



**Temple Beth-El's 5th Grade children making intercultural connections with children in Kenya.**

See page 14

*Join Us!*

**Look Up: Jewish Lessons from the popular movie Don't Look Up**  
Saturday, February 5, 7:30 pm

**Purim Spiel & Service  
Shushan Boys**  
Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 pm

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Join Us!

-  = In-person attendance available
-  = Virtual attendance available via Zoom or Livestream
-  = Registration required

Go to ► [www.templebeth-el.org](http://www.templebeth-el.org)  
or call (847) 205-9982 to register  
for programs, receive links for virtual  
attendance, or more information.

## Services

### FEBRUARY-MARCH

Temple Beth-El warmly welcomes our congregants to a wide variety of worship opportunities. From casual services to services with a more formal feeling, from family services to adults of all ages, Temple Beth-El has a worship experience that is right for everyone.

► [TempleBeth-El.org/livestream](http://TempleBeth-El.org/livestream)

#### WEDNESDAY MORNING MINYAN

Wednesdays, 8:00 am 

#### SHABBAT YELADIM

Shabbat for Young Families

Fridays, 5:30 pm   ✓

February 4, March 4

#### SATURDAY CASUAL MORNING MINYAN

Saturdays, 9:30 am  

#### KABBALAT SHABBAT

Fridays, 6:00 pm   ✓

February 11

February 25 (anniversary blessings)

March 11

March 25 (anniversary blessings)

#### SHABBAT SERVICES

Fridays, 7:30 pm   ✓

February 4, March 4

#### FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, February 18

6:00 pm   ✓

Hosted by 5th and 7th Grades

Friday, March 18

6:00 pm   ✓

Hosted by K-2 Grade

#### PURIM SERVICE & SPIEL

Wednesday, March 16

6:30 pm   ✓

#### B'NEI MITZVAHS

Saturdays, 10:00 am  

February 5

Shabbat Service & Bar Mitzvah  
of Ben Harris

February 12

Shabbat Service & Bat Mitzvah  
of Hannah Tamez

February 19

Shabbat Service & Bar Mitzvah  
of Cooper Izenon



### SHABBAT BASKETS

We invite you to participate in a new initiative sponsored by the RAC and Religious School.

Each Friday morning, a Shabbat basket will be ready inside the Temple doors for pick-up. In the basket will be grape juice, a challah, candles, the Shabbat blessings, a summary of the Torah portion with some discussion questions and a journal. Use the items to enhance your Friday night dinner and Saturday activities.

Visit ► [www.templebeth-el.org/form/shabbat-basket](http://www.templebeth-el.org/form/shabbat-basket) to reserve a basket for pick-up.

# From the Rabbi's Study

## Learning From Nature

By Rabbi Sidney M. Helbraun



**On December 25 NASA launched the James Webb Space Telescope which will allow astronomers to learn about the birth of our universe and take us back to the dawn of creation.**

For those inspired by the nighttime sky, who've wondered how the events broadly described in the book of Genesis came to be, this is exciting stuff.

While we'll have to wait a while to see those heavenly photos, I can humbly share an astronomical observation I recently made, that answers one of our Hebrew School student's most commonly asked questions, "Why is Hebrew written backwards?" I've usually answered that, since Hebrew is the older language, it's English that's backwards. But thanks to my stargazing I can now provide a more substantial answer to this age-old query.

As you know, the Jewish calendar is directly connected to the cycle of the moon. Each month begins with the appearance of the first sliver of the new moon which waxes to full, and then wanes until it disappears. It's a cycle that lasts a little more than 28 days. This connection between the moon and our calendar is why so many holidays (Sukkot, Purim and Passover) fall in the middle of the Hebrew month

which is when the moon is full, which enables every person to know exactly when the holiday will arrive, turning the moon into a celestial billboard.

Now I'm sure you're wondering what this has to do with Hebrew. Well, if you were to spend a month observing the moon, you'd see that when it waxes and wanes its size grows and fades from right to left. And in the world of our ancestors, who closely watched the moon and depended on it to keep track of time, it would only be natural for them to adapt this directional orientation for the system they created to convey language.

**Just as the moon reveals knowledge in its movement from right to left, so too is Hebrew written and read from right to left.**

In our ancestor's act of creating a language, they mimicked the pattern they observed in nature.

