

Temple Beth El

(413) 733-4149 office@tbespringfield.org www.tbespringfield.org

979 Dickinson Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01108

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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rabbiwalk@tbespringfield.org

Elise Barber, Cantor

cantorbarber@tbespringfield.org

Reverend David Aminia, Ritual Director

daminia@tbespringfield.org

Herbert Schwartz, Rabbi Emeritus

Staff

Sonia Wilk, Executive Director

swilk@tbespringfield.org

Caryn Resnick, Director of Communal Life and Learning

cresnick@tbespringfield.org

Molly Bajgot, Director of Education and Youth Programs

director@byachadspringfield.org

Lisa Laudato, Administrative Assistant

llaudato@tbespringfield.org

Marie Sampson, Administrative Assistant

sklc@tbespringfield.org

Debbie Peskin, Communications Coordinator

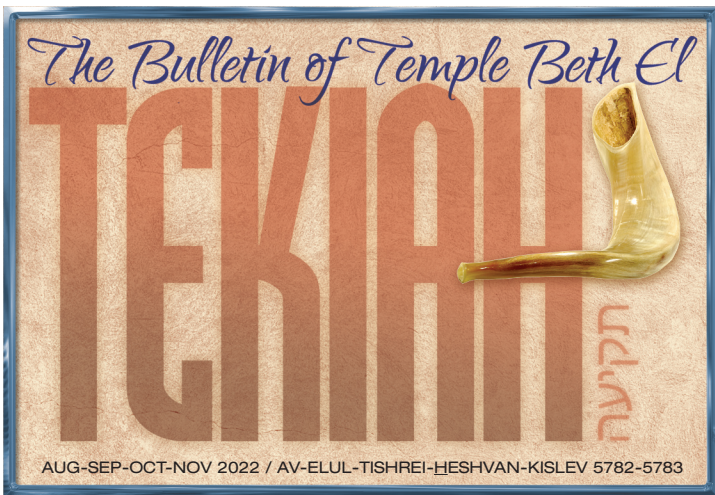
communications@tbespringfield.org

Annie Rivera, Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@tbespringfield.org

Liz Marinelli, Librarian

katzlibrary@tbespringfield.org



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Just show up.

Excitement Builds as Crystal Concert Celebration Honoring Rabbi Walk Approaches

Rhonda Goldberg



An outpouring of support for Rabbi Amy S. Walk, PhD on her fifteen years at Temple Beth El is underway as the anticipated celebration draws near. Our congregation and community recognize how grateful and fortunate we are to have Rabbi Walk as our trusted leader. She keeps us connected to our world and each other, creates a learning community through Torah and educational opportunities, and provides spiritual guidance through life's challenges and blessings.

Excitement is building for the Crystal Concert Celebration in Rabbi's honor planned for Sunday, August 28 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm at Temple Beth El, where we will enjoy entertainment from the Shalom Orchestra and a concert featuring the renowned Cantor Magda Fishman.

Shalom Orchestra is a versatile group providing a mix ranging from traditional Jewish music to Israeli Rock & Roll, as well as Broadway and contemporary songs. Their variety of song and artist selections appeal to a wide range of generations.

Cantor Magda Fishman is an extraordinary talent who brings vibrant experience to Jewish music through a unique blend of traditional and contemporary styles. She has built a large and loving following among a wide spectrum of audiences.

Her repertoire includes liturgical masterpieces, Israeli songs, jazz, musical theater, as well as her own compositions. Cantor Fishman has performed extensively throughout the U.S., Israel, Canada and Europe. She is a member of the all-female cantorial group *Divas on the Bima* and has also performed with Maestro Placido Domingo and singer-songwriter Melissa Manchester.

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HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

Watch for a special *High Holy Day Tekiah* at the beginning of September with details about our service schedule, children's programs, and more.



Art Show Kicks Off September 8

Just in time for the High Holy Days, we will be decorating TBE's lobby with a variety of beautiful artwork on loan from our congregants. Do you have a piece that you love that you'd be willing to share with us for a couple of months? It can be Judaic in nature or not, and it can be something you or another artist created. We're looking for artwork of all kinds—drawings, paintings, sculptures, photographs, etc. The pieces will be displayed on easels or in the glass display cases in our lobby. With your help, our synagogue will look beautiful for the new year!

If you would like to loan us a piece of two of your favorite pieces, please drop them off during office hours any day between Tuesday, September 6 through Friday, September 16. Please write a sentence or two about the item, and be sure to include the name of the piece, why it's special to you, and your name. If you have any questions, please contact Rabbi Amy Walk at rabiwalk@tbespringfield.org or Sonia Wilk at swilk@tbespringfield.org.



Jixi He (center) proudly holds her conversion certificate with (left to right) Rabbi David Klatzker, her fiancé Brian Free, Rabbi Amy Wallk, and Rabbi Dan Liben.

