Gail Michaelis-Ow
2020 Candy Coonerty Woman of Valor

On Friday, February 21, Gail Michaelis-Ow will be honored with the 2020 Candy Coonerty Woman of Valor Award. The award, started 20 years ago to memorialize Candy's legacy, honors a Jewish woman who serves both the Jewish community and the community at large. We honor Gail for her exemplary love of family, her leadership in the Jewish community, and her pioneering and ongoing commitment to social justice.

Gail with Simcha Preschool children

UC Santa Cruz attracted Gail to Santa Cruz in 1970. After college and nursing school, she was a community educator for Planned Parenthood of Santa Cruz County. She then attended a nurse practitioner program at UCSF, returning to Santa Cruz in 1976 to open its first family planning clinic. She has been serving low income patients in Santa Cruz and Watsonville for over 40 years. Continued on page 4.

Mazel Tov
to our Adult
B’nai Mitzvah Class

Claire Sanders, Olivia Stagnaro, Susan Freeman, Suzanne Silverglate, Sara Rigler, Shelly Nadelman-Douglass, Karin Babbitt.
A few of our B’nai Mitzvahs reflect about what this means to them. Read their thoughts on page 12.

Table of Contents
Spirituality • page 2
Film Festival & SRFY • page 2
Synagogue News • page 3–4
Donor Recognition • Page 5
Contributions • page 5–6
Young Families & Youth • page 7
General News • page 8–9
Activities & Events • page 9–10
February Calendar • page 11
B’nai Mitzvah’s Thoughts• back cover
Miscellaneous • back cover

Temple Beth El is a Reform congregation serving the Jewish community in the greater Santa Cruz area.
Passionate about peace and justice • Creative about prayer • Joyful about tradition
I still remember bringing coins to religious school every week so I could put them in the Tzedakah box at the beginning of each class. As we passed it around the classroom we could hear the clink of coins as we slipped them into the little slot. At the end of the year we would vote on where we wanted to contribute our money. This is how I learned, from a young age, about the important role Tzedakah plays in Jewish life.

And so, I first want to thank all of you who contributed to our end of year Chanukah appeal. I am moved by your generosity. Since we are still in the beginning of our year, I want to take the time to appreciate the many members who have donated funds for our bimah remodel, increased their annual dues commitment, enriched our educational programs through generous support, and have already signed on as sponsors of our May concert with Ivan Rosenblum and our annual Jewish Film Festival. These are all incredibly important efforts that will continue throughout the year.

And, as we move into our 30th year in our building, I am sure that many of you have noticed how our infrastructure is aging. We all appreciate how the Brotherhood and Sisterhood have helped replace appliances in our kitchen. There are many more projects that also need our attention. Our building fund is overstretched and rapidly dwindling. For most of the past, new members were encouraged to make a building fund donation equivalent to a year’s dues. Now that our dues are voluntary, building fund pledges are no longer required. But we still need your help keeping the building fund robust and our building safe and comfortable.

If you spend even a little bit of time at TBE you have probably realized that our bathrooms are particularly in need of upgrades. This vital renovation is not a glamorous giving opportunity. None of us wants our family name on the bathroom. But our congregation would gratefully receive and acknowledge any contributions you might be in a position to make toward this project.

Anne Frank of blessed memory wrote in her diary that “no one has ever become poor from giving.” Thank you again for your generosity that maintains Temple Beth El as a vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming Jewish community.

―Rabbi Paula Marcus

Women’s Rosh Hodesh Group

Each month we come together at the New Moon to deepen our understanding of our own spirituality and relationship with Judaism as women—through literature, scripture, art, and music. We create sacred space, midrash, song, and study, as we make friends and strengthen our identity as Jewish women, and take a moment to fill our hearts, minds, and souls. Please visit us at https://groups.io/g/RoshHodesh.

Rosh Hodesh Adar will be Thursday, February 27, at 6:45 PM. As we approach the joyous holiday of Purim, let us think of ways we can be brave, like Esther, in challenging those who would do harm. All women are welcome.

SRFY Youth Group Purim Fundraiser

Running the Children’s Purim Carnival games and prizes is a fundraiser for SRFY. If you are interested in sponsoring a game or donating an item for the raffle, please contact Jennifer Kanter at kanterjennifer1@gmail.com. The carnival will be on Sunday, March 8, 10:30 AM–12:30 PM.