Friends, during these last months of winter when the nighttime sky looms large, take a moment to observe the cycle of the moon and appreciate the role that this lesser light plays, not only in our ocean tides, but in its tracking of time, and in how it shaped our holy language, that is a true combination of human ingenuity intertwined with the world around us.



### **A celebration of lights and sweaters.**

(L) Rabbi Helbraun and Matt Mell in their Hanukkah Sweaters.

(R) Lighting of menorah by Rabbis Sid and Debbie Helbraun.

## PURIM SERVICE & SPIEL

# SHUSHAN BOYS



**JOIN US** for a memorable Purim celebration! TBE's own amazing Purim Spielers celebrate the music and fun of **Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons** written by our own Nancy Vizer.

+ TBE's amazingly gifted member actors and musicians perform.

If you have always wanted to be part of the fun, but have yet to participate, please contact Cantor Kahan at [cantorkahan@templebeth-el.org](mailto:cantorkahan@templebeth-el.org)

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 16 AT 6:30 PM

#### LOOK UP: JEWISH LESSONS FROM THE POPULAR MOVIE **DON'T LOOK UP** Saturday, February 5, 7:30 pm ✓

Join Rabbi Helbraun as he leads a lively discussion on Jewish lessons found in the popular Netflix movie, **Don't Look Up**. It will be helpful to watch the movie prior to the discussion but it is not necessary.

Topics include:

- Do we really have freewill?
- The human inclination towards power.
- Denial.
- Modern Golden Calves.
- Jew's obligation to protect the earth.

#### PURIM ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM Sunday, March 6, 10:30 am ✓ The Secret Letter of Haman

Amid all the fun and frivolity of our Purim celebrations, there are also moments of great terror. According to our rabbis, the pinnacle moment occurred when Haman told the king that there was a certain people, whose laws are different from those of any other people, who do not obey your laws.

He continued: "Let an edict be drawn for their destruction." The king removed his signet ring, gave it to Haman, and said: "The people are yours to do with as you see fit." The very next day Haman dictated a letter in the name of the king, that was sent to all the people in the land, calling for the destruction of the Jews of Persia.

While the Megillah does not provide the text of that letter, our midrash does. On this morning we'll read this letter and consider both the case that Haman makes against us, as well as how we view ourselves.

# Cantor's Corner Showtime

By Cantor Adam Kahan

**As we veer into February and March, I'm reminded of how much I yearn for the end of winter each year. Our transition from the end of Summer into Fall is broken up with holidays, breaks, Thanksgiving, festival seasons, etc. Once we hit January, though, we have a long slog through gray days, early darkness, and cold weather.**

By the time we get to February, we Chicagoans are ready for an end to the monotony...something to remind us of all Four Seasons. This feeling is accentuated, all the more so, after years of COVID 19 restrictions, and masking. Sometimes the best way to embrace the challenge is simply in having fun with it.

Bring on more masking! Bring on The Four Seasons! O, What a Night it will be, on March 16 as our Temple Beth-El community adds warmth, fun and frivolity to the celebration of Purim. On that Wednesday evening, our amazing Purim Spielers will, not necessarily Walk Like A Man, but maybe "Walk like Haman" as our spiel celebrates the music and fun of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Oh, the puns!

Each year, we are so gifted to have the most clever spiel written by our own Nancy Vizer, and acted by our terrific temple members accompanied by our fantastic temple musicians.



**If you have always wanted to be part of the fun, but have yet to participate, please email me and let me know.**

We would LOVE to have you join our production. It is an amazingly warm group of people, bonding, laughing, playing, and just having a good fun time. Whether you want to act, sing, play an instrument, whatever floats your boat, we would love to have you be part of our group.

Our rehearsals will begin in our sanctuary on Sunday, February 13, at noon, and continue on each subsequent Sunday through March 13.

I'm looking forward to celebrating together, and having lots of fun along the way.



## Hanukkah Junior Choir

Our TBE family celebrated Hanukkah together at our Hanukkah Happening! Our interactive service included family menorah lighting, Hanukkah blessing, and songs from TBE's Junior Choir.



## Hanukkah Service



# Education Update **Words Matter**

By Rabbi Ari Moffic, Director of Congregational Learning & Engagement

**Words matter in Judaism. God made the world with words. God said, “Let there be light...” Like feathers released from a pillowcase into the wind, once words are out, they can’t be taken back.**

The word for “word” in Hebrew is “d’var.” It means both word and thing. Words can create reality. Thus, Temple Beth-El has taken words seriously when we refer to any program celebrating our Jewish heritage.

