

# The Temple Beth Torah Times

Volume LV No. 67

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March 2025



# Off the Bimah

## A Purim of Joy by Rabbi Jack Dermer



Dear Friends,

A recent study on Jewish life in America began with the opening line, “Good news for Jews in the pews and for the Hebrews who pay dues.” The report went on to detail the ways in which regular participation in religious community is a key factor in happiness and satisfaction with life.

“More than one-third of actively religious U.S. adults (36%) describe themselves as very happy,” the Pew study reports, “compared with just a quarter of both inactive and unaffiliated Americans.” The study continued, “Of the 25 countries studied, there were no examples where actively religious people were significantly less happy than inactive or unaffiliated people.” That is good news for Jews in the pews! Too often, we think of religious life, in the Jewish context that means attendance at services or the practice of Mitzvot, as an obligation or a responsibility, rather than a joy. We may come to services to honor a loved one by saying Kaddish, or host a Holiday meal because we want to honor family tradition, but how often can we say that our practice of Judaism comes from a deep place of enjoyment- a heartfelt celebration of our love for what it means to be a Jew? One of the great tasks of our generation is to help the next generation understand that Judaism is not something we observe out of guilt or fear alone, but rather, to help articulate and create an experience of joyful Judaism, to share our passion for the way in which Mitzvot, Torah study, and community gatherings, are all pathways toward a more fulfilling and happy life.

The month of March, or Adar as we call it in the Hebrew calendar, is our month for remembering and celebrating the joy of our sacred inheritance. “One who enters Adar,” the Talmud proclaims, “shall increase in joy!” The story of Purim, which we will read together on the evening of March 13th, is, at first glance, a horrifying story of an attempted genocide of the Jewish people. How is it that we allow this festival, and the month during which it takes place, to be a statement of our joy? Jewish joy and celebration do come at the expense of remembering the tragedies of Jewish life.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Zamru Achim Zamru! - Sing Brothers & Sisters, Sing!, by Cantor Scott Sokol



As many of you know, my family is very involved in the Jewish choral movement. Francene and I met in the Zamir Chorale of Boston and we continue to sing with the Zamir Chorale (of New York). The Zamir Choral Foundation, which Francene works for in Manhattan, is the nexus for many of the Jewish choral

activities worldwide. Their primary programs are the Zamir Chorale, Zamir Noded (young adult chorus), the North American Jewish Choral Festival and HaZamir: The International Jewish Teen Choir. It is this last program, HaZamir, that I want to focus on in this newsletter article.

HaZamir is at its core a “choir.” HaZamir comprises some 40 chapters in the United States and Israel, and totals around 400 singers. Each week, singers meet in their local chapters and learn the repertoire of choral pieces that will be sung at the end of the year Gala concert. Individual chapters can range in size considerably, anywhere from 2 singers to 25. Then over MLK Weekend, the East Coast chapters and others who are able to come, get together for a 24-hour program with an open rehearsal performance at the end. This is the first time that the individual singers experience the full range and power of a large choral sound. The climax of the year though is Festival, a four-day weekend of rehearsals, learning, and social activities with a built-in shabbaton in which the entire choir participates, culminating in the Gala concert at one of the premiere New York venues (this year we are returning to Carnegie Hall).

Although choral activities are primary, HaZamir is far more than a choir; indeed, it is not an exaggeration to say that HaZamir is a thriving youth movement. Learning and social activities make up significant parts of the weekly and annual experiences for HaZamir singers. There are “teen leaders” who engage the singers in these activities, and even training experiences for those Teen Leaders (both of my sons were HaZamir Teen Leaders, and my son Sam was the international Chair for all the Teen Leaders in his senior year).

*Continued on Page 3*

# Press from Our Leaders

## Press from the President by Ken Maltz, President



When my musician friends and I decided to put together a band dedicated to researching and performing klezmer music, the folk music of Ashkenazic Jews, we quickly realized that there was a scarcity of this music in print anywhere in the world. Despite the fact that hundreds, if not thousands, of these works

exist, almost none had ever been published. The music existed in the minds of klezmerim (klezmer musicians) and was passed along aurally from performer to performer in a manner not dissimilar to that of our oral Torah.

