



January Shofar

January 1, 2024

20, Tevet 5784



January Services

Friday, January 5, 7:30 PM Services

Saturday, January 6, 10:00 AM Services

Friday, January 12, 7:30 PM Services

Rabbi Grumbacher will speak:

"In Five Minutes Flat: Jewish Humor"

Saturday, January 13, 10:00 AM Services

Friday, January 19, 7:30 PM Services

Saturday, January 20, 10:00 AM Services

Friday, January 26, 7:30 PM Services

SHABBAT SHIRA: THE SABBATH OF SONG

We welcome our Thread of Blue Band and the Beth El Choir

leading us in new and old music for the Shabbat service

Rabbi Grumbacher will offer a few words on the subject

Saturday, January 27, 10:00 AM Services



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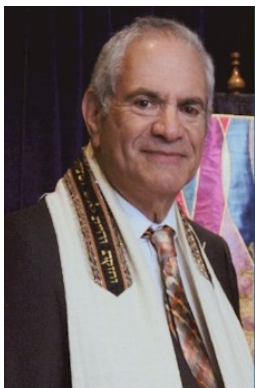
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A MESSAGE FROM RABBI GRUMBACHER

It's hard for me to believe that I've been your interim rabbi for about five months already. Well, actually, why should it be hard to believe...as they say, "time flies when you're having fun!" And they also say, "As you age time flies even faster!" So the combination of the two has made these months fly by faster than an eagle's flight.

Does that mean my work is done? Heavens no!

I hope we made a good start together to define our congregation. This will not be a definition written in stone. Especially nowadays the variety of experiences of our congregants, their faith backgrounds, their family situation, and so many other factors – all of which, indeed, are not reserved just for Beth El – come together to determine what you are, even what you will be. I guarantee this will be made obvious when the results of the survey are tallied.

What are the challenges we should take on together before my time as interim rabbi is completed in June, before a settled rabbi is selected?

I would like to see many of those who were disenchanted with Beth El return to the fold. I cannot do this by myself, if anyone can do it in the first place. But if we want growth we must try, and we must try together. So I hope that late January, early February we can gather and put our heads together. In the meantime, you can contact those who left and encourage them to return.

I would like to see more of you join us for Shabbat services. I hope you will respond positively to the invitation I sent out asking that you come to services in a particular month. That's one way to accomplish this task. I truly don't know what attendance was like before I came on board. I do know what attendance is like in many congregations...it stinks...so in that respect there's little difference. And if I've got something to do with low attendance, I'm a big boy...just tell me what you'd like to see. I might not agree, but I'll certainly listen.

One more thing that comes to mind. Talk to me! I've been told I'm a good listener, and I sure hope that's the case. Yes, I've spoken to a number of you about all kinds of things, personal, congregational, etc. Don't hesitate emailing me at interimbethelrabbi@gmail.com (Please do not call me at Temple. I have no remote access to that phone and I'd like to respond to you in a timely manner. Michelle will let me know you called if you speak to her, but leaving a message on my answering machine there won't do the trick).

Best wishes to you and yours for a secular year that's filled with good health and peace!

FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENTS, NELLIE FOREWOOD AND
ARLENE JOHNSON



Happy New Year to everyone. As we look with optimism for the upcoming year, we are blessed as a Congregation for making great strides in 2023. With such an active membership, we are sure to continue this momentum into this coming year.

I would like to begin our message with some highlights of our most recent Executive Board Meeting.

We had discussion concerning eliminating TBE provided Zoom for Shiva services held outside TBE, due to inadequate DCC (Digital Communications Committee) support. The Board determined that it could continue to be offered, but there will be no expectation for the DCC to monitor or support this efforts as the families have the ability to offer the Shiva Service over the TBE Zoom link from their own computers.

Lengthy discussions were held with regards to TBE security and the ongoing improvements that are planned.

We are still moving along with regards to the Rabbi search. We have a meeting scheduled this month with the Reconstructionist College to address our path moving forward.

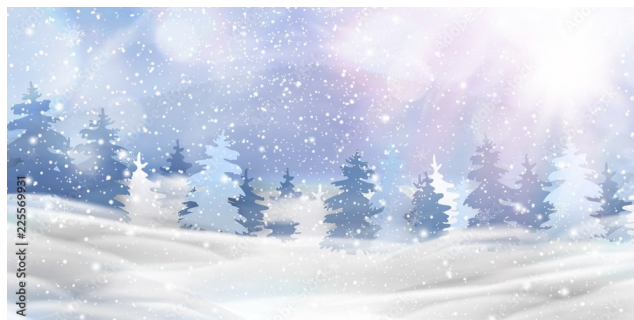
The survey of “Who we Are” should be out the beginning of January. Please provide your feedback in a timely manner.

