



Volume 8, Issue 4 Kislev/Tevet 5786



FAMILY CHANUKAH BRUNCH HOSTED BY TBT PTA

Sunday, December 14, 2025 - 11:30am - 2:30pm

Games, Crafts, Food & Raffle Baskets

\$24 Adults/\$12 Children 5-13 yrs. old (under 5 yrs. old are free)

Children MUST be accompanied by an adult

RSVP required by December 1st

Late RSVPs cannot be accommodated/No Walk Ins

Open to all Temple members and their guests

Please bring donations of non-perishable food or new, unwrapped toys to help families in our community

Questions? Contact Heather Lorenz and Robin Golub at TBTChanukahBrunch@gmail.com



OUTDOOR CHANUKIAH LIGHTING SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 14 -

Communications Committee @ 5:00

Monday, December 15 -

Religious School and BNTY @ 7:15

Tuesday, December 16 -

Sisterhood @ TBD

Wednesday, December 17 -

Religious School and PTA @ 6:15

Thursday, December 18-

Bingo Volunteers and Chai Club @ 4:30

Friday, December 19 -

Before Services @6:55

Saturday, December 20 -

Brotherhood @ TBD

Sunday, December 21 -

Circle of Friends @ 5:30



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS CHANUKAH PARTY

Sunday, December 21, 2025

2:00 pm - 5:30 pm

TBT Kiddush Lounge



Food from Ben's!

Music, Games & Menorah Lighting

Please bring a \$10 gift to exchange (per couple OR per person)

\$25 for members and \$30 non-members

Questions? Contact:

Jenn – jschnitzer227@gmail.com – (516) 459-3096

RITUAL CALENDAR – December 2025

All services, unless otherwise noted, will be in-person and streamed.

Friday, December 5 5:30 pm **TOT SHABBAT** (In-Person Only)

Saturday, December 6 10:30 am 4th Grade Shabbaton Friday, December 12 7:15 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Friday, December 19 7:15 pm Erev Shabbat Service Chanukah Celebration -

Menorah Lighting (6th Night), Singing & Games,

lyyun Tfilah and a Special Holiday Oneg!!!!

Friday, December 26 6:30 pm Erev Shabbat Service - On Zoom Only





Friday, January 2 5:30 pm **TOT SHABBAT** (In-Person Only)

7:15 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Friday, January 9 7:15 pm **Gamily Shabbat Service** with BTNY - Double credit

lyyun T'filah

Friday, January 16 7:15 pm Erev Shabbat Service with Social Action/Social Justice - Life

after Loss - lyyun T'filah

Friday, January 23 7:15 pm Erev Shabbat Service

Friday, January 30 7:15pm Erev Shabbat Service & Tu BiShvat Seder - lyyun

T'filah - In-Person only

SOGIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE On Friday, January 16, please join us for a special presentation from the Social Action/Social Justice committee. *Life After Loss A.N.D.R.E.* (Ability-Navigate-Depression-Recovery-Empowerment). They are a nonprofit organization that supports all people with healing and accessing true empowerment through the grief process after facing loss and trauma. They are working fearlessly and relentlessly to combat the gun violence public health crisis by defending our most fundamental human right: the right to live one's life fully! Gun violence is their story, but we know it is not everybody's. Therefore, Life After Loss A.N.D.R.E. is here to help individuals and families who have suffered all forms of traumatic loss of loved ones or within themselves. They offer support through Bereavement & Grief Counseling, Community Outreach & Mobilizing. For more information go to their web page http://lifeafterlossandre.com. During the Oneg, you can participate in assembling comfort packages and writing cards with words of comfort.

KEY: * = On Zoom + = Watch for important information regarding Dinners & Luncheons close to their dates. # At TBT and Facebook Live.

Details for Services can be found on the Scroll and our Website.

Always check the TBT Website/Calendar prior to Services for the most up-to-date information.



TBT Outdoor Menorah Lighting:

Chanukah begins the evening of **Sunday**, **December 14**. All Clubs and Arms will be given a night to light the outdoor Menorah. All congregants and friends are welcome. The full lighting schedule is on the cover.

CHANUKAH

Join us on Friday, December 19 with your Menorah and 7 candles for the great TBT Light Your Menorah Fest. At the beginning of the Service, we will gather to light our menorahs and say the prayers. Then we'll have a fun service with a singalong with the TBT Choirs. After, there will be a special Holiday Oneg with games and treats for all ages. (Come a bit early to set up your menorah.)