SRFY at GLOW, December 2019

The 2020 Santa Cruz Jewish Film Festival Needs Your Support

Another exciting program is in the works so mark your calendar for April 25–April 30. Come to opening night on Saturday, April 25, to enjoy a delicious reception catered by Zena and a raffle of baskets filled with goodies. Please consider being a Film Festival sponsor or donor. Donations start at just $18. Click anywhere on the TBE website Film Festival slide for more information and to donate. We need your generous support to make it happen. Contact Marcia Meyer at marmey26@comcast.net to be a Film Festival sponsor or to sponsor or co-sponsor a film.
A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark Your Calendar for

**Sunday, May 3, at 3:00 PM**

A Musical Concert
in our Sanctuary

**Become a sponsor**
For this fabulous cultural event!

I want to thank our generous sponsors for supporting Ivan Rosenblum and his quartet, who are putting on a benefit concert as our MAJOR fundraiser this year. The concert will be a lively mix of classical, popular, and Jewish music, and will tell “snapshots” of women’s lives throughout history.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS WHO HAVE DONATED TO THIS EVENT:
Jacqueline Davidow
Margaret Gordon
Amy and David Harrington
Rabbi Richard Litvak
Rabbi Paula Marcus
Martha C. Miller
Gail Michaelis-Ow and George Ow
Marlene Pitkow and Mark Kalow
Joan Osborne
Roland and Patricia Rebele
Jeff and Deborah Roisman
Jacob Sidman and Kris Sidman-Gale
Marjorie Simon

Thanks to our sponsors, we have $3,500 toward our $10,000 goal. Please contact me at amy@tbeaptos.org or mgordon@ucsc.edu if you would like to sponsor or have any questions.

A wine and chocolate reception will follow the concert. If you would like to bake or buy a scrumptious chocolate decadent dessert, please sign up. Melissa Sunberg will be sending out a notice soon. Thank you!

Thanks to all of our members who participated in our Chanukah appeal, we were able to raise $10,000 for our community and we are so grateful.

It is a pleasure to see how generous our community is, and it makes my job as president very rewarding and fulfilling.

―With gratitude for a New Year filled with good health, love and music! Amy Harrington, TBE President
Gail Michaelis-Ow
Woman of Valor

Continued from the cover.

Gail credits her teen leadership experiences in her Glendale synagogue and in the National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) for awakening her commitment to tikkun olam. Not surprisingly, when Rabbi Rick first met her in 1977, he asked Gail to lead the youth group. She declined, but joined the temple!

When sons Benjamin and Andrew attended Simcha preschool, her involvement grew. Soon she joined the temple board as chair of the membership committee—a role she has held, off and on, to the present. In the 1980’s, Gail was an advocate and fundraiser for the “new” temple building and then became congregational vice president and finally president.

In the community, Gail served on the UCSC Foundation board for over a decade. She worked with the Women’s Educational Success program at Cabrillo College and chaired the Battered Woman’s Assistance group from 1990 until recently. In January of 2017, with her son Andrew, she helped found Indivisible Santa Cruz, to promote political activism that is in sync with her Jewish values.

Gail currently serves as chair of the temple’s Gesher V’Kesher program, welcoming new members and, on the Chai event committee, celebrating long-time members. She is also an inspiring force gathering sponsors for Rock Shabbat.

When not working or playing with her five grandchildren, Gail loves to run, swim, do yoga, read, and garden.

Library Highlight: A Book Group of One’s Own

Book groups may not be your thing. Maybe sitting around in a circle hearing others expound on a book you didn’t want to read in the first place may not be your idea of fun. But you enjoy reading and want to find stimulating books.

Why not form a book group of one—just you and the temple library. We’ve already done the work for you, screening and selecting the latest, best and most-interesting fiction and non-fiction. There they are, shelved and ready for you to pick your next read.

Start with a theme that both suits and challenges you. How about memoirs? 2019 was a great year for engaging, literate life stories:

- Ayelet Tzabari’s The Art of Leaving
- Boris Fishman’s Savage Feast
- Alice Shalvi’s Never A Native
- Sarah Hurwitz’s Here All Along
- Dani Shapiro’s Inheritance

Or you can give over the year to explore fiction—the latest releases or the classics of Yiddish literature. Or why not delve into the works of a single author, say A.B. Yehoshua or Sholem? We have riveting historical accounts and insightful guides to great works of Judaism. With a book group of one, it’s your choice.

The temple library is available for browsing, study, and borrowing, anytime the room is not otherwise engaged. Temple members may borrow books for 30 days, renewable using the self-service check-out station near the door. For questions or suggestions, contact us at librarytbe@gmail.com.