D'var Torah for Bamidbar Shavuot

June 4, 2022

Jixi He

Note from Rabbi Wallk—Just before Mother’s Day I had the pleasure of officiating at the conversion of Jixi He. As is my custom, we went to the Mayyim Hayyim mikveh in Newton. That mikveh is so beautiful, and the setting is spiritually uplifting — truly. The mission of the mikveh is to reclaim and reinvent one of Judaism’s most ancient rituals. Jixi shared her experience with the congregation on the Shabbat before Shavuot. We all found her writing so moving, we wanted to share these experiences with the congregation.

Every Shabbat is special in its own ways and this one especially is filled with meanings and reflections for me—here I am, Hinei’ni, standing at the brink of Shabbat Bamidbar and Erev Shavuot, ready to receive the Torah just like all the other Jewish souls—old and new. My Jewish journey started when I was 16 years old from a most subliminal decision as a high school student in China could have made—I decided to go to a summer camp to get a taste of American college life and picked the most obscure sounding course to me: “Jewish people from Cannan to Shanghai” and met the very first Jew in my life, Michael Kohen, as my teacher; it went on for another 16 years to bring me here today: receiving my first-ever aliyah after immersing in the mikvah and receiving my Hebrew name “Shira Elisheva” just 3 weeks ago, on 11 Iyar 5782.

Parsha Bamidbar talks about counting of the tribes, redemption of the first-borns, and the Kohath families among the Levi’im serving the most holy job in the Tent of Meeting. It opens the book of Bamidbar (literally meaning the desert—the Sinai desert to be exact), which describes the Israelites’ experience of wandering in the desert (the wilderness) for 40 years before entering Eretz Israel. During those transformative years, they did not have a lot of material possessions but was provided with a lot of divine providence. Many sages see those 40 years as a time of transition between slavery and freedom, of spiritual preparation for the holy land. My mom used to tell me “It takes three generations to raise a noble child” and by that she meant it would take years and years of accumulated education through generations to establish the best foundation for a child to succeed in life. Even though the original generation did not get to see Eretz Israel, their offspring did. Even though my ancestors might not have been present at Har Sinai, I am now, after 16 years of yearning and so will all the generations that come from me.

It is like counting the omer between Pesach and Shavuot, counting seven times seven days in between, with each day representing a different emotional attribute of human existence until we are ready to receive the Torah. We are prepared to

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Kiddush Lunch is Back!

As a sign of optimism, and with an eye to building community, the Board of Trustees overwhelmingly voted to resume Shabbat Kiddush lunch every week. This is the ideal time to “just show up” and sit and schmooze a while, get to know each other, welcome newcomers, and rekindle old friendships.

Would you like to be part of supporting this activity? There are MANY ways that you can help: join the Kiddush club with your donation of \$180; volunteer to cook, and bring some friends; volunteer to set up tables, decorate, give it some style; sponsor a Kiddush; volunteer to shop for Kiddush; volunteer to be a Kiddush captain—keeping track of volunteers for the various components

To donate or get involved, contact Sonia at swilk@tbespringfield.org. We hope we will see you at Kiddush as our routines increasingly return!

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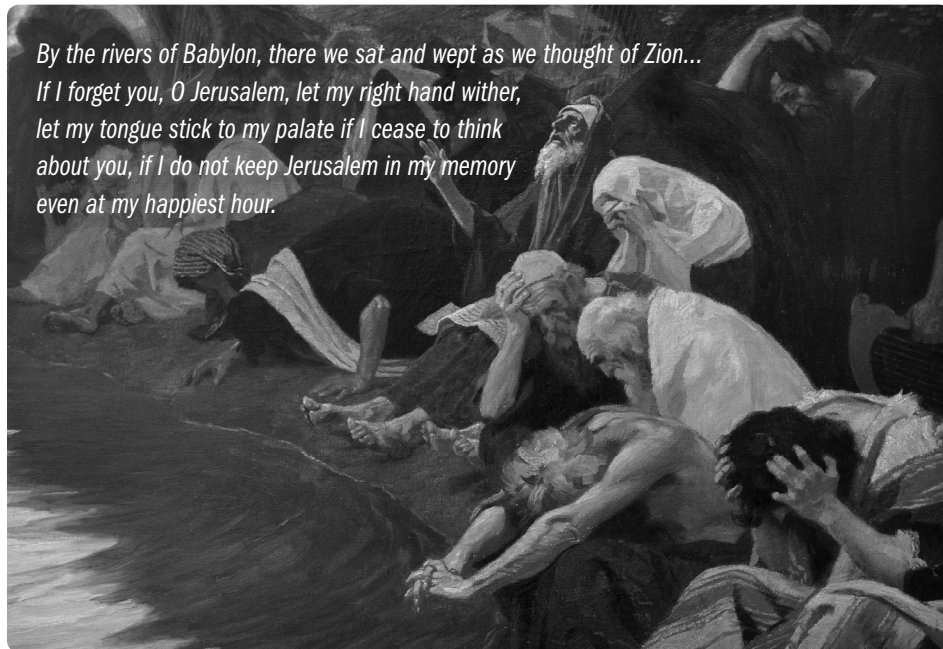
The evening will also include a festive cocktail reception and a delicious dessert buffet.

