thechronicle

TEMPLE BETH EL OF BOCA RATON

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/JANUARY 2026-27
CHESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET/SHEVAT 5787



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Temple Beth El

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Sing A New Song

BY **RABBI DAN LEVIN**
Templer Family Senior Rabbinic Chair
DLevin@tbeboca.org

Psalm 96 begins: *Shiru L'Adonai Shir Chadash; Shiru L'Adonai Kol HaAretz* - Sing out to God a new song; sing out to God all the earth!

What does it mean to "sing a new song"? Rashi, the 11th century French commentator, taught that "any reference to a 'new song' is referencing the future."

Singing a new song isn't just about welcoming the future, but represents how we want to meet the future.

In some ways, the future can feel foreboding and even dark. We may have lost a loved one or had an unwelcome life transition. We may notice changes in our health we hadn't planned on, or changes in our circumstances we never imagined. What the new normal will be has not yet become clear. The future is coming on fast, and we don't feel prepared or ready. And so, naturally, we're anxious and maybe even a little afraid.



Jewish life is living in the tension between what was and what could be. Part of being Jewish cries out: Tradition! Resist change! Stay true to what we know, to the way it's always been! There's a reason we have always done it this way and that's because it's the "right" way. It's the way God wants.

The other part of Jewish life calls out: Innovate! Build something new - something better! The old ways don't work anymore. We've discovered new ideas and truths that require us to adapt and grow. We have to try to improve and make it better!

That tension is what creates the music of Jewish life. Like a string on a guitar or violin, if there is no tension, then there is no music. It is the vibration between those two poles that makes the music of Jewish life.

It is because we should greet the future with joy, with singing, with the faith and belief that the future is not to be feared but to be celebrated. The future is full of possibility and potential. We can choose to greet the future with hope and with joy. There is much yet for us to discover, about the meaning of our individual lives, and what we can create together as a society.

It's the same today as in every era in history. Imagine how our ancestors felt, with little capacity to cure disease, to predict the weather, or to know when the next invasion might come. Life was fragile then, and it is fragile now. Life was uncertain then, and it is uncertain now.

So why did King David declare in the Psalms that we should "sing a new song?"

It is because we should greet the future with joy, with singing, with the faith and belief that the future is not to be feared but to be celebrated. The future is full of possibility and potential. We can choose to greet the future with hope and with joy. There is much yet for us to discover, about the meaning of our individual lives, and what we can create together as a society.

Every time we think we understand our world, new knowledge is revealed and we realize there is so much more to learn. Nothing is ever fixed or finished. We are constantly evolving, growing, changing, and learning.

As Temple Beth El evolves and grows, so does our practice and those who lead us in that practice. This year, as Michelle Auslander Cohen rises to be our Senior Cantorial Leader, and we welcome Todd Herzog as our new Cantorial Associate, we will enjoy the fruits of their talents and they will begin to translate their vision for what the musical and spiritual experience of our worship can be.

They will sing new songs with new melodies, and we need to be open to what those possibilities might do for us. And at the same time, they will lean into the traditions that steady us, not just the traditions our people have known for centuries, but the traditions that make Temple Beth El feel like home.

The future is bright with possibility and opportunity. We greet that future with a new song, and together we can work to shape it into a holy and powerful work of art.

ON THE COVER Senior Cantorial Leader Michelle Auslander Cohen

Michelle Cohen's Beautiful *Neshamah*



BY **GINA SHUGAR**
TEMPLE BETH EL
PRESIDENT
GShugar@tbeboca.org

The new leader of our Cantorial Department, Michelle Auslander Cohen, is quite simply pure light. Her neshamah shines brighter than almost anyone I have ever met, and when you are around her, somehow a little of that light shines on you.

Michelle is my friend. She is someone I can call when something terrible happens and I know she will be there. But perhaps just as importantly, she is the person I want to call when something wonderful happens, because Michelle will be every bit as excited about my good news as I am.



Michelle is the biggest cheerleader I know and seems to have nachas for everyone. When something wonderful happens to someone she loves or, frankly, to someone she doesn't know so well, she experiences their joy almost as if it happened to her. She celebrates people. She roots for people. She has an extraordinary ability to make people feel seen.



That is one of the many reasons I was so thrilled when Michelle was elevated to become Temple Beth El's Senior Cantorial Leader. Of course, joy alone does not qualify someone to lead a cantorial department. Michelle also happens to be an exceptional musician, a visionary, a remarkably hard worker and a natural leader.

I won't recount Michelle's musical credentials or the amazing spiritual journey that brought her to Beth El, because she tells that story beautifully herself in her feature article on pages 20-22. What is clear is that music has never simply been something Michelle does. It is part of how she understands herself, Judaism and the world. Music touches her soul in a way that is palpable when she sings, and especially when she leads a congregation in song.



In just a few months as Senior Cantorial Leader, Michelle has begun putting her own imprint on the department while honoring the musical traditions our congregation loves. She has brought new ideas, tremendous energy and a clear vision without losing the integrity of what has made music at Beth El so meaningful for generations.

You can feel it on Friday nights.

There is an authentic joy among Michelle, Todd and Chris, and between our cantorial team and our rabbis. They listen to one another. They play off one another. They laugh. They experiment. When it all comes together, you can feel that something more than music is happening. It is genuine collaboration, genuine connection and genuine joy.

Michelle's impact at Beth El also extends far beyond the Bima. When she sees a need, she doesn't say, "Someone should do something about that." Her instinct is generally to become that someone.

After October 7, 2023, she helped create our *Israel Task Force* so Beth El could respond thoughtfully and in real time to opportunities involving Israel education, engagement and support. In November 2025, she led a group of women on a Momentum journey to Israel. I had the privilege of assisting her on that trip, where I saw another side of Michelle's leadership: not the upbeat cheerleader friend, but a gentle, thoughtful leader who knew when to speak, when to listen and, perhaps most importantly, how to create

space for other people to find meaning in their own experiences regardless of how heavy they were feeling.

But those two sides of Michelle are not actually opposites. They come from exactly the same place.

Whether she is standing on the Bima, leading women through Israel, comforting a friend, mentoring a colleague or celebrating someone she loves, Michelle shows up fully. There is very little separation between the beautiful soul she is and the way she leads.

Her husband, Yaniv Cohen, describes her beautifully: "My wife admirably navigates the complexities of a high-demand environment, all while finding the space to create beautiful art." I couldn't have said it better myself.

Music has never simply been something Michelle does. It is part of how she understands herself, Judaism and the world. Music touches her soul in a way that is palpable when she sings, and especially when she leads a congregation in song.

In Michelle's own Chronicle article, she writes that her vision is for music to "ooze" from Temple Beth El. Knowing Michelle, I guarantee that it will. It will probably ooze from the sanctuary, the classrooms, the hallways, the parking lot and eventually several unsuspecting assisted-living facilities throughout Palm Beach County.

It will be joyful, because it will be *Michelle*.

Michelle, mazel tov on this very well-deserved new role. Thank you for bringing your extraordinary talent, leadership, humor, heart and enormous neshamah to Temple Beth El.

We are very lucky to have you.

New Security Manager - Vladimir Shneiderman

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME TEMPLE BETH EL'S NEW SECURITY MANAGER – VLADIMIR SHNEIDERMAN.

Vladimir brings over 20 years of experience in the security industry, with extensive expertise in security operations, personnel management, safety procedures, emergency preparedness, and the protection of people and facilities.

Vladimir joined the Beth El Staff in September after having served as the Head of Security for the Posnack School for the past ten years. The Posnack School is an 850-student, K-12 Jewish Day School located in Davie. Prior to that, Vladimir served as the Security Manager for the Jewish Federation of Broward County.



Vladimir is fluent in Hebrew, English and Russian, and is a former soldier of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), where he developed a strong foundation in discipline, responsibility, situational awareness, teamwork, and security operations. Vladimir and his wife Brooke, have two children who attend the Beth El Early Learning Center so they are already members of the Beth El community.

"I am honored to serve Temple Beth El as your Security Manager. Throughout my career, I have focused on developing practical and effective security strategies that protect communities while maintaining a welcoming, respectful, and positive environment. I believe effective security begins with prevention, preparation, communication, and strong relationships with staff, students, families, and community members."

"I am truly honored to begin this new chapter. I look forward to working together with everyone to build a safer and stronger environment for worship and education."

BE The Future

SECURING TOMORROW FOR TEMPLE BETH EL

For 60 years, Temple Beth El has been a source of hope, comfort and inspiration for generations of Jews in and near Boca Raton. What began in 1967, when a small group of Jews recognized the need for a spiritual home, has grown into a vibrant community that touches thousands of lives.

Now, we have an opportunity—and a responsibility—to make sure that legacy continues.

BE The Future is a $36 million endowment campaign designed to provide our synagogue with the financial strength and stability to meet whatever challenges the future may bring. We are now entering the final phase of the campaign, when we are reaching out to every member to ask you to consider making as generous a pledge as you are able.





> Supporting this Campaign is our way of ensuring that Temple Beth El can be the incredible community it is today long into the future. If we all chip in and do our part, we can make sure current and future generations, whatever their financial circumstances, will be able to have the Temple as their house of worship and spiritual safety-net.
>
> – Joel and Susan Ivers

An endowment is, at its heart, a promise to the future. It allows us to take what we have built together and make sure that the resources necessary to sustain it will be there for the generations who follow us.

This campaign is meant to ensure that Temple Beth El will always be a place to call home; that members can remain connected to regardless of their ability to pay; that we can attract and retain exceptional clergy and staff; and that our campuses remain safe, welcoming and accessible.

Your support will help ensure that future generations have the resources they need to navigate the inevitable challenges and opportunities of Jewish life. It will also help preserve the things that make Temple Beth El *Beth El*: inspiring worship, Jewish learning, pastoral support and end-of-life care, music, early childhood education, religious school, social justice, adult education, youth and teen engagement, and the countless moments of connection that happen each year that turn a synagogue into a community.

We know that the future will bring challenges. We have seen how quickly circumstances can change. Antisemitism, economic uncertainty, natural disasters and other crises can test even the strongest communities. The goal of BE The Future

BE THE FUTURE

An Endowment Campaign to Secure Beth El's Tomorrow

To make your pledge, or to get more information, please contact Shayna Martinoff at 561-314-2815 or **SMartinoff@tbeboca.org**.

is to make sure that Beth El has the fortified roots necessary to remain strong and responsive–whatever comes our way.

But this campaign isn't only about preparing for difficult times. It is about preparing for possibility. It is about giving the Temple leaders of tomorrow the freedom to dream, to innovate, and to continue creating extraordinary Jewish experiences.

There are many ways to participate. Gifts can be made over multiple years, through bequests and other planned gifts, or through one of the campaign's many endowment opportunities. And gifts of every size will be recognized and deeply appreciated.

Perhaps most meaningfully, BE The Future gives each of us a chance to answer a simple question: What do we want to leave behind?

> Temple Beth El is an incredible community and an integral part of our Jewish lives and identify. We couldn't imagine life without our beloved temple. So, it was a no brainer to help ensure its future and preserve our home away from home by contributing to the BE The Future Endowment Campaign.
>
> **– Joshua and Debra Marcus**

We have inherited an extraordinary Temple Beth El. Now it is our turn to secure its future.Please consider this your formal invitation to join the Temple Beth El members who have already pledged their support for our BE The Future campaign.

If you would like to participate, please contact Shayna Martinoff at 561-314-2815 or SMartinoff@tbeboca.org.

NOVEMBER IS GIVING TREE MONTH!

SOCIAL JUSTICE AT TEMPLE BETH EL



While most of us look forward to the holiday season, many who are in poverty or distress in our local community find this time of year unbearably sad. With your help, The Giving Tree of Temple Beth El will fulfill Holiday Wish Lists for over 2,000 local children, families and senior citizens throughout Palm Beach County. ***The need continues to grow each year.***

Please help with the Giving Tree Holiday Project. Together as a community, let's make Holiday Wishes come true!



- Pick a Holiday Wish List at **thegivingtreeboca.org** or by scanning this QR code. Shop for items on the list and follow instructions for drop-off.
- Pick a Holiday Wish List from The Giving Tree at the Schaefer or Beck Family Campus. Shop for items on the list and follow instructions for drop-off.
- Prefer not to shop? Visit **tbeboca.org/giving/the-giving-tree** to donate and we will shop for you.
- Donate Walmart, Target or Amazon gift cards.
- Organize a wish fulfillment drive at your place of work, community, or chavurah. Email **contact@thegivingtreeboca.org** to learn how.

GIVING TREE DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, November 2 Holiday wish lists are available. Pick a wish list online or at either campus!

Tuesday, December 1 Deadline for fulfilling holiday wish lists and dropping off gifts. This gives our volunteers ample time to assemble, wrap and distribute.



Sunday, November 22 and Thursday, December 10: Share the spirit of the season at a Giving Tree Gift Wrapping Party! Sign up to wrap presents from 12:00 – 2:00 pm or 2:00 – 4:00 pm at this festive volunteer opportunity. Space is limited to 20 people per shift. This is a family-friendly volunteer opportunity.
Sign up for a wrap party at **tbeboca.org/holiday-wrap**, or email Robin Eisenberg at **REisenberg@tbeboca.org** to schedule a time that works for you or your group.

Sunday, December 20: Gift delivery at Martin Manor, formerly known as Dixie Manor. This is a family-friendly volunteer opportunity. Watch your email for the opportunity to sign up.

The Giving Tree of Temple Beth El
Inspired by the legacy of Myra Singer

#THIS MOMENT IN

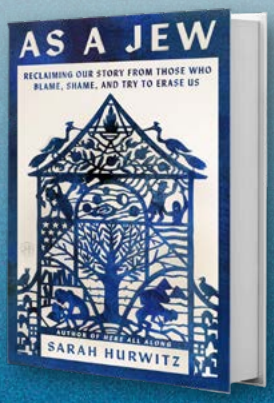
With the rise of Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism, and with Israeli politics impacting American elections, what does the future of Jewish life look like in Israel, in America and around the world?
Join us for two amazing opportunities to hear from dynamic speakers.