TORAH STUDY *

December

Saturdays @ 9:30 am - 12/06, 12/13, 12/26

Mondays @ 12:00 pm - 12/01, 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29

January

Saturdays @ 9:30 am - 01/03, 01/10, 01/17, 01/24, 01/31

Mondays @ 12:00 pm - 01/05, 01/12, 01/26 (No Torah Study 01/19)

* ALL on Zoom

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Janise Poticha



In every culture, light is a symbol. To some, it is a symbol of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. To others it is a symbol of communication and friendship. Others see it as a symbol of warmth and love.

In Judaism, the most delicate, fragile ritual, that of candle lighting, is embedded in the fabric of Jewish life. The lighting of candles marks a transition in our lives. We light two

candles just before the beginning of Shabbat and major Festivals to acknowledge the separation of Friday night through Saturday night or the Festival to celebrate. The Havdalah candle we light at the end of Shabbat separates the holiness of the previous 25 hours from the coming ordinary days, about to begin another week of work.

We light one candle five times a year to mark the yahrzeit of a loved one. We light one shiva candle upon returning home after the funeral of an immediate family member, which burns seven days during the time of *shiva*, the first portion of a mourner's period of grief; our transition of becoming a mourner and remembering our loved ones. Proverbs 20:27 expresses: "The life-breath of human beings is the lamp of the Eternal". We light a candle at these times not only to connect with the Well-Spring of life but also, as we read in Genesis 1:3: "Let there be light" to help us transition from chaos to order.

It is unique to Judaism that every major holiday/Festival begins with the lighting of candles to mark the transition from profane to sacred time. Yet the reason for lighting of candles during the eight days of Chanukah is not to transition but to commemorate – to commemorate the event. Ahh, two events – either, or, both. We commemorate the military victory of the Maccabees over Antiochus – and, or, both, according to Talmud, we mark the miracle of the tiny cruse of oil that burned for eight days.

For most of us, we follow the rule which came to us from the first century scholar: Hillel that we light one candle of the *Chanukkiah* on the first night, using the *shamash*. Each night thereafter, we increase the number of candles by one, until we reach the eighth night. We are increasing the light in our hearts and homes. The minority opinion teaches to illuminate all the candles on the first night, decreasing one each of the eight nights. This is according to the scholar Shammai.

How is it that such a delicate flame hold so much importance for us, so much so that we have debated it, argued about it, adapted it and we fulfill the *mitzvah* every year? And not just for us, but for all Jewish people for all time. So dainty, so easily extinguished. Why? Those tiny flames hold our history, they tell our stories, they retell our *midrashim*, they support us, they help write our on-going story and they remind us of our heroes and our humility.

At a time when there is so much hatred towards the Jewish people, let us take a moment to remind ourselves of some miracles and heroes. I encourage you to either discuss each of the eight "heroes" I am offering or research your own heroes to share each night of your lighting.



The elderly Matthias who, in 166 BCE, gathered his five sons to ignite the spark of Jewish resistance against the Selecuids, which permanently changed the face of Jewish history.



Judah Maccabee, the brave warrior and military genius who led his army to victory against seemingly insurmountable odds.



Jeffery Hoffman, the first Jewish American in space. Not only did he bring a small Torah scroll on his final mission reading from it

on Shabbat while in orbit, he also brought a dreidel, which he spun in zero gravity, setting a record for the longest spin time. Other Jewish astronauts brought ritual items in space, but it was Jessica Meir who wore Chanukah socks during her mission.



Gal Gadot: Israeli actress. Outspoken in her support for Israel, she began her speech at last years' ADL conference: "My name is Gal, I am Jewish and I am Israeli. I refuse to hide my support for Israel."



Eden Golan: The Israeli singer Eden Golan sang the song October Rain written by: Avi Ohayon. Inspired by the terror attack in October 2023, Golan entered the song in the Eurovision 2024 competition.

The chorus reads: "Every day I'm losing my mind

Holding on in this mysterious ride

Dancing in the storm

We got nothing to hide

Take me home

And leave the world behind

And I promise you that never again...

I'm still wet from this October rain - October rain."