The Crystal Concert Celebration Committee aims to raise \$75,000 for TBE as gifts in Rabbi’s honor. The Committee notes that we are well on the way to fulfilling our goal and providing the funding to support Rabbi’s initiatives. “We are delighted to celebrate Rabbi Wallk and show her how much we appreciate her leadership,” said Maxine Bernstein, event co-chair, adding “and it’s going to be a fabulous party!”

Please join us to make a special gift in support of Rabbi Wallk and her leadership excellence at Temple Beth El. You may do so conveniently and securely at the event website: wizevents.com/tbespringfield2022 where you will be able to include your own virtual ad or message to Rabbi. Alternatively, you may call the temple office at (413) 733-4149. Tickets to the event are \$18, and donations of any size are welcome. The deadline for ticket purchases is August 14.

OFF THE BIMAH מהבימה

Rabbi Amy S. Wallk



*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept as we thought of Zion...
If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither,
let my tongue stick to my palate if I cease to think
about you, if I do not keep Jerusalem in my memory
even at my happiest hour.*

In the heat of the summer — we confront Tisha B'Av, the ninth of Av. It is a day on which we mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples. It was in fire that those sacred spaces were destroyed and according to the rabbinic reading of the story, it was the fire that burned between and among Jews that contributed to our fateful exile and the destruction.

Today, Jerusalem is a thriving city and our eternal capital. We are fortunate to live in a time when the Jewish people once again enjoys sovereignty.

So why do we observe Tisha B'Av?

In marking Tisha B'Av, we pause to recall the two times in our history Jerusalem, the spiritual, cultural and political center of our people, was destroyed. I think we observe Tisha B'Av to force ourselves to remember that Jewish homeland is not to be taken for granted.

This well-known text of Psalm 137 (quoted above) is a literary source of history, written following the Babylonian destruction of our First Temple in 586 BCE. The exiled Israelites wept as they were forced to relocate to Babylonia, leaving Jerusalem behind. Though the Persians came along 70 years later and allowed Jews to return to Israel, and to rebuild our Temple, that Second Temple was destroyed by Rome in 70 CE, after the four years of the Jewish revolt. Tisha B'Av is a reminder that Jewish sovereignty is not a given — it is something which must be cherished and protected.

As Tisha B'Av approaches — it challenges us to stop and consider, to pray and sit in humility. It gives us an opportunity to take note of the miracle of our Jewish homeland and pray, that the state of exile never again touches the Jewish people. In the spirit of Tisha B'Av, we express our thanks that once again we can live or visit Jerusalem, the external spiritual capital of our people.

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do the mitzvot and to understand it or even to argue about it for the sake of heaven— שמתע ונשמע, and we hear ישר שמע ישר. The counting process is essential, whether it's counting each person as valuable and important, or counting each day as part of the path that got us here, or counting the blessings we have received, or simply counting each second as we take a deep breath in and out. We count, because every moment is crucial to our past, present, and future. Every path I took, every decision I made (and every decision made for me), have all come together to create the me now, my new identity that has been built on by so many old ones. Had I only learned about Judaism in books in China and not come to the US for college, Dayeinu. Had I come to the US for college and not participated in Hillel or learnt Hebrew, Dayeinu. Had I learnt Hebrew and not visited Israel, Dayeinu. Had I visited Israel and not gone to Be'er Sheva (also a desert) for medical school, Dayeinu. Had I gone to medical school and not experienced Shabbatot with a family-like community, Dayeinu. Had I simply lived a Jewish life within that community while I was in Israel



Jixi and her fiancé, Brian Free, at Mayyim Hayyim mikveh.

and not continued to pursue conversion over and over again at every turn of life, Dayeinu. The list can go on. And yet looking back, every step of the way was so essential to me being here today: I went from China to California, to Israel, to Springfield, and to Temple Beth El. When I was 16 I didn't know how I could ever learn Hebrew, or go to Israel, or become Jewish, but those remained my dreams, a place I want to eventually get to. And I've met so many amazing people on my journey that have supported my dreams and helped me get here.

Thank you very much, Shabbat Shalom!

Erev Tisha B'Av Service in Person

Saturday, August 6 at 8:45 pm

Please join us for a special in-person service on erev Tisha B'Av. The service will be held in the sanctuary, and will be livestreamed.