AS A **Jew**

Reclaiming Our Story from Those Who Blame, Shame, and Try to Erase Us

WITH SARAH HURWITZ





Sarah Hurwitz is a bestselling author, sought-after speaker, and former White House speechwriter who served as a senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama and as head speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama. During her eight years in the White House, she helped craft some of the administration's most memorable speeches and traveled extensively with Mrs. Obama around the world.

After a successful career in politics and public service, Sarah embarked on a personal journey that led her to rediscover Judaism as a source of meaning, wisdom, and spiritual depth.

Sarah has been featured by major media outlets including The Washington Post, The Today Show, NPR, and The Guardian. Through her writing and speaking, she helps audiences explore Jewish identity, spirituality, leadership, storytelling, and the enduring relevance of Jewish wisdom in modern life

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

6:00 PM VIP MEET & GREET WITH HORS D'OEUVRES

7:00 PM PROGRAM

BOOK SIGNING AND ONEG TO FOLLOW

SCHAEFER FAMILY CAMPUS

Register at tbeboca.org/as-a-jew

Sarah Hurwitz, New York Times Bestselling Author and celebrated White House speechwriter, will lead us in a conversation on how to live as proud Jews in 2026. Beginning with an urgent exploration of how antisemitism has shaped Jewish identity, we will learn how Jews must reclaim our story and write our own future.

Presenting Sponsors Emily and Richard Cohen

VIP Seating with Meet & Greet: $100
Includes a copy of the book (only open to Temple Beth El members and their guests)

General Admission: $18

Students with ID: Free



JEWISH HISTORY

AMERICA, ISRAEL AND THE FUTURE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE



BEING Zionist

The Essential Partnership Between Israel and American Jews

WITH HAVIV RETTIG GUR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

6:00 PM VIP MEET & GREET WITH HORS D'OEUVRES

7:00 PM PROGRAM

Register at
tbeboca.org/being-zionist

ASK HAVIV ANYTHING

Join Haviv Rettig Gur, Israeli journalist, political analyst and host of the acclaimed podcast, "Ask Haviv Anything", in conversation with our rabbis. Together, they will dive into U.S. and Israeli election results, and how Israel-America relations impact the future of the Jewish people in Israel, in America and around the world.

VIP Seating with Meet & Greet: $100

General Admission: $18

Students with ID: Free

Haviv Rettig Gur is an Israeli journalist, host of the "Ask Haviv Anything" podcast, Middle East analyst at The Free Press, and senior analyst at The Times of Israel. He covers Israeli politics, foreign and regional policies, and the country's relationship with the Jewish diaspora. He has reported from over 20 countries.

Fluent in Hebrew and English, he lectures in Israel and abroad on Israeli society, history, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He was director of communications for the Jewish Agency for Israel and an early advocate for SpaceIL, advancing science education through Israel's spacecraft launch. He teaches about journalism, history, and politics at Israeli premilitary academies.

TWO INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE CHANUKAH!

Spotlights & Chanukah Nights

Chanukah Shabbat

MACCABEES GO TO THE MOVIES!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
6:00 pm Chanukah Shabbat Service
7:30 pm Chanukah Celebration
Schaefer Family Campus
Register for dinner at
tbeboca.org/chanukah-shabbat

For more information, please contact Elinor Josephson at EJosephson@tbeboca.org or 561-314-2833.

Prices increase by $5 per person on Tuesday, November 24. Registration closes Monday, November 30 at 12:00 pm.

Lights, camera... Chanukah! Join us for a festive Shabbat celebration as our clergy and choirs hit the big screen (well, almost!) in the hilarious "Maccabees Go to the Movies."

This entertaining parody will feature beloved movie music and unforgettable songs from the big screen. Characters like Rocky, Olaf, Forest Gump, the Ghostbusters and Darth Vader will come alive in this epic evening of superheroes and villains! Come ready to laugh, celebrate and sing along to your favorite tunes as we celebrate Chanukah as a one incredible community.

After services, enjoy a delicious dinner catered by Artisan Foods and a joyful Chanukah celebration for all ages.

Members: $30 per adult,
$15 per child ages 4-12,
Free for children ages 3 and under

Guests: $35 per adult,
$20 per child ages 4-12,
Free for children ages 3 and under



Hooray for Chanukah!

CHANUKAH CABARET WITH RACHEL MATZ HUNTER

Wednesday, December 9
7:00 pm Show followed by Latke Oneg
Schaefer Family Campus
$18 per person
Register at tbeboca.org/hooray

Enjoy a special Chanukah cabaret written, directed, and performed by our very own congregant, Rachel Matz Hunter, along with a talented group of friends. Featuring beloved songs that have made the journey from stage to screen, this festive evening will begin with the lighting of the Chanukah candles. As the candles glow, sit back and enjoy an evening of wonderful music and incredible talent—all from right here within our own community.

TEMPLE BETH EL
FRIENDS of MUSIC & the ARTS

TEMPLE BETH EL ANNUAL
GOLF OUTING

HONORING ILYNE MENDELSON AND KEVIN ROMER
FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY





MONDAY | JANUARY 25
BOCA RIO GOLF CLUB | 2027







Enjoy Golf, Lunch, Cocktails, Dinner Reception with Open Bar, Auction, Contests and Great Prizes!

Registration is now open, and sponsorship opportunities are available!
Visit ***tbegolf.com***

INDIVIDUAL GOLFER: **$575**
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: ***Save $50*** *when you register by December 1! Enter Code: GOLF50*

For more information, contact Shayna Martinoff at **SMartinoff@tbeboca.org.**

TRAVEL WITH

Temple Beth El to Israel

Led by Rabbi Dan Levin and Elinor Josephson
May 3 – 13, 2027

Join Rabbi Dan Levin and Elinor Josephson on this meaningful journey of unity and resilience. Designed for our members who have traveled to Israel previously, this trip will provide unique opportunities to explore the complexities of Israeli society, politics, and security. We will savor Israel's rich food and wine culture, learn from extraordinary scholars, and experience special opportunities to see how Israel has managed to persevere through these difficult days. Members who have not been to Israel before may participate in an extension of the trip to explore some of the country's iconic sites.

For more information, please contact Elinor Josephson at **EJosephson@tbeboca.org**




SAVE the DATE
SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2027
BETH EL
Bash
CELEBRATING TEMPLE BETH EL'S
60TH DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY
AND SPECIAL HONOREE
PATTY BECK

Shabbat AT TEMPLE BETH EL

SERVICE	WHEN	TIME
Evening Shabbat: First Friday	First Friday of the month: November 6, December 4, January 1	6:00 pm
Evening Shabbat: All Other Fridays	Every Friday (except the first Friday of the month)	7:30 pm*
Morning Minyan	First Saturday of the month November 7, December 5, January 2	10:45 am

**Unless otherwise noted*



KOL HaNESHAMA

Shabbat Services at **6:00 pm**
An intimate, soulful service in the round in our beautiful Beck Family Chapel at the Schaefer Family Campus
Friday, November 20
Friday, December 18
Friday, January 15

EVENING TOT SHABBAT

Friday, November 13, 6:00 pm
Be Thankful Tot Shabbat
Beck Family Campus

Friday, December 4, 6:00 pm
Chanukah Shabbat & Celebration
Schaefer Family Campus

Friday, January 8, 6:00 pm
Pajama Tot Shabbat
Beck Family Campus

Register at **tbeboca.org/tot-shabbat**

Shabbat Highlights!

Friday, November 6 at 6:00 pm
Consecration of Cantorial Associate Todd Herzog
See page 18.

Friday, November 13 at 7:30 pm
The Art of Ritual: The Ceremonial Objects of Tobi Kahn.
See page 16.

Friday, November 27 at 7:30 pm
Bima Blessings for November Birthdays

Friday, December 4 at 6:00 pm
Chanukah Shabbat: Maccabees go to the Movies!
See page 10.

Friday, December 18 at 7:30 pm
Bima Blessings for December Birthdays

Friday, January 8 at 7:30 pm
Bima Blessings for January Birthdays

Friday, January 22 at 7:30 pm
Consecration of Senior Cantorial Leader Michelle Auslander Cohen.
See page 19.

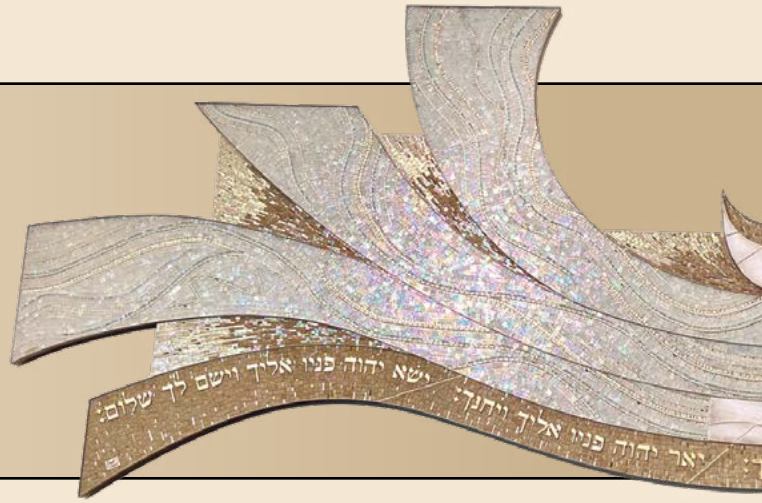
Friday, January 29 at 7:30 pm
Shabbat with Wisdom and Wonder speaker Alan Morinis.
See page 14.



A *Spiritual* MUSSAR WEEKEND

Wisdom and Wonder: with Dr. Alan Morinis

JANUARY 29 – 30 | SCHAEFER FAMILY CAMPUS



Temple Beth El is excited to welcome Dr. Alan Morinis, author and founder of The Mussar Institute, for a weekend of learning and spiritual connection.

Dr. Morinis is an author, teacher, and founder of The Mussar Institute, the world's leading provider of contemporary Mussar instruction. His newest book, The *Shabbat Effect*, shows how Shabbat can bring meaning, rest, and renewal into everyday life.

Parsha Perspectives: The Covenant of Responsibility

Friday, January 29 | 11:00 am

The clash between freedom and responsibility is mirrored in the world in which we live. Drawing on venerable teachings on the inner trait of responsibility (acharayut, in Hebrew), we will focus on lessons from Parashat Yitro that are entirely applicable in our own lives.

Shabbat Dinner and Learning: Mastering Your Spiritual Curriculum

Friday, January 29 | 6:00 pm

Dinner and Learning will precede Shabbat services

We may not realize it, but those aspects of our inner life that trip us up are not weaknesses nor flaws, but a curriculum. That's the central message of *Orchot Tzaddikim*, an anonymous Jewish text from the 16th century that presents developing your character as the central task of human life. It tells us that our job is to recognize and then work to develop those specific traits in us that have not yet reached their potential. That's how we grow, we flourish, and we move closer to fulfilling our innate potential as human beings, along a distinctly Jewish path.

Register for dinner at **tbeboca.org/spiritual-curriculum.** Registration closes at 12:00 pm on Monday, January 25.

Members: $36 per person
Guests: $42 per person

Torah Study Through a Mussar Lens: Exploring Parashat Yitro

Saturday, January 30 | 9:30 am

In Parashat Yitro, special focus is given to the instruction that directs us to be a "goy kadosh", a holy nation. What does that mean? What do we have to do to live up to that ideal? Has the establishment of the State of Israel been a step in that direction? Even more fundamentally, what is this quality called "holiness" and what can cause us to embody it, individually and collectively? There is reason to think that answering these questions is a key to building a vibrant Jewish future.



Dr. Alan Morinis, Founder of The Mussar Institute, is a leading figure in the contemporary revival of the Mussar movement, a 1,100-year-old Jewish personal and communal spiritual tradition nearly lost after the Holocaust. A filmmaker, Rhodes Scholar, and anthropologist focused on Hindu pilgrimages, he reached a personal turning point in 1997 that led to his exploration of Mussar. Alan sought out Rabbi Yechiel Perr, an accomplished master who stood in an unbroken line of transmission of the Mussar tradition. After years of study, he reinterpreted Mussar learnings and practices for modern audiences in Climbing Jacob's Ladder and Everyday Holiness. To address growing public interest, he founded The Mussar Institute in 2004. He went on to author three more books: Every Day, Holy Day, With Heart in Mind, and The Shabbat Effect. Alan continues to explore and interpret original Mussar sources in Hebrew, making these teachings available to the contemporary world.



Mussar & Movement

Saturday, January 30 | 12:00 pm

Through the practices of Mussar and yoga, we create space to slow down, notice our habits, and consider how we can show up more thoughtfully in the world.

Yoga instructor, Amy Appel will guide us through a yoga practice to connect to the *middah,* character trait, of *achrayut,* responsibility. Rabbi Amy Pessah and Dr. Morinis will share Jewish texts related to this middah.

During this practice we will focus on, what does it mean to be responsible and how do our sacred Jewish teachings guide us to live a life of responsibility? To whom are we responsible, and what role does holiness play in our understanding of this idea? Ultimately, we learn that responsibility begins with ourselves and grows through the way we care for and engage with others.

Lunch & LEARN



Rabbi
Laila Haas



Rabbi
Dan Levin



Rabbi
Ashira Boxman



Rabbi
Greg Weisman



Rabbi
Amy Pessah

Sacred Objects: Jewish Ritual Art

Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17
(no class November 24)
12:00 – 1:00 pm
Schaefer Family Campus and Virtual Beth El (Zoom)

Join Rabbi Laila Haas for an exploration of Jewish ritual art and the ways creativity and sacred practice have long been intertwined. Throughout Jewish history, artists and communities have transformed the objects of Jewish life into vessels of beauty, memory, and holiness. Together, we will study the work of contemporary Jewish artist Tobi Kahn, whose ritual objects invite us to consider how art can open pathways to prayer, reflection, healing, and connection.