We would be remiss in our duties, without saying how proud we are at the result of the Sisterhood Cookie Exchange/ Auction held in December. All monies this year are slated to be donated to Israel’s Emergency Fund. We raised over \$3000.00. This was an incredible feat by passionate women.

We have formed a committee headed by Bob Prybutok to address our Strategic Plan moving forward. Strategic Planning is essential to ensure our future. Please consider volunteering for this very important committee. Please contact the TBE office if interested.

Again, we want to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Nellie and Arlene





YOUR SISTERHOOD MOMENTS...

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to begin 2024!

This past month was filled with laughter, love and giving. Our annual Mystery Auction and Cookie Exchange brought many laughs, yummy cookies and very generous giving to help support Israel. Through our amazing giving community, we raised \$3,018.00! Thank you to all the wonderful women for such an enjoyable evening and your generosity.

We are always looking for extra hands in the kitchen for Onegs and Kiddushes. If you would like to volunteer, but don't know the routine, please email me and I will guide you through the set-up and clean-up. It is such a great way to meet new people :).

Do you like to bake? I will be hosting baking dates in January and February. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

January 14th beginning at 9:30 ending approximately 12:00

February 18th beginning at 9:30 ending approximately 12:00

In Sisterhood,

Jen Barnett



FROM MEN'S CLUB...



On Sunday, December 17 the Men's Club, in coordination with TBE's Caring Committee, hosted Josh Schoenberg as part of our Speakers Breakfast Series.

Josh is the Funeral Director at Schoenberg Memorial Chapel in Wilmington. Josh provided the forty plus attendees an overview of the end-of-life planning process and answered numerous questions posed by TBE congregants.

Thank you, Josh, for your and your family's continued commitment to serve the Delaware Jewish community!

There will be no Men's Club Breakfast in January. Our next Speakers Series Breakfast event will be on Sunday morning, February 25. Look for details in your email as soon as we have arrangements finalized.

Can you believe that the Super Bowl is only about 2 months away? Men's Club will again be sponsoring a Super Bowl Raffle Fundraiser, with details to be provided later in January. Support TBE fundraising and root for your favored Super Bowl participant at the same time!

In closing, our Men's Club Board wishes you and your family only the best for 2024!

B'Shalom,

Stu Widom

Men's Club President

stuwidom@aol.com



From Our Hebrew School Principal

Hello TBE Families!

We had a wonderful and busy month of December in the TBE religious school! Learning songs, crafts and tasting goodies to enjoy with our teachers and classmates this holiday season. Hoping you all had a beautiful end to Hanukkah and the holidays with continued joy, laughter, and light to bring into the New Year!

We look forward to seeing you and your children for Religious School **Tuesday, January 2nd** for our first day back with Aleph-Hai students and **January 7th at 9:15** for the entire school.

Upcoming Events-

Friday, January 4 ~ Hayden Sherlock leads Shabbat services

Sunday, January 14 ~Tikkun Olam ~Mitzvot Day,

Sunday, January 21 ~ Tu B'Shevat class Seders

In the days and weeks ahead, may we find many opportunities to let our light shine and, together, to bring more light to the world.

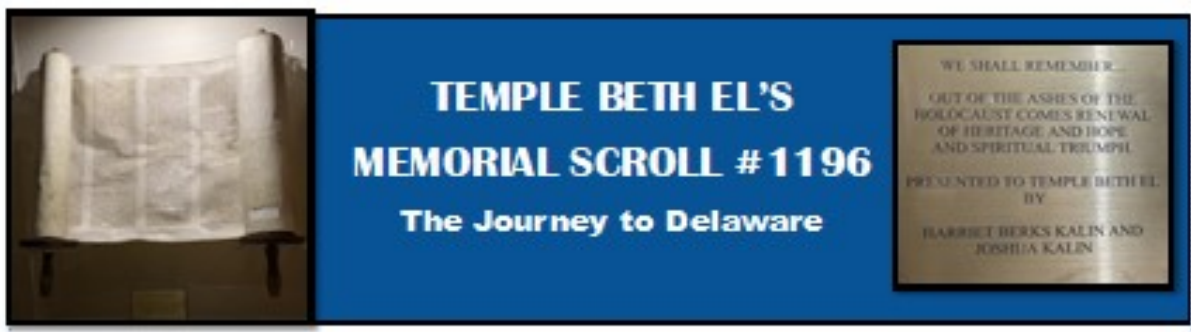
I wish you all a very Happy & Relaxing winter break during the holiday season and a peaceful Shabbat!