From the B'Yachad Director of Education and Youth Programs



Molly Bajgot

Hi all! I'm excited to be writing you as the Director of Education for B'Yachad, Sinai Temple and Temple Beth El's

new joint Jewish education program. B'Yachad means "being together" in Hebrew and is fitting for where we are headed this fall. As we become one program for two institutions, I have been working closely with the B'Yachad Board, made up of lay leaders and rabbis from both synagogues and co-chaired by Jen Green (Temple Beth El) and Samantha Schragar (Sinai Temple)

I'm looking forward to getting to know you and your families this coming school year and getting to celebrate the holidays with you all! It was so much fun to come to Temple Beth El for Purim and visit SKLC towards the end of the school year to speak to students and to get a taste of the SKLC culture. This year I have enjoyed working so closely with Morah Caryn to collaborate on programming and learning about the rich history of SKLC.

This summer, B'Yachad's new website and registration for the 2022-2023 school year went live! You can learn more at www.byachadspringfield.org. Registration for B'Yachad is open to all—member and non-member families—and we hope you will help us spread the word about this community school to new-to-town families or others who may be interested. **Our registration deadline is September 1.**

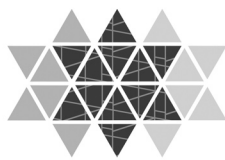
Look forward to the following from B'Yachad this upcoming year:

- Classes for students from Pre-K through seventh grade on Sundays from 9:30-11:30 am, and eighth-twelfth grade on Sundays, time to be determined,
- Virtual, in-person and small group Hebrew learning options
- Pilot of a weekly Jewish Enrichment After School elective program
- Fall classes at Sinai Temple and Spring classes at Temple Beth El,
- New sliding scale tuition rates,

• The teachers we know and love!

Our first day of school will be Sunday, September 11, with holiday programming taking place throughout the chagigim season. Teen Life programs for grades 8-12 will also be taking place monthly starting in September. More information about these programs will be able to be found on the B'Yachad website as well as respective synagogue websites.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to speak with me for any reason, please reach out. My email is director@byachadspringfield.org and my number is (978) 460-1956. I look forward to being part of the Temple Beth El family!



B'Yachad ביחד

From the Director of Communal Life and Learning



Caryn Resnick

I am happy to be serving Temple Beth El in a new role during my semi-retirement! As Director of Communal Life and Learning, I will

be facilitating family education programs at TBE for families with toddlers, school-age children, and teens, including learning opportunities for specific family cohorts such as families with children approaching B'nai Mitzvah. I will continue to represent TBE at our newly-formed community youth group, Na'arut, with Sinai Temple and Congregation B'nai Torah.

Together with our Adult Education Committee, I will plan adult education programs, in addition to social gatherings for our congregation. For many long months and years, COVID-19 has kept us apart, and we are grateful now to gather together for religious, educational, and social programs at TBE and together with our community partners. You can look forward to Shabbat

experiences for young and old, such as our Havdalah, Cocktails, and Nosh under the stars held in July.

TBE will offer many exciting and engaging educational and social experiences this year on a wide variety of Jewish topics that aim to reach across the wide spectrum of our membership in age, experience, interests, and backgrounds.

In this edition of *Tekiah*, you can read more about our early fall programs. If you think that looks full, wait until you see the next *Tekiah*!

If you are interested in helping with any of the programs, please reach out to me.

I am proud of all we have accomplished together over the years and am grateful to be starting a new chapter as I continue to help our community grow and flourish to meet our changing needs.

Tot Shabbat

Friday, September 16 & October 21 at 5:30 pm
Saturday, October 1 at 11:00 am

Join us to welcome Shabbat at this program for children ages six and under and their grown-ups. Connect with family and friends in the community through spirited song, prayer, body movement and fun with Marlene Rachelle. Watch for more details in the TBE Connection emails.

Membership Directory Available

Temple Beth El's Membership Directory is available to all members. This helpful tool includes the names of members and children ages 22 and younger, along with their contact information, for those who have given us permission to include it. The Membership Directory helps members communicate with each other, and our efforts to build community.

The Membership Directory is available as a PDF via email, or you can stop by the TBE office for a hard copy.

Please contact Debbie Peskin at communications@tbespringfield.org with any changes to your address, phone, or email.

An Evening of Doo-Wop Music Featuring "Back in Time"

Saturday, September 10 at 7:30 pm

Join us for havdalah at 7:30 pm, followed by fun snacks and desserts including milkshakes (alcoholic & non-alcoholic), and a concert at 8:30 pm with the Doo-Wop vocal group "Back in Time." These singers will transport you to the great musical spirit of the 1950's and 60's Doo-Wop music. Come and listen, sing, dance and reminisce to the "Oldies." Remember the Sock Hop? Bring your Bobbie Socks! The cost is \$25 per person. Watch the TBE Connection for the registration link.