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- Dani Shapiro’s Inheritance

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Donor Spotlight:

Jasmine Berke and Scott Roseman

This month we recognize and thank Jasmine Berke and Scott Roseman who have been members and generous supporters since 1993! They actually joined Temple Beth El separately, and met through a chavurah. It has been a love-match ever since.

Jasmine and Scott feel it is important to give generously when you can, especially for programs such as scholarships for children for Temple School, Camperships and other assistance for young families and seniors. Jasmine believes it is important to level the playing field and relieve economic inequalities when possible so that all children and families are truly welcome.

As for Scott’s philosophy of tzedakah, he explains, “I give from my heart. I care deeply about our Jewish community and our larger Reform Jewish Movement that stands for the kind of Judaism that speaks to me, one that is centered on tikvah, and on connecting to our Torah, our history, and our people in a contemporary and meaningful way.”

Scott and Jasmine choose to give at a high level because it ensures “that our local Jewish community has a place to call home and a place where our future generations can find their Jewish home.”

Scott has also contributed countless volunteer hours serving on the board of directors for 13 years, including two years as president. Jasmine has spent 15 years volunteering as a member of our Chevra Kadisha team caring for our beloved dead. It is said that the mitzvot performed by the burial team is considered to be of the ultimate kindness, for it is one that can never be repaid. Their Chavurah also sponsors a Rock Shabbat every year—one of Jasmine and Scott’s absolute favorite TBE activities.

We are truly grateful to Jasmine and Scott for their numerous and long-lived contributions to our community. Todah Rabah!
Contributions  December 1–30

ENDOWMENT FUND
In memory of Scott Roseman’s mother
Rabbi Richard and Nancy Litvak

FILM FESTIVAL FUND
In memory of Joby Shinoff
Paul and Carol Berman

GARDEN AND PARK FUND
In memory of Lucienne Seftel
Rabbi Richard and Nancy Litvak

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP SERVICES FUND
A gift
Miranda Allen-Brower
Matthew Clausen and Naomi Igra
Jen and Shai Vered
Shlomo and Miriam Vilozny
Marni and Larry Williams

Thanking you; with much appreciation
for Rabbi Lori’s presence in the
Saturday morning services

Shlomo and Miriam Vilozny
In honor of Arianna’s naming
Susan Beck and Sigrid Snitzer
In honor of the naming of Ruth Titus
Paul and Martha Jacobson
In loving memory of my father, Gerald
Giges
Laura Giges and Jon Edelbaum
In loving memory of grandma Belle
Laura Giges and Jon Edelbaum
In memory of Lucienne Seftel
Murray and Sheila Baumgarten
In memory of Marilyn Roseman, Scott’s
mother, Jasmine’s mother-in-law, and
grandmother to their children and grandchildren
Carolyn and Curt Coleman

In memory of Marilyn Roseman
Murray and Sheila Baumgarten

GORDON BAR/BAT MITZVAH FUND
In loving memory of my mother,
Jeanette Siegel
Michael Scott and Ellen O’Brian

HIGH HOLY DAYS 2019
Benjamin Kohn and Kim Goldman

JANET ROTHCHILD ROCK SHABBAT FUND
A gift
Margie Kern-Marshall
Sarah and Eric Sanders
Carol Skolnick
In memory of Janet Rothchild
Judith Fried and Robert Scowcroft

ONEG FUND
In memory of Melton Wughalter
Gail Levine and Emily Wughalter

PIANO FUND
In memory of Alan Miller
Murray and Sheila Baumgarten

RABBI LITVAK SENIOR YOUTH GROUP FUND
In memory of Mark Rosenberg’s mother
Rabbi Richard and Nancy Litvak
In memory of Irving Ginsburg, Shani Ginsburg’s father
Rabbi Richard and Nancy Litvak

RABBI MARCUS DISCRETIONARY FUND
A gift
Diana Rothman
In loving memory of Jack Mandel
Linda Mandel

In memory of Joseph Engelman
James Engelman and Claire Witherspoon

RABBI WEISS-PENZIAS DISCRETIONARY FUND
A gift
Diana Rothman
Desiree and Jesse Hunt
In honor of Ruth Titus
Elana and Alexander Titus
In honor of my beloved mother, SylviaRubinson
Sandra Linzer and George Botwinick

SECURITY DONATION
Barbara Carey
Julian Dahan and Jessica Guild
Joan Tanzer and Gerald Frank

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
A gift
Lloyd Benjamin and Martha Posey
In honor of Temple Beth El
Cynthia Lewis