Unable to simply walk into a music store and buy the music, we had to go to those folks who played or sang the tunes, using a tape recorder (we're talking the late 1970s here) to record the music and transcribe it on paper in order to bring it to a larger audience. In this manner, a great treasure of Jewish culture was preserved.

One of these pieces, *A Gut Purim Yidn* (A Good Purim Jews), was discovered during a visit to the Bialystoker Home for the Aged on the Lower East Side. One of the residents we visited, Mrs. Frieder Youngstein, remembered the song from her youth in Novogradok, White Russia and sang it for us. I took the tape home and transcribed it for our band Kapelye and put it on our first commercial recording. Perhaps if it had not been for our visit, the tune, a jewel of a song, may have been forever lost.

I am sure that among our own families there are many jewels to be found. Not just songs but stories from past generations that recall relatives long gone; tales of migration, shiddakhs, happiness and sadness. Taking a cue from my klezmer project, I began to collect these family memories by visiting relatives and recording interviews; often unearthing previously unknown stories about the people from which I came.

I urge all of you to become your own family historians. It's not hard at all and simply taking your smart phone along and recording your conversations may awaken wonderful memories, or tragic ones... but all very worthwhile knowing and preserving. To this end, Temple Beth Torah has invited Nolan Altman from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island to visit us

## Cantor (Continued from Page 2)

Probably the most unique and important aspect of the teen activities of HaZamir relates to the American/Israel connection. At this point, a full third of the HaZamir singers come from chapters in Israel. The American singers interact with the Israelis all year long, and their friendships last beyond their time in HaZamir. As you can imagine, this past year the relationships between the Israeli and American singers played critical roles in helping each to understand and support one another in the wake of the October 7th atrocities and the rise in global antisemitism.

For all the singers (and for the adults like myself who serve as staff), HaZamir provides an opportunity to grow musically and Jewishly, and simultaneously strengthen the ties between American and Israeli Jews. It is truly a wonderful organization that I highly recommend to you and which I hope you will encourage the talented teenagers in your life (8th through 12th grade) to participate in. There is a thriving Long Island chapter that meets on Sundays at the Jacobson JCC. Francene or I would be happy to tell you more about it.

If any of you are interested in attending the Gala concert this year on Sunday March 23rd, tickets are going fast! You can go online to purchase them at: <https://www.wizevents.com/hazamirgalaconcert2025/?id=9827>.

## Rabbi (Continued from Page 2)

On the contrary, Jewish joy is a bold statement of resilience; despite those tragedies and trials, our laughter, our dancing, our l'Chayims, will never cease.

All those who step foot into our TBT Sanctuary notice the Hebrew words "Ashrei Yeshvei Beitecha" inscribed on the wall. This famous line from the liturgy translates, "Happy are those who dwell in God's house." May we do justice to those words this season of Adar, and may we find joy and gladness in the opportunities for community celebration and closeness to G-d which occur, day in and day out, inside our Temple home.

Purim Sameach, may it be a joyful Purim for all,  
Rabbi Dermer

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on the evening of March 25th. He will make a fascinating and inspiring presentation, explaining what makes Jewish Genealogy so special. I urge all of you to attend this event.

# Around the Congregation

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

## March Events

Monday, 3/3 - Executive Board Meeting  
Wednesday, 3/5 - Rabbi's Class  
Thursday, 3/6 - LI Assoc. of Jewish Libraries Purim Event  
Thursday, 3/6 - Pizza & Parsha with Rabbi Dermer @ Shelter Rock Jewish Center  
Sunday, 3/9 - Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Monday, 3/10 - Sisterhood Matzah Cover Craft  
Wednesday, 3/12 - Rabbi's Class  
Thursday, 3/13 - Megillah Reading & Purim Party  
Friday, 3/14 - Purim - Office Closed  
Monday, 3/17 - Sisterhood Matzah Cover Craft  
Wednesday, 3/19 - Rabbi's Class  
Sunday, 3/23 - IDF Duffle Bags Project  
Monday, 3/24 - Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, 3/25 - What Makes Jewish Genealogy Different? with Nolan Altman of JewishGen  
Wednesday, 3/26 - Rabbi's Class  
Thursday, 3/27 - Table Talk  
Sunday, 3/30 - Cantorial Concert



## RAYS of this + that!

Our condolences to the **Jaffee** family on the passing of **Elliott Waldman**, father of **Amy Jaffee**, father-in-law of **Scott**, grandfather of **Matthew (Carly)** and **Aaron**.