Seeing the phrase: "October rain" as being too politically controversial, Eurovision asked the composer to rewrite the song, replacing: "October rain" with "Hurricane". Receiving the second highest number of public votes, Eden won 5th place. In Israel and in Jewish communities the song is titled: October Rain not Hurricane.



Adam Sandler: American actor. Famous for any one or all of his four updates to his: "The Chanukah Song" (a must).



All those, in Israel, who were murdered or tortured and held captive since 7 October 2023. Their stories are being written into history books and seared into our hearts.



All those who have fought for the security of the State of Israel. They include elected officials, soldiers, doctors, caregivers, volunteers who worked the civilian jobs of others so they could fulfill their *tzav shmona* (emergency call-up for army service), musicians who composed deeply powerful music painfully expressing the agony of an entire country and those world-wide supporters who, in spite of global anti-Semitism continue to stand with Israel.

The delicate flames of the *Chanukkiah* will always inspire me. I am inspired by the heroes in our lives even though there are those who continue to fight against us. I am inspired by the increase of miracles even though, at times, they are not evident.

Judaism shares all the symbolism of light with many cultures, as a symbol of wisdom, knowledge, communication, friendship, warmth and love. What Judaism adds, that makes our relationship to light unique is its symbol of transition, commemoration, life, hope. Afterall, it was Leonard Cohen who wrote: "The world is broken, that is how the light gets in."

Through the dainty, fragile light of *Chanukah* we remind ourselves of our strength.

Our history reads like a masterclass in resilience.

Chanukah sameach! Rabbi Janise Poticha

NOTES FROM OUR CANTOR

Cantor Rica Timman



As the days grow shorter and the nights stretch long, our community at TBT begins to glow with anticipation. The season of miracles is here — and with it comes the joyful return of our music-filled and light-filled Chanukah Shabbat programming!

On Friday, December 5th we begin with laughter, little voices, and tiny dancing feet at Chanukah Tot Shabbat at 5:30 PM. Our youngest members and their grownups will gather to welcome Shabbat and Chanukah together with songs, stories, and the sparkle of shared light — a perfect way to begin this holiday season!

On December 19th, we'll bundle up and make our way outdoors at 6:55 PM to the corner of Jerusalem and Oakfield Roads, where our large community Chanukiah stands tall against the winter sky. There, weather permitting, we'll join in lighting the electric 'flames' that connect us to Jews around the world — a beacon of hope, resilience, and joy.

But the glow doesn't end there! At 7:15 PM, the celebration continues in our Social Hall, where families and friends will gather, chanukiot in hand, to light the candles for the sixth night of Chanukah. Imagine hundreds of tiny flames dancing together — reflections of our shared faith and warmth. We encourage everyone to come dressed for the occasion in their most festive Chanukah sweaters, cozy pajamas, or colorful attire. Bring your chanukiah and seven candles, and be ready

to lift your voice in song as we fill the room with light and laughter.

Then, as the candles flicker behind us, we'll move into the Sanctuary for a truly uplifting Shabbat and Chanukah service. The music of our Adult Choir, B'nai Shir Choir, and Shabbatones Band will surround us, building to a joyous songfest of Chanukah favorites that's sure to have everyone clapping, singing, and smiling. We'll conclude that night with a festive oneg including latkes, games, and more. It's a night where spirit, song, and community intertwine — a celebration that embodies the very heart of TBT.

And the joy continues throughout the week! Keep an eye out for our daily outdoor Chanukiah lightings, led by the various arms of our congregation, as well as the much-anticipated return of the PTA Chanukah Brunch on Sunday, December 14th — a delicious, family-friendly favorite you won't want to miss.

So come join us as we kindle the lights, lift our voices, and share in the warmth of this miraculous season. May the long nights of December shine bright with laughter, love, and the glowing spirit of our TBT family.

Chag Urim Sameach!
Cantor Rica Timman



Thank You for your Kol Nidre Pledge Donations

We are collecting pledges through the end of the year. There is still time to Support Temple B'nai Torah!

With Gratitude, The Fundraising Committee



WOULD YOU LIKE A BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, TRAVEL, etc., BLESSING?

You can arrange for a blessing for any Friday night.

