

# The Temple Beth Torah Times

Volume LV No. 9

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May 2019



# Off the Bimah

*So Many Holidays!*  
by Rabbi Michael Katz



Christians have two major holidays – Christmas and Easter (the birth and death of Jesus). Muslims also have two main holy days – Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr (the Feast of the Sacrifice by Abraham of Ishmael and the Feast following the fast in Ramadan). We Jews, on the other hand, have so many more.

The Big Three (in Torah times) were Passover (Exodus), Sukkot (Harvest) and Shavuot (Giving of the Torah), plus Rosh HaShana (New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). Add Shmini Atzeret (the day we pray for rain in Israel) and Simhat Torah (when we finish the yearly Torah reading) at the end of Sukkot. Then there were the minor holidays – Hanukkah (Maccabees triumph over the Greeks) and Purim (the Jews survive Haman). And don't forget the Fast days: Tzom G'dalya (day after Rosh HaShana, commemorating the assassination of the last independent leader of the people of Judea), Taanit Esther (the day before Purim), 10th of Tevet, 17th of Tamuz and 9th of Av (all three connected to the destruction of the Temple). Then there's Tu B'Shvat (New Year of the Trees) and Lag B'Omer (a happy, outdoors day in May).

In modern times, Jews have added to our already packed calendar. Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), Yom Ha-Zikkaron (Memorial Day for those who died in Israel's wars), Yom Ha-Atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day), and Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day – to celebrate the unification of Jerusalem in the 6-Day War).

And, of course, don't forget Shabbat (52 times a year) and Rosh Hodesh (the beginning of the new month – 12 times a year, 13 in a leap year!).

That's (by my count) 105 special days on the Jewish calendar. Despite what many people think, only nine of them are tinged with sadness; all the rest are joyous celebrations.

Not a bad way to live one's life...

*Save the Date! Temple Beth Torah's annual Hatzilu Walk-a-Thon will be held on Sunday, May 5. Additional information will be sent to members via email.*

*Where You Lead, I Will Follow...*  
by Cantor Carol Chesler



One of my favorite things to do at Temple Beth Torah is attend the evening Minyan (Ma'ariv), which happens in the sanctuary at 8:30 p.m. on weeknights. There is a wide variety of people who attend regularly, and some who participate more sporadically. Some people come to an evening Minyan that pre-

cedes or follows an activity, like the Rabbi's adult education class and/or board meetings on Wednesdays. Some people are observing a Yahrzeit or are in a time of mourning for a lost relative, and need the Minyan to recite the Kaddish. The wonderful result is that people show up to support those mourners. For others, they just want to have a few minutes to sit and pray, or even simply to meditate in the safe and welcoming space of our beautiful sanctuary.

You might be wondering why I am discussing the evening Minyan. Well, as the Cantor of Temple Beth Torah, I am often asked to lead the Minyan, which I love to do. On the other hand, it is good to share the Bima, especially during the middle of the week. I am hoping that some of you reading this article would like to learn to lead the evening Minyan. I would like to work with any and all potential students individually, fashioning a tutorial at the student's convenience, complete with vocal recordings and copies of the prayers to be chanted.

The evening service, or Ma'ariv, is short, easy to learn and to master. It lasts a mere 10 to 15 minutes, and a lot of it is done silently! The most challenging part is mastering the Hebrew. For those who come to Minyan, the words of the prayers will be familiar already. The tune or nusach (musical formula) is repetitive. I have worked with a small group of congregants on learning how to read Torah – a very challenging skill, both in terms of language and music/trop. Leading the evening service is a much more finite endeavor, with far fewer requirements and things to memorize than Torah reading. A big advantage is that you have the opportunity to conduct the Minyan on a regular basis.

I would love to create a community of Ba'alei Tefillah, masters/leaders of prayer. Please contact me at the Temple if you are interested in learning how to lead the Ma'ariv, the weekday evening service.

# Press from Our Leaders

## The Saturday Evening Secret by Rich Rothstein, Co-President



Every Saturday night something special happens at Temple Beth Torah. Most people don't know about it. To me, it's a special time and a real hidden gem. It's a special time for me and my family and for the people that come each week.

There's a bit of schmoozing. Some singing.

Some learning. A nosh. A bit of prayer. Some music and a really special ritual. And all that happens in just about an hour. What am I talking about? I am talking about Havdallah at Temple Beth Torah.