When it came to b’nei mitzvah, we moved away from calling the cohort of children who would come to the Torah that year as bar/bat because we were coming to learn from LGBTQ Jewish leaders and educators that was reinforcing the false gender binary of only girl or boy. It didn’t leave room for the growing number of people who know themselves to be non-binary (an umbrella term for gender identities that are neither male nor female and identities that are outside the gender binary). Using the most inclusive language is powerful for everyone, therefore, we used “b’nei mitzvah” meaning “children of the commandments” as an overall term for our program at large as well as for each ceremony.

Currently, there is a project underway to look at

how to make Hebrew, a gendered language, more inclusive. There are all kinds of creative solutions being tested in Israel and the diaspora.

See [www.nonbinaryhebrew.com/](http://www.nonbinaryhebrew.com/)

As we know, language is fluid. Language changes with our times. Students now come into Hebrew school and ask for a “mask break.” That is a term none of us would have even known two years ago.

The issue we’ve been having with calling each individual ceremony, “b’nei” is that it erases gender. It makes everyone “a child” and many of our students see themselves specifically as teen girls and boys and want to be affirmed in their own gender expression as such.

Thus, you will notice that we are now again using bar or bat mitzvah in our Temple communications to honor each young person’s own language. We will still call the overall program, “B’nei Mitzvah” because we are talking about all of our children in that case.

When we have non-binary students come to the Torah, we will use language that makes sense to them.

**As Pirkei Avot also teaches us, based on Psalms 119:99 “from all who would teach us have we gained understanding.” We continue to learn and evolve.**

## TBE Teens

Rachel Smith volunteering in our Teen Madrichim program, with first graders.

Teens come on Sundays to be madrichim (guides or helpers) in our Religious and Hebrew School. They assist classroom teachers by being a buddy for a child, being role models to the younger children, leading icebreakers and other activities and helping the teacher with classroom projects.



# Youth & Family Programs

-  = In-person attendance available
-  = Virtual attendance available
-  = Registration required

## RELIGIOUS & HEBREW SCHOOL

### NO SCHOOL

Sunday, February 20

### SPRING BREAK

March 20–29

### 3RD GRADE FAMILY LEARNING

Sunday, March 6

9:30–10:30 am 

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### KOBE LEGO PARTY SATURDAY

Saturday, February 5, 4:00 pm  

Calling all lego enthusiasts and students who love building and having fun with their Temple friends. A local lego company will come make a giant tower with the students that will spell KOBE (Kids of Beth-El). We'll end with Havdallah and a fun dessert.

### PURIM CELEBRATION

Sunday, March 13

9:30 am–11:30 am 

COVID 19 has made planning school functions more difficult because we don't know how guidelines and comfort level will be in the days and weeks ahead. Thus, as of now, we are planning grade-level in-person Purim celebrations to take place during normal religious school hours. Each grade will have the chance to wear costumes (the older students can have a pajama day) and they will spend the day hearing from the Megillah, playing games, winning prizes and everyone will leave with a hamantaschen!

## SERVICES

### FAMILY FRIENDLY RUACH SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, February 18, 6:00 pm   

Hosted by 5th & 7th Grades

Friday, March 18, 6:00 pm   

Hosted by K-2nd Grade

Join us for a family friendly service which features a story instead of a sermon and engaging music so children can participate in fun ways! A great way to end the week as a family.

### SHABBAT YELADIM

Fridays, February 4 & March 4

5:30 pm   

An upbeat and enjoyable introduction to Temple for children ages 7 and younger! Older siblings are welcome to attend and participate with their families. Join us the first Friday of the month!

