much more; engaging scholars and musicians, celebrating holidays in community and caring for members in need.

Donations

General Fund

Kelley, Kelly

Education Fund

Applebaum, Linda, In Memory of Gloria Barker

Bauer, Jon & Alice

Caplan, Gary & Susan

Rockoff, Tom & Rebecca

Stitzer, Jordan & Nancy

Eileen's "pop-up" fundraiser

Laden, Sally & Michael

Endowment Fund

Levinson, Peter and Williams, Cindi

Math, Jeffrey & Kimberly

Stein, Frederick & Marcia

HHD - Hurricane Relief

Bauer, Jon & Alice

Butlien, Lawrence & Jeremie

Glazer, David & Sylvia

Kampf, Andrew & Jane

Landau, Richard & Lynn

Lebowitz, Marcia

Pahl, David & Rhoda

Rockoff, Tom & Rebecca

Rosenberg, Mark and Needleman, Andrea

Schiffres, Laurence & Susan

Stern, Michael & Patti

Stitzer, Jordan & Nancy

Sudderth, Lori and Clayman, Sharon

HHD Pledge - Strengthening TBD

Bauer, Jon & Alice

Butlien, Lawrence & Jeremie

Caplan, Gary & Susan

Kampf, Andrew & Jane

Landau, Richard & Lynn

Lebowitz, Marcia

Pahl, David & Rhoda

Rashba, Steven & Amy

Rockoff, Tom & Rebecca

Rosenberg, Mark and Needleman, Andrea

Schiffres, Laurence & Susan

Stern, Michael & Patti

Stitzer, Jordan & Nancy

Sudderth, Lori and Clayman, Sharon

Mitzvah Garden

Erwich, Larry & Sarah, In Memory of Gloria Barker

HHD Pledge - Mitzvah Garden

Lebowitz, Marcia

Pahl, David & Rhoda

Stitzer, Jordan & Nancy

Sudderth, Lori and Clayman, Sharon

HHD Pledge - Pat Brosnahan Memorial Fund

Kampf, Andrew & Jane

Rosenberg, Mark and Needleman, Andrea

Stern, Michael & Patti

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Baddin, Peggy & Sanford, In Honor of Rabbi Micah's Installation

Geffin, Joel & Eileen, In Honor of Rabbi Micah's Installation

Geisser, Daniel & Bobbi, In Honor of Rabbi Micah's Installation

Kurz, Kenneth & Randi, In Honor of Rabbi Micah's Installation

Leafe, Howard & Brenda, In Honor of Rabbi Micah's Installation

Levine, Rabbi Robert & Gina, In Honor of Rabbi Micah's Installation

Sanctuary Refurbishment

Krantz, Elyse and Schatz, Eric

Math, Jeffrey & Kimberly

Youth Engagement Fund

Cohen, Evan & Susan

Fricke, Roland & Mindy

Kurz, Kenneth & Randi, In Honor of Rabbi Micah's Installation

Saberski, Lloyd and Dammier, Dale,

HHD Pledge - Youth Engagement Fund

Caplan, Gary & Susan

Rosenberg, Mark and Needleman, Andrea

Yahrzeits

1/1/2018

Sarah Berman, grandparent of Myrna Davidson

1/2/2018

Bess Mabel, remembered by Marty Cobern

Rose Cohen, parent of Milton Cohen

Anna Neistein, parent of Harold Neistein

Richard Rockoff, sibling of Tom Rockoff

1/4/2018

Zsuzsanna Schmelzer Sugar, remembered by Wendy Firtel

Elizabeth Filshinsky, sibling of Vilan Kosover

Herman Needleman, parent of Andrea Needleman

1/5/2018

Chaya Freund, mother of Carmel Kostolitz

Irving Rozen, parent of Stephen Rozen

1/6/2018

Meyer Rutberg, parent of Michael Rutberg

1/9/2018

Edith Rifkin, parent of Lawrence Rifkin

1/10/2018

Betty Gottleib, grandparent of Randie Kahan

Sandy Diamond, aunt of Kimberli Math

Gerald Weisenberg, parent of Linda Sheintop

1/11/2018

Sue Kampf, parent of Andrew Kampf

1/12/2018

Charlotte Miller, parent of Susan Friedman

1/13/2018

Albert Wallace, parent of Stephen Wallace

1/14/2018

Shlomo Carim, father of Barry Carim

1/15/2018

Nat Schlossman, grandparent of Wendy Firtel

1/16/2018

Milton Simon, uncle of Rhoda Pahl

1/24/2018

1/19/2018

Harry Glunts, grandparent of Jane Kampf

Toni Krakauer, remembered by Larry Erwich

Florence Pinkus, grandparent of Jason Pinkus

1/21/2018

1/27/2018

Phyllis Azif, remembered by Susan Friedman

Robert Gordon, parent of Paul Gordon

1/22/2018

Hedda Denburg, remembered by of Eric Schatz

Jean Weisenberg, grandparent of Linda Sheintop

If you would like to include a loved one in our Yahrzeit list, please email Cynthia with their name, relationship, date of passing and whether it was before or after sundown.