Havdallah is the ceremony that marks the end of Shabbos and the beginning of the week. So, you may be asking, what is so special about this service? Every week at about an hour before sundown, we meet and begin to daven Mincha. Mincha on Saturday night begins with a couple of short prayers, then we take out the Torah and there are three short aliyahs, then the standing Amidah. That takes about 20 minutes.

Then we adjourn to the social hall. We have a cup of coffee and a piece of cake (Seudah Shilishit it is called in Hebrew or Shallshudit in Yiddish). We schmooze. Rabbi Katz shares some insight. Cantor Chesler leads us in a song or two. Then, after about 20 minutes, it's back to the sanctuary for Maariv and Havdallah.

Maariv is a short service, but then the lights go out. A special candle – the Havdallah candle – is lit. The Havdallah candle has multiple wicks that are braided together. Cantor Chesler breaks out her guitar and we sing Havdallah. A spice box (besamim) is passed around so that we can all share the fragrance. The candle is extinguished, the lights are turned on and we wish each other a Shavuah Tov – or a good week. Maariv and Havdallah take about 20 minutes. The whole service is usually about an hour.

There is really something special about Havdallah and this article does not do it justice. In the course of an hour, we schmooze, we sing, we nosh, we learn and we pray. When the lights go out and the light from the candle lights up the sanctuary, it is really quite spectacular.

So, grab a friend and come in one Saturday eve. You'll be glad you did!

## Religious School Update by Orna Sheena, Education Director



March has been a very busy month at our Temple Beth Torah Religious School.

Here are a couple of highlights! At the beginning of the month, we focused our attention on learning about the holiday of Purim. Students got an insight into the chain of events that took place, the cast of characters, as well as

the customs and mitzvot of the holiday.

Age-appropriate discussions took place regarding the role of each character in the story of Purim. Students learned about Mordechai's obligations as a Jewish leader, Queen Esther's courage to fight for her people, and the power of the Jewish community when united by faith. We recognized that when we go through hard times, we often wish to ignore the issues. But it is at these times that the leader within us needs to emerge and rise to the challenges of the day. We can all make a difference!

During special activities, students decorated their own Megillah of Esther by coloring various scenes from the Purim story. They also wrote about the meaning of being a Jewish hero.

Purim fun continued on Wednesday, March 20, at a special holiday program that took place before the reading of the Megillah. It was a pleasure seeing children of all grades moving from one activity to another. They had a blast playing basketball, hockey, and bowling and enjoyed making their own masks, groggers, and delicious hamantashen with different fillings. Many thanks to the Temple's School Board for helping to make this program such a success.

We continue to weave Israel education into learning. Gimel and Daled students learned about the geography of Israel by labeling a large map of Israel, and the Hay and Vav students completed their research of major sites in Israel and the location of bodies of water. The maps they created are displayed on our bulletin board for everyone to enjoy. Furthermore, in preparation for the elections in Israel, our students participated in a fascinating session on Israeli politics with our Shinshinit, Noam. They studied the roles of the Israeli Prime Minister and President, and had fun

Continued on Page 5

# Around the Congregation

## The Next Step

Bar Mitzvah: Jack Komson (May 11)  
Son of Michael and Joyce



My name is Jack Komson. I am 13 years old and in the 7th grade at Jericho Middle School. I enjoy playing sports, video games, listening to music and spending time with family and friends. I have a great family – my mom, my dad, and my sister, Lindsey – who are so supportive. I am becoming a Bar Mitzvah on

May 11. Becoming a Bar Mitzvah is important to me because I will get to take on challenging responsibilities and make my own choices throughout my life. I will also be able to use the advice that the Rabbi and Cantor have provided me. In honor of becoming a Bar Mitzvah, I have done charity work to help others in need. I have continued our family tradition of participating in the annual Tuberosus Sclerosis Alliance walkathon, which helps raise money to find a cure. I was also a team member for Team All in for a Cure – a team which raised funds for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. I plan to continue giving back throughout the years. I want to thank everyone who helped me complete my Hebrew studies and my journey to become a Bar Mitzvah. A special thanks to Cantor Chesler, Rabbi Katz, and Cantor Fliegelman for all of their support through the years.

## Attention: All Who Love to Crochet

...And those who want to learn! Our Social Action Committee is starting a crocheting circle to make lap blankets for residents of nursing homes.