Call the Temple office - 516-221-2370





December 1- December 20, 2025

We are collecting new, unwrapped toys (no guns or war toys please), games, art supplies, journals and sports equipment





Donations can be dropped off in the collection box in the TBT Lobby or brought to the Chanukah Brunch on Dec. 15

Gift cards in envelopes labelled SA/SJ Holiday Gift Drive can mailed to TBT or brought to the TBT office during office hours by December 14





Donations will be delivered to Family and Children Association, the LWS Advocacy Center, the P.E.A.C.E. After School Program and other agencies in need

For information contact Rona at socialaction@tbtwantagh.org





RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Last month we changed the clocks, but it still feels like I am getting used to the early sunset. I am grateful for Chanukah, where we are lucky to have extra light to push away the darkness.

Every time someone learns something new, wrestles with a piece of Torah, or shares a family ritual, we add to that light. Each time we increase the light, we deepen our connection to who we are, where we come from, and the values that guide us. This Chanukah, we are lucky enough to have the opportunity to slow down, to really take the time to appreciate the flickering lights. It's a chance to recognize the miracles, great and small.

Each day is a gift, each opportunity to bring light to darkness is a blessing. This month, on December 19, we have the chance to gather together for our annual Chanukah Shabbat Service. Bring your family's *Chanukia*, your menorah, and some candles and celebrate with us. It's a chance to sing together, to sit together and appreciate the lights we each bring to our sanctuary. Wishing you a month filled with love and light.

~Sheryl

Religious School Milestones and Achievements

Four of our Hebrew High School students represented TBT at the NFTY Collab at the URJ Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, TX which took place Nov 7th -10th. The four TBT representatives had an amazing and inspiring time and look forward to participating in future events.

Pictured left to right: Alex Kohn, Lila Minkowsky, Maddie Rothstein, Rose Fioribello





Above: **Consecration Ceremony** for the newest Religious School students took place at the Erev Simchat Torah Service on Oct 14th.

Below: **6th Graders receive their Siddurs** signifying the start of their Bet Mitzvah preparations at Erev Shabbat service on Oct 24th.



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

As we approach Chanukah this year, I find myself reflecting not only on the miracle of the oil, but on the deeper

miracle of resilience, compassion, and community. While we often think of Chanukah as a celebration of light, it is also about kindling hope even when the odds seem impossible. And this year, that message feels especially timely.

Chanukah 2023 was a dark time. We were deeply worried about Israel and about the over 200 hostages still in captivity. In an attempt to bring light to the world and to share in the miracle of Chanukah, our temple did something especially meaningful. Each attendee at the Chanukah service received a card with the name of a hostage held in Gaza. It was a simple gesture, but for many of us, it became deeply personal. We didn't just hold a name, we held a life, a story, a soul. That night, we lit candles with that person in mind. We shared the festival in their honor and we prayed that one day we'd see 'our hostage' home with their family. When the hostage I had "adopted" was later pronounced dead. I mourned as if I had lost a friend. Just two months ago, I watched in joy as others in our community rejoiced at the release of 'their hostage'. The emotional weight of those moments, both the grief and the joy, reminded me of the power of human connection.

This is what our community does best. We care. We carry each

other's burdens and celebrate each other's joys. In a world that often feels broken and dark, our temple has become a sanctuary of light. Whether it's through acts of kindness, shared meals, or simply being present for one another, we embody the spirit of Chanukah all year long.

Chanukah 2025 looks very different from Chanukah 2023. The living hostages are home, and at the time of my writing, there is a tenuous ceasefire. This December, as we gather to celebrate Chanukah, let's remember the hostages whose names we held close since 2023. Let's honor their memory and their survival by recommitting ourselves to compassion. Let's recognize the miracle of our community, a place where empathy thrives and the light never goes out. Let's carry that light outward, into a world that desperately needs it.

May this Chanukah be filled with meaning, memory, and the kind of light that never burns out.

"What is the memory that's valued so highly, that we keep it alive in that flame? What's the commitment to those who have died, when we cry out they've not died in vain? We have come this far, always believing that justice will somehow prevail. This is our burden, this is our promise, and this is why we will not fail. **Don't let the light go out!**" ~Peter Yarrow.

NOMINATING COMMITTEEE



BEING FORMED TO SELECT THE 2026-2027 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

If you are interested in joining this important

committee, please email

president@temple-bnai-torah.org

Would you like to join the COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE WEBSITE TEAM?