Warmest Regards,

Alison Taub (Ms. Alison)
Education Director



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This is the second article in a planned three part series on Temple Beth El's Memorial Trust Scroll. The first article described the November 9th Memorial Scrolls Trust Gathering at Rodeph Shalom. This current piece describes how our scroll found its home in Delaware. The next article will relay the story of how the memorial scrolls were rescued from Czechoslovakia and found new homes around the world.

Our Memorial Trust Scroll #1196 came to us through the efforts of Harriet and Josh Kalin, long time members of Temple Beth El. The Kalins traveled to the Westminster Synagogue in London England to select a Czech Torah scroll rescued from the Holocaust, and ar-

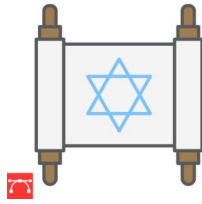
The Kalins first heard about the Memorial Scroll Trust from Harriet's cousin Elliot Weinstein, an active member of Ohev Shalom in York, Pennsylvania. Elliot visited the Westminster Synagogue in 1990 and selected a scroll that originated from Písek-Strakonice in Czechoslovakia. After Elliot related his experience, Harriet and Josh decided to acquire a scroll for Temple Beth El. In 1996 they planned a trip to the London as part of a European vacation. Harriet and Josh visited the Westminster repository where the scrolls rescued from Czechoslovakian regions of Bohemia and Moravia during WWII are kept. Harriet has vivid memories of personally selecting the scroll from the vast collection. Although the scroll is in fairly good condition, it is too damaged to be considered a kosher scroll. Unlike the scroll at Ohev Shalom, it is an orphan,



Repository of Torah Scrolls rescued from the Bohemia and Moravia Regions of Czechoslovakia during WWII.

In order to acquire the Memorial Trust Scroll for Temple Beth El, the Kalins made a contribution of \$1500. These funds go towards the cost of housing, examining, and classifying the 1564 scrolls originally brought from Czechoslovakia to London, England. The Memorial Trust required a letter from Temple Beth El to confirm our commitment to receive and care for a Memorial scroll. Harriet and Josh also funded the cost of shipping the scroll from England.

On December 11, 1998, Temple Beth El held a dedication to officially welcome the Czech Torah Scroll to our congregation. The Torah was lifted to commemorate the communities lost in the Holocaust. As part of the ceremony it was noted that the



One of Temple Beth El's Bnai Mitzvah students also found a way to pay tribute our Torah scroll. Sophia Jenna Block created a pamphlet as her 2015 Bat Mitzvah Project. In it she symbolically linked the scroll to the Czech town of Strážnice where members of her extended family perished in the Holocaust. By honoring the both the Torah and the town she is keeping the memory of those lost alive.

The Trustees of the Memorial Scrolls Trust have passed on the scroll to Temple Beth El on permanent loan. The legal title remains vested in the Trustees of the Memorial Scrolls Trust. However, return of a scroll is only required if an "organization ceases to exist". Temple Beth El joins 135 other institutions in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware entrusted with care of a Czech Torah scroll.