...And those who want to learn! Our Social Action Committee is starting a crocheting circle to make lap blankets for residents of nursing homes. If you are interested in participating, please contact Roberta Schleicher or

call the Temple office. If you have unused wool, ends of rolls, or supplies that you would like to donate to this project, please feel free to contact us.

## A Recipe from Our Sisterhood: Date, Cranberry, Walnut & Quinoa Bowls

### Ingredients:

5 small acorn squash  
1 cup uncooked quinoa  
(the tri-color one makes a nice presentation)  
1 cup mix of dried cranberries, pitted chopped dates and chopped walnuts  
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley plus more for garnish  
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil  
Zest and juice of 1 lemon, plus more zest for garnish

### Serves 10

Preheat oven to 400F. Cut five small acorn squash in half and scoop out all the seeds. In a 400F oven, bake the squash cut side down in a large baking dish with a 1/2 inch of water until tender when pierced with a fork – which will take about 50 minutes. Prepare the quinoa according to the package directions. Transfer to a large bowl. Toss with cranberries, dates, walnuts, parsley, oil, lemon zest and juice. Evenly distribute the quinoa between each squash half. Serve warm or at room temperature, garnished with parsley and lemon zest.

## Sounds of Music: Temple Beth Torah Music Appreciation Class

Temple Beth Torah will be hosting a Music Appreciation Class on Sunday, May 19 at 5:00 p.m. The event will be orchestrated by Ned Dorman and is open to all Temple members and guests. Come and enjoy a night of early Beatles music and



and videos with special commentary, including historical perspective, stories behind each song, and insight into the creative process. The session will be a great reminder of The Beatles' influence on our lives. Please RSVP by calling the Temple office or by emailing Denise at [admin@templebethtorahli.org](mailto:admin@templebethtorahli.org).

# Around the Congregation

## Explanation of a Jewish Tradition: When to Commemorate the Holocaust

Originally, the remembrance of the six million was added on to Tisha B'Av, when so many other tragedies occurred in Jewish history – the destruction of the first Temple in 586 BCE, the destruction of the second Temple in 70, the expulsion of Jews from England in 1290, the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492, and so on.

But many Jews felt that the Holocaust was so unique, it needed a day of its own.

The Israeli Rabbinate thought that the 10th of Tevet in the winter, which was a fast day commemorating the siege of Jerusalem, was a good choice. (Since that day was not observed by many, this was a chance to make the Tevet day universally observed.)

The Israeli government (generally very secular) had a different plan – a day associated with Jewish heroism – the Warsaw Ghetto uprising – not with Jews going to their deaths like sheep to the slaughter. But the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began on Passover night, 1943 – not a good time for a Holocaust holiday. So they delayed the observance until the 27th of Nisan, which is five days after Passover. This is the date that most synagogues hold a memorial service.

A few years ago, the United Nations set January 27 as the date for a universal commemoration of the Holocaust. The choice points to the anniversary of the day that the Red Army liberated the first concentration camp, and thus emphasizes the fight of the Allied nations against Fascism.

Each choice has its own unique value and message. Having at least four different dates also reminds us that we cannot yet agree on what the Holocaust means to us today, and how we should remember it.

Perhaps time will bring us all together; perhaps not...

## School Update (Continued from Page 3)

voting for a party that represented their beliefs. To add to the fun, all students enjoyed an Israeli dancing session with guest dancer, Jill.

Lastly, I would like to commend our Gimel students on a job well done at their Siddur Consecration program. It was truly uplifting to see the children on the stage as they chanted the prayers with so much enthusiasm and joy. Many thanks go to Mrs. Glotzer and Canter Chesler for executing this beautiful program.

Wishing you all a happy and enjoyable Passover.

*RAYS of this + that!*

Our Condolences to Joel Spielfogel on the passing of his father Sid.



Members of Cantor Chesler's trope class attended a Nefesh Mountain concert at the Forest Hills Jewish Center on Sunday, March 10.

## Temple Beth Torah's Sisterhood Cookbook

Recipes to Remember is a great gift for any simcha. It is available for \$18 in the Temple office. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our Sisterhood Co-Presidents, Linda Guber and Randie Mishan.



## You've Got a Temple Friend

Temple Beth Torah has a support base of members who are available to help fellow congregants when a time of need occurs. If you are in a position where you could use assistance - such as friendly phone calls or visits, shopping, prescription pick-ups, meal prep and delivery, and so on - please contact the Temple Office or Rabbi Katz. All information is confidential and will be shared only as necessary.