Chanukah Through the Ages: History, Talmud & Today

Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15
(no class December 22 and 29)
12:00 – 1:00 pm
Schaefer Family Campus and Virtual Beth El (Zoom)

Join Rabbis Levin, Weisman and Boxman for a journey through the story and evolving meaning of Chanukah. We'll begin with the historical world of the Maccabees and the events that gave rise to the holiday, then turn to the Talmud to discover how the rabbis reshaped the story of Chanukah for generations to come. Finally, we'll bring Chanukah into our own time, exploring its enduring themes of identity, religious freedom, courage, and resilience.

Everyday Holiness

Tuesdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26
12:00 – 1:00 pm
Schaefer Family Campus and Virtual Beth El (Zoom)

As we prepare to welcome Dr. Alan Morinis, founder of the The Mussar Institute, to Temple Beth El, we will explore *Everyday Holiness*, his practical guide to the Jewish spiritual practice of Mussar. Rabbi Greg Weisman and Rabbi Amy Pessah will lead us through the practices of meditation, study, and personal reflection, along with the various *middot*, soul traits, that make up Mussar practice.

THE ART OF RITUAL



Ceremonial Objects of Artist Tobi Kahn

ON VIEW NOVEMBER 2 – 30
SCHAEFER FAMILY CAMPUS





Experience ceremonial works from the private collection of internationally acclaimed artist Tobi Kahn, whose art has been exhibited in major museums and galleries around the world. Through contemporary ritual objects, Kahn explores the intersection of Jewish tradition, spirituality, and the visual arts, revealing what he calls "the spirit of our inner lives—mysterious, resonant, a sanctuary in a still struggling world. Judaism has emphasized words, language and commentary, I have found the visual elements of the tradition equally illuminating."

On view throughout November at the Schaefer Family Campus, this special exhibition invites us to encounter the sacred through the eyes of one of today's most celebrated Jewish artists.

This exhibit is made possible by Friends of Music and the Arts and in partnership with the Boca Raton Museum of Art.



Tobi Kahn is an internationally acclaimed painter and sculptor whose work has been featured in more than 70 solo museum exhibitions and is held in major collections, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, The Phillips Collection, The Jewish Museum, and Yale University Art Gallery. For more than 40 years, Kahn has taught at the School of Visual Arts in New York and has lectured internationally on visual language, spirituality, and art as a source of healing. His solo survey exhibition, Tobi Kahn: Quest for the Essence, opens at the Boca Raton Museum of Art in Fall 2026.

BOCA RATON MUSEUM OF ART

TEMPLE BETH EL
FRIENDS of MUSIC & the ARTS

Asking for a Friend

WHERE SOCIAL USE ENDS AND MISUSE BEGINS

Sunday, November 8
9:30 - 11:00 am
Schaefer Family Campus
Register at tbeboca.org/forafriend

Join us for an honest, eye-opening conversation about the substances we often consider "normal," moderated by Rabbi Dan Levin. This is a conversation for our entire community – because awareness, education, and prevention matter to the entire family.

Topics Include:

- Knowing when "just social" becomes something more
- How to have open, judgement-free conversations
- Vaping & nicotine
- Caffeine & energy drinks
- Socially accepted substances
- Recognizing the warning signs
- When use crosses the line to misuse

Panel Members

Andrea Pittell, LCSW

Adam L. Saslov, LMHC PA – Individual, Group, Family Therapy

John Puls, LCSW, MCAP – Co-Founder of Full Life Comprehensive Care – Marchman Act & Baker Act

Shari Sheiner, SLP at Spanish River High School

Event Chair – Jill Swimmer

Breakfast will be served.
Sponsored by
Temple Beth El Brotherhood.

JFS Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services

Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County

Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center

Hillel

FULL LIFE® COMPREHENSIVE CARE

The Resurgence of Jewish Life in Poland & the Resilience of the Jewish Spirit in Europe



WITH JONATHAN ORNSTEIN
Sunday, January 10 | 10:00 am
Schaefer Family Campus
Bagel brunch and coffee provided
Register at tbeboca.org/ornstein

Jonathan Ornstein is a recognized leader and one of the primary architects of Poland's contemporary Jewish rebirth. He will offer a powerful presentation on the resurgence of Jewish life in Poland and the resilience of Jewish communities across Europe. Ornstein has served as executive director of the Jewish Community Centre of Krakow since 2008 and has helped transform what many believed was a story of Jewish absence into one of renewal, resilience, and an unfolding Jewish future.

An Evening with October 7 Kibbutz Survivor Dorin Rai Zaffrir

A STORY OF SURVIVAL, A JOURNEY OF HOPE
IN CONVERSATION WITH SENIOR CANTORIAL LEADER MICHELLE AUSLANDER COHEN



Thursday, January 14 | 7:00 pm
Schaefer Family Campus
$18 per person
Register at tbeboca.org/dorin

On October 7, 2023 Dorin Rai Zaffrir, her husband and three young children went through one of the most horrific experiences any family could possibly imagine; they were trapped in the safe room in their home, on Kibbutz Nir Oz, for over 12 hours while Hamas terrorists broke into their house - shooting and destroying their sacred home. Because of her husband, the safe room door remained shut and all of them survived.

Dorin will join Senior Cantorial Leader Michelle Cohen for a deeply moving conversation. She will share not only the heartbreaking tragedy her family endured, but also what it means to live in Israel in a post–October 7 world. Through her remarkable story of resilience, courage, and hope, Dorin will bring to life the powerful message we explored with Dr. Zohar Raviv: what it means to "thrive, not just survive."

This program is being generously underwritten by Margie and Maurice Plough.

CONSECRATION OF CANTORIAL ASSOCIATE

Todd Herzog

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
6:00 PM SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY DINNER
SCHAEFER FAMILY CAMPUS
Register for dinner at tbeboca.org/todd



Join us for a joyful and meaningful Shabbat evening as we celebrate the consecration of Cantorial Associate Todd Herzog.

With gratitude and blessings, we will formally welcome Todd into the Temple Beth El clergy and community and celebrate the music, spirit, and warmth he brings to our community. Cantor Murray Simon, Todd's teacher and mentor, will also join us this evening to offer words of inspiration and wisdom for Todd and his family.

Following services, we will continue the celebration with a festive congregational dinner.

DINNER PRICES:

Members: $35 per adult, $25 per child ages 4-12, Free for children ages 3 and under

Guests: $40 per adult, $30 per child ages 4-12, Free for children ages 3 and under

Prices increase by $5 on Wednesday, October 28.

Registration closes Tuesday, November 3 at 12:00 pm.



Cantor Murray E. Simon is an accomplished cantor with degrees in music and voice from Temple University and the Boston Conservatory, who served for 14 years at The Jewish Center of Princeton and held several prominent national leadership positions in the cantorial community. He is also recognized for preserving and celebrating cantorial music through acclaimed film productions and has received two honorary Doctor of Music degrees for his contributions to the cantorate.

Celebrating the Arts at Temple Beth El



We are deeply grateful to Friends of Music and the Arts for their extraordinary generosity and ongoing commitment to enriching the cultural life of Temple Beth El. Through the support of its dedicated members, we have been able to bring inspiring and meaningful experiences to our community, from beautiful art exhibitions within our Temple walls and an exciting partnership with the Boca Raton Museum of Art to exceptional concerts and much more.

The arts have a unique ability to touch the soul, bring people together, and help us see our world and one another with new eyes. The generosity of FOMA benefactors allows music, art and culture to flourish at Temple Beth El, adding to the vibrancy of our congregation. We are grateful for their partnership and commitment to the arts.

Friends of Music and the Arts is stewarded by Rabbi Laila Haas, Senior Cantorial Leader Michelle Auslander Cohen, and Cantor Lori Brock, Emerita. To learn more about joining Friends of Music & the Arts, please contact Shayna Martinoff at **SMartinoff@tbeboca.org** or 561-314-2815.

TEMPLE BETH EL
FRIENDS of MUSIC & the ARTS

CONSECRATION OF SENIOR CANTORIAL LEADER

Michelle Auslander Cohen

JOIN US FOR TWO SPECIAL EVENTS AS WE CONSECRATE MICHELLE INTO HER SENIOR ROLE AS OUR MUSICAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADER OF TEMPLE BETH EL.





The Music in Me

FEATURING

SENIOR CANTORIAL LEADER MICHELLE AUSLANDER COHEN

WORLD-RENOWNED COMPOSER AND MUSICIAN COLEEN DIEKER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21 | 7:00 PM
SCHAEFER FAMILY CAMPUS
$100 Benefactor Seating | $36 Preferred Seating
$18 General Admission
Register at tbeboca.org/music-in-me

Join Michelle and world-renowned performer, composer, and arranger Coleen Dieker for a beautiful evening of music, storytelling, and spiritual inspiration. Through her original compositions and personal reflections, Michelle will share the defining moments of her journey—discovering her voice as an artist, deepening her spiritual connection to Judaism, and following the path that ultimately led her to become Senior Cantorial Leader.

Shabbat Shira & Consecration of Senior Cantorial Leader Michelle Auslander Cohen

with special guest artist, Coleen Dieker

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22 | 7:30 PM | SCHAEFER FAMILY CAMPUS

Join us for a very special Shabbat Shira as we celebrate the consecration of our new Senior Cantorial Leader, Michelle Auslander Cohen. Shabbat Shira is called, "the Shabbat of Song" as it recalls the extraordinary moment when the Jewish people sang their way through parted waters to freedom.

As we celebrate the freedom of our people, we also celebrate the freedom to discover who we are and the courage to follow the journey that calls us forward. As Michelle expressed in her article on pages 20-22, freedom is not only the ability to choose our path, but the freedom to explore who we are becoming and where that path may lead. In this spirit, Michelle's consecration centers on the timeless call of *Lech L'cha*—a journey toward oneself, toward purpose, and toward all that we are meant to become.

LECH L'CHA

A JOURNEY TO ONESELF

BY **SENIOR CANTORIAL LEADER MICHELLE AUSLANDER COHEN**





MY MUSICAL BEGINNING

I grew up surrounded by music. My parents embodied a passion for music, regularly bringing me to the Chicago Symphony and Lyric Opera. They also were passionate for Jewish education. I attended Solomon Schechter Day School and began piano lessons at five, and so Israel, Judaism, Jewish culture, and music were woven into my education and my soul.

When I was 11, The Phantom of the Opera entered my life and changed it forever. I was fascinated by the idea that a spirit, an "Angel of Music," could awaken something within someone and in essence, teach her how to find her voice. The idea that an unseen force could serve as teacher and guide, helping us discover both our singing voice and our truest self, would become a guiding principle in my life.

SINGING AS A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Learning to trust that guiding force only grew stronger as I grew. I began college at the prestigious Peabody Conservatory, but despite the extraordinary training around me, I knew I had not found the "right" teacher—the person who would truly help me grow.

Then, almost as if a gift had fallen into my lap, I met Taso Vrenios, a renowned voice teacher in Washington, D.C. Something within me immediately knew: he was the teacher I needed. So, I made the decision to leave Peabody and follow him to George Mason University.

Many questioned why a serious young musician would leave Peabody for George Mason. On paper, perhaps it didn't make sense. But that quiet voice within me said: trust the path.







For the next ten years, Taso inspired me as a teacher, a mentor and spiritual advisor. In the Book of Genesis, God calls to Abraham, *"Lech L'cha! – Get yourself going!"* This is what Taso was trying to teach me – to leave what is comfortable, have faith, and trust that somewhere beyond the familiar we may discover who we are meant to become.

Taso taught me that singing required that same journey. To truly sing, I had to be vulnerable, trust something beyond myself, and allow my spirit to show. Finding my singing voice was never simply about producing a beautiful sound. It was about uncovering my *Neshamah*, my soul, and having the courage to let my authentic voice be heard.

FINDING MY HOME

I came to Boca Raton for the first time in 2002 to sing for the High Holy Days at B'nai Torah Congregation with my dear friend Cantor Benjamin Warshawsky. There I met Yaniv, and within a year we were engaged. When I moved to Boca, I was offered a Friday night position as a Cantorial Soloist in Palm Beach Gardens. With my Jewish upbringing and deep sense of faith, the bima felt like another step along a path I was still discovering.

In 2006, Cantor Steven Dubov z"l, a newly hired Cantor at Temple Beth El, suddenly passed away, and Temple Beth El needed someone to "pitch in" until they found their next Cantor. I met Cantor Lori and Rabbi Dan, and the rest is history.

In many ways, I grew up at Temple Beth El. Eliana, now 19, was just a baby when I began; Liora, now 14, was born along the way; and Yaniv and I have now been married for 21 years. This extraordinary community has given me a place to grow, supported and loved me, and lifted me to heights I could never have imagined.

I trusted the process and followed that guiding voice - a lesson that began with *The Phantom of the Opera* when I was 11. And now, I have the profound privilege of serving as Senior Cantorial Leader of this extraordinary congregation; an honor for which I am humbled and grateful beyond words.

WHAT'S NEXT

When interviewing for this role, I was asked about my vision for the future of music at Temple Beth El. My answer was simple: I want music to "ooze" from every corner of our Temple.

I envision choirs for every generation, filling our sacred spaces with song. I dream of creating recordings of the music we sing together, so that you can learn it, sing along with us, and bring the melodies and spirit of Temple Beth El into your own homes. I dream of *Ahavat Yisrael*—our love for Israel—to resonate through our music.

I aim to inspire families to raise children who

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are proud of their Jewish identity, deeply rooted in Jewish values and traditions, and empowered to navigate life's journey with a strong sense of who they are and where they come from. But above all, I want our passion for Judaism, expressed through music, to be contagious. I believe, with all my heart, in the extraordinary spiritual power of music: its ability to awaken the divine within us, to give voice to our greatest joys and deepest sorrows and to deepen our love for *Am Yisrael*—the Jewish people.