Beth Margerison

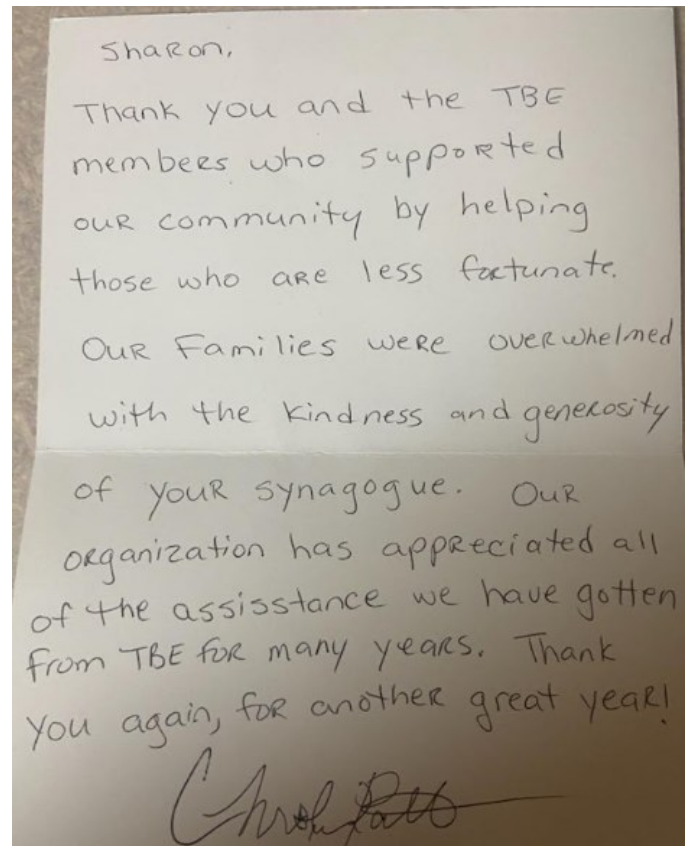
Member-at-Large TBE Board



From Your 3rd VP

Thank you so much for your generous contributions to our annual needy family drive. We were able to supply each family with more than they had anticipated, ensuring them a happy holiday. See below 2 letters, one from the agency head and the other from the social worker working directly with the families. Once again to our congregants, thank you very much!

Sharon Giannotti



The Candlelight
Theatre
2208 Millers Rd,
Wilmington, DE
19810

"Hello Dolly" (dinner theatre)
Sunday, February 4, 2024

Doors open 1 pm,
lunch served, includes choice of at least 3 entrees, salad,
vegetable, dessert, coffee, tea, or soda
(alcohol additional charge)

Matinee 3pm
\$56.00 includes meal and show.
Please contact Sharon Giannotti at sharon@tfgirl.com
Reservations & payment must be in by Friday, January 19, 2024.



Please help us celebrate the following January birthdays!!

Yu Tucker, Suzanne Prybutok, Ken White,
Kathleen Kaess, Misha Kats, Gianni Giannotti,
Irene Garth, Jared Huddleston, Michael A. Stone,
Gene Danneman, Mitchell Seiler, Jane Altshuler,
Janice Reidel, Calvin Freedman, Judith Pilnick,
Richard Simoff, Devyn Pensky, Lynda Bell,
Sara Lichtin Boyd, Marika Ginsburg-Block,
Jacob Henry Barnett, Lillian Atwood, Molly Shay,
Madison Atwood, Laurel Squadron, Brandon Goldberg,
Jen Barnett, Nancy Childerston, Ava Rose Lewkowitz,
Jacob Fullerton, Ann Osman, Steven Ogintz,
Marc Sheffler, Amanda Dewitt, Joe Giannotti



Dior, Mitchell & Rosalie	1984-01-01
Lewkowitz, Debra & Leonard	2013-01-01
Guttenplan, Paul & Judy	1975-01-11 ¹¹

Rabbi Search Committee News

The members of the search committee did a great job of working together and revising the Rabbi application. The application is an in depth outline of our Temple past and present, the specifics of our local community and the details of the job offer. This is the tool that is used to introduce ourselves to prospective Rabbi candidates.

We are planning to send the Application initially to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association as this is the organization that we are currently affiliated with. We have the option to forward the application to the Reform or Conservative organizations if we are unhappy with the initial candidate pool.

I will keep the congregation informed through the Shofar as the process progresses.

I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year

Arlen



Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to Chris and Cindy Shelton on the birth of their granddaughter, **Adeline Rose Shelton**, born on December 19, 2023!

Mazel Tov to Michael Shay for being named an **American Geophysical Union fellow!**

CONTRIBUTIONS & DONATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS

EDUCATION FUND

In Memory of Dr. Gerson Schwartz

In Honor of the birth of Chris & Cindy
Shelton's Granddaughter Adeline Rose Shelton

In Memory of Nathaniel Schwartz

In Memory of James Wees

DONORS

Marcia Acero

Linda Oster

Susie & Ken White

Leny Stone

PRAYER BOOK DONATION

In Memory of Dr. Gerson Schwartz

Gary & Amy Rogers



CONTRIBUTIONS & DONATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS

DONORS

DECEMBER GRAMS

Templegram in Honor of Michael Shay being named

An American Geophysical Union Fellow

Nellie & Albie Forwood

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In Memory of Bob Gelman

Joe & Lynn Sontowski

In Memory of Bob Gelman

Susan & Steve Ogintz

In Memory of Dr. Gerson Schwartz

Susan & Steve Ogintz

Speedy Recovery To:

Sarah Kagel, Susie Schreiber, Anita Rosenzweig, Herman Goldstein, Lisa Coyne, Al Fisher, Joyce Fefferman, Jay Halio, Bruce Tobianski, Robin Kaess, Shelley Baernstein, Brian Halio, Linda Bradford, Marianne Green, Joan Brandt, Karen Elaine Sayers, Jody Bender, Lynda Stellenberg, and Harry Schwartz



Pictures from December Events



Pictures from December Events