We are looking for a few people to join our small team to be responsible for updating our website.

Interested in learning more?

Contact Scott at tbtscottkohn@gmail.com



BROTHERHOOD NEWS

"A nation reveals Itself not only by the men it produces,

but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers."

-John F. Kennedy

Honor Flight Long Island is an opportunity to honor our veterans who served in the World War II era, the Korean War era, or the Vietnam War era. All veterans who served in these eras are eligible to participate. Our own Howard Walowitz, an Army veteran, recently went on the Honor Flight from MacArthur Airport to Washington DC. The flight is an opportunity to visit the memorials in Washington DC and in Arlington as a group, and to be honored for their service. Guardians are trained volunteers who accompany the veterans to ensure their needs are met and they fully enjoy their experience.

Honor Flight also honors deceased veterans and their surviving family members with "Flags of our heroes". The deceased veteran's picture and their contributions are shown, on the Honor Flight and during the trip, to all the veterans and guardians. When the flight returns to Long Island, the family of the deceased is honored with a flag presentation and a military salute. Temple Emanuel of East Meadow member Seth Dinsky's father, William, a World War II Army Air Corp veteran, was honored on November 2nd in South Florida. Seth was presented with a flag and salute by a military honor guard.

If you are a veteran who served in one of three eras above, or if you have a deceased parent, grandparent, or relative who did not go on an Honor Flight nor has been honored by "Flags of

our heroes" or if you would like to inquire about serving as an Honor Flight Guardian, please reach out to me. I can help connect you with Honor Flight. To all our veteran members of TBT, I say "Thank you for your service!"

We had an excellent Congregation Breakfast recognizing our new members of TBT on November 9th during new members' weekend. Thanks to Scott Kohn for planning and advertising the event along with Les Richards, David Kaminsky and Michael Horwitz for obtaining food for the event. Thank you to The Temple Membership Committee for their involvement and support of our new members who attended the breakfast. Thanks also to our kitchen staff of Eric Altman, Mark Chasen, Rob Meyerson, Richard Tepper, Cory Azriliant and Dan Feldman for preparing our food. Thanks to Brian Levy for running our 50/50 raffle and to Scott Kohn and Evan Katz and Anony Baroukh for handling payments for the event.

We had a very successful evening of dinner and entertainment at our semi-annual Brotherhood Membership Meeting. Our guest speaker was Peter Schwartz, a sports anchor for WFAN who also covers Long Island sports. Scott Kohn arranged our entertainment. Dave Kaminsky planned our delicious dinner and Les Richards handled communications. Thanks to our Brothers who came early to set up and then clean up after the event. The cost of the event was free for all paid-up Brotherhood members.

Happy Chanukah! Happy New Year 2026! Victor Wurtzel, Brotherhood President





Circle of Friends Fall Outing 10/26/2025— Exploring the Shoppes at Milleridge Village & Lunch at the Broadway Diner

Sisterhood Paid Up Dinner 10/21/2025









Antisemitism: Past and Present

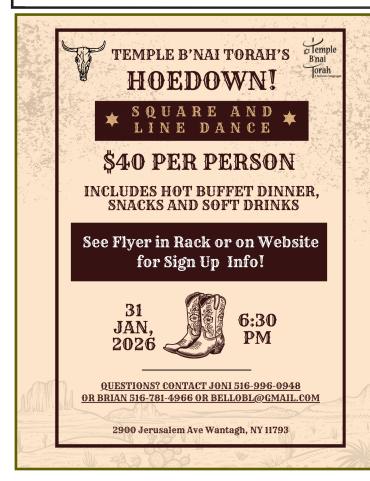
Rabbi Poticha will offer sessions about modern manifestations of antisemitism and attempts to combat it

Sunday Mornings, December 7 and 21, and January 11 at 10 am



Please contact us with any questions: lifelonglearning@tbtwantagh.org







SISTERHOOD NEWS

Snowflakes, Chanukah Menorahs glowing in the dark, dreidels spinning and smiles everywhere. Happy December and the TBT Sisterhood has had a great 2025. We have had so many programs, fundraisers and have helped our

temple in so many ways. Please join us at our annual Chanukah sale in the lobby on December 7th. There will be gifts for everyone in your family and your holiday needs. All classes will visit the sale. There are so many great things coming in 2026. Can't wait!!!! Save the date, March 14th for our big Sisterhood Fundraiser. Have a wonderful holiday season. See you soon.