As part of my current morning ritual, I take time to reflect on these words from Les Miserables; another show I grew to love many years ago.

"... to love another person is to see the face of God."

I understand these words differently now than I ever did. You, the community of Temple Beth El, are my home. You and my family have given me the freedom to be my truest self, and when we sing together, I sing from the deepest part of my soul. When I see your faces from the bima, in our classrooms, in our choirs, and throughout our community, and feel the love we have created together, I understand what it means to see the face of God.

May music inspire us to truly see the Divine in ourselves, to live each day with joy and courage, strength in our faith, and to live with love.

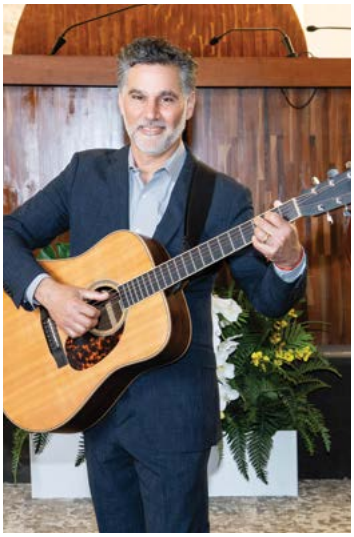
Todah Rabah. Thank you for this immense honor.

When Words Are Not Enough

BY **CANTORIAL ASSOCIATE TODD HERZOG**

I have spent much of my life making music — singing, writing songs, leading worship, and sharing sacred moments with communities. And after all these years, I am still amazed by music's ability to reach places within us that words simply cannot.

For me, music is one of our most powerful spiritual connections to God. We don't necessarily need to understand every Hebrew word we are singing to experience that connection. Sometimes the melody itself becomes the prayer. Music bypasses the intellect and speaks directly to our emotions. It opens our hearts and reaches something elemental within us - our true nature as spiritual beings.



As a cantor, some of my most meaningful moments happen when I hear a congregation begin to sing with me. There is a moment when the music stops belonging to the person leading it and becomes ours. Hundreds of individual voices create an energy that no one of us could create alone. In that moment, we are not simply people sitting beside one another. We are a community.

Music also brings joy. Judaism asks us not only to contemplate the sacred, but to experience it — to celebrate, dance, sing, remember, and feel. Music gives us permission to do all of those things.

And our melodies give us a sense of home. The first notes of a familiar High Holy Day melody can tell us that a new year is approaching. A beloved Shabbat tune can help us exhale and know that we have arrived at sacred time. These melodies carry memories of people and places, celebrations and losses, generations past and generations still to come.

That is what I hope our music at Temple Beth El can be: a source of joy and belonging, a bridge between one another, and a pathway to the Divine.

Because sometimes, when words are not enough, we sing.

The Joy of Making Music Together

BY **CANTORIAL ASSOCIATE/MUSIC EDUCATOR CHRIS MASON**

To me, music is one of the most powerful ways to connect people and build community. In Jewish life, it carries our traditions while allowing each generation to make them its own. My musical journey began unexpectedly—I was once a child who couldn't even clap along during services! Through studying music, I discovered a passion that brought together my love of education, community, spirituality, and artistic expression. My musical influences span many genres and traditions, but I am most inspired by music that is sincere and authentic. Above all, I believe everyone is musical, and my greatest joy is helping people discover their own voices. Some of the most meaningful moments happen when we let go of our insecurities and simply sing together.



Temple Beth El

FINANCIAL REPORT CARD

FISCAL YEAR 2025 | 2026



TOPICS

Revenue
Expenses
Membership
Religious School
Early Learning Center
Beth El Mausoleum
Construction and Debt
Endowment

We are pleased to share with you this year's Financial Report Card — a clear window into the financial health of our Temple for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2026. Caring well for the sacred trust you place in us, through your generosity, is something we take seriously. You deserve to see how we are stewarding your contributions, and we are grateful to share that your support has kept our Temple strong and secure this year.

Every year, we invite an independent accounting firm to walk carefully through our books and our practices with a fresh and objective eye. Their findings are then reviewed by our Finance Advisory Group — a devoted group of volunteers who bring both expertise and heart to this work — together with our Board of Trustees. We are thankful to share that, once again, we received a clean audit: confirmation that the way we care for your gifts is sound and worthy of your trust.

A Healthy Financial Position

Thanks to this community's generosity and the hard work of our staff, Temple Beth El closed the 2025–2026 fiscal year ahead of plan, with revenue from our operations exceeding our expenses. A few things that helped make this possible are:

- Our Temple membership grew faster than we had planned for.
- Religious School enrollment materially exceeded our expectations.
- Fundraising revenue, especially from the Beth El Bash honoring Cantor Lori Brock and our Annual High Holy Day Appeal, exceeded budget.
- Catering commissions, school rental, and facility rental revenues all surpassed expectations.
- Salary and benefits expenses came in lower than projected, in part because of conservative budgeting, and in part because some open positions proved difficult to fill with the right candidates.
- Interest income on our short-term investments was greater than planned, as interest rates remained elevated.

As faithful stewards looking toward the future, we will set aside $500,000 from last year's operating budget into our capital reserves. These reserves will help us care for our sacred spaces in the years ahead — projects such as roofing, painting, parking lot paving, playground equipment replacement, audio/visual and technology upgrades, new carpeting, and air conditioning replacements.

Seven years ago, in 2018–2019, we invested more than $2 million in deferred maintenance alongside the expansion and renovation of both of our campuses. As beautiful as our buildings remain, time moves forward for buildings just as it does for people, and we anticipate needing several million dollars over the next three to five years for major maintenance and equipment replacement.

Temple Beth El no longer asks new members to pay a Building Fund fee (formerly known as the Facility Maintenance fee). That means it falls to all of us, together, to steadily build our capital reserves so that when these needs arise, we can meet them without turning to a special assessment. With construction costs having risen so sharply in recent years, keeping a healthy Capital Reserve fund matters more than ever.

We will also direct most of last year's surplus toward reducing the debt needed to complete the Mausoleum Phase 4 construction project, which will lower the interest we pay over the life of that loan.

REVENUE

Congregational Commitments	5,116,305	25%
Religious School Fees	948,402	5%
Early Learning Center	7,285,625	36%
Fundraising	2,242,033	11%
Facility Rentals	720,342	4%
Program Fees & Other Income	1,097,965	5%
Mausoleum Sales Phase 4	1,692,665	8%
Mausoleum Sale Phase 1 – 3	1,157,229	6%
Total Income	**20,260,566**	

EXPENSES

Program: Religious Activities	5,096,599	25%
Program: Education	8,151,631	40%
Program: Mausoleum	990,413	5%
Administration and General	2,259,495	11%
Fundraising and Project Expenses	1,516,110	7%
Mausoleum Phase 4 Construction	1,692,665	8%
Transfers to Other Funds	553,653	3%
Total Expense	**20,260,566**	

Our Revenue

Temple Beth El's financial strength flows from many streams, each one a reflection of the vibrant life of our congregation and the generosity woven through our community. What follows is a glimpse of how your support sustains our shared mission. This is not the whole of our revenue, only the highlights that tell the story.

Early Learning Center (ELC) Tuition

Our largest source of operating revenue continues to be tuition from the Beth El Early Learning Center, which brought in approximately $7.3 million during the 2025–2026 fiscal year. The ELC continues to flourish, welcoming 311 students this year, with waitlists at most grade levels.

But the ELC gives us so much more than financial strength. For many young families, it is their very first doorway into Jewish life at Beth El. We are deeply grateful that so many of these families choose to grow with us, planting roots that become lifelong connections to our congregation.

Beth El Mausoleum

The Beth El Mausoleum holds a sacred place in the life of our Temple, both as a source of comfort and continuity for our families and as a steady pillar of financial stability. The Beth El Mausoleum reflects our deep commitment to honoring life and memory, even as it helps sustain our broader mission. Total sales revenue for the Beth El Mausoleum during the 2025–2026 fiscal year was $2,850,000, of which $1,693,000 represents presales of Phase 4 – funds we are using to build the new building.

Fundraising & Voluntary Contributions

Temple Beth El is blessed beyond measure by members and friends whose voluntary gifts, above and beyond their Congregational Commitment, help us thrive.

- High Holy Day Appeal: This year's campaign raised $596,000, exceeding our goal by $96,000. These gifts hold real meaning – they ensure that no one is ever turned away from membership because of financial hardship, and that we can keep creating meaningful Jewish experiences for everyone in our community.
- Beth El Bash: In April 2026, we gathered at Boca West Country Club to celebrate Cantor Lori Brock's remarkable 29-year career at Temple Beth El with an evening full of joy, music, and generosity that raised approximately $740,000 in net proceeds. Of that amount, $400,000 established the Cantor Lori Brock Music Endowment Fund, ensuring music and the arts will have a perpetual home at Beth El for generations to come. The remaining proceeds support the everyday operations of our Temple.

Congregational Commitment

At most congregations, membership dues make up roughly two-thirds of operating revenue. Because Temple Beth El's revenue is so diversified, Congregational Commitment represents just 25% of our total revenue. This balance strengthens our financial resilience and helps shelter our community from economic uncertainty. Total Congregational Commitment revenue in 2025–2026 was approximately $5.1 million.

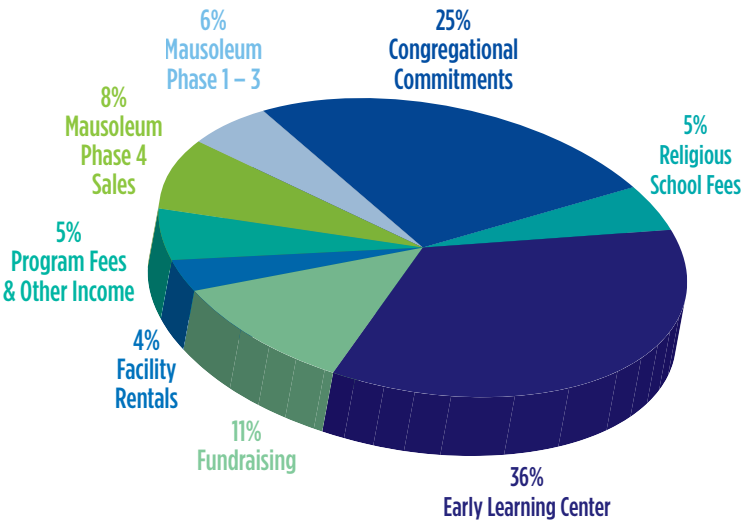
Facility Rentals & Leasing

Our beautiful campuses are more than places we gather – they are resources that help sustain us. In 2025–2026, event rentals and catering generated $153,000, while lease income from the Somerset Academy Charter School contributed $568,000. Together, these resources allow us to invest more deeply in our programs, our worship, and our impact on the wider community.

Endowment Distributions

Our Temple's Endowment Funds are central to our long-term financial stability. The principal is never touched; it remains, by design, in perpetuity – a gift that keeps giving to generations we may never meet. Each year, the earnings on that principal are distributed to support our general operations as well as specific donor-restricted programs and purposes. In the 2025–2026 fiscal year, the Endowment distributed $613,490, representing roughly 3% of total operating revenue.

Revenue



Our Expenses

Salaries & Benefits

Like any community built on relationships, our most precious asset — and our largest investment — is our people. $11.65 million was spent on salaries and benefits last year, supporting the 193 full-time and part-time employees who bring our Temple to life every day. This represents 63% of our total operating expenses.

Number of Employees By Department

Clergy	12
Administration	31
Facilities Maintenance	14
Early Learning Center	90
Religious School	42
Mausoleum	4
Total Employees	**193**

Security

Keeping our congregation safe is a sacred responsibility, and security is one of our largest expenses. Last year, security costs totaled approximately $519,000, or nearly 3% of total expenses. Since October 7, 2023, we have added meaningfully more security personnel and infrastructure, and we are grateful that grants from the State of Florida Department of Education and the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County have helped offset some of this cost.

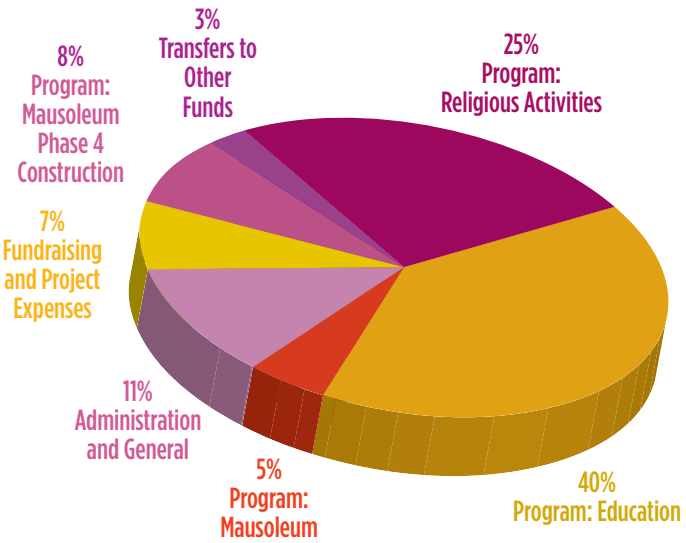
We have also significantly increased our investment in cyber security systems and training. Though it isn't visible from the sanctuary or the classroom, attempted cyber-attacks on our computer systems happen every day. We continually train our staff to recognize and stop these attempts, and we work with specialized consultants who evaluate our systems and help us stay a step ahead.

Supplies and Facility Costs

Caring for our physical home is its own kind of stewardship. Last year, the Temple spent $2 million, roughly 11% of total expenses, on supplies and facility-related costs. These include utilities, property insurance, computer equipment, telephone and internet service, building and equipment maintenance and repairs, and everyday janitorial and school supplies.