Back in Time

Lecture Series: Jews & Art

Tuesday, October 25, December 13 & March 14 at 7:00 pm

Back by popular demand, Simon Sibelman will facilitate three in-person evening programs.

The first lecture is Breaking Expectations. "Thou shall make no graven images" is a commandment apparently precluding Jews creating representational art. And yet, the evidence suggests the opposite. This lecture will explore how Jews used art to represent Judaism, Jewish culture and history ranging from antiquity to the early-twentieth century.

Stay tuned for more details on this program and the December and March events.



Sheldon Low and Hadar Orshalimy

Shabbaton Featuring Sheldon Low and Hadar Orshalimy

Shabbat, November 19

We are so excited to be able to bring back a Shabbaton to TBE!

On November 19 we will welcome Sheldon Low and Hadar Orshalimy to our community. They will lead the morning Family Service. In the evening, join us for Champagne, Chocolate and Jazz. Hadar will entertain us with her new concert featuring songs from her album "It Never Was You - Jazz by Jewish Composers."

This promises to be a great time at TBE! Be sure to mark your calendars—you won't want to miss it! Watch for more details in the TBE Connection email.

TBE Librarian Liz Marinelli Retires

Temple Beth El is sad to announce that our wonderful librarian, Liz Marinelli, has retired as of August 1.

In addition to working with the Katz Family Library Book Group with book selections and meetings, Liz always kept the library well-stocked with the latest adult and children's books, CDs, games, and more.

Liz was a dedicated TBE employee for 19 years. We wish her the best in her retirement!

Rabbi Wallk commented, "When I first arrived at TBE, I realized that the Katz library is a jewel for our community."

I never understood how Liz did her job so well. She isn't a Jewish educator, and she isn't even Jewish—and yet she ALWAYS knew which books to order and which books our congregants would want or should want to read. Liz's sense of duty, her ability to organize and her sense of what we should be reading and thinking about made her an outstanding librarian—we will all miss her very much. On behalf of Temple Beth El, I wish her well as she opens this next chapter of her life."

Katz Family Library Book Group

Wednesday, August 31, September 28, & October 26 at 10:30 am

The book group will meet on **August 31** to discuss *Big Summer* by Jennifer Weiner. When a friend she has not spoken to since the fight that ended their friendship six years earlier asks her to be her maid of honor, Daphne Berg confronts the complications of friendship and forgiveness during the increasingly



disastrous wedding on Cape Cod.

The selection for **September 28** is *Woman on Fire* by Lisa Barr. Tasked with locating a painting called "Woman on Fire" stolen by the Nazis more than 75 years earlier, rising young journalist Jules Roth teams up with the artist's grandson to find it before a ruthless collector does.

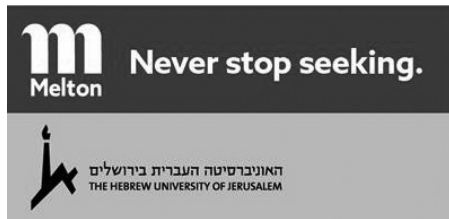


On **October 26** our focus turns to non-fiction in *Family Papers: A Sephardic Journey Through the Twentieth Century* by Sarah Abrevaya Stein. An award-winning historian uses the letters and correspondence of one Sephardic family to tell the story of their journey from Salonica, Greece, through their migration across the continents and how they were almost eradicated by the Holocaust.



The meetings will be online; look for the links in *TBE Connection* closer to the date.

The library catalog can be accessed online at <https://templebethel.library.site/>. If you would like to check out a book, please email katzlibrary@comcast.net to pick up the book at the office.



New Melton Classes

A View from the Pulpit: A Behind-the-Scenes Tour of High Holiday Prayers and Music

Join Rabbi Amy Wallk and Cantor David Lipp via Zoom as they talk about important themes and considerations that need to be considered when preparing High Holy Day services for their congregations.

Dates: Tuesdays, August 16, 23, 30, September 6, 13, 20

Time: 7:00 pm

Cost: \$79-\$219 (sliding scale) (scholarships available—contact Rabbi Wallk)

Registration: Contact the office for the link

Biblical Women: Emerging from Margins through Midrash

Tracing major female figures of the Bible through classic and modern midrashic commentary, we meet a dazzling line up of more than a dozen biblical heroines—some you may know and some you may have never heard of! Let's go behind the scenes to gain multiple perspectives on their lives, relationships, and choices, as we understand their roles in Jewish history and literature as full, well-rounded characters. This class is administered by Melton Kansas City;

if students register for two or more of the Kansas City offerings, contact Megan Pener at meganp@thejkc.org for a discount code.