## CLASSES

### BROADWAY STORYTIME

Wednesdays, February 2, 9, 16

9:30–10:30 am: Movers & Shakers

10:30–11:30 am: Pre-Walkers

Spend the morning with your 0-2 year old as our littlest Broadway fans are introduced to show tunes, characters and stories while Broadway musicals are brought to life by Stages Performing Arts. Each class incorporates activities that are designed to support your little one's physical, cognitive, social-emotional and language development. An age appropriate Jewish story will be included to give you a chance to socialize too. Come meet other parents with children similar in age! Cost: \$72 for 1 child, \$108 for 2 children. Contact Holly Hamburg, [hhamburg@templebeth-el.org](mailto:hhamburg@templebeth-el.org)

### PRE-K CLASS

February 6 & 27, March 6 & 13

9:30–11:30 am  

Join us twice a month for a new Pre-K class to introduce Sunday School in a fun, supportive way. Stories, songs, crafts, and games in our beautiful early childhood light-filled classroom! Cost: \$360/student for Sept. 2021 through May 2022. Questions? Email Rabbi Ari Moffic, [arimoffic@templebeth-el.org](mailto:arimoffic@templebeth-el.org).

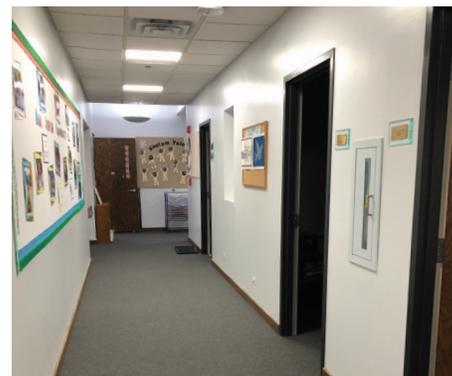
### FAMILY YOGA

Fridays, February 4 & March 4

5:10–5:30 pm  

Join us for a 20-minute family yoga class on the first Friday of the month – only \$5 per family! This class is great for tots and school age kids. Bring a mat and water bottle. Stretch your bodies and brains and prepare for a relaxing Shabbat. Shabbat Yeladim to follow.

### GROWN-UP AND ME



**It's a mitzvah!** Thank you Men's Club for our beautiful Religious School renovations including new paint, new carpet, and new lighting!

### Sunday, February 13 & April 3

9:45 am  

Family learning for children ages 0-3 and parents or grandparents facilitated by a veteran early childhood teacher, includes music, sensory play and Jewish holiday celebrations! Cost: \$10 per child, per session. Questions? Email Rabbi Ari, [arimoffic@templebeth-el.org](mailto:arimoffic@templebeth-el.org).

## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS! Tikkun Olam Award

Congregants Cyndee Schaffer and Doug Schwartz established a college scholarship fund called the Matthew Schaffer Schwartz Tikkun Olam Award, in memory of their beloved son. The scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior of a TBE member family, who, by word and deed, has made significant contributions to the Jewish ideal of "helping to repair the world."

In addition to receiving a \$500 check, the recipient will have their name inscribed on a plaque displayed at Temple Beth-El and on a prayer book plate. **The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2022.**

**Questions:** Contact Leslie Hanus, [lhonus@templebeth-el.org](mailto:lhonus@templebeth-el.org).

# Sisterhood

► TempleBeth-El.org/Sisterhood

-  = In-person attendance available
-  = Virtual attendance available
-  = Registration required

Temple Beth-El's Sisterhood Team is committed to offering a mix of social events, social action events, entertainment and intellectual programs. We welcome your input and suggestions. Please send your ideas to Leslie Schlesinger, ldschles@aol.com.

**We have everything for your Passover needs in the Temple gift shop!** Stop by during Temple Office hours and ask in the office for help in the gift shop.



## PROGRAMS

### BINGO PROGRAM

Thursday, March 3, 7:00 pm  

Join us as we play +INGO. Our caller will keep you entertained with games! Patterns to be played include: Luck of the Draw, Four Corners, Diagonal, Straight Line Across, Straight Line Down, Outer Edge and Full House. Each round will have a winner.

You need a deck of cards. A glass of bubbly or wine is optional! RSVP to Leslie Schlesinger, ldschles@aol.com.

### BOOK CLUB

First Wednesday of each month  
12:30 pm  

**February 2:** *The Middlesteins*  
by Jami Attenberg

**March 2:** *The Paris Library*  
by Janet Skeslien Charles

Contact Leslie Schlesinger, ldschles@aol.com for information, zoom link or book suggestions!

### FOOD INSECURITY DRIVE FOR NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY

Donate food pantry items inside the front doors of the Temple during business hours to support the food insecure in our community!

### COLLEGE CONNECTION

The College Connection Team of Temple Beth-El Sisterhood wants our college students to keep in contact to Jewish life and to their Temple Beth-El family while away from home. There are 2 holiday packages yet to go (Purim and Passover), so to be sure your college student receives a hug from TBE during the holidays.