This figure does not include major maintenance — things like replacing roofs or air conditioners, painting, new carpeting, playground equipment, artificial turf, or furniture. These larger capital improvements are funded differently. Since Temple Beth El no longer collects a Building Fund fee, we instead set aside $500,000 each year from our operating budget into a Capital Reserve fund, so that when these significant but infrequent costs arise, we're ready to meet them.

Expenses



Membership

Our Temple family keeps growing, steadily and faithfully, year after year. We closed the fiscal year on June 30, 2026 with 2,108 member households, up from 2,026 the year before – a 4% increase.

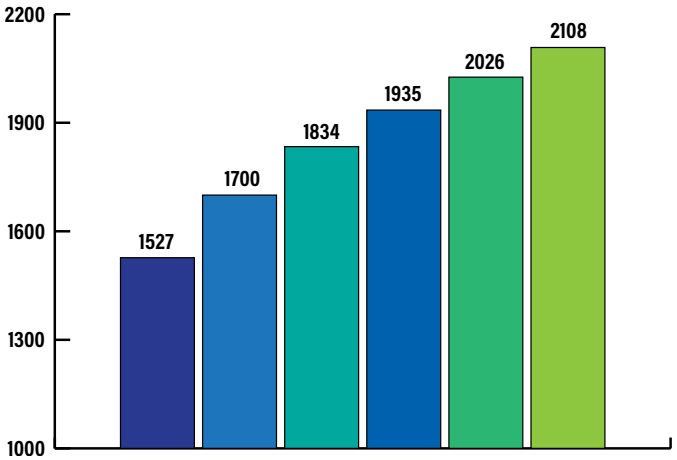
Total Member Households as of June 30

2021	1,527
2022	1,700
2023	1,834
2024	1,935
2025	2,026
2026	2,108

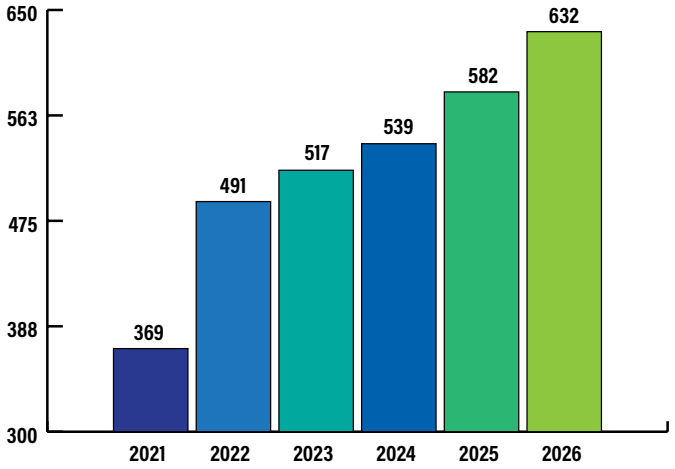
Very few Reform congregations in North America count more than 2,000 member households among their community. According to the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the umbrella organization for Reform Judaism, Temple Beth El of Boca Raton is now the seventh largest Reform congregation in North America. But we know that bigger doesn't mean better; it simply means bigger. That is why we work every day to make a large congregation feel small and intimate, and to meet each congregant's needs, whatever they may be.

What is the secret to our growth? We don't believe it comes down to any one thing. Rather, it is the fruit of intentional efforts, made every day, to create meaningful connections – with one another, with G-d, with the State of Israel, and with our Clergy – through worship, pastoral care, life-cycle events, holiday celebrations, social justice work, learning for people of every age, and the simple, precious opportunity to make new friends.

Member Households



Religious School

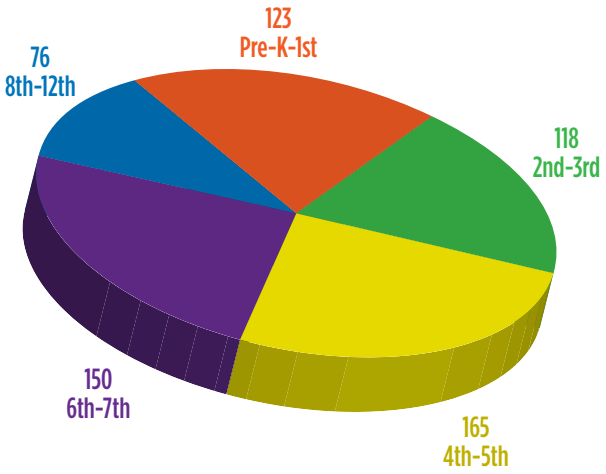


Note: In 2021 there were no in-person Religious School classes due to Covid-19.

Our Religious School is growing, and quickly. We closed the 2025–2026 school year with 632 students, an 8.6% increase over the prior year. Families are clearly finding something meaningful in our creative, flexible approach to Jewish education, and our hearts are full because of it.

Sunday mornings at the Beck Family Campus are now filled with so much joyful energy that we've run out of space for some grades. To make room for everyone who wants to learn with us, we've added midweek afternoon and evening classes, which are filling up quickly too. We continue to think creatively, offering engaging programs, both educational and purely social, for children in Pre-K through 12th grade.

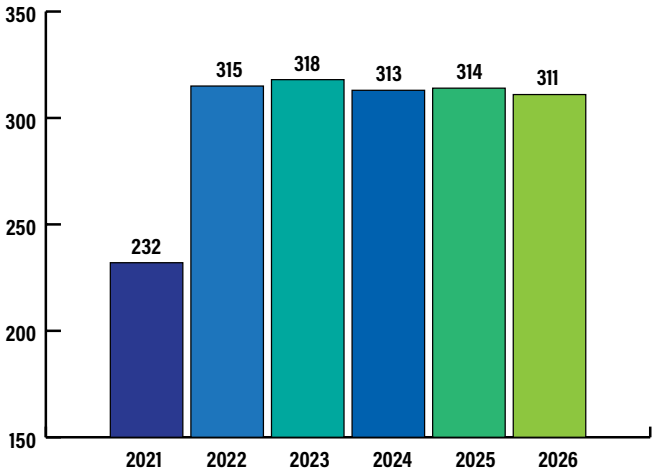
Religious School Enrollment by Grade



Early Learning Center

The Beth El Early Learning Center (ELC) remains one of the most beloved programs in our community. We closed the 2025–2026 school year with 311 little learners, nearly the same as last year's 314, not because interest has slowed, but because we are simply full. Families here know there is something special waiting for their children at our preschool, and that means everything to us.

One thing that sets us apart is welcoming infants as young as three months old, something many other Jewish preschools do not offer. We're also open from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, which makes life a little easier for families where both parents work full-time. But what truly makes the ELC shine is our devoted staff. They create a warm, nurturing space where children grow in confidence and curiosity, form friendships that will last a lifetime, and take their first steps on a Jewish journey surrounded by joy, kindness, and respect.



Note: 2021 enrollment decreased significantly because of Covid-19.

Total ELC Enrollment as of June 30

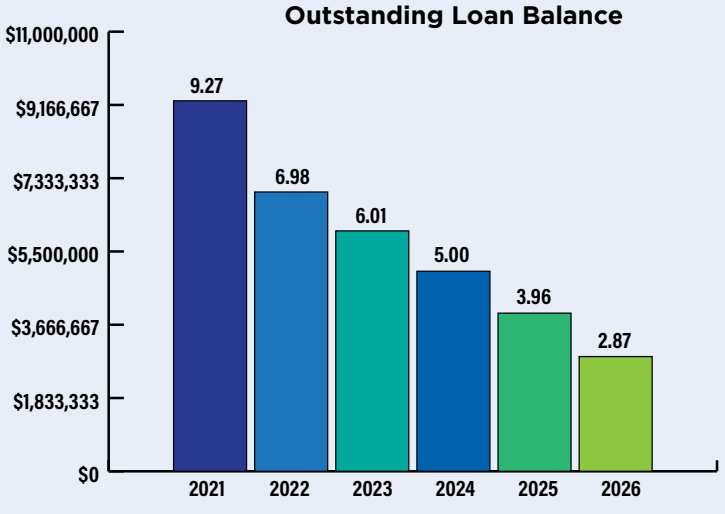
2021	232
2022	315
2023	318
2024	313
2025	314
2026	311

Construction and Debt

In March 2020, we completed a multi-year construction project that expanded and renovated both of our campuses — a project that reflected the vision and generosity of so many in our community. Total project costs, not including financing, came to approximately $22 million. Because many of the generous gifts we received for this campaign are paid out over a number of years, the Temple carries a loan with Wells Fargo, which we continue to pay down steadily. Last fiscal year, we paid down a little over $1 million in principal, as shown in the table below.

Outstanding Loan Balance as of June 30

2020	$10,300,000
2021	$9,270,000
2022	$6,987,721
2023	$6,015,330
2024	$5,005,834
2025	$3,957,835
2026	$2,870,105

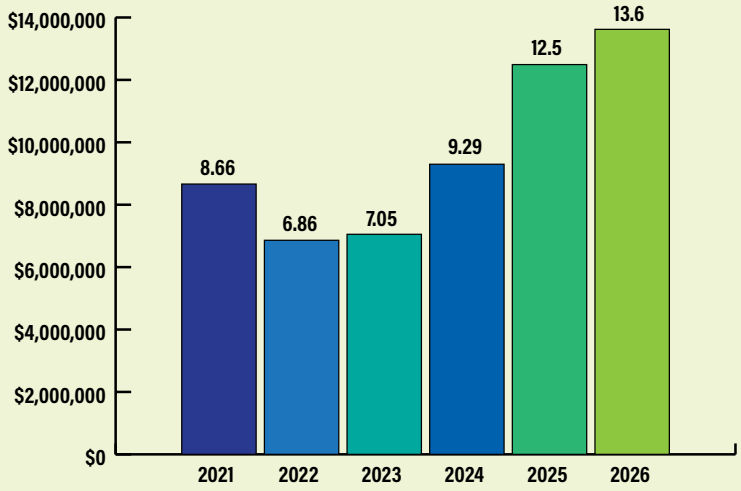


The Wells Fargo loan carries a fixed interest rate of 3.75% and matures in August 2030. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of so many donors, we already have the funds and future commitments in hand to pay off this debt entirely, on or before its scheduled maturity.

Endowment

Our Temple's Investment Advisory Group provides careful oversight of the Endowment and the Mausoleum Perpetual Care Fund. These funds are professionally managed by an outside firm and invested entirely in conservative, low-cost index funds. We do not invest in exotic products such as crypto currency or other speculative ventures.

As of June 30, 2026, the balance of the Endowment was $13,620,540. While that may sound like a substantial sum, for a congregation our size, it is modest. Best practices suggest that a healthy endowment's annual distributions should cover at least 20% of the operating budget; ours currently covers only about 3%.



Two years ago, we launched the BE The Future campaign with a hope of growing the Endowment by $36 million, through a combination of cash gifts paid over future years and bequests. We have raised $32 million so far. We still need $4 million more to reach our goal, and we believe, together, we will get there.

Growing Temple Beth El's Endowment is how we ensure this sacred community endures for generations we will never meet. If Temple Beth El has been a meaningful part of your life, we invite you to let it be a meaningful part of your legacy. To learn more about the BE The Future campaign, please reach out to Shayna Martinoff at **SMartinoff@tbeboca.org.**

Beth El Mausoleum

The Beth El Mausoleum offers a lasting, sacred connection to our Temple for many of our members, and for unaffiliated Jews throughout our broader community. Gross sales revenue for the 2025–2026 fiscal year was $2,850,000 across all four phases, compared to $2,870,000 the prior fiscal year – essentially flat year over year.

We completed 97 sales transactions in 2025–2026, compared to 129 the year before, a 25% decrease. Ordinarily, a drop in sales volume might raise concern. But with our inventory more limited, we intentionally slowed the pace of sales while still generating the same revenue as the prior year. This was precisely the outcome we hoped for with our pricing strategy, and we're glad to say it worked.

All revenue from Phase 4 pre-sales is being used for the construction of the new building, which we anticipate completing in April 2027. Total project costs, excluding interest on the debt, are estimated at $12.5 million.

As with the first three phases of the Mausoleum, we took out a loan to fund most of these construction costs. The debt will be repaid through current and future Mausoleum Phase 4 sales. We chose to keep this loan separate from our existing construction loan, since each project's cash flow stands on its own. The Temple closed on this Mausoleum Phase 4 loan in March 2025; it is a ten-year loan with a fixed interest rate of 5.36%.

With every Mausoleum sale, 20% is set aside for the future. Ten percent goes into a restricted fund, the Mausoleum Perpetual Care Fund, dedicated to the perpetual care of the Mausoleum building and grounds – a promise that this sacred space will always be lovingly maintained. As of June 30, 2026, that fund held approximately $6.2 million, and it will continue to grow through market appreciation and future sales. An additional 10% of every sale is invested in the General Endowment of Temple Beth El.

We hope this Financial Report Card offers you a clear and meaningful window into our finances this past year — the big picture of how we're doing, rather than every detail of our financial statements.

Because of the extraordinary generosity of our members and friends, and the tireless devotion of our incredible staff, Temple Beth El continues to grow and thrive year after year. We are deeply grateful for your trust, your support, and your commitment to this sacred community.

If you would like to know more about the Temple's finances, please reach out to Cindy Chieffo, our Chief Financial Officer, or Steve Kaufman, our Executive Director. We would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

HEATHER EREZ
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY
EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT
HErez@tbeboca.org



From Boca to Zichron: Friendships That Last

BY **HEATHER EREZ**

Exploring relationships with Israel and Judaism, touring our Religious School, endless teen bonding, and, of course, the obligatory Target run. These experiences were just the tip of the iceberg when 14 teens from Zichron Yaacov came to Boca Raton as part of an Israeli leadership delegation.