# Recent Events

Temple Beth Torah's Sisterhood hosted a Passover Wine Sale on Sunday, March 24 in which congregants were able to order from a large selection of wines and spirits for Passover. Then, Temple Beth Torah Sisterhood's Game Night was held on Thursday, March 28, and congregants were able to enjoy a night out with their friends while playing some of their favorite games, including but not limited to mah jongg, bridge, and canasta. Yasher Koach to Lisa Silverman and Ruth Damon for coordinating this annual event. Finally, on Thursday, April 4, our Sisterhood held a Women's Seder which was enjoyed by all.

Our congregants were also invited to a special program named *What It Means To Be A Good Person: A Discussion* on Sunday, March 31 at the The Islamic Center of Long Island. The panel consisted of Rabbi Michael Katz from Temple Beth Torah (Judaism), Rev. Mark Lukens from the Interfaith Institute (Christianity), Dr. Isma Chauhry from the Islamic Center of LI (Islam), and Dr. Panna Shah from the Interfaith Institute (Jainism). The moderator, Dr. Arthur Dobrin from the Ethical Humanist Society, raised questions about the limits of morality and the conflict between duty to one's family and to the larger world.

On Sunday, April 7, Temple Beth Torah partnered with Jericho Jewish Center, Congregation L'Dor V'Dor, and rock CAN roll, for the annual Sandwich Sunday event. Participants packed bagged lunches which were then distributed to the hungry on Long Island.

Follow Temple Beth Torah on Facebook to see additional pictures.



# Recent Events

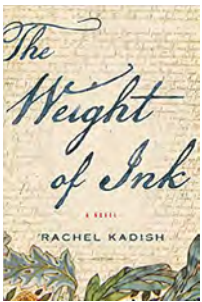
Also photographed left/below: the Hay class working on their Afikomen covers, the Vav class creating their own Seder pillows, our students baking matzoh, and our students celebrating Purim by baking hamantashen, constructing groggers, creating their own masks, and playing carnival games.



# Upcoming Events for May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1  School Program: Yom HaShoah
Rosh Chodesh Iyar 5  Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Hatzilu Walk-a-Thon Jewish Singles Event	Rosh Chodesh Iyar 6  School Program: Yom Hazikaron Yom Ha Atzma'ut	7  Sisterhood Program: Self-Defense Class, 7:30 p.m.	Yom Hazikaron Israel Memorial Day 8  Adult Education, 7:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting, 8:45 p.m.
12  Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m.	13	14	15  School Program: Lag Ba'Omer Picnic Adult Education, 7:30 p.m.
19  Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Music Appreciation Class, 5:00 p.m.	20	21	22  Adult Education, 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting, 8:45 p.m.
26  Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m.	Memorial Day 27	28	29  Adult Education, 7:30 p.m.

# Upcoming Events for May 2019

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Day</p> <p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Candle Lighting, 7:36 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Jr. Congregation, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Minha, 7:35 p.m.</p>
<p>Yom Ha Atzma'ut Israel Independence Day</p> <p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Candle Lighting, 7:43 p.m. Family Service, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jack Komson Minha, 7:45 p.m.</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Candle Lighting, 7:50 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Harrison Gansl Minha, 7:50 p.m.</p>
<p>Lag Ba'Omer</p> <p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Candle Lighting, 7:56 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Minha, 7:55 p.m.</p>
 <p>30</p> <p>Book Talk, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Candle Lighting, 8:02 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.</p>	

## Upcoming Event Spotlight

Another exciting Jewish Singles event is coming to Temple Beth Torah on Sunday, May 5. If you or someone you know (such as friends, relatives, co-workers, and so on) would like to be added to our list, contact the Temple office. We look forward to seeing you!

## Save the Date

### Join Our Book Club

Thursday, May 30  
at 7:30pm

Our next Book  
Club pick is:  
The Weight of Ink,  
by Rachel Kadish

Thursday, June 18  
at 7:30 p.m.

Our final pick will be  
Eternal Life, by  
Dara Horn

After a quick  
summer break,  
we will resume  
our Book Club  
in the fall.