#### Two Ways to order:

By check: <https://bit.ly/collegeconnection2021>  
and then mail your check

Via PayPal:  
[www.templebeth-el.org/sisterhood](http://www.templebeth-el.org/sisterhood)

# Men's Club

► TempleBeth-El.org/Mens-Club

Temple Beth-El's Men's Club is a group dedicated to fellowship, scholarship, worship, tzedakah and fun. With more than 140 members whose ages range from 25 to 91, the Men's Club is a great way to make new friends and get involved with the Temple.

### SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, July 24, 2022

#### The 22nd Annual Men's Club golf outing

We are excited to announce that the event will be moving to the White Deer Run Golf Course in Vernon Hills. We look forward to a great outing at this outstanding facility. We are planning on returning to a shotgun start format with an approximate start time of 1:00 pm.

**We also hope to again be able to host The Big Dinner at 6:00 pm that evening.** The dinner is open to everyone and we are planning a wonderful menu. We hope you can join us for this event. Registration information will be forthcoming in the Spring.



# Social Action

► TempleBeth-El.org/Social-Action

Our Religious School has committed to provide at least 80 sack meals, three times this school year for The Night Ministry. The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization that works to provide housing, health care and human connection to those in the community struggling with poverty or homelessness.

What a community mitzvah!



Aimee Kleiman delivering sack meals to The Night Ministry.

## SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

### VOLUNTEER AT A JUST HARVEST

Thursday, March 31 🧑

Volunteer to shop and/or deliver food to A Just Harvest, the largest community soup kitchen in the Chicago metro area. Volunteers from Temple Beth-El join together four times a year to help feed those in need.

Volunteers (12 years and older) can choose to shop and/or deliver food. We are not preparing food due to Covid-19 restrictions. If volunteering in person is not an option, donations to help pay for meals are also accepted. Donate online at ► [www.templebeth-el.org/donate](http://www.templebeth-el.org/donate). For more information or to volunteer, contact Barbara Charal at [becharal@att.net](mailto:becharal@att.net).

Additional dates: Thursdays, June 30, September 29, and December 29.

### FOOD INSECURITY DRIVE FOR NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY 🧑

Donate food pantry items inside the front doors of the Temple during business hours to support the food insecure in our community! This drive is sponsored by TBE Sisterhood.

### TBE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### Caring Committee B'yachad

Now more than ever people need a hand during these challenging times. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer to help our members most in need including wellness check-in calls; shopping; deliver special treats to those who are ill; or help with member needs or requests.

Contact Holly Hamburg, [hhamburg@templebeth-el.org](mailto:hhamburg@templebeth-el.org) or sign up at ► [templebeth-el.org/caring-community](http://templebeth-el.org/caring-community)

#### New Member Ambassador

Contact Holly Hamburg, [hhamburg@templebeth-el.org](mailto:hhamburg@templebeth-el.org)



**BLOOM MAGIC WEDDINGS**

Flowers for the big day, and every day.

Kirsten Rabishaw  
224.458.8310  
[bloommagicweddings.com](http://bloommagicweddings.com)

### Providing Notary Public Services Since 1965



Contact Fred R. Rosenberg

[fredfox18@comcast.net](mailto:fredfox18@comcast.net)

312-532-2457

No Fees To Temple Beth-El Congregants  
(Donations to TBE Education Fund Appreciated)



### Michael Rubenstein

Family Service Counselor

Shalom Memorial Park  
Shalom Memorial Funerals  
(847) 668-2724  
[mRubenstein@Shalom2.com](mailto:mRubenstein@Shalom2.com)

Helping our community plan their Cemetery and Funeral Arrangements

Proud to be a Beth-El Congregant for 19 years



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# Adult Jewish Education

► TempleBeth-El.org/Adult-Education

 = In-person attendance available  
 = Virtual attendance available  
 = Registration required

We always welcome ideas for new classes, programs and activities and invite you to send those ideas to [AriMoffic@templebeth-el.org](mailto:AriMoffic@templebeth-el.org)

## TALMUDIC TREASURE WITH RABBI WEISSBERG

Ongoing Tuesdays, 9:30–11:30 am   ✓

The Talmud is a repository of Jewish wisdom and inspiration. Join Rabbi Weissberg's class to explore, imbibe and enjoy the Rabbinic mind and spirit that is cogent to this very day. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is not a prerequisite. Texts will be provided. Fee: \$125/members; \$150/non-members.