Dates: Mondays, October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21, 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2022 and January 9, 2023

Time: 7:45-9:15 pm

Location: Zoom Only

Faculty: Rabbi Amy Wallk

Cost: \$295 (scholarships available—contact Rabbi Wallk)

Registration: Contact the office for the link

Jews in America: Insiders and Outsiders

Our version of a Jewish-American “Stuff You Missed in History Class”! In 10 engaging sessions, learners will discuss seminal developments in American life, such as the Jewish contributions to American culture, American literature, and the Civil Rights Movement, through the lens of Jews straddling their status as both insiders and outsiders. The course will also examine antisemitism and the Holocaust, and the changing place of Zionism in the shaping of Jewish American identity. Sharing tales from immigrants, their children, and grandchildren, learners will debate the meaning of this ongoing saga. This class is administered by Melton Kansas City; if students register for two or more of the Kansas City offerings, contact Megan Pener at meganp@thejkc.org for a discount code.

Dates: Wednesdays, October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 30, December 7, 14, 2022, January 11, 18, 25, 2023

Time: 1:30-3:00 pm

Location: Zoom Only

Faculty: Rabbi Amy Wallk

Cost: \$295 (scholarships available—contact Rabbi Wallk)

Registration: Contact the office for the link

Want to Learn How to Read Hebrew?

If there's enough interest, we will offer an adult beginners' class this fall at TBE. Contact Caryn Resnick at cresnick@tbespringfield.org or 413-737-0170.

Rachel Korazim Presents Zoom Program on Tisha B'Av

Sunday, August 7 at 10:00 am

*For whom the LORD loves, He rebukes,
As a father the son whom he favors.*

Proverbs 3:13

Rachel Korazim lives in Tel Aviv/Jaffa and teaches in Jerusalem, two very different cities, especially on Tisha B'Av. Our session will begin with Rachel sharing impressions about how Tisha B'Av is observed in these two very different cities.

The liturgy of Tisha B'Av includes much rebuke from the ancient prophets who believed that the Temples were destroyed because of the Israelites' behavior. The Rabbis used Tisha B'Av as an opportunity to reflect on the ills of society. Modern poets similarly challenge us to reflect on profound societal issues such as discrimination against new immigrants, and civil rights.

Rachel will share poetry that focuses on both ancient and modern problems. While there are those who will say there is no need to wash dirty laundry in public—on the ninth of Av it is a mitzvah.

In-Person Programs with Rachel Korazim

**Friday, October 21 &
Saturday, October 22**

We are delighted that Rachel Korazim will be joining us in person, following a Shabbat dinner on October 21, and Saturday night, October 22. Watch the TBE Connection emails for details about her presentations.

Rachel is a freelance Jewish education consultant in curriculum development for Israel and Holocaust education who engages audiences worldwide through innovative presentations built around the works of Israel's best writers. Her thought-provoking talks open a window onto Israeli society, inviting listeners to engage with the country and its history in new ways. Rachel teaches at Israel's well-known Pardes and Shalom Hartman Institutes, and numerous Jewish communities worldwide.

DONATIONS תרומות

This list includes all donations received from February 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022.

TEMPLE FUND

In memory of Ethelyn Bessell
Kathleen & Michael Nozzolillo
Heidi Goldsmith
Shera Cohen

A donation made by Fred Brownstein

In memory of Bryan Graziani
Rosaline Horowitz & Neil Yetwin

Mazel tov to Craig & Norah Kazin on the birth of their grandson, Lukas

Ted & Judy Ingis
In honor of the wedding of Rabbi Amy Walk and Rabbi Mark Cohn
Ted & Ted Ingis

In memory of Beatrice Loevy
Michelle Vitori Tepe & Paul G. Tepe
Martin & Marian Broder

In appreciation of Rabbi Walk's support

Laurie & Jason Seigel
In memory of Bruce Caplin
I. Murray Levine

In memory of Debra K. Freedman
Valerie & Jamie Stone

In memory of Florence Cohen
Arthur & Amy Sher
Elliot & Anne Bloom
Elizabeth Irving
Carol Wernick
Michael & Joy Leavitt

Yahrzeit of Sylvia Sher, beloved mother

Arthur & Amy Sher
In honor of David & Sharon Aminia's 50th anniversary
Mitzi & Larry Mackler
Carol Wernick

A special thanks to Hyman Darling
Jacqueline Bond

In gratitude of Rae Davis
Harold Gellin

A donation made by Jessica & Edward Doctoroff

In memory of Roslyn Leiter
Rachel & Alan Sampson
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Anita & Ed Finkel
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Rae & Howie Davis
East Passyunk Avenue Business Improvement District
Margaret Krauss
Susan & Lenny Shaker
Dorothy Shaker
Patricia & John Jacquin
Toby Rubin & family
Nancy & Mickey Wollman

Karen Winer
Fred Brownstein
Cheryl Cohen & Jerry Seeler
Congratulations to Lori Barowsky on her recognition as volunteer of the year