# A Guide to Temple Beth Torah



**Michael Katz**  
Rabbi



**Carol Chesler**  
Cantor



**Kalman Fliegelman**  
Cantor Emeritus



**Orna Sheena**  
Education Director

## Temple Beth Torah Executive Board



**Randi Lesnick**  
Co-President



**Rich Rothstein**  
Co-President



**Marcy Frank**  
Executive VP



**David Damon**  
VP Education



**Heather Hazen**  
VP Fundraising



**Ed Katzin**  
VP House & Buildings



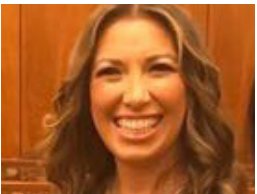
**Stuart Leibowitz**  
VP House & Buildings



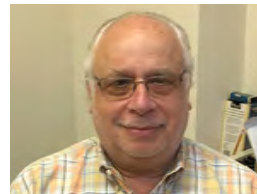
**Gillian Grishman**  
VP Membership



**Michael Glickman**  
VP Publicity



**Ronit Schwartz**  
VP Youth



**Joel Glantz**  
VP Ritual



**Neal Guber**  
Treasurer



**Art Pesner**  
Financial Secretary



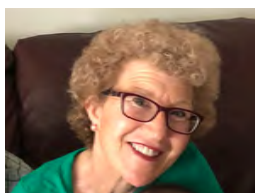
**Stephanie Masheb**  
Secretary



**Andrew Marshall**  
Immediate Past Pres



**Marc Balizer**  
Presidents' Council



**Linda Guber**  
Sisterhood Co-Pres



**Randie Mishan**  
Sisterhood Co-Pres



**Robert Shapiro**  
Men's Club President

# A Guide to Temple Beth Torah

## Schedule of Religious Services

### Daily Services

Evening Minyans (Sun - Thurs), 8:30 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Services, 9:00 a.m.

### Shabbat Services

Friday Evening, 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday Morning, 9:45 a.m.  
Saturday Minhah/Havdalah, Sundown  
(same time as candle lighting)

## Religious School Contacts

Education Director, Orna Sheena  
School Secretary, Rose Zalinsky  
VP of Education, David Damon

## Support Temple Beth Torah

### Make a Donation

Checks should be made out to the  
"Temple Beth Torah Rabbi's Fund"  
and then a card "in memory of" or  
"in honor of" will be distributed.

### Make a Purchase at Amazon

Use the link below to purchase items at  
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remember a loved one or a special  
occasion, or commemorate your  
years at Temple Beth Torah.

### Dedicate a Leaf on Our Tree of Life or a Prayer Book

Contact the Temple Office

### Buy a Brick

[www.brickrus.com/order/tbtli](http://www.brickrus.com/order/tbtli)  
or Contact the Temple Office

## Who Should I Contact To...?

### Arrange for Aliyah or Honors

Contact our Vice President of Ritual,  
Joel Glantz

### Schedule a Baby Naming or Aufruf

Contact Cantor Chesler

### Sponsor a Kiddush or Oneg Shabbat

Contact the Temple Office

### Add a Name to the "Mi-Shehbayrach" (Get Well) List

Contact Rabbi Katz

### Notify the Congregation of a Funeral or a Shiva

Contact Rabbi Katz

### Check a Yahrzeit Date

Contact the Temple Office

### Discuss Bar or Bat Mitzvah Dates

Contact Cantor Chesler

### Discuss Dues or Financial Questions

Contact the Temple Office or  
our Treasurer, Neal Guber

### Purchase Torah Cards

Contact Linda Pochtar, 933-0963  
or Betty Weiss, 931-6046

### Purchase Kippot and Head Coverings

Contact Linda Guber, 297-3721  
or Gillian Grishman, 938-6790

### Feature a Simchah in the Newsletter

At Temple Beth Torah, we strive to know  
each other not just as fellow congregants,  
but as members of our extended family.

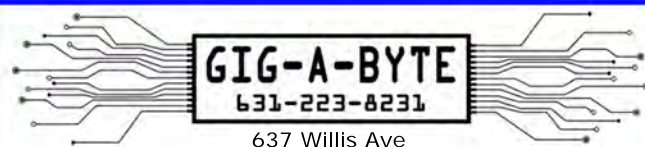
Share your simchahs with us! Contact  
the Publisher of the Temple Beth Torah  
Times, Allison Rothstein, to be featured in  
the next issue of the newsletter.

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