## PARASHAT HASHAVUAH WITH RABBI HELBRAUN

Ongoing Saturdays, 11:00 am–Noon  

Join Rabbi Helbraun and Cantor Kahan for teachings from the weekly Torah portion. On mornings when there is a B'nei Mitzvah, Tom Burnstine will lead the class. No fee.

## RABBI HELBRAUN'S TORAH STUDY CLASS

Mondays through June 2022, 7:30 pm–8:30 pm  ✓

Why is the Torah so important to us? More than the stories we read, it's the interactions we have with those stories. For thousands of years we have learned, grown and struggled with our tradition—sometimes seeking to gain understanding, and sometimes to make sense of this sacred scroll. We invite you to join in the conversation. We'll be picking up from where we left off last year, near the end of the book of Exodus. No fee.

## KESHET ALLYSHIP TRAINING

Sunday, February 13, 9:30 am  ✓

Educators from Keshet, a national non-profit organization, are offering our congregants an LGBTQ Ally Training! It is so important for us to become more informed on this topic so we can support our children around their own gender identity and exploration and to support youth and adults in our community and around the country.

## PURIM ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sunday, March 6, 10:30 am   ✓

### The Secret Letter of Haman

Amid all the fun and frivolity of our Purim celebrations, there are also moments of great terror. According to our rabbis, the pinnacle moment occurred when Haman told the king that there was a certain people, whose laws are different from those of any other people, who do not obey your laws.

He continued: "Let an edict be drawn for their destruction." The king removed his signet ring, gave it to Haman, and said: "The people are yours to do with as you see fit." The very next day Haman dictated a letter in the name of the king, that was sent to all the people in the land, calling for the destruction of the Jews of Persia.

While the Megillah does not provide the text of that letter, our midrash does. On this morning we'll read this letter and consider both the case that Haman makes against us, as well as how we view ourselves.

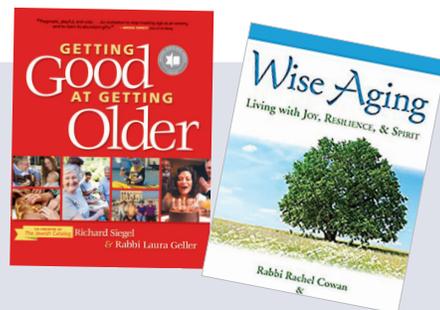
## WISE AGING

Wednesdays, February 9 & March 9, 9:30 am–10:30 am  ✓

A small group of congregants at Temple Beth El have joined together for ongoing conversations about "Aging Wisely". We kicked off with a 5-session "class" that began with a loose structure and then became free-form discussions of shared experiences, thoughts, and resources. When that class concluded, several participants chose to continue the inquiry.

If you are interested, please register on TBE website and you'll be provided the Zoom link. Please invite friends you think would enjoy the experience. You don't have to be synagogue affiliated to join. No books are required for participation.

We'll be referencing two books as starting-off points: *Wise Aging* by Rabbi Rachel Cowan & Dr. Linda Thal and *Getting Good at Getting Older* by Rabbi Laura Geller and Richard Siegel. Where the conversations go from there will be a journey of shared learning.



# Behind The Scenes

There's a Lot Going on at TBE By Don Solomon, President



At the time I am writing this (early January), we are currently interviewing candidates for the Executive Director position. We have several good candidates and will hopefully have someone in place by the time this article is published. But, it will, of course, be very difficult to replace our Janice.

Due to the incredible growth our religious school has seen, we have hired a School Support and Community Engagement Coordinator, Brittni Kingsteck, to assist Rabbi Ari with the operations of the school as well as outreach to our congregation. Brittni will continue to be our kindergarten teacher on Sundays. Brittni was married in November—Mazel Tov!

We continue to look for a Facility Supervisor to head up the maintenance and day-to-day physical plant operations of the synagogue. Thank you to Janice and David Levine, our VP of Administration, for filling this void as best they can until we have a replacement. It can't be easy, especially for Janice who has this piled on top of her Executive Director duties.