### Recipe from Our Sisterhood: Hamentaschen



#### Ingredients:

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 5 1/2 cups flour

#### Suggested Fillings:

- Apricot preserves
- Raspberry preserves
- Chocolate chips
- Prune
- Moin

1. Beat eggs. Beat in oil, sugar, vanilla, baking powder and salt.
2. Add flour gradually and mix thoroughly. Add more flour as needed so dough is workable but not sticky.
3. Roll dough out onto a lightly floured board to about a 1/4 inch thickness.
4. Cut out 2-3 inch round circles (a drinking glass works well).
5. Place desired filling in center of each circle.
6. Pinch on 3 sides to form a triangle (the center will be open).
7. Place on a greased cookie sheet.
8. Bake at 375 degrees for 12-15 minutes or until lightly browned.

Temple Beth Torah Presents

## A WTBT PURIM



Megillah Reading  
Drinks & Snacks  
Hamentaschen  
Spiels, Songs & More!  
Costumes Optional!

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH, 7:00PM**

RSVP TO LAUREN BY 3/6:  
ADMIN@TEMPLEBETHTORAHLI.ORG OR 516-334-7979

## Recent Events

**Presenting Rabbi Joshua Rabin from LiveOnNY:** On Wednesday, January 9, we learned about the Jewish value of saving a life with organ donation. LiveOn is a team of clinicians, educators, social workers and more united around the life-changing power of organ and tissue donation. LiveOn works tirelessly day and night on education, engagement and advocacy, logistical planning and management to help save the lives of those in need of a transplant. They also provide support and comfort to donor and their loved ones. Rabbi Rabin is a Community and Government Affairs Liaison at LiveOnNY, specifically focusing on the Jewish Community as well as the Rabbi of the Astoria Center of Israel. We would like to thank Rabbi Dermer for teaching us about this topic, as well as Rabbi Rabin for sharing LiveOn's message.

**Psalm Enchanted Evenings:** Thank you for joining Cantor Sokol for his special mini course named *Psalm Enchanted Evening*. In this four-part class, we explored the Book of Psalms, one of the most interesting and beloved books of the Tanach. We learned about its history and place in the Jewish canon, and then examined the use of the Book of Psalms in our daily, Sabbath, holiday and lifecycle liturgy.

**Super Bowl Shabbat:** On Saturday, February 8, we wore our favorite jerseys and got excited for the game during Super Bowl Shabbat. On Sunday, February 9, we were proud to join with Conservative Congregations around the country for World Wide Wrap. We learned about the mitzvah of tefillin, got a boost of Jewish connection, and wrapped before the big game. Special congratulations to the winners of our annual Super Bowl pool and fundraiser – thank you to all who participated!

**Tu B'Shevat Seder:** On Wednesday, February 12, fruits, nuts, olives and other traditional snacks were served along with kosher wine, music, singing and teachings from Cantor Sokol and Rabbi Dermer. This year more than ever, it was important for us to celebrate all that is blessed and good about Israel.

Follow Temple Beth Torah on Facebook to see additional pictures.



# Around the Congregation

## LET'S CHEER.... PURIM IS HERE

Temple Beth Torah and the  
Long Island Association of  
Jewish Libraries (LIAJL) present:

An original Purimspiel with  
music, laughs, a costume  
change, a Bissele Yiddish &  
Hamentaschen too!

Thursday, March 6th  
10:00-11:30am  
TBT Social Hall

All are welcome!  
Any questions?  
Contact Wendy:  
[xmarxts@aol.com](mailto:xmarxts@aol.com)



## PIZZA & PARSHA

Learn Torah with four local Rabbis, enjoy  
Kosher Pizza, and strengthen the Long  
Island Jewish community.