Love, hugs and snowflakes,

Joni Christie





CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

In November, we had our joint Shabbat Service with Chai Club. Members from both groups participated in leading parts of the service. Additionally, the service remembered, Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, a pogrom on November 9-10, 1938 in Germany. We also honored our Veterans.

Our November activity was a Ceramics Painting Workshop on November 18 at Time Flies Ceramic Studio in Seaford. All who attended had a wonderful time.

We are all looking forward to our Chanukah Party which will take place at the Temple at 2:00 pm on December 21st. Catering from Ben's Deli.

We can't wait for Game Night, Saturday, January 17th, our very popular program that is always an enjoyable night for all. The flyer for this will be out soon, in the Scroll, TBT Voice and Facebook.

You can still send a \$10.00 refundable check to reserve your tickets for **Beautiful** at the Argyle Theatre, Babylon in June.

Hope to see you at the Chanukah Party.

Regina White Chereskin (rtwctbt@gmail.com) & Joan Levy (sea1983jl@gmail.com) Co-presidents





Temple B'Nai Torah's Annual Gisterhood Chanukah Gale Gunday, December 7th, 9 am - 11:30 am

In the TBT Lobby

Contact Maryann Gross with any question mtgross68@gmail.com







PTA UPDATES

Shalom, PTA Families,

Chanukah is quickly approaching (how is the year almost over?) and the PTA has been very busy! We had a successful Pasta Fundraiser in October as well as our newly revamped Sugar Cookie Menorah Sales wrapping up at the end of November. These yummy treats will be distributed on Sunday, December 14th!

Our Chanukah Brunch committee is working hard to prepare for our largest fundraiser of the year which will be on December 14th directly after religious school dismissal. We hope you have all submitted your RSVPs and are bringing your families! Not only will there be delicious food (latkes of course!) and dessert (jelly donuts of course!), but there will be music, games, prizes and craft activities for all! If you would like to donate a basket for our Chanukah Raffle, please reach out to Amanda Bernstein at berniemama17@gmail.com. Also, don't forget to shop at Five Below in Levittown from November 30th to December 7th. You will need to bring the flier with you to the store. You can buy Chanukah gifts for the kids or grandkids as well as purchase a toy to donate to our Holiday toy drive. You can also make a themed basket of fun inexpensive items to donate to the

Chanukah Brunch all while supporting our children's religious school education here at TBT! Also, don't forget to buy tickets for you and your family to come see TBT Jr Player's performances of "Into the Woods Jr." on December 6th, 7th and 13th! The children have been working so hard so they wish for you to come into the woods and help them on their journey!

Our next PTA meeting is Sunday, December 7th at 9:15 am in the Youth Lounge where we will discuss last minute Chanukah Brunch items and also start the planning for our upcoming 2025 events, such as Pizza, Prayers, and PJs Game Night for grades 5-12 on January 24th, 2025 and the Pickle Me Pete Fundraiser (in February near Superbowl). It is never too late to become a PTA member, attend a meeting and get involved so we hope to see you there!

We wish you a very Happy & Healthy Chanukah and a peaceful and rejuvenating holiday and school break. See you in 2026!

Happy Chanukah!
Wendy Shatz & Jessica Katz
TBT PTA Co-Presidents





The Language of Gender Part 2 10/22/2025

Juli Grey-Owens, CEO of Gender Equality New York returned for The Language of Gender Part 2.

During this informative and important program, Juli helped participants continue to explore the world of gender by defining key concepts, sharing personal experiences and providing a deeper understanding of the gender expansive community. For resources/information email. contact@genderequalityny.org







Sisterhood fed both Body and Soul with 2 meaningful events this fall: with Creative Cupcake Decorating on 10/29/25 and "I Found a Quilted Heart" on 11/3/2025. The Quilted Heart community of volunteers create and place small quilted hearts around the globe to spread love and happiness.

CHAI CLUB

Our November Paid Up Member Luncheon was a rousing success. We shook things up a bit by having a luncheon on a Sunday instead of the usual dinner on a Monday, but the people who attended enjoyed

both their meal and their company. We send a thank you to the committee that planned and executed the day so beautifully. They were Sharon and Ben Cernese, Joan and Brian Levy, Lynne Happes and Debbie and Artie Schlessinger. Additional thanks to our very own Chai Tones for entertaining us with your musical interludes throughout the day.