TBD Teens preparing dinner for our recent Abraham's Tent Guests





Monday's: January 8th - February 5th

(excludes Monday, January 15)

**4:15 - 5:15 p.m. Temple Beth David
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*Members fee for the JCC & Temple Beth David

Register: jccnh.org/programguide

Contact: Grace Koo, gracek@jccnh.org | (203) 387-2424 x228

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SUNDAYS 10-11AM

SEPT 17: ROSH HASHANAH

OCT 8: SUKKOT

NOV 5: MITZVOT

DEC 3: CHANUKAH

JAN 28: TU B'SHEVAT

FEB 25: PURIM

MARCH 25: PASSOVER

APRIL 8: ISRAEL

MAY 6: SHAVUOT

JUNE 1: SHABBAT

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RSVP AT EDUCATION@TBDCHESHIRE.ORG

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Cemetery Information

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Temple Beth David Bulletin

3 Main Street

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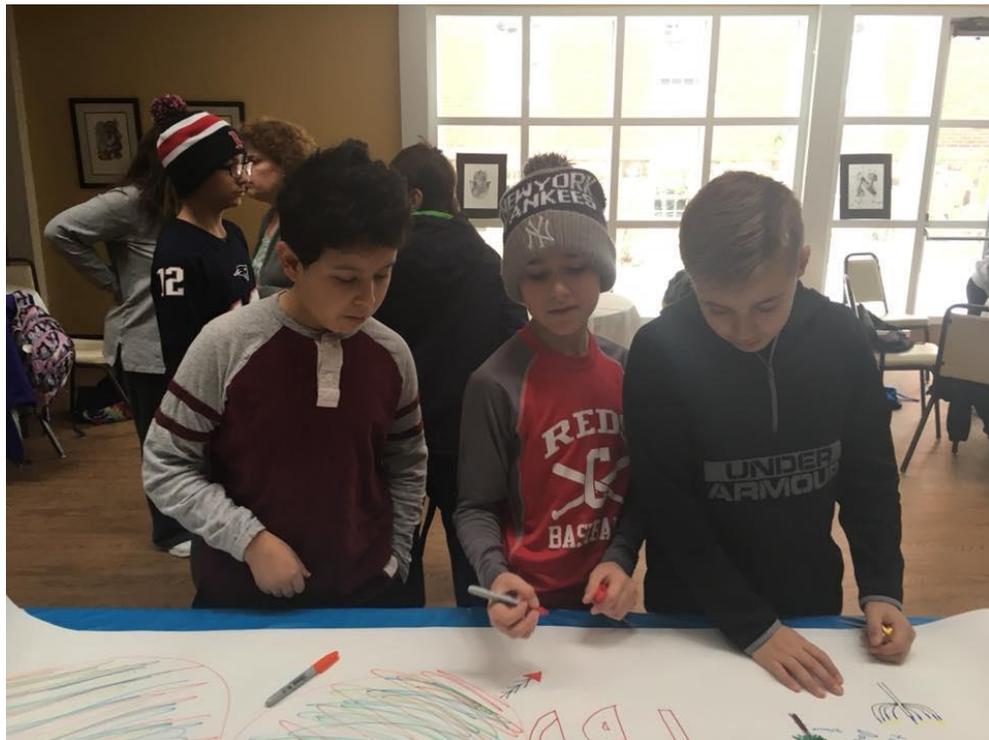
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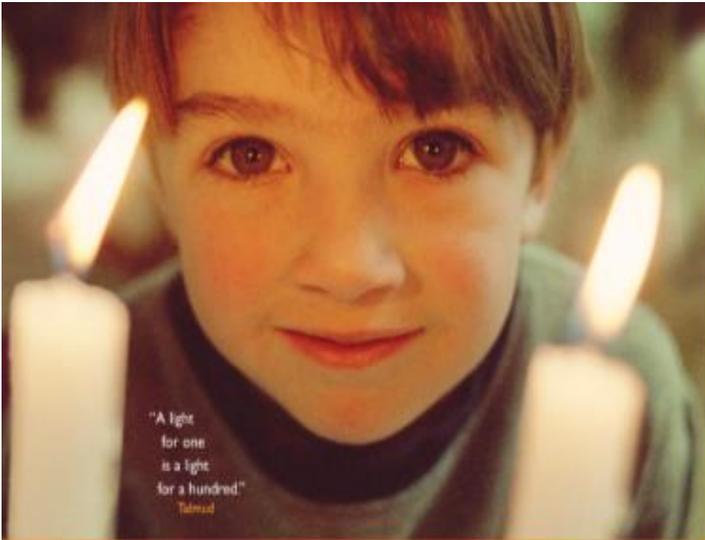
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Deadlines are the 15th of the month.

Please e-mail articles to: bulletin@tbdcheshire.org

Temple Beth David is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism <http://urj.org/>





"A light for one is a light for a hundred."
Talmud

One person can have a major impact on the world around them. You too can become a light for our community through a bequest or planned gift of any size. Let your name be a blessing.

Create a Jewish Legacy for **Temple Beth David**

For more information, contact:
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Lisa A. Stanger, Esq., Director
203 387-2424 x382
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