Thursday, 3/6, 6:30pm @ Shelter Rock Jewish Center -  
(272 Shelter Rock Rd, Roslyn) with Rabbi Dermer

Thursday, 4/3, 6:30pm @ Temple Beth Torah  
with Rabbi Stanger

Thursday, 5/1, 6:30pm @ Old Westbury Hebrew  
Congregation with Rabbi Ben Gideon

Thursday, 6/5, 6:30pm @ Temple Beth Sholom  
with Rabbi Kupchik

These events are free of charge, but an RSVP  
is required to attend. To RSVP:  
516-741-4305 or [frontdesk@srjc.org](mailto:frontdesk@srjc.org).



Temple Beth Torah Sisterhood

## Passover Matzah Cover Craft

Mondays, March 10th & 17th @ 7pm

Join us on 3/10 to Tye Dye  
your cover and then again on 3/17  
to stencil and embellish it!

**\$18 per person**



RSVP by 3/1 by sending a check made out  
to Sisterhood of TBT to the office.

For more information, please contact  
Randie Mishan @ 516-263-6869 or  
Linda Guber @ 516-297-3721.

## HELP TBT SUPPORT OUR IDF SOLDIERS WITH TERRI'S ANGELS!

Sunday, 3/23 @ 10:00am

There are Three Great Ways to Help!

1. Visit, share and purchase items from the  
special Amazon page. Click [HERE](#) or scan  
the QR Code to access the page. The  
packages will be sent directly to TBT for us  
to pack.
2. Come to TBT on 3/23 @ 10:00am to stuff the  
bags with the supplies.
3. Purchase a Care Bag on 11/3 for a \$36  
donation. Gifts and/or or notes can be added.



More information about Terri's  
Angels can be found [HERE!](#)



For more information & to  
RSVP, please text or call  
Carolyn Newman at  
631-880-8478

# Around the Congregation

Temple Beth Torah

## What Makes Jewish Genealogy Different?

Tuesday, March 25th  
7:30pm

Jewish genealogy has its unique challenges and advantages. Join Nolan Altman, JewishGen's Director for Data Acquisition and President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island to discuss the challenges and advantages of investigating your family history as well as common Jewish genealogical myths.

<https://www.jewishgen.org/>

For more information or to RSVP, Contact Lauren @ TBT:  
516-334-7979 or  
[admin@templebethtorahli.org](mailto:admin@templebethtorahli.org)



## A Threefold Chord: An Afternoon Concert with the Three Jewish Baritones

Cantor Scott Sokol  
Cantor Brian Shamash  
Cantorial Soloist Benjamin Sokol

TEMPLE BETH TORAH PRESENTS:  
AN AFTERNOON  
OF SONG & CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 30  
3:00PM

Tickets:  
\$25 Adults/\$18 Students

RSVP by 3/19 to Lauren: 516-334-7979  
or [admin@templebethtorahli.org](mailto:admin@templebethtorahli.org)

"For a threefold cord is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes, 4:12



Temple Beth Torah

## JOIN US FOR TABLE TALK

MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE TBT LIBRARY  
ON THE FOLLOWING THURSDAYS AT 7PM:

MARCH 27  
APRIL 17  
MAY 22  
JUNE 12

FAMILY, FRIENDS, FRUSTRATIONS, WORRIES, STRESS, JOYS!  
*LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!*

SHARE SOME OF LIFE'S ONGOING CHALLENGES IN A SAFE,  
CONFIDENTIAL, AND SUPPORTIVE SPACE.

CAROLYN NEWMAN,  
A CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, WILL FACILITATE.

Contact Lauren @ TBT for more  
information: 516-334-7979 or  
[admin@templebethtorahli.org](mailto:admin@templebethtorahli.org)



## Save the Date!

Sisterhood Shabbat  
returns on  
Saturday, May 3, 2025

If you would like to participate  
in our Sisterhood Shabbat  
service, please reach out to  
Rabbi Dermer and Cantor Sokol.

# Upcoming Events for March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2	3	4	5
Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
9	10	11	12
<i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Sisterhood's Passover Matzah Cover Craft Night, 7:00 p.m. Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
16	17	18	19
Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Sisterhood's Passover Matzah Cover Craft Night, 7:00 p.m. Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
23	24	25	26
Minyan, 9 a.m. IDF Duffle Bag Project, 10 a.m. Mininyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Presentation from Nolan Altman, Jewish Genealogical Society of LI, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
30	31		
Minyan, 9 a.m. Cantorial Concert, 3:00 p.m. Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.		

# Upcoming Events for March 2025

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>Rosh Chodesh Adar</b> 1 <b>Shabbat Shekalim</b>  Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Minha Services, 5:30 p.m.
6  LIAJL Purim Event, 10:00 - 11:30 am Pizza & Parsha with Rabbi Dermer at Shelter Rock Jewish Center, 6:30 p.m. Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	7  Candle Lighting, 5:36 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Shabbat Zachor</b> 8  Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Minha Services, 5:35 p.m.
<b>Erev Purim</b> 13 <b>Reading of the Megillah</b> <b>Fast of Esther</b>  Megillah Reading and Purim Party, 7:00 p.m.	<b>Purim</b> 14 <b>Reading of the Megillah</b>  Candle Lighting, 6:44 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Shushan Purim</b> 15  Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Minha Services, 6:45 p.m.
20  Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	21  Candle Lighting, 6:51 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Shabbat Parah</b> 22  Candle Lighting, 6:25 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:50 p.m.
27  Table Talk, 7:00 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	28  Candle Lighting, 6:58 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Shabbat Hachodesh</b> 29  Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. Minha Services, 6:55 p.m.

## Upcoming Event Spotlight

Our leadership and clergy work tirelessly to craft experiences which will be inspirational, meaningful and safe for all involved.

Temple Beth Torah is still active and thriving. If you haven't come by lately, please do! There's always something going on here at Temple Beth Torah!

We value our members and your opinions.

If you have ideas for future programs or events, or if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office, our Executive Board and/or our clergy.

# A Guide to Temple Beth Torah

## CONTACT US

TEMPLE OFFICE: (516) 334-7979

[WWW.TEMPLEBETHTORAHLI.ORG](http://WWW.TEMPLEBETHTORAHLI.ORG)

Lauren Ackerman, Executive Director  
[admin@templebethtorahli.org](mailto:admin@templebethtorahli.org)

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[sisterhood@templebethtorahli.org](mailto:sisterhood@templebethtorahli.org)  
[mensclub@templebethtorahli.org](mailto:mensclub@templebethtorahli.org)

## PURCHASE TORAH CARDS

Contact Linda Pochtar, Betty Weiss or the  
Temple office for additional information



## TEMPLE FRIENDS INITIATIVE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE?

TEMPLE BETH TORAH IS MORE THAN JUST A TEMPLE; WE ARE A RELIGIOUS FAMILY WHO CARES ABOUT EACH OTHER. WE HAVE A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS, IN ADDITION TO OUR CLERGY, WHO TAKE TIME TO ASSIST TEMPLE MEMBERS IN NEED. WHETHER IT'S A FRIENDLY PHONE CALL, VISITS FROM FULLY VACCINATED VOLUNTEERS, PRESCRIPTION PICK UP, KOSHER SNACKS AND HOMEMADE TREATS DELIVERED, POST-SHIVA AND BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT – AT TEMPLE BETH TORAH, WE ARE THERE FOR EACH OTHER.

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. ALL INFORMATION SHARED IS CONFIDENTIAL. CONTACT MICHELE LIPPMAN OR RABBI DERMER.



## 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, 9:30 A.M.

SATURDAY MINHAH/HAVDALAH, SUNDOWN

(SAME TIME AS CANDLE LIGHTING)



## Support Temple Beth Torah

# TEMPLE BETH TORAH GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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4x8 brick including 3 lines & mini souvenir replica - \$175  
8x8 brick including 6 lines & mini souvenir replica - \$380

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For more information, contact Lauren @ 516-334-7979 or  
admin@templebethtorahli.org

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*BECAUSE IN THE END, EVERYTHING MATTERS...*

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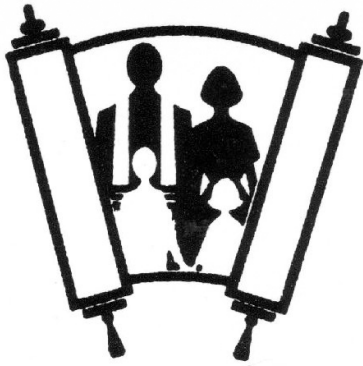
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