The temple's "theme" this year is *Llama*. This word is pronounced much the same as the Hebrew word for WHY. The hope is that people will start to think about why they are members of a temple and why TBT. It has become clear to me that an individual's WHY will change over the years as circumstances in their life change. Les and I originally joined a temple so our oldest child could attend Hebrew School. At the time, we joined Temple Judea because we lived across the street. Les and I have since moved twice, most recently a half hour away to Commack, there is a different Reform Congregation across the street, and our children are all adults. This year in July we continued our membership because Les and I were currently very involved in positions of leadership and committees. But our WHY changed just a few weeks into the fiscal year when Les was diagnosed with cancer and needed multiple surgeries with lengthy recoveries. We are lucky that he is now cancer free, but we also found out how fortunate we are to be a part of such a wonderfully caring Jewish community. We thank TBT for the prayers that were said, for the phone calls, texts and emails we received, for the advice (RDBN: "Worry in order") and stories you shared (so many had gone through the same thing), for the gifts that were sent, but most of all for the offers of support and help when we truly needed it. It gave Les time to heal and both of us the strength to stay positive and focus on his recovery. This community is so special, and we are so blessed to be a part of it. Thank you, all of you.

On December 8th, please join us as James Coll will speak with us about the US Constitution and how our courts will continue to blend original text with current reality.

We hope you will enjoy this interesting program and we look forward to seeing you.

We hope you are blessed with a Chanukah full of light, joy and peace. Janis and Judy



Chai Club









Chai Club Paid Up Member Luncheon 11/6/2025











Social Action/Social Justice Committee

Happy Chanukah from the entire Social Action/Social Justice Committee!

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism reminds us to consider the Ner Shel Tzedakah, the candle of righteousness, when planning our Chanukah celebrations. This project encourages people to devote the sixth night of Chanukah to learning about the problem of poverty. Think about the value of the gifts that may otherwise have been exchanged on the sixth night and donate their value, or the gifts themselves, to organizations that assist the poor (https://rac.org/ner-shel-tzedakah). Poverty effects so many aspects of a person's life: food insecurity, access to health care, adequate clothing, education, housing, etc. With this in mind, find the organizations that inspire you and your family and consider dedicating the sixth night of Chanukah to their support.

Quick update to our High Holiday Food Drive: A total of 841 pounds of food was delivered to Island Harvest as a result of the generosity of our TBT community! Yasher Koach! Unfortunately, this is a particularly difficult time for those struggling with food insecurity. Food pantries are struggling to keep their shelves stocked to address the increased need. Please remember to bring non-perishable (and not yet expired) food items whenever you come to TBT. There is a collection box near the Kiddish Lounge. Donations will be distributed to local food pantries.

Our **Winter Coats and Accessories Collection** started last month and continues through February 15. The new or gently used coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves, boots and children's winter pajamas you donate not only keep children and adults warm during the cold winter months, but they also increase their chances of staying healthy during the winter.

Last month's **Frozen Turkey Drive**, which included donations of Thanksgiving related foods, made it possible for many of the families on Long Island, who otherwise would have been struggling for the Thanksgiving Holiday, to prepare a special family dinner celebration. Thank you for your generosity!

Once again, we will be holding our annual **Holiday Gift Drive**. The drive begins this month and runs through December 20. This year we are partnering with the Mid-Island Y JCC who will be delivering holiday gifts to OHEL Children's Home and Family Services. Items received by Dec. 14 will be delivered in time for Chanukah gift giving. Items received after Dec. 14 will be delivered to other local agencies. See the flyer in this issue for details.

For our fellow congregants: This can be a particularly difficult time for families struggling with financial stresses. If you are in need of support and could benefit from any of the above initiatives, please let the TBT Mitzvah Makers (agneidle@gmail.com) know and strictly confidential arrangements will be made.

TBT's Climate Action Plan for 2026 Preparation for our Native Plants Demonstration Garden has been completed and planting will be done in the Spring. If you are interested in participating in this project, please let us know. Watch for details about a Native Plants presentation to be held this winter.