Thanks to the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County's Partnership2Gether program, Temple Beth El has had the privilege of hosting this delegation for the past four years. Our families open their homes to the Israeli teens for a week, while our teens spend time getting to know them throughout their visit. Although the trip is short, the relationships formed are meaningful and lasting.





Those connections have become especially significant during difficult times. Following October 7, the delegation WhatsApp group was buzzing for days as our teens reached out to check on their Israeli friends and heard firsthand what they were experiencing. Each year brings a new group of teens and new friendships, but that same sense of connection and solidarity has continued throughout the conflicts of the past few years.

Last year, Rabbi Greg and I had the privilege of bringing Temple Beth El teens to Zichron Yaacov, where the hospitality was reciprocated and our teens stayed in the homes of their Israeli peers. We were especially excited to welcome those same teens to Boca Raton last spring. Unfortunately, on the very evening they were scheduled to fly, the war with Iran broke out and their trip had to be postponed. Once again, WhatsApp became a bridge across thousands of miles as our teens shared words of encouragement and solidarity with their Israeli friends.



Thankfully, this Sukkot, that long-awaited visit finally happened!

During their time in South Florida, the Israeli teens toured a variety of Jewish organizations with the Jewish Federation, visited Gumbo Limbo and Spanish River High School, and even made their way to Universal Studios. Together with our teens at Religious School, they also got into the Sukkot spirit by dressing up as our patriarchs and matriarchs for our elementary school students as they visited the sukkah.

But some of the most meaningful moments happened simply by spending time together. In between sharing favorite music and TikTok personalities, the teens engaged in thoughtful conversations about what it means to stand up for Israel, both here in the United States and from within

Israel itself. They had the opportunity to hear one another's perspectives, ask questions, and explore the similarities and differences in their experiences as Jewish teens.

Every year, the visit from the Israeli leadership delegation is a highlight for our teens. What begins as one week of activities, conversations, laughter, and new experiences often becomes something much bigger: genuine friendships, a deeper connection to Israel and Jewish life, and relationships that continue long after everyone has returned home.











B'nai Mitzvah

Dean Squires
Son of Douglas and Alaina Squires
November 7, 2026 at 9:00 am

Mylie Markoff
Daughter of Matthew and Jacqueline Markoff
November 7, 2026 at 11:30 am

Alexa Youngelson
Daughter of Mark and Lisa Youngelson
November 14, 2026 at 9:00 am

Cole Schmier
Son of Brian and Jamie Schmier
November 14, 2026 at 11:30 am

Jonah Kraemer
Son of Kenneth Kraemer and Ashley Kraemer
November 21, 2026 at 10:45 am

Kol Firtell
Son of Ross and Jill Firtell
November 21, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Edward Yuil-Steinberg
Son of Michael Steinberg and Jennifer Yuil-Steinberg
November 28, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Ryan Smoke
Son of Jaclyn and Jarred Smoke
December 5, 2026 at 10:45 am

Ella Shonson
Daughter of Adam and Elizabeth Shonson
December 5, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Benjamin Lipman
Son of Erica and David Lipman
December 12, 2026 at 10:45 am

Beckett Ullman
Son of Jared and Tabitha Ullman
December 12, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Keaton Ullman
Son of Jared and Tabitha Ullman
December 12, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Levi Ochrimenko
Son of Shari and Adam Ochrimenko
December 19, 2026 at 10:45 am

Daniella Sobie
Daughter of Lauren and Justin Sobie
December 19, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Oliver Goldberg
Son of Ilana and Zachary Goldberg
January 9, 2027 at 2:00 pm

Sydney Stone
Daughter of Jeremy and Melissa Stone
January 9, 2027 at 11:30 am

Elle Friedman
Daughter of Michael and Jamie Friedman
January 9, 2027 at 6:00 pm

Isaac Kurzman
Son of Ronny Kurzman and Loni Markman
January 16, 2027 at 9:00 am

Lucas Sylvin
Son of Erik and Allison Sylvin
January 16, 2027 at 11:30 am

Charlotte Green
Daughter of Amanda and Matthew Green
January 16, 2027 at 6:00 pm

Penelope Werner
Daughter of Mark and Luisa Werner
January 23, 2027 at 9:00 am

Steffen Serio
Son of Leah Serio
January 23, 2027 at 11:30 am

Brooklynn Freedman
Daughter of Justin and Diane Freedman
January 23, 2027 at 6:00 pm

Sawyer Lazarus
Son of Erica and Perry Lazarus
January 30, 2027 at 9:00 am

Sienna Sussman
Daughter of Evan and Nicole Sussman
January 30, 2027 at 11:30 am

Greyson Pitts
Son of Stephanie and Shariff Pitts
January 30, 2027 at 6:00 pm

B'nai Mitzvah


Dean Squires


Mylie Markoff


Alexa Youngelson

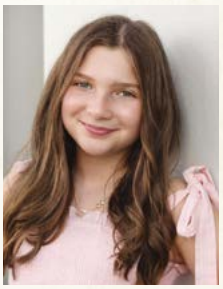

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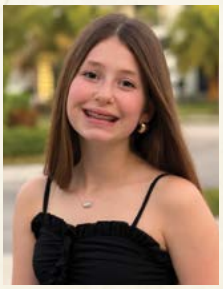

Oliver Goldberg

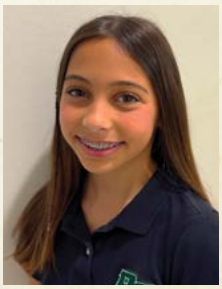

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Sawyer Lazarus


Sienna Sussman


Greyson Pitts

BEIT MIDRASH | HOUSE OF LEARNING
EARLY LEARNING CENTER

RONNI GRAF
BETH EL EARLY LEARNING
CENTER DIRECTOR
RGraf@tbeboca.org



NOVEMBER			
11	Wednesday	Parenthood Meeting	7:30 pm
13	Friday	Be Thankful Tot Shabbat	6:00 pm
19	Thursday	Fall Market	11:30 am-3:30 pm
23-24	M-T	Thanksgiving Celebration for students only	
25-26-27	W-Th-F	Thanksgiving-*NO SCHOOL*	
DECEMBER			
4	Friday	First Chanukah Candle	
4	Friday	Chanukah Service at SFC	6:00 pm
7-11	M to F	Scholastic Book Fair	
8-9-10	T-W-Th	Chanukah Shows/Celebrations for 4s, 2s, 3s-parents invited	10:00 am
10	Thursday	Childcare Chanukah Celebration	3:30 pm
16	Wednesday	Parenthood Meeting	9:30 am
18	Friday	Parent-Teacher conferences-*NO SCHOOL*	
12/23/26 to 1/4/27		Winter Break-NO SCHOOL	
JANUARY			
4	Monday	School resumes	
8	Friday	"Wear your P.J's to School" Day	
8	Friday	P.J. Tot Shabbat	6:00 pm
18	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-*NO SCHOOL*	
20	Wednesday	Parenthood Meeting	7:30 pm
23	Saturday	Family Fun Day	
26-27-28	T-W-Th	Tu B'Shevat Celebrations for 4s, 2s, 3s students only	















Beth El
Early Learning Center

SCAN HERE TO ORDER



2026 LATKE FUNDRAISER
Monday, November 16 – Friday, December 11
tbeboca.org/latkes2026





SOCIAL JUSTICE AT TEMPLE BETH EL

WEAR A BLUE SQUARE

#

Led by our Antisemitism Social Justice Circle, we are partnering with the Blue Square Alliance Against Hate to give our congregation a simple, visible way to take action against antisemitism and all forms of hate.

Wear a Blue Square pin (available at the Schaefer Family Campus), created by the Blue Square Alliance as a universal symbol of unity and solidarity in the fight against antisemitism and all forms of hate. Share why you wear it. Have a difficult conversation with someone you know. Help someone who may not recognize antisemitism to understand it and become an ally.

Why We Need to Stand Up Now

Attitudes toward Jews are shifting in deeply troubling ways. The Blue Square Alliance's March 2026 survey found antisemitic attitudes at their worst levels since tracking began in 2023.



THREE FINDINGS ARE PARTICULARLY ALARMING:

- 55% of Americans now believe Jews should be able to handle antisemitism on their own—up from 46% just seven months earlier.
- 1 in 3 Americans no longer considers Holocaust denial to be antisemitic, compared with 1 in 5 in June 2023.
- Gen Z and Millennials are 4x as likely as Baby Boomers to say that Jewish people cause problems in the world.

That is why visibility matters. That is why conversation matters.
And that is why we are asking our congregation to wear the Blue Square.

PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

Election day is Tuesday, November 3!

The best way to protect our democracy is to VOTE and to make sure others vote too.



View the Jewish Voter Education Series prepared by Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and Temple Beth El Protecting Democracy Social Justice Circle with answers to questions important to Jewish voters. And visit our Voting Resource Page with important dates and links, information on the Amendments and more at **tbeboca.org/vote.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE CIRCLES

Join a Social Justice Circle at tbeboca.org/social-justice and turn your Jewish values into action.

PEACE PALM BEACH COUNTY AND INTERFAITH SOCIAL JUSTICE AT WORK

WITH PAIGE SHORTSLEEVES, LEAD ORGANIZER
Tuesday, January 26
7:00 pm
Schaefer Family Campus

Temple Beth El is proud to partner with PEACE – People Engaged in Active Community Efforts - and welcome their lead organizer Paige Shortsleeves to our congregation. Founded in 1991, PEACE is made up of 27 congregations of all faiths from throughout Palm Beach County, and uses the power of large numbers of organized people to make a difference. This year, PEACE will be leading an effort to address critical community problems such as immigration enforcement, mental health and affordable housing, and there is a role for us to play.



Join this inspiring conversation and get ready to get involved. *RSVP at tbeboca.org/social-justice-peace*

PEACE PALM BEACH COUNTY NEHEMIAH ACTION

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, April 12

Named after the biblical figure Nehemiah—who mobilized ordinary people to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem—this assembly gathers thousands of community members to meet face-to-face with public officials. They negotiate concrete commitments to address local injustices like affordable housing, homelessness, and mental healthcare.



AJC GLOBAL FORUM

SAVE THE DATE

June 6-8, 2027
Washington, D.C.

Join Rabbi Greg Weisman and AJC Palm Beach at the 2027 AJC (American Jewish Committee) Global Forum in Washington, D.C. For three days, influential voices in Jewish life and global affairs will convene to confront the core issues shaping the future of the Jewish people and Israel.

More information to follow.



NEFESH SOCIAL
AT TEMPLE BETH EL

BOCA TOV!

Saturday, November 21 | 1:00-4:00 pm
Atha Yoga Shala & Spa, Delray Beach
Tickets: $36 per person
$54 for two | $100 for four
Register at tbeboca.org/boca-tov



Join Nefesh Social for a day of wellness, community, and connection!
Boca Tov is designed for those in their 20s and 30s to help you slow down, recharge, and experience the restorative spirit of Shabbat in a fresh and meaningful way.

Enjoy a variety of wellness experiences including yoga, HIIT, breathwork, a sound bath, and sauna and cold plunge sessions. Connect with friends, explore local vendors, enjoy food and drinks, and take part in an informal Shabbat experience led by Rabbi Ashira Boxman.

Each ticket includes a complimentary beverage and açaí bowl

For more information, please contact Margo Kline at MKline@tbeboca.org or 561-314-2918.

HANUKKAH HAPPY HOUR

Thursday, December 10 | 6:30-9:30 pm
Schaefer Family Campus
Register at tbeboca.org/nefesh-hanukkah



Gather for a festive night filled with friends, food, drinks and dreidels. Catch up with your Nefesh community, meet someone new and celebrate the Festival of Lights together.

SHABBAT SOCIAL CLUB

Friday, January 8
Schaefer Family Campus
Register at tbeboca.org/nefesh-shabbat



Exclusive to 20s and 30s, we'll kick off the night with a charcuterie spread, drinks, and time to hang out and connect before heading into a meaningful Shabbat service. After services, anyone who wants to keep the night going can join us at a local bar.

CHOIRS
AT TEMPLE BETH EL

The mission of our choirs is to strengthen our connection to Judaism, to ourselves, and to one another through the spiritual and transformative power of music.
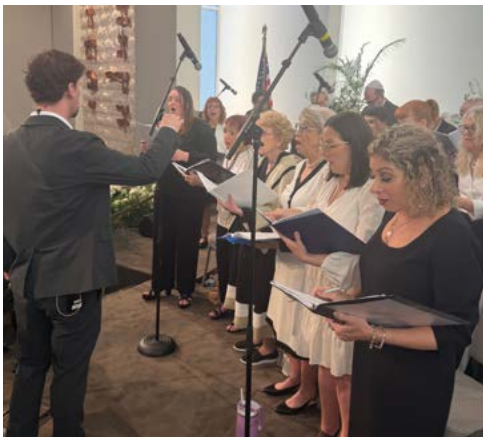
If you love to sing, there is a place here for you to share your voice and make music with us! All choirs take part in Friday night services throughout the year, including the High Holy Day Family Participation Service, Purim Spiel, Chanukah Show and end of year multi-generational choir concert. Additionally, there will be opportunities to visit community nursing homes and Memory Care centers to share the power of music with those who most need to be uplifted.



SHIR MELODY
Choir for
3rd – 5th Graders
Sundays,
12:00 – 1:00 pm
when Religious School is in session
Beck Family Campus
Pizza is served.

SHIR HARMONY
Choir for Middle and High Schoolers
SELECTED Sundays,
12:00 – 1:00 pm
Beck Family Campus

SHIR SONG
Choir for Adults who love music
Wednesdays,
7:00 – 8:15 pm
Schaefer Family Campus





All choirs are led by members of our Cantorial Team.



For more information, please email Cantorial Department Coordinator, Danielle Marano at DMarano@tbeboca.org. Register at tbeboca.org/music

The Gift of Togetherness

FINDING CONNECTION AND GRATITUDE AT TEMPLE BETH EL

As the holiday season begins, Temple Beth El has so much to be thankful for, especially the wonderful people who make our congregation feel like home. This year, blending the gratitude of Thanksgiving with the glowing warmth of Chanukah, we invite you to celebrate the blessings of friendship and community.