TEMPLE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS FUND
A gift
Susan Beck and Sigrid Snitzer
Wishing Mazel Tov to Elana and Alexander Titus in honor of Ruth Alinda Valentine Titus’ naming ceremony
Carol Skolnick

TREE OF LIFE LEAF
In memory of Judith and Leonard Levine, alive in our hearts always
Paia Levine

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Young Families and Youth

Tu B’Shevat Field Trip

Sunday, February 9, 9:45–11:45 AM
at Henry Cowell State Park near Felton on Highway 9 (weather permitting)

In honor of Tu B’Shevat, we will celebrate the “Jewish New Year for the Trees” by exploring the traditional, spiritual, and ecological importance of the trees at the park. We will meet at the Book Store and Environmental Center in the parking lot at 9:45 AM. As with all of our all-school holiday celebrations, we encourage family members to attend.

WHAT TO BRING: warm clothes, rain boots, waste-free snacks to share, something to drink, a magnifying glass and flashlight (see details below). In honor of Tu B’Shevat let’s decrease our use of disposable items. Each child should carry his/her own water bottle or maybe a thermos of hot cocoa or tea.

Mornings are often quite cold and wet among the redwoods and we are going to be walking and sitting outside for two hours, so dress your kids in warm layers. Dressing warmly can make the difference between having a fun day or a miserable one.

IN CASE OF RAIN: If it is pouring rain, we will move the event to the temple. If this happens, we will confirm by sending you an email at 8:30 AM that day. In case of questionable weather please check your email after 8:30 AM to find out where we will be.

In January, we were pleased to welcome TBE member Heidi Winig as our facilitator for Babies, Boundaries, and Bodies. She helped families learn how to be “an askable parent” when it comes to sensitive life issues.

Our Pre-K class focused on kindness during January. The children shared about what kindness means to them and how they can be kind to others. They started using kindness beads during circle to continue the conversation.

Our preschoolers continue their painting explorations, trying out water colors on different types of paper. The toddlers will soon be transplanting plants from their play yard to their new garden boxes built by preschooler Maggie’s older brother, Jacob.

This month we will be closed on Monday, February 10, for a professional development day for teachers, and on Monday, February 17, in observance of President’s Day.

Thank you for the recent donation to Simcha Preschool from Bruce and Deborah Shulman, as well as Angela Surkis. Your generosity means so much to our wonderful, play-based preschool program!

–Best, Lisa Mendez, Director

Simcha Preschool

Mazel Tots

Sunday, February 2
9:45 to 11:15 AM
at Temple Beth El

Join in fun Tu B’Shevat-themed activities for children five years and under with their families. Members and non-members welcome. Free. Please bring a healthy snack.

Beth El Baby Bunch

Monday, February 24, 11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Quality social time with parents and babies birth to age 3, here in the TBE coffee lounge. Questions? Contact Sarah at sclarkson@tbeaptos.org.

Temple School, Hebrew High & Young Families Program Calendar

Sunday, February 2
TS Grades K-6, Mazel Tots

Wednesday, February 5
TS grades 4–6, KEF, Hebrew, 7th Grade & Hebrew High with 6:30 Pizza

Sunday, February 9
TS grades K–6, Tu B’Shevat Field Trip (weather permitting)

Wednesday, February 12
TS grades 4–6, KEF, Hebrew, 7th Grade & Hebrew High with 6:30 Pizza

Sunday, February 16
NO TEMPLE SCHOOL

Wednesday, February 19
TS grades 4–6, KEF, Hebrew, 7th Grade & Hebrew High with 6:30 Pizza

Sunday, February 23
TS Grades K-6, 4th Grade Parent Participation

Wednesday, February 26
TS grades 4–6, KEF, Hebrew, 7th Grade & Hebrew High with 6:30 Pizza

Friday, February 28
Beth El Bim Bam, Rock Shabbat
Nachas
Kyle Holder has a new grandson, born on December 14, to her daughter Shira and Michael Wagner of Long Beach New York.

News from the Social Action Committee
Thanks to so many generous gift card and cash donations from members of our congregation during the Chanukah season, TBE sent approximately $1250 to the following three organizations for their work with migrants at the border: Jewish Family Services of San Diego, The Pedagogical Institute of Los Angeles’ Nest Tijuana Project, and Arizona Jews for Justice.