As some of you may know, Shaina Farwell, our Communications and Education Coordinator, has left our office staff for an opportunity she couldn't pass up. She has been one of our outstanding staff that has worked many long hours to keep the synagogue

running, especially during the difficult COVID 19 situation. We wish her well. Fortunately, we have been able to quickly hire a replacement, Barbara Siegel, who began in late December, will be doing our marketing and communications.

**We currently have a team working on revisions to our bylaws. The revisions will be presented to the entire congregation for approval at a special meeting called for this purpose.**

Notice of the meeting date, as well as the proposed changes, will be given to all members of the congregation prior to this meeting.

I am very proud of all the progress that has been made in the last couple of years. Our congregation has made great strides despite the pandemic. Thank you to all that have made and are still making these improvements.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at [dsolomon@templebeth-el.org](mailto:dsolomon@templebeth-el.org)

## TBE Restaurant Night

Order out from your favorite local restaurants and TBE will get a percentage of total sales—the perfect excuse to eat out or order in! Mention TBE Fundraiser when you order.



### GRILL HOUSE, Tuesday, February 1

[www.eatgrillhouse.com](http://www.eatgrillhouse.com)  
(847) 205-2200  
3061 Dundee Rd, Northbrook

### GREEK FEAST, Tuesday, February 8

[www.thegreekfeast.com/](http://www.thegreekfeast.com/)  
(847) 559-1901  
2784 Dundee Rd, Northbrook

### JIMMY THAI'S, Tuesday, February 15

[www.jimmythaideerfield.com](http://www.jimmythaideerfield.com)  
(224) 235-4650  
405 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield

### OLIVERII'S, Tuesday, February 22

[oliveriis.com](http://oliveriis.com)  
1358 Shermer Rd, Northbrook  
(847) 559-8785

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# Temple Beth-El Virtual Tu Bishvat and MLK Weekend Highlighted by Virtual Inter-Cultural Exchange with Students

By Alan Blitz



## The community attended a virtual Shabbat Service hosted by Temple Beth-El during MLK weekend, highlighted by guest speaker Jen Cullerton Johnson, a local educator and author who wrote the children's book, "Seeds of Change."

The book is about Wangari Maathai, the first woman from Africa and environmentalist to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize.

Cullerton Johnson's book ties together a call for racial and environmental justice—themes from both the Jewish holiday of Tu Bishvat celebrating trees and the national holiday honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr..

## Religious School Students Participated in Virtual Inter-Cultural Exchange with Children in Kenya

"As we were discussing her participating in Friday night services, Jen asked if a class in our Sunday School would like to connect with children in Kenya in the schools that her project works with. Of course, we jumped at this possibility," explained Rabbi Ari Moffic, Director of Congregational Learning and Engagement,

As part of this effort, Temple Beth-El 5th grade

religious school students participated in a virtual inter-cultural, inter-religious exchange with children in Kenya (KiJana Global Innovation School) on their shared connection to the environment. The Zoom event took place on Sunday, December 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Chicago time, evening Kenya time.

"The way our Zoom worked is our students prepared a 20-minute presentation about their connection to nature in Chicago. Our students shared a presentation about both Hanukkah and Tu Bishvat and shared a song in Hebrew," Rabbi Moffic said.

"The Kenyan students introduced themselves, (they are mostly Protestant Christians), and shared their school experiences"

## Voices of the students during Zoom inter-cultural exchange

"When do you go to Temple," asked one of the Kenyan students. "What days you do celebrate holidays," asked one of the Temple Beth-El students. Both groups of students agreed they would do more 'homework' about their respective religions and Zoom again soon. "May you one day visit with us," said one of the Kenyan students.

The Zoom session was moderated by Jen Cullerton Johnson, Rabbi Moffic and joined by Rabbi Sidney Helbraun, Temple Beth-El as well as teachers at the KiJana Global Innovation School in Kenya.



Temple Beth-El, Northbrook religious school students and students at the KiJana Global Innovation School in Kenya participate in an intra-cultural exchange Zoom session.



Sharyn and her father Arnold Weiner <sup>z"l</sup>.

# TBE Member's Corner

Honoring My Father By Sharyn Trachtenberg

Soon it will be four years since my father suddenly died. He was my best friend and I was very aware of a giant hole in my heart, and my life, in addition to an overwhelming amount of love and energy that I

still had to share with dad and nowhere appropriate to put it.

## How would I honor this most special wonderful relationship in a way that made sense to me? How would I mourn as a Jew?