Rae & Howie Davis
Bill Caplin & Mary Jenewin-Caplin

In memory of Annie Goldman
Charles Reiter

Thank you to all who gave me Mishloach Manot
Dorita Henderson

In honor of the birth of Lynn Foggie's great granddaughter
Carol Wernick & family

In honor of the B'nei Mitzvah of Ben & Jacob Starkman
Linda & Steve Kaplan

In memory of Frances Jackowitz
Ed Gerstein & Tema Smeyne

In memory of Daniel Allen Kempf
Miriam Lief

Adelle Miller
Dr. Bruce Wintman & Dr. Jonna Gaberman
Bill Caplin & Mary Jenewin-Caplin

Charlotte Meyer
Eric Ratner & Ann Gutman

In memory of Paula Peterson
Marja, Paul, Jenna & Madison Barr

Thank you to Temple Beth El
Russ Finer

A special thanks to the Anfang Family
Rev. David Aminia

In honor of Dov Katan's Bar Mitzvah

Nechama Katan
Wishing Sora Torff a complete recovery
Miriam Lief

In honor of Meyer Weiss on his 70th Birthday
Dr. & Mrs. Jack Cook

MINYAN FUND

In memory of Bruce Caplin
Adele Miller

Yahrzeit of Lenore Kutlow Tobin, beloved mother
Jocelyn Tobin

In honor of the wedding of Rabbi Amy Walk and Rabbi Mark Cohn
Jane Sherman

In memory of Shaindel Menuchah bas Reb Yitzak Fischel
Susan Burk

In honor of David & Sharon Aminia's 50th anniversary
Jill Goldstein
Adele Miller
Beth & Gary Danforth

Annie Rivera
Goldie & Irving Skerker
Patti Goldstein
Russell Rachel & Daniel Finer
John & Lisa Nascembeni & family

In memory of Florence Cohen
Linda Haendiges
Abbie & Meyer Weiss

In memory of Roslyn Leiter
Myra & Jerry Gold
Charlotte Meyer

In memory of Sheila Okun
Myra & Jerry Gold

Yahrzeit of Sylvia Pincus, beloved mother
Susan Burk

In memory of Joan Hellerman
Patti Goldstein

SANDI KUPPERMAN LEARNING CENTER FUND

Mazel tov to Vickie Powers on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Caryn Resnick
In memory of Daniel Allen Kempf

Caryn Resnick
Mazel tov to Avery Blumberg on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Caryn Resnick
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**A special thanks to
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Ben, Jacob and our family
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*Yahrzeit plaques are a fitting
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yahrzeit in perpetuity. They are
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the yahrzeit. The cost is \$375.
If you would like to purchase a
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*A person cannot live by reason
alone nor by feeling alone.
There must always be a synthesis
of reason and feeling.
If a person should immerse oneself
in feeling alone he will fall into
the depths of folly which bring
about every weakness and sin.
Only an equitable balance between
the two will bring one's full deliverance.*

RABBI ABRAHAM ISAAC KOOK –
Orot HaKodesh I

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Torah Donation Thank You — Shavuot Day 1 5782 June 5, 2022



Rabbi Walkk at Hadassah Neurim Youth Village

The following remarks were presented by Sue Polansky at Temple Beth El during our special ceremony on the first day of Shavuot. Sue serves as a Hadassah National Assembly member, and serves on its Youth Aliyah Committee. She is a member of Hadassah's Education & Advocacy Division, and writes the "Zionism... Did You Know" articles for Hadassah Magazine.

Thank you to our extraordinary rabbi, my dear friend Amy; to Michelle and her board; Rev. David Aminia for inspecting our Torah to make sure it is kosher; our congregation, Sonia and her staff; and Susan & Billy Firestone, in absentia, for gifting a Torah dressed in its new mantle to Hadassah's Youth Aliyah Neurim Village. To paraphrase an Israeli colleague: "The village is very excited to receive the Torah. You are doing such a special mitzvah [that] it moves me so much, . . . I am sure the village and the children will appreciate it [so much] too! We hope to see you here soon."

Many of you are Hadassah members; others know about the organization because of the Hadassah Medical Center. I am going to tell you a little more about Youth Aliyah and the children who will be receiving our Torah.

Did you know nearly a third of Israeli children live in poverty, and almost half a million suffer from high-risk situations such as abuse, learning disabilities, or a lack of basic needs? Still others come to

our youth villages from places around the world where it is no longer safe to be a Jew. This is the population we serve. Young immigrants and at-risk native Israelis receive a full spectrum of help—shelter, food, counseling, education and other supportive services. During the worst of the pandemic, we provided food for the neediest families of our students.

Youth Aliyah villages help put these children on a path to success. It began in 1934 when Hadassah provided a safe haven to Jewish children rescued from the Nazis. Since then, we have tirelessly worked to rescue and nurture at-risk children from around the world. In the spirit of Jewish tradition, we gladly take on the vital responsibility and privilege of helping children in need.