How Can I Help!?! Arizona Voter Registration
by Wilma Gold

Just like many of you, we see ourselves in a community where we have a voice and can exercise that voice by voting. When I visited with Eddie last month in Phoenix, the staff person at Arizona Jews for Justice, I asked, “What can we do from Santa Cruz to support your efforts to empower citizens and help new immigrants?” His answer was, “Help us register voters!” Arizona is a state where there are too many people who are not registered, and their voices are therefore not heard. Arizona Jews for Justice is mounting a large voter registration campaign in January and February. Their focus is the Indigenous people’s reservations as well as neighborhoods where there is low voter registration.

February 14–16 is the time Eddie and the community can use our help. We will leave here on February 13, spend the night on the road, and arrive the next morning. We leave Arizona Sunday night and arrive back home Monday. Gus is willing to drive the temple van which means that 14 of us can go together. Some of you might want to join the effort but would rather fly to Phoenix. We could meet you there. Eddie will take care of all of the arrangements and transportation while in Arizona.

I hope there are others who feel you can devote the days to join in this important effort to encourage others to make their voices heard! Contact me, Wilma Gold, at 831-345-2742, to join the effort or if you have questions.
Calling all Temple Beth El members to pitch-in with the MAZON Project, Temple Beth El’s longest-running social action program!

Participation in the Temple Beth El MAZON Project brings love and spiritual sustenance both to the givers and receivers via the mystical power of home-cooked food. Please sign-up! Use the link on the TBE website—go to the Social Action menu, then Activities, then MAZON.

Thank you very much to our compassionate congregants who have generously provided dinner to the Santa Cruz Homeless Shelter, every Sunday since 1988! Our spectacular January volunteers were: Meryl Selman, Juliana White, Penny Chesluk, Margaret Brose, Martha Jacobson, Marc and Nancy Yellin (2), Shira Coleman (3X!), Leah Sugarman (2X), Rebecca Fresco, Diana Rothman, Ziesel Saunders, and Rose Ashford with Chavurah Shem Tov (5X!).

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Shelly Nadelman-Douglass
Brotherhood President
Robert Feldman

Scholar-in-Residence Shabbaton Erev Shabbat Service
Friday, March 6, 7:30 PM

Scholar-in-Residence Havdallah and Story Telling
Saturday, March 7, 7:00 PM

Purim Carnival and Celebration
Sunday, March 8, 9:45 AM

Meggillah Reading and Purim Party
Monday, March 9, 7:00 PM

Rock Shabbat Service
Sunday, March 20, 7:30 PM

Passover Preparation and Family Fun
Sunday, March 22, 1:00 PM

An Israeli and Palestinian/Jordanian Tell Their Stories
Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 PM

Like Us On Facebook! Follow Us On Instagram!

info@tbeaptos.org • www.tbeaptos.org • February 2020 • The Shofar
Activities & Events

Understanding Online Anti-Semitism

with Michael Greenstone
Tuesday, February 4, 7:00–9:00 PM

In the past several years, there has been a dramatic rise in Anti-Semitism online. This talk will help shed light on where this is coming from, why Anti-Semitism is rising, how it spreads, and how it is used as a tool for social unrest. Michael Greenstone is co-founder and technology director at the Network Contagion Research Institute (ncri.io) an institute whose mission it is to measure, identify, understand and combat hate online. The NCRI is a consortium of academic researchers and technologists that acts as a neutral third party partnering with social media platforms, media, and government.

Esther’s Story: Facing Hate with Courage

with Jehon Grist, Senior Educator, Lehrhaus Judaica
Thursday, February 27, 7:00–8:30 PM

Esther’s story is exciting, romantic and disturbing. Set in the lavish court of the Persian king 2,400 years ago, this tale takes readers through the dramatic ups and downs of our heroine. It also provides an early example of the anti-Semitism that has threatened the Jewish people ever since. But is there actual history in this story? And why did many ancient Jews and Christians oppose its addition to the biblical canon? This session will delve into these and other questions as we discover one of the most controversial and popular books of the Bible.
### February 2020