Beth El Circles and Beth El Chavurot are the perfect ways to find your people!

- Circles bring members together around shared interests, from Art and Books to Mah Jongg, Movies, and more.
- Chavurot connect individuals in similar life stages for social outings and Jewish activities.
- Give yourself the gift of belonging. Join a Circle, a Chavurah, or both today to create lasting memories and discover even more reasons to be grateful this season!



JOIN

To learn more about Circles, please contact Susie Federman at **SFederman@tbeboca.org.**

To learn more about Chavurot, please contact Elinor Josephson at **EJosephson@tbeboca.org.**



An Exciting New Chapter for Brotherhood & Sisterhood

Dear Temple Beth El Family,

We have exciting news to share about Brotherhood and Sisterhood at Temple Beth El. For more than 40 years, these groups have brought us together for meaningful programs, holiday celebrations, community service initiatives, and countless moments of friendship and connection – part of what makes our Beth El community special. As Temple Beth El has grown and evolved, so too have these organizations. The question is not whether they should exist, the question is how they can best serve our community in 2026 and beyond.

Sisterhood and Brotherhood are being renewed with an engagement-driven structure with dedicated programming for men and women separately, alongside opportunities for Brotherhood and Sisterhood to come together.

We are not replacing the past; we are building from it – honoring the relationships, traditions, and contributions that Brotherhood and Sisterhood have created, while imagining new forms of leadership, connection, and community for the future. Sisterhood and Brotherhood are not dissolving – they are evolving.

What Is Changing

- More intentional programming aligned with Temple Beth El's mission.
- Not all programs limited by gender. Those that remain gender specific will be created with intentionality.
- New governance structure aimed at creating more volunteer leadership opportunities.
- Updated funding model using endowments to reduce reliance on annual fundraising and ensure sustainable programming budgets for years to come.
- Utilization of Beth El Circles for certain existing elements that naturally fit well in that structure.

2026 – 2027 Scheduled Programming

A Sisterhood-Brotherhood Transition Task Force (and several sub-task forces) are working diligently during this year of transition. While that work is happening, women's and men's programming is continuing.

Get Involved

One of the most exciting things we're building is a way for members to lead. Each event will be led by chair(s) who help bring it to life and engage volunteers along the way. This approach will allow more members to participate, contribute their ideas and talents, and discover meaningful ways to become involved in the life of Temple Beth El.

Questions, ideas, or interested in getting involved? Reach out – we'd love to hear from you!

Looking forward to seeing you at one of our events!

With gratitude and appreciation,

Emily Cohen
Sisterhood President
sisterhood@tbeboca.org

Hayden Trepeck
Brotherhood President
brotherhood@tbeboca.org

Rosh Chodesh

Schaefer Family Campus
9:30 – 11:00 am
Sunday, November 8
Sunday, December 6

Give yourself the gift of connection by joining our monthly Women's Rosh Chodesh gatherings for community, friendship, and spiritual growth. Together, we will explore Rabbi Amy Grossblatt Pessah's new book, *The Wholeness of a Broken Heart: Pathways to Resilience and Renewal.* Through discussion and different modes of discovery, we will explore meaningful pathways to resilience, healing, and a deeper relationship with ourselves, each other, our community and the Holy One. Each month, our conversations will be guided by a rotating team of clergy:
Senior Cantorial Leader Michelle Cohen,
Rabbi Laila Haas, and
Rabbi Amy Grossblatt Pessah,
each bringing their own unique voice and perspective to our journey.



Temple Beth El Vino BINGO

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Tuesday, November 10
7:00 pm Snacks and Schmooze | 7:30 pm Games Begin
Schaefer Family Campus
Register at tbeboca.org/vino-bingo

Enjoy some wine, non-alcoholic beverages, bingo, Bag Bingo and great prizes. Bring your friends, grab a drink and make it a fun TBE night out! Guests are welcome, so gather your crew and get ready for a night of laughs, friendly competition and a little luck. And remember: what happens at Vino Bingo stays at Vino Bingo!

Bag Bingo is a fun twist on traditional bingo. Our caller will announce everyday household items, and if you have the item in your bag and are the first to bring it to the front, you win a prize. Be sure to bring a few items from home. Please note: only one bag per person is allowed.

$25 per member | $36 guests of members
Prices increase by $5 per person on Tuesday, November 3.
Last day to register is Saturday, November 7.

For more information or questions please contact Elinor Josephson, Director of Membership and Engagement, at **ejosephson@tbeboca.org.**
Presented by Sisterhood and Brotherhood
Event Chairs: Aimee Levin, Shelley Marcus and Will Haas Evans



Sisterhood and Brotherhood College Connection

Tuesday, November 17
7:00 – 8:30 pm
Schaefer Family Campus
Register at
tbeboca.org/college-chanukah

A meaningful mitzvah! Join Sisterhood & Brotherhood to assemble and package Chanukah goodies for Temple Beth El's college students. Whether you're packing for a student you love or simply lending a hand, your participation is a wonderful opportunity to give back and help spread holiday joy and care.



Sisterhood Gift Shop

Discover the Sisterhood Gift Shop, a beautifully curated collection of Judaica, jewelry and distinctive gifts for every occasion, milestone, style and generation. From meaningful treasures to beautiful pieces for your home, you'll find something special for every moment—and every purchase supports Temple Beth El, tax-free.

Visit us Friday evenings before and after Shabbat services, and before and after evening events at the Schaefer Family Campus. To volunteer or to set up an appointment to shop during business hours, contact Irene Abrams at 561-314-2834 or **IAbrams@tbeboca.org.** For other questions or gift help, contact Jill Weiner at **sisterhood@tbeboca.org.**







New Member Meet & Greet

Sunday, January 31
1:30 pm
Schaefer Family Campus
Register at tbeboca.org/new-member

We warmly invite all new members who joined from February 2026 onward to our New Member Meet & Greet. This is a great opportunity to meet our clergy, staff, and fellow new members. Join us for interactive activities, complete with light refreshments.

This event welcomes singles, couples, and families with children of all ages, showcasing the vibrant diversity and warm spirit of our Beth El community. We look forward to welcoming you!

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Eisenberg at **DEisenberg@tbeboca.org.**

The New Member Meet & Greet is hosted by our Membership & Engagement Committee.



Celebrating New and Returning Members

Welcome New and Returning Members who have joined between July 1, 2026 and September 15, 2026. Additional members not listed at the time of printing will be included in our next list. For help getting involved, please contact Elinor Josephson, Director of Engagement and Programming, at EJosephson@tbeboca.org or 561-314-2833.

Roberta Abrams

Dwight Addison

Michelle Clair Adelman & Michael Adelman and their children, Eva & Margot

Jeffrey Applebaum and his children, Levi & Ava

Meagan Goodridge & Shayne Back

Karyn & Jeff Balfour and their children, Zachary & Benjamin

Danielle & Jason Beckerman and their children, Zachary & Chloe

Judith Beiner

Jackie & Bryan Bellack and their children, Hudson & Juliet

Rosemarie & Daniel Benamoz

Benzion & Lynne Benatar

Beth Berman and her child, Sarah

Debbie Bernstein

Beth & Robert Bigman

Sherrie & Neal Bimberg

Peggy & Chuck Blotner

Amanda & Seth Boxer and their children, Olivia & Aria

Jyll & Jordan Bratter and their children, Madyson & Dyaln

Robert & Leslie Camche

Larry Caplan & Amy Aronson

Alexandra & Zachary Cedarbaum and their child, Levi

Henry & Nancy Chajet

Brandon & Caroline Cohen and their children, Colette & Callum

Susan & Manny Cohen

Mitch & Ruth Cohen

Elaine Cory and her child, Josh

Kayla & Emily Dion and their child, Goldie

Doug & Victoria Eisner and their children, Jack & Levi

Diane Fiddle

Matthew & Rachel Fleischer and their children, Lily & Ari

Brittney & David Franklin and their child, Theo

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Dayna & Ben Galloway and their child, Logan

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Jesse & Ryan Guzik and their children, Skylar & Camden

Tammi & Sean Haber and their children, Sarah & Seth

Hana Nitkin & David Hakim and their children, Marcus, Galina & Heather

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Kerry & Todd Herzog and their children, Phoebe, Sander & Eliot

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Patty & Gary Kain

Inessa & Samuel Kain and their children, Alec, Jonathan & Claire

George Karp & Zoe Hereford

Joyce Lifshitz & Ellen Keiser

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Stacey & Harvey Klaiman and their child, Brittany

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Wendy Wild

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Mazel Tov To

June 23, 2026 through October 14, 2026

Lauren and Adam Abolafia on the birth of their daughter, Riley Paige Abolafia, big brothers, Charlie and Evan

Paige and Scott Berger on the birth of their daughter, Blake Berger, big sister Dylan

Nancy Colman on the birth of her grandson, Ryan Jacob Colman

Chelsea and Joseph Dabah on the birth of their daughter, Mila Faye Dabah, big brother Ari

Julie and Mark Danetz on the birth of their granddaughter, Madeline Rose Hosey

Ellen Danetz on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Madeline Rose Hosey

Ellen and Steve Gottsegen on the birth of their grandson, Mason Grey Gottsegen

Jessica Cicurel and Daniel Gubin on the birth of their daughter, Caia Maison Gubin, big brothers. Sol and Bo

Leah and Patrick Hosey on the birth of their daughter, Madeline Rose Hosey, big brother and sister, Jonah and Evelyn

Marci and David Kessler on the birth of their grandson, Arlo James Kessler

Hailey and Ryan Kruss on the birth of their daughter, Avery Rose Kruss, big sister, Addison

Brooke Guldin and Max Leonard on the birth of their daughter, Romy Elle Leonard, big brother, Greyson

Sammi and Ian Morton on the birth of their son, Henry Isaac Morton

Cindy and Duncan Morton on the birth of their grandson, Henry Isaac Morton

Regan and Michael Patlajan on the birth of their son, Zev Benjamin Patlajan

Samantha and Stephen Pedersen on the birth of their daughter, Sisley Marie Pedersen, big brothers, Silas and Sennan

Jodi and Adam Picolli on the birth of their daughter, Remi Miller Piccoli, big sister, Presley

Danielle and Eric Rudnick on the birth of their daughter, Shayna Jae Rudnick, big sister and brother, Jasmine and Mitchell

Marcy and Barry Schultz on the birth of their granddaughter, Olivia Jade Salvador, big sister Emma

Michelle Fox and Reuven Shapiro on the birth of their daughter, Riley Claire Shapiro, big brothers Myles and Hudson

Janet and Brian Sherr on the birth of their granddaughter, Camryn Capri Allison

Linda and Dennis Weiss on the birth of their granddaughters, Lila Eve and Sadie Rose Sacher

Miriam Boshes on the engagement of her grandson, Joshua Weinfeld to Mila Krugman

Lisa and Paul Oken on the engagement of their son, Steven Oken to Gaby Mielz

Cantor Lori and George Brock on the marriage of her son, Adam Shapiro to Brielle Gehringer

Nancy and Greg Gefen on the marriage of their son, Matthew Gefen to Olivia MacDougal

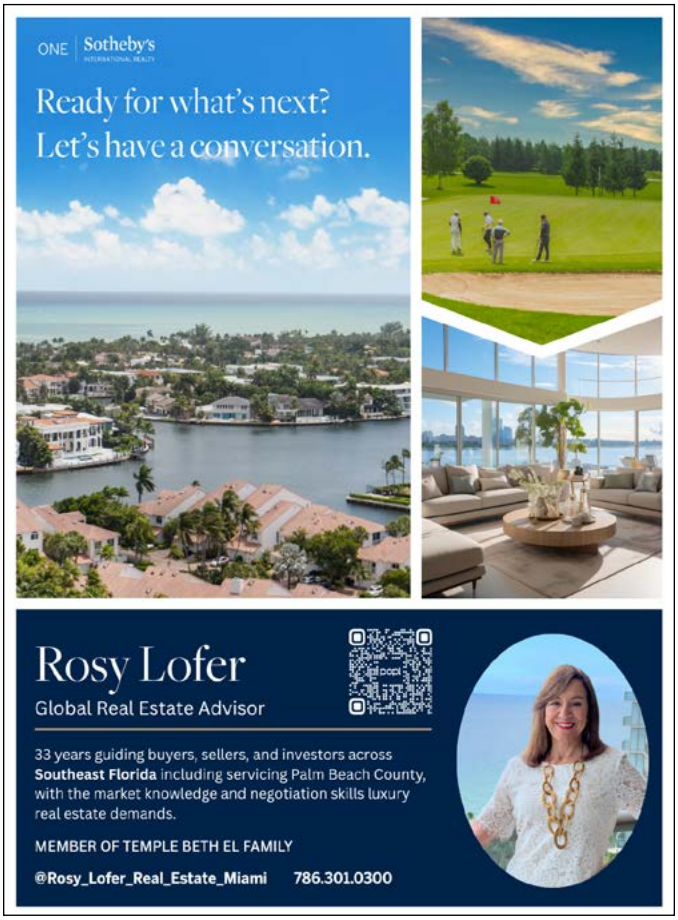
Diane and Saul Hoppenstein on the marriage of their son, Evan Hoppenstein and Monica Hruzd

Marci Langley and Izzy Mays on their marriage

Tamara and David Mishkel on the marriage of their son, Jonah Mishkel to Mollie Carroll

Stacy and Steven Needel on the marriage of their daughter, Rachel Needel and Jake Gus

Dana and Steven Robbins on the marriage of her daughter, Isabella Hayes and Seth Davis Brown