The Garden at TBT's growing season has ended and its beds are tucked in for the winter. Watch for announcements of a midwinter meeting and the start of our seventh growing season in March 2026!

We always welcome new members and welcome your input! Our next meeting will be

Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.. (ZOOM) For information about SA/SJ, the Garden at TBT, or any of our projects, contact Rona at: ronakauffman@yahoo.com, Jason at jaynew4@gmail.com or Jayne at jturtle54@msn.com



Earth Sustainability Tip Series: Help Our Planet Every Month!



December Tip:

Choose sustainable pet toys. Eco-friendly dog toys made from natural materials (like rice husk, rubber, and hemp) or recycled materials (like old t-shirts) are safer options than those made from plastic.

YOUTH GROUP

Shalom From Youth Group!

Members of MNTY, BNTY JR and BNTY had a great time at ACTIVATE. Almost 30 members competed in many different rooms with different games and many different levels. Everyone had a great time and some left with merchandise. We will add this location to our list of events for the future!

Thank you to all members that assisted in decorating the Sukkah.

I want to thank Eli Katz for running the teen High Holiday services. I know that our Presidents, Rose Fioribello and Samual Brown, assisted as well. I am very happy they were able to take on this responsibility.

Maddie Rothstein and Marisa Plavin ran a rather intense program called Post Secrets. BNTY Members had the chance to anonymously share things that were on their minds. BNTY is a safe place where members can be themselves. It provides a non-judgmental environment that can be so important for today's teens.

Be on the lookout for upcoming meetings and events.

Sincerely,

Mark Derwin

Youth Director



Temple B'nai Torah Sisterhood Needs Your Order

Attention All Mah Jongg Players

Now is the time for you, your friends, and neighbors to order your 2025 Mah Jongg cards.

Sisterhood receives a donation from the National Mah Jongg League for every order.

Complete your order form and return it with your check made out to:



Temple B'nai Torah Sisterhood and mail it to:

Lynne Happes 3679 Libby Lane Wantagh, NY 11793

Deadline: December 31, 2025

For more information, call Lynne at (516) 735-8162 or E-mail mnmmom10@aol.com
To order by mail, just include the following information:

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TORN: Film Screening at Temple B'nai Torah

Monday, 27 October Temple B'nai Torah hosted the screening of the documentary film: <u>Torn: The Israel-Palestine Poster War on NYC Streets</u>, with the film maker in attendance. If you joined us, you know how memorable was the evening. The film powerfully documented the need to publicize the tragedy of the hostages kidnapped by Hamas terrorists, on posters and those who sought to desecrate the posters.

The interviews with the Israeli artists who conceived of and designed the posters documented the desperate need to humanize the hostages. The posters were a vehicle to do something and real for the hostages and their families. I know from my personal experience with the Hostage and Family Forum and my taping and gluing posters on the Upper West Side of Manhattan how important they became. Family members of hostages felt supported. Family members of hostages knew there were people who would not allow their loved ones to be forgotten in the dungeons of Hamas tunnels. Returning survivors were sustained by the action and hope offered by the posters.

But not everyone shared those beliefs. The film depicted the microcosm of the deep ideological rift regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict among Americans. It dove into the controversy which turned New York City streets into battlegrounds of pro-Israeli verses pro-Palestinian activists.

As pro-Palestinian supporters and anti-Zionists defaced and tore the posters, a conflict being fought 5,500 miles away was being litigated on the streets of Manhattan and so many other cities. The film maker: Nim Shapira interviewed and captured the diversity of voices on both sides of the explosive issue.

The audience seated in our full sanctuary, realized that Shapira's film asks as many questions as it answers. It is a brilliant exercise in empathy while exposing the toxicity of anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and misogyny.

I do not think any audience is fully prepared for what they see on screen. The film is emotionally wrenching and passionately gripping while at the same time touching emotional triggers in the hearts of the witnesses. The film touched me deeply. Just months before the attack, I had been in Kibbutz Nir Oz sharing coffee, laughs and life with several kibbutz members. I have friends who know some of the innocent people murdered. I have friends whose children are serving in the IDF. I know people who ran down to the Gaza Envelope to set up showers, laundry facilities and food service for our soldiers. I have written biographies of most of the 251 hostages and feel a kinship with each of them. My Sundays with the Hostage and Family