**Temple Beth El Jewish Community Center • Shevat–Adar 5780**

All events are subject to change. Please check the Temple website [www.tbeaptos.org](http://www.tbeaptos.org) or call the office at 831-479-3444 to verify information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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</table>
| 2      | Mazel Tots 9:45am  
Temple School Grades K-6 9:45am  
Adult B’nai Mitzvah Class 12:30pm | 3      | Pilates Class 10:00am  
Mah Jong 12:00pm  
Caregiver Support Group 7:00pm  
Jewish Meditation 7:00pm  
Understanding Online Anti-Semitism 7:00pm | 4      | Women’s Writing Group 10:15am  
Chair Yoga 12:30pm  
Temple School Grades 4-6, KEF and Hebrew 4:00pm  
7th Grade & Hebrew High 6:30pm  
Craft Group 7:00pm  
White Fragility Book Group 7:00pm | 5      | Pilates Class 10:00am  
Lunch & Learn 12:00pm  
Library Staffed 3:00pm  
Women’s Song Circle 7:00pm  
(out) | 6      | Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Lori (Bo) 10:00am  
Weiler Bar Mitzvah 10:00am |
| 9      | Temple School Grades K-6  
Tu B’Shevat Family Hike at Henry Cowell (weather permitting) 9:45am  
Adult B’nai Mitzvah Class 12:30pm | 10     | Senior Connections 1:30pm | 11     | Pilates Class 10:00am  
Mah Jong 12:00pm  
Jewish Meditation 7:00pm | 12     | Women’s Writing Group 10:15am  
Chair Yoga 12:30pm  
Temple School Grades 4-6, KEF and Hebrew 4:00pm  
7th Grade & Hebrew High 6:30pm  
Craft Group 7:00pm  
White Fragility Book Group 7:00pm | 13     | Pilates Class 10:00am  
Lunch & Learn 12:00pm  
Library Staffed 3:00pm  
Women’s Song Circle 7:00pm | 14     | Erev Shabbat Service 7:30pm | 15     | Shabbat Morning Service with CY (Yitro) 10:00am |
| 16     | Adult B’nai Mitzvah Class 12:30pm | 17     | Women’s Song Circle 7:00pm  
(out) | 18     | Pilates Class 10:00am  
Mah Jong 12:00pm  
Jewish Meditation 7:00pm | 19     | Women’s Writing Group 10:15am  
Chair Yoga 12:30pm  
Temple School Grades 4-6, KEF and Hebrew 4:00pm  
7th Grade & Hebrew High 6:30pm  
Craft Group 7:00pm | 20     | Pilates Class 10:00am  
Lunch & Learn 12:00pm  
Library Staffed 3:00pm  
White Fragility Book Group 7:00pm | 21     | Woman of Valor Erev Shabbat Service 7:30pm |
| 23     | Temple School Grades K-6 and Fourth Grade Parent Participation 9:45am  
Adult B’nai Mitzvah Class 12:30pm | 24     | Beth El Baby Bunch 11:00am  
Senior Connections 1:30pm  
Death Café 7:00pm  
(out) | 25     | Pilates Class 10:00am  
Mah Jong 12:00pm  
Jewish Meditation 7:00pm  
General Board Meeting 7:00pm | 26     | Women’s Writing Group 10:15am  
Chair Yoga 12:30pm  
Temple School Grades 4-6, KEF and Hebrew 4:00pm  
7th Grade & Hebrew High 6:30pm  
Craft Group 7:00pm | 27     | Pilates Class 10:00am  
Lunch & Learn 12:00pm  
Library Staffed 3:00pm  
White Fragility Book Group 7:00pm  
Rosh Hodesh Adar 6:45pm  
Esther’s Story: Facing Hate with Courage—Salon 7:00pm | 28     | Beth El Bim Bam 5:45pm  
Rock Shabbat Service 7:30pm | 29     | Adult B’nai Mitzvah Service (Terumah) 10:00am |
The following are thoughts from a few of our Adult B’not Mitzvahs:

Claire Sanders
Converting to Judaism is, for me, coming home. It’s something that I have considered since I was 19. Sarah, my daughter-in-law, and Aidan, my grandson, were born Jewish. My son Eric, converted. Now I am joining my family and the tribe.

Sara Rigler
I decided to participate in the B’nei (B’not) Mitzvah with others to expand my Jewish learning and to make deeper connections with Judaism and the Temple Beth El community.

Susan Freeman
When I was a girl, it was not possible in my Reform synagogue, to be called to the bimah as a Bat Mitzvah, though I longed for that. Preparing for this B’not Mitzvah has renewed my passion for the teachings of Judaism, for study, for questioning and spiritual connection, giving me great joy and gratitude for the gift of a new beginning: to celebrate Jewish life as an active member of a welcoming, loving congregation.

The MAZON volunteers who received special recognition for exceptional contributions a few months ago. From L to R: Leora Fromm, Shira Coleman, Rose Ashford, Gaby Litsky, Martha Jacobson, Chris Goldstein, Zena Krakowsky, Robin Belkin, Wilma Gold, Nancy and Marc Yellin, Catherine and Bob Cooper, and Susan Karz.