I decided to go to a minyan every morning, thus saying Kaddish every day for 11 months. Wednesday, Friday Evening, and Saturday was home at TBE and the other days were at CBS in

Northbrook. Most of the services were at 6:30 am. That was hard. One time I was so sleepy I had to Uber. The people I prayed with were amazing. We were there for each other, being sure to make up the 10. I learned so much.

At CBS, a conservative shul, I learned Hebrew by following along in English. I learned what the prayers were really saying. I got used to people wearing tefillin, and the order of their prayer service. The best part was seeing the sun come up through the stained glass while we were singing words of praise. I went in grateful to HaShem for the time I had with my father.

**The love and energy I had went into prayer and learning, and my community. After my 11 months I was called to the Torah. It was truly like I had finished a marathon.**

Do you have an idea for a story you would like to share about TBE or Jewish life? We'd love to hear from you. Email Barb Siegel, [bsiegel@templebeth-el.org](mailto:bsiegel@templebeth-el.org) with your suggestions.



### BABIES

Grandparents Joy & Elliot Bruckman on the birth of Cameron Nathan Bruckman to parents Barisa & Joel Bruckman on November 21, 2021

### NEW MEMBERS

Michelle, Peter, Benjamin, Zachary, Jameson, Nathaniel, Emmalyn & Gabrielle Cotter

### SHARE ALL YOUR GOOD NEWS!

Tell us about the birth of your child or grandchild, engagements, weddings and anything else. We want to wish you, our Temple Members, a mazel tov, and notify the congregation via email.

Please contact Holly Hamburg to share your good news at (847) 205-9982, ext. 207 or [hhamburg@templebeth-el.org](mailto:hhamburg@templebeth-el.org)



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Staff	How can we help you?	Hours
<b>Holly Hamburg</b> Membership hhamburg@templebeth-el.org (847) 205-9982 ext. 207	Membership Questions Donations Good News eblasts Bulletin Advertising	Tuesday 10:30 am–5:30 pm Wednesday 9:30am–3:00 pm Thursday 9:30 am–3:00 pm Monday and Friday–DAY OFF
<b>Leslie Hanus</b> Clergy Assistant lhanus@templebeth-el.org (847) 205-9982 ext. 202	B'nei Mitzvah tutoring, photos & walkthrough Appointments with Rabbi & Cantor Life Cycle Events Mi Shebeirach, Yahrzeits, Kaddish	Monday 9:30 am–4:30 pm Tuesday 9:30 am–4:30 pm Wednesday 9:30 am–3:30 pm Thursday–DAY OFF Friday 9:00 am–3:00 pm
<b>Brittni Kingsteck</b> Community Engagement & School Support bkingsteck@templebeth-el.org (847) 205-9982 ext. 210	General School Questions Engagement opportunities	Monday 9:00 am–5:00 pm Tuesday 10:00 am–6:00 pm Wednesday 9:00 am–5:00 pm Thursday 9:00 am–5:00 pm Friday 9:00 am–3:00 pm
<b>Nancy Reil</b> Accounting Manager nreil@templebeth-el.org (847) 205-9982 ext. 209	All financial inquiries	Monday–Thursday 9:00 am–5:00 pm Friday 9:00 am–3:00 pm
<b>Barb Siegel</b> Communications & Marketing bsiegel@templebeth-el.org (847) 205-9982 ext. 208	Bulletin Eblasts Weekly Shabbat Handouts High Holiday Ticket Info	Monday–Thursday 9:00 am–5:00 pm Friday 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Senior Staff	Hours
 <b>Janice Hadesman</b> Executive Director jhadesman@templebeth-el.org (847) 205-9982 ext. 211	Monday–Thursday 9:30 am–6:00 pm Friday 9:30 am–3:00 pm Sunday 9:00 am–12:15 pm when school in session
 <b>Rabbi Sidney Helbraun</b> Senior Rabbi rabbihelbraun@templebeth-el.org (847) 205-9982 ext. 204	Thursday–DAY OFF
 <b>Cantor Adam Kahan</b> , Cantor CantorKahan@templebeth-el.org (847) 205-9982 ext. 206	Thursday–DAY OFF
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## *Hanukkah Happening FUN!*

At TBE's Hanukkah Happening Event we enjoyed dinner from Little Louie's, wax hand making, family menorah lighting and Stan's donuts!