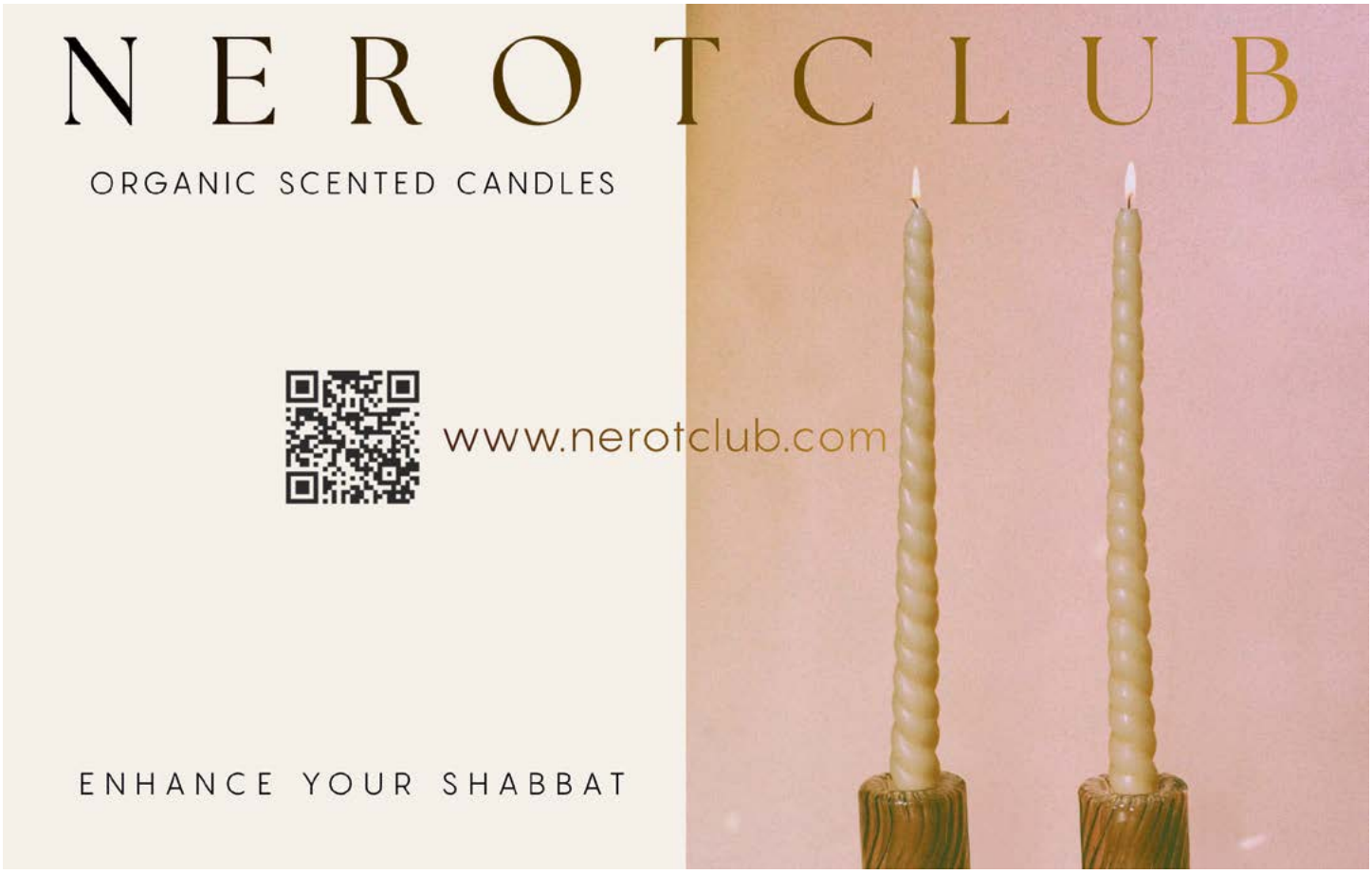


DONATIONS & DEDICATIONS

June 16, 2026 – August 31, 2026

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Rosa & Salomon Yaker
Doreen & Steve Yanofsky
Caron Shutan-Yospe & Jay Yospe
Judi Zimmermann
Barbara Zipkin

in celebration of:
our beautiful family by Susan & Richard Goldstein

in honor of:
our granddaughter, Sydney Schneider, being called to the Bimah for Shabbat Blessings & Kiddush on 7/31/26 by Lesley & Jerry Schneider

in memory of:
Allen Gershlak by Stephanie & Charles Krobot
Aaron B. Rosenblatt by Janet & Larry Rosenblatt

BE The Future Endowment Campaign
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The Estate of Arline Neuren

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Benjamin L. Baker by Debra & Webster Jones

Cantor Lori Brock Music Endowment Fund
Aline Fisher

in honor of:
Adam & Brielle Shapiro's wedding by Freyda Burns
Brielle & Adam Shapiro by Jan & Allen Lev
my wonderful, amazing and loving sister, Cantor Lori Brock by Sheryl Martin
the marriage of Adam & Brielle Shapiro. Mazel Tov! by Janet & Allan Sussberg

in memory of:
Harold Weber by Aline Fisher

Disaster Relief Fund
Linda Jaro

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Marcia & Ken Namerow

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Eliot Tannenbaum by Jennifer Tannenbaum & Vince Pegan

Freyda & Edward Burns Endowment for Social Justice
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Justin Wheatley by Susan & Barry Podolsky

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in honor of:
the marriage of Madison Goodman & Brett Alper by Freyda Burns

Gelfand-Arpe Young Children's Innovative Education Endowment Fund
in memory of:
Leonard Singer by Michael Gelfand

General Fund
in honor of:
our son, Jacob Noble, running for Palm Beach County Court Judge by Doris & Daniel Noble
the upcoming High Holy Days by Peter Quintero

in memory of:
Raymond Eisenberg by Amy & Todd Eisenberg
Billy Stone by Beth Fiske
Judy Tabor Smizik by Marsha & Jeffrey Gilbert
Justin Wheatley by Stefanie & Eric Ginnis
Justin Wheatley by Lauren & Richard Koblick
Clara Tanner by Lauren & Richard Koblick
Neal Henschel by Cari & Alan Lasdon
Mike Swift by Stefanie & David Ochs
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on the occasion of:
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in honor of:
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in memory of:
Justin Wheatley by Margie & Maurice Plough

Music Fund
in celebration of:
Pam Tinkham's birthday by Sydney Schneider

in memory of:
Ted Kruger by Phyllis Brucker





DONATIONS & DEDICATIONS

June 16, 2026 – August 31, 2026

Rabbis' Discretionary Fund

Beverly Hacker
Doreen & Steve Yanofsky

for the recovery of:
Marilyn Feller by Ken Feller

in appreciation of:
Rabbi Laila Haas, for officiating the beautiful wedding ceremony of Taylor & Eli Kleinberg by Amy & Eliot Appel
Dr. David & Rand Schwartzwald for their incredible knowledge, support & care of our mother, Lynne Josephson by Elinor & Jay Josephson
the Temple Beth El clergy for their incredible work to create this amazing community by Moshe Machlav & Eran Polachek
Rabbi Laila Haas, for her spiritual guidance by Debbie Mackler
Rabbi Dan Levin & Temple Beth El by Suellen & Mark Winer

in celebration of:
the wedding of Monica Hruzd & Evan Hoppenstein by Diane Possumato-Hruzd & Ted Hruzd
the Bris of Eli Hudson Widmann, with gratitude to Rabbi Dan Levin by Rachel & Zack Widmann

in honor of:
Debbie & Larry Silver by Judith Chason
Rabbi Ashira Boxman & Max Abraham's engagement. Mazel Tov! by Helene Eichler
Steve Ginsburg's 70th birthday by Toby & Norman Levi
Cantorial Associate Todd Herzog & family. Welcome to Temple Beth El! by Shari & Craig Schwamm

in memory of:
Justin Wheatley by Irene Abrams
Marcos Kaplun by Dori Barenholtz
Stanley Barry, with gratitude to the Temple Beth El clergy by The Barry family
Ellis Berger by Linda & Bill Berger
Justin Wheatley by Glen & Mollye Berngard
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Justin Wheatley by Aline Fisher
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Ada Goldman by Wendy & Wayne Legum
Justin Wheatley by Jan & Allen Lev
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Justin Wheatley by Ronna & Marc Taub
Sophie Thal by Sonny Thal
Stephen Danetz by Sheryl Wolf
Irma Shutan by Caron Shutan-Yospe & Jay Yospe

to thank:
Maddi & Wes Finch by Caren & Barry Cohen

with gratitude:
for the Aliyah to the Torah by Debi & Herb Jackman
to Rabbi Greg Weisman, for his kindness and support during the unveiling of Alan Merkur by Amanda & David Pollok
to Rabbi Greg Weisman for officiating the unveiling of my husband, Lorrie Shafer by Roberta Shafer
to Rabbi Greg Weisman, for taking the time to visit with Justen's uncle in hospice and offering prayers and comfort to him and his family by Melissa & Justen Shiff

Religious School Contributions

in memory of:
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Justin Wheatley by Janet Serle & Ira Malin

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L-R: Jeffrey, Howard, Daniel and Eric
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Simon Brown by Murray Brown
Ruth Brunswick by Murray Brown
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Sheila Carver by Nancy & David Carver
Justin Wheatley by Judith Chason
Jeffrey F. Chason by Judith Chason
June Dayan by Judith Chason
Alex Chestnov by Stephanie & Richard Chestnov
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Ben Strouse by Pat & Dan Cohen
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Dorothy Auslander by Zara Gerber & Charles Auslander
Gilbert Gerber by Zara Gerber & Charles Auslander
Joseph Auslander by Zara Gerber & Charles Auslander
Libby P. Gesoff by Jean & Mark Gesoff
Nat Ginsberg by Myrna & Mike Ginsberg
Muriel Fischer by Edie Gise
Richard Gitlitz by Cindy Gitlitz
Cousin Denise Lawrence by Amy Glanzman
Sharon Cohen-Glick by Andra & Scott Glick
Justin Wheatley by Susan & Richard Goldstein
Richard Goodman by Amy & Michael Goodman
Coleen Jutras by Kim Graham
William Graham by Kim Graham
Dora Greene by Laurie & Jonathan Greene
Miriam Schaffer by Lynn & Michael Greenstein
Margaux Renee Grossman by Karyn & Stuart Grossman
Armin Guggenheim by Howard Guggenheim
Fanny Guggenheim by Howard Guggenheim
Ronald Asher Blake by Jill & Steven Hacker
George Hankin by Ina Hankin
Helen Harmelin by Karen & Bob Harmelin
David R. Harmelin by Karen & Bob Harmelin
Elaine Ruth Shwartz by Melanie & David Hecker
Jerome (Jerry) Hershkowitz by Sharon Hershkowitz
Joel Holiber by Yolanda & Richard Holiber
Ethel Horowitz Blanchard by Margie Horowitz
Ann Jaiven by Grace & Jack Jaiven
Leonard Jaiven by Grace & Jack Jaiven
Leonard Jaro by Randi & Marc Jaro
Steven Lewkowsky by Randi & Marc Jaro
Henry Solomon by Mona Joffe & Michael Solomon
Max M. Jonas by The Jonas family
Robert Maloney by Linda & Seth Kaminsky
Sanford Dworkin by Denie Kane
Anna Kanfer by Barbara & Jack Kanfer
Stella Kass by Susan & Don Kanoff
Jay Kanter by Fern Kanter & Scott Gershaw
Abraham Kanterman by Nancy & Michael Kanterman
Lester Kaufman by Karen Kaufman
Leonard Kaufman by Ivy & Steve Kaufman
Dr. Chester Kay by Judith Kay & family
Mitchell Ginsburg by Marci & David Kessler
Herbert Kirschenbaum by Lisa & Alan Kirschenbaum
Bert Knapp by Barbara & Paul Knapp
Norman Goldberg by Lauren & Richard Koblick
Neal Henschel by Wendy & Elliot Koolik
William Kaufman by Judy Kornitsky
Mendel Kornitsky by Judy Kornitsky
Beloved friends, Reichel family loved ones, & Krause family loved ones by Eliot & Judy Krause
Justin Wheatley by Jennie & Larry Kreger
Lynne Golden Winters by Jennie & Larry Kreger
The Kreger/Gerson loved ones by Rita & Spencer Kreger
Marcy Lazarus by Allison Lazarus
Betty & Abraham Block by Ruth LeFrock
Annette Lichtenstein by Sue Lichtenstein
Marion Morris by Judith Lipsky
Harriet Passman by Stacey & George Luck
Manuel Luck by Stacey & George Luck
Joan Forman by Marilyn Ludolph
Marvin A. Luxenberg by Zelda Luxenberg
Marc Evan Becker by Laurie Malden
Florence Martin by Irene & Leslie Martin
Molly Reiss by Irene & Leslie Martin
Sanchez McCrea by Joe McCrea
Sylvia Bleiberg by Lisa & Steve Mendelsohn
Jean Weiner by Hilda Metzger
Estelle & Morris Sivak by Arlene Meyers
Burt Rosenthal by Caryn & Peter Mintz
Jessica Mitnick by Jamie & Lane Mitnick
Henry C. Nath by Judy & Gary Nath
Wilma Nath by Judy & Gary Nath
Rose Grunfeld by Dolores & Sam Newman
Jay Nusbaum by Sheri Nusbaum
Dina Savage & Blanche Nusbaum by Sheri Nusbaum
Norman J. Oppenheim by Jennifer & David Oppenheim
Abigail Paul Schine by Randi & Dan Paul-Heskins
Anne Pedvis & Jarmila Pachl by Carole Pedvis
Gerald Katz by Natalie Pelavin
Paul S. Berman by Philip Pollak
Arthur I. Lee by Ellen & Edward Pollock
Charles Presser by Roberta Presser & Alex Bruner
Justin Wheatley by Roberta Presser & Alex Bruner
Pearl Putterman by Laurie & David Putterman
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