To date, youth from 80 different lands have graduated from Youth Aliyah. Our student body includes Jewish, Ethiopian, Druze, Bedouin, Muslim, and Christian Israelis suffering from abuse or neglect. Immigrant students may come without their families, as those first teenagers did, through the Na'ale program.

Hadassah is proud that when the war in Ukraine began, the Israeli government approached Youth Aliyah first to take in refugee children. As you can imagine, we needed to provide them with extra Ukrainian- or Russian-speaking psychologists and social workers. Basic necessities included laptops and phones so they could stay in touch with loved ones at home. The village arranged for home hospitality during Passover. Neurim now has 35 refugees, including seven student athletes and two coaches. We expect 50 more to arrive at our two villages soon.

Central to our mission is the **well-being of future generations.** Neurim and Meir Shfeyah students come to our villages from diverse backgrounds and many come with virtually no knowledge or understanding of their Jewish heritage. We offer them a variety of programs that enhance their lives with the rich history and variety of Jewish life such as our Joy of Judaism program and heritage enrichment trips to Poland and Ethiopia. And just added this year: b'nai mitzvah trips to Jerusalem. Some of TBE's students recently helped pilot a Zoom challah baking project with

some of their Israeli peers.

Neurim Village is on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea near Netanya. You may have watched one of its alumni at the opening of the Tokyo Olympics. "Louie" carried the flag of the refugees. He walked from Eritrea to Israel. At Neurim, he learned to run—so well, in fact, that he participated in the Olympic men's marathon. Neurim's National Center for Young Athletes is renowned for its students' achievements in national and international competitions. The sports programs give students the structure, discipline and teamwork that together give them excellent lifelong habits and much-needed self-esteem.

<https://www.hadassah.org/story/youth-aliyah-graduate-achieves-olympic-dream>

Neurim's total student body numbers over 430 students, ages 14 to 18, of whom 390 are residential students and 40 are day students. In 2021, 83 seniors graduated.

Neurim boasts a vocational training program that includes high-tech motor vehicle maintenance, carpentry, and sound & audio training. Other program opportunities include international robotics competitions with real-world applications and solutions developed by the students. On the news, you may recall images of our team competing in Texas.

A new initiative lets students care for and train rescue dogs. This gives the teens a chance to learn to be responsible for another living creature, to develop empathy, and to develop self-esteem. I can email the brief video to those interested.

Hadassah Neurim also offers programs for special needs students. And, yes, as it is on the sea, it offers surfing!

Most of our graduates serve in the IDF, a true measure of their success and ours. Afterwards, many go on to college and some to graduate school.

I can tell you more about Hadassah Medical Organization & Israel's heroic work at Ukraine's borders, including the first field hospital, trauma training for doctors and nurses at small Polish hospitals, and the arrival of medical clowns. But we can discuss that over lunch. For now, N'siyah Tovah to TBE's travelers to the Shalom Hartman Institute and to those delivering our precious Torah to Neurim Village. Thank you again and chag sameach.



You Can Go Home Again

Rabbi Robert S. Goldstein

In many ways, Covid-19 changed our lives. Weddings were delayed, trips to visit family and friends postponed. Before Covid, many congregations began to livestream services, including life-cycle events, primarily for the benefit of those unable to travel

because of age or health. And now, “virtual worship” has become the standard. And while it is always better to join with one’s community in person, the virtual option has opened the synagogue doors to a far greater number of people. I am among them.

I grew up at Beth El and became a Bar Mitzvah and was Confirmed at the temple. Beth El was the place where much of my Jewish identity was shaped by the congregation’s skilled clergy, inspired by gifted teachers, and reinforced by the temple’s many dedicated lay leaders. Among my temple memories is attending the early morning minyan with my father when he was saying kaddish for my grandmother. I admit that I was not eager to get out of bed on a cold morning to join my dad for the minyan. But I knew it was important.

Last June, following my retirement from a very fulfilling 40-year career as a pulpit rabbi, we moved to Washington, DC to be closer to our children. In December my mother passed away. Suddenly I found myself on the other side. For the first time in many years, I was not the comforter, but the mourner. Though I am hesitant to find any benefit from the curse of Covid, thanks to the Temple Beth El “virtual minyan,” I have been able to come home each evening, to “my synagogue,” a familiar place where I can say kaddish with Rabbi Wallk and Rev. Aminia, along with my sisters, and with other members of the Beth El family, some of whom I have known since childhood.

The great philosopher Maimonides teaches that consoling the bereaved is one of the most powerful expressions of *gimilut chasadim*, of genuine kindness. I am grateful that during the time of my mourning, surrounded by the warmth and kindness of my fellow worshippers, I have found comfort in a place so familiar and so beloved.