

TEMPLE BETH EMETH OF MT. SINAI

WINTER 2019

tbemtsinai.org

SHEVAT 5779



PHOTO BY JACK MILLROD

LIGHTING OUR WAY

Looking back at a very bright Hanukkah and a promising year of growth. Looking ahead to great winter events for our growing temple family.

**TEMPLE
BETH EMETH
OF MT. SINAI**

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DEC. 16 ANNUAL MEETING

- ◆ Nominees all approved by unanimous vote.
- ◆ 2019 budget unanimously approved; no increase in dues or tuition levels.

FROM THE PULPIT / Rabbi Helayne Shalhevet

A moment to look back and ahead



“BIRTH IS A BEGINNING AND DEATH A DESTINATION.” THE POEM BY RABBI ALVIN FINE ENCAPSULATES LIFE; WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT CAN BE. “LIFE,” IT CONTINUES, “IS A JOURNEY.”

As we stand at the turn of the year, we look back on 2018 and ahead to 2019. Actually, by the time you read this, our feet will be firmly planted in 2019, but the image of the ball dropping in Times Square still rings true. If you made it all the way to midnight that is, rather than watching the rerun the next day as I did.

Anyway, as we stand in these moments between what has been and what has yet become, Rabbi Fine's words ring true. “Until, looking backward or ahead we see that victory lies not at some high place along the way, but in having made the journey stage by stage, a sacred pilgrimage.”

The new year affords us the opportunity to look behind us and choose what we'd like to take with us from the previous year into the one that is to come, and what we'd prefer to leave behind. And similarly, it gives us the chance to plan for the year ahead. As Rabbi Fine's words remind us though, victory lies not at some high place along the way. It's not a matter of remembering the highlights of the past year, or of considering the milestones you hope for in the coming year. In fact, it's about everything in between.

If we focus only on the large moments, we're sure to be disappointed. In 2018, Sam lost his first tooth. The moment was a big one in our house. The celebration lasted for a good few minutes, and his ongoing correspondence with the tooth fairy (yes, that really happened) lasted a few days. On the sixth day of 2019, Gabi turned 4. An important milestone, no doubt. If we celebrated only these large moments with them though, what would we have in between? Each day now Sam looks in the mirror to see if he can see his adult tooth poking higher through the gums. And each day preceding her birthday, Gabi asked if it was her birthday yet. These are the small moments, the ones in between, that we need to treasure.

Graduations are a big deal. But as

you look back, they're representative of all that you've accomplished until that point. And looking ahead, graduating will pay off in a career and years to come. The same is true of a wedding. If you consider only the wedding day itself, you're sure to be disappointed. It's the preparation leading up to it and the joy the couple experiences through married life that make each of these events sacred.

If we want to enjoy the journey, we must remember, as Rabbi Fine said, that as we look back or ahead, victory lies not at some high place along the way. Victory lies in the ability to look backward or ahead. It lies in the moments in between the big moments. Making that journey “stage by stage” is the sacred pilgrimage.



PHOTO BY LESLIE MILLROD

Students at September's Hebrew School Orientation “survived” to return for another year of small memories in a sacred journey.



New members gather on the bima for a blessing from Rabbi Shalhevet and Cantor Wharton at the Dec. 7 service.

who is 8. Skye attends the Hebrew School, Alef class. Ellen said, "We wanted to be part of a Jewish community, and send our daughter to Hebrew School. Skye loves going to Hebrew School, and we like that it's a small, close-knit community."

MARCIA AND RICK GROSSMAN call Middle Island home. Marcia is a retired Longwood Central School District teacher and Rick is an actor, producer and director in theater and film. They have two sons — Ian, who is married to Pauline, and Randall, who is married to Alyson (members since 2016). Marcia and Rick have been blessed with four grandchildren — John, 13, Daniel, 11, Lainey, 9, and Dylan, 6. What do the Grossmans like about the temple? "The rabbi," Marcia said, "and welcoming feeling of community, particularly to the children."

FRANE AND LARRY HELNER of South Setauket's Jefferson's Ferry, are both retired. Frane, who was a teacher, is a published poet. Larry was a Grumman engineer and manager. They have two grown children, Robin and Alec, and grandchildren. Frane and Larry also joined Temple Beth Emeth after the Mastic Beach Hebrew Center closed. "We chose TBE," Larry said, "because we were told it was very much like the MBHC."

ROBIN HELNER-REICH, the daughter of Frane and Larry Helner, comes from Stony Brook, and now lives in Center Moriches. Robin, a licensed massage therapist, has a daughter, Sarah, 25, and a son, Jacob, 21. When the Mastic Beach Hebrew Center closed, Robin said, she looked for a new temple and "I found TBE was very welcoming, like a big family."

SUSAN WELGE of Manorville is a special-education teacher for a private nonprofit school. Susan has three children. George, 27, who is married to Sara, Daniel, 25, and Jess, 23. "I was a member of Mastic Beach, and when it closed," Susan said, "I wanted to get back to my Jewish roots and be with other people with similar backgrounds." She attended High Holiday services at Newfield High School and, she added, "I liked the music, which felt familiar."

'LIKE A BIG FAMILY'

Meet the newest temple members

Temple Beth Emeth has many traditions, like bringing your menorah to our Hanukkah service. Another involves Joan Perrin interviewing our newest families to introduce them to the congregation in our newsletter.

By Joan Perrin

The Dec. 7 Family Shabbat was brimming with temple families, old and new, and special moments.

Temple Beth Emeth was celebrating Hanukkah, and our sanctuary was packed with families who'd brought their Hanukkahs to light. Rabbi Shalhevet shared the news of Robin Mertz's conversion to Judaism. And we welcomed eight new families to the congregation.

It is my pleasure to introduce TBE's newest members. They came seeking a new spiritual house of worship. Some wanted a Jewish education for their children. Others wanted to connect to their Jewish roots. What they found was a warm, and welcoming community that has happily welcomed all these wonderful new families to our congregation.

KAREN AMMIRATA of Manorville is the practice manager for a vascular surgeon in Port Jefferson. She has two grown children, Zachary Salant, 25, and his sister Kayla Salant, 21. Karen, who belonged to the Mastic Beach Hebrew Center before it closed, said she joined TBE because "I felt very welcomed with all the interactions I've had with your congregants."

GAIL AND BRIAN DAVID live in Farmingville. Gail is a math tutor for Reach For The Stars, and David is in collections for the Execu|Search Group in Mineola. They have two sons, Brandon, 25, and Paul, 21, and a daughter, Morgan, 17. "Our temple at Mastic Beach closed," Brian said, "and we came to TBE

after visiting other temples. It was more personal than the others we visited, and more suitable to our likings."

LINDA DEYA of Sound Beach is a retired postal service worker. Linda has a grown daughter, Mackenzie, and a granddaughter, Riley, 5. Riley often comes to our Shabbat services with her grandmother. Linda said she discovered TBE two years ago and enjoyed the services. "I came to check it out," she said. "I loved it. Everybody is warm and welcoming like a big family."

ELLEN AND KIRK GREENBERG live in Miller Place. Ellen is a Social Studies teacher, and Kirk is a software engineer. The Greenbergs have a daughter, Skye

PHOTO BY JACK MILLROD



NEWSDAY / THOMAS A. FERRARA



NEWSDAY / THOMAS A. FERRARA

A VERY BRIGHT HANUKKAH





PHOTO BY JACK MILLROD



PHOTO BY LESLIE MILLROD



PHOTO BY JACK MILLROD

TEMPLE BETH EMETH OF MOUNT SINAI PRESENTS . . .

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY

JAN. 26, 6:30 PM

Bring teenage kids and grandkids to see a new film based on this inspiring rescue by Israeli forces as we kick off a new series of family movie nights at TBE.



FREE ADMISSION
Visit the snack bar
and vote on the
next movie we show!

7 Days in Entebbe

Release: 2018 **Rating:** PG-13 **Type:** Drama **Length:** 1:47

About the movie: Inspired by the true events of the 1976 hijacking of an Air France flight en route from Tel Aviv to Paris, and the most daring rescue mission ever attempted.

COMING ATTRACTIONS What would you like to see next?

Fiddler on the Roof

Release: 1971 Rating: G

Type: Musical Length: 3:01

About the movie: The beloved tale of Tevye, Golda and their daughters comes to life in the film adaptation of the Broadway hit. This would likely be presented as a matinee.



The Frisco Kid

Release: 1979 Rating: PG

Type: Comedy Length: 1:59

About the movie: Gene Wilder is a Polish rabbi sent to lead a synagogue in San Francisco who must make his way through the Old West with the help of cowboy Harrison Ford.



The Chosen

Release: 1981 Rating: PG

Type: Drama Length: 1:48

About the movie: In 1944, two boys, the sons of a Hassidic rebbe and a Zionist writer, clash at a Brooklyn softball game and form a friendship that transcends their differences.



An American Tail

Release: 1986 Rating: G

Type: Animated Length: 1:20

About the movie: While emigrating to the United States, a young Russian mouse gets separated from his family and must relocate them while trying to survive in a new country.



Yentl

Release: 1983 Rating: PG

Type: Musical drama Length: 2:13

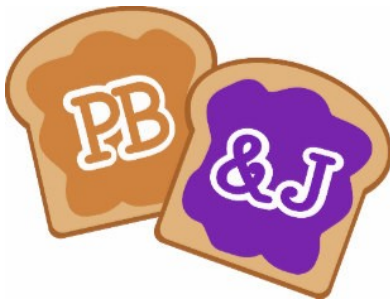
About the movie: Barbra Streisand portrays a Jewish girl who disguises herself as a boy to get into an Eastern European yeshiva.





PHOTO LESLIE MILLROD

SCHOOL DAYS ARE THESE EVENTS IN YOUR CALENDAR?



Socks and Sandwiches Marathon

Sunday, Jan. 13 at 2 p.m.
All welcome.

Tu B'Shevat Seder

Friday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Family History Dinner

Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 5 p.m.
Gimmel and Dalet classes

Hamentashen Baking

Tuesday, March 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Students' Purim Play

Friday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.
at Purim Shabbat service

Purim Party

Sunday, March 24 at 10 a.m.



School Fun-raiser:

Design a Seder Plate

Sunday, March 31 at 5 p.m.

THE MAGIC

WHAT MAKES TEMPLE BETH EMETH SPECIAL? WE DO

WHAT IS “THE MAGIC”? IT IS THE SUM TOTAL OF ALL THE ELEMENTS OF TEMPLE BETH EMETH, TIED TOGETHER IN AN INSEPARABLE, INDIVISIBLE BUNDLE OF THE WONDER-FILLED EXPERIENCES OF OUR JEWISH LIVES.

It begins with our home at 52 Mount Sinai Avenue. There’s the look and feel of TBE as you open our door and step into the warmth of our oneg room and our beautiful golden sanctuary. It’s the bustling school, the family central found in our kitchen. It is the tranquility of our rabbi’s garden and the adventure of exploring the bargains in our barn. But it is *much* more.

It is US.

It’s the smile of an usher as you walk in the door on a Friday night. It’s sharing quiet moments in prayer and the joyful sounds of a Music Shabbat. It’s the flurry of activity on Hebrew School afternoons. It’s the wisdom of a visiting scholar, popcorn on a movie night or the exchange of ideas when adults study Torah. It’s the twinkling lights in the sukkah and the heady scent of the *lulav* and *etrog* on Sukkot. It’s the giggling, grinning, unprompted, unscripted moments of our Purim shpiel; the mangled lyrics and off-key melodies of our karaoke challenge. It’s the aroma of herbs and spices at the community seders on the second night of Passover and Tu B’Shevat. It’s the Men’s Club, the “bagelmeister” and their wacky tradition of providing late attendees with a standing ovation. It’s the smell of latkes and sound of the smoke alarm during Hanukkah. It’s the Tikkun Olam Committee’s visit to a hospital or delivery of a hot meal to a family struggling with loss or illness. It’s hundreds of matzah balls, gallons of chicken soup and containers of *charoset* prepared and served by the Sisterhood at the Hebrew School model seder; the days spent baking homemade goodies for Shalach Manot bags. It’s the tireless work by old and young to set up and take down our portable sanctuary for the High Holidays. It’s the collective glow of tutor, teacher, parents and community on the day a child is called to the Torah. It’s bar and bat mitzvah students stepping up to make a difference in the world with mitzvah projects. It’s the quiet shedding of a collective tear during kaddish for a beloved rabbi. And, since our very beginnings, it’s the hundreds of hours contributed by the board and committee members, volunteers and congregants who keep things happening and care for the people and the facility.

But *THE MAGIC* is fragile. It requires the commitment and collaboration of Governing Board members who accept their role as the guardians. It requires personal time and energy to make the decisions, manage the “family finances,” keep up with the paperwork

TBE IN 2018, BY THE NUMBERS

- 1** new Jew (Congrats, Robin!)
- 4½** pounds of horseradish at seders
- 6** kayaks at our beach picnic
- 8** new families
- 10** community dinners
- 12** bar mitzvah students of all ages
- 24** quarts of chili served in the sukkah
- 40** special events
- 73** energy-efficient light bulbs installed
- 102** hours of meetings
- 146** challahs
- 176** orange slices at the Tu B’Shevat Seder
- 189** candles lit at our Hanukkah service
- 223** trips to the post office/bank
- 406** hours of learning
- 420** k-cups brewed
- 435** latkes at Hanukkah celebrations
- 660** slices of pizza
- 712** PB&J sandwiches for the needy

and care for our home. Sometimes, it means cleaning the oven, sweeping crumbs off the floor or putting salt down on the walkway. Supporting our family means writing that monthly check and adding a dollar or two when you can. Our house is just like yours and unexpected expenses do come up. But that’s not enough. Each of us needs to dedicate time – to make a pot of coffee for an oneg; prepare cook, bake or buy food for a holiday dinner or celebration; donate goods and services for a fundraiser; clean out a gutter, change a light bulb, mow a lawn; tutor a kid, move a table or chair (or 12) ... and then find one more minute and jot a thank you note to someone you notice going above and beyond.

TBE is us ... every one of us; old and young; employed and retired; able-bodied and able-minded – all doing their part to keep this place alive.

THE MAGIC that made you want to become a part of Temple Beth Emeth is the TBE family. It’s people. Every one of you. It requires an unyielding, unending, positive determination to preserve us as one indivisible, spiritual community.

What are we without it? Just some people with an old house, barn, driveway, sidewalks, trees and grass. We would be an average, not very exciting, run-of-the-mill community organization.

But we are not ordinary. We are TBE.

Together, we are *THE MAGIC*.

The Ritual Committee wanted to share this message, which was inspired by an anonymous internet post.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK / Debbie Giordano

It was a year worth remembering



I CAN, WITH MUCH PRIDE AND JOY, SAY THAT TEMPLE BETH EMETH HAD A VERY GOOD AND FULL YEAR OF PROGRAMS AND EVENTS IN 2018. LET'S TAKE ONE LAST LOOK BACK ...

We started the year off with Joan Zuckerman's b'nai mitzvah orientation, and in the months to come, with the help of our dedicated volunteer tutors, TBE would have the honor of seeing Ali Feldman, Rebecca Sandak, Rachel Schneider, Dylan Taub, Max Malawista and Ryan Todaro called to the Torah.

Harriet Willing organized and executed a very successful "Socks and Sandwiches" PB&J marathon in which religious school students and their parents made sandwiches and collected new socks for the needy.

Once again, Jack Millrod and the TBE Radio Theater players gave us a fun and nostalgic Purim Shpiel.

Bob Sandak got Knapp Beach in Belle Terre for our annual Kumzits in May, and we returned in August for the TBE Picnic on the Beach, where everyone enjoyed swimming, kayaking and barbecuing.

Throughout the summer, many of us volunteered to play vendor at one of six

Long Island Ducks games. This not-so-easy task was organized, planned and successfully led by Jay Zuckerman. (Yes, that was Rabbi Helayne and Rabbi Jamie Shalhevet serving up suds at the beer

stand with my family.)

As we moved into September, our Selichot study and dinner helped us prepare for the High Holidays. As it is our tradition, we converted the Newfield High School auditorium into a beautiful place of worship to welcome the Jewish New Year with song and prayer. The cantor provided us with musicians and a choir playing and singing in a beautiful and inspirational way. The rabbi shared sermons that were both moving and thought-provoking.

Our second annual Comedy Night Fundraiser was a success, as was the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service hosted here at TBE. We moved into December with our annual Heritage Park menorah lighting with hot cocoa and doughnuts provided by Sisterhood. It was wonderful welcoming eight new families at the New Member Shabbat to a full house as we celebrated Hanukkah. As our menorahs burned bright, Nadine Greenberg led students in some of the fun and traditional songs she teaches in our religious school.



PHOTO BY JAY ZUCKERMAN

My son Ben and I staff the only Long Island Ducks concession stand under rabbinic supervision. And at our summer picnic that's TBE Kayak Queen Diane Schwindt and Sam Shalhevet off Knapp Beach in Belle Terre.



PHOTO BY JACK MILLROD



PHOTO BY BOB SANDAK

Throughout the year, we were provided with so many activities and programs, so many ways to explore our rich Jewish tradition.

Cantor Wharton brought us musicians like Gathering Time, RebbeSoul (Bruce Berger), Robin Greenstein and, of course, her husband, Akiva the Believer, who kept the beat at our music Shabbats. On one special night, Akiva filled our sanctuary with the stories and wisdom of Jewish musical pioneer Shlomo Carlebach.

Congregants like Margie Kandel (in her spare time from the countless hours she spends working in the Barn) led us in Torah study. With the help of Jay Matuk and Matt Fox, the rabbi offered a series of educational talks, in addition to her successful Sit, Schmooze and Snack series. There was a pre-Passover pasta dinner that Leslie Millrod planned and prepared. Phil Paskowitz, meanwhile, continued to plan wonderful Adult Education programs as well as chair our Tikkun Olam committee, which provides for families in need.

There were too many highlights to mention them all, but as you can see, we are very much, a full-functioning, very active and supportive congregation.

That's because it's not enough for us to just be here, sort of functioning. Be assured that TBE continues to be the vibrant place of worship that can provide a rich spiritual and intellectual environment where anyone can attend services or educational and social programs, engage in charitable work and observe life-cycle events.

From the bottom of my heart, for all that you do ... planning, running, organizing and, yes, even if it's just attending these events, I thank you!

Looking ahead, TBE will continue to

Another TBE tradition continues as the official TBE Family Photo is taken at our annual Hanukkah Party.



PHOTO BY JACK MILLROD

thrive if three things are consistent:

1. Membership growth — building our temple community
2. Financial support — certainly the most difficult challenge but the most necessary because your dues and donations ensure our doors remain open.
3. Volunteering — with so many opportunities to become a more active member, just ask!

RebbeSoul rocks Shabbat with newlyweds Cantor Wharton and Akiva the Believer.

Without you there is no us!
I look forward to building on our momentum and making more memorable moments with each of you.

Wishing you a happy and a healthy new year.

Shalom,
Debbie

Find out how **stories** transform us

TBE's Scholar in Residence program
presents **Maggid Jim Brulé** in
"Stories and Social Transformation"

SUNDAY, JAN. 20
10 AM TO NOON



"I am a maggid – a spiritual storyteller and guide. I have been exploring the spiritual world as long as I can remember, seeking its multiple truths – and its deeper Truth. My 'home' religion is Judaism, where I have found my greatest joys and my greatest challenges."

– Maggid Jim Brulé

THIS PROGRAM IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL ABOVE BAR/BAT MITZVAH AGE

Please bring a donation for Long Island Cares

RSVP to Phil Paskowitz at agsilver@msn.com

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CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Cantor Wharton is inviting all musical congregants to bring their instruments to temple and join in at Music Shabbats. Ask her for chords or sheet music.

NEED A PRINTER?

Nick Sachs of the Toledo Group prints our newsletter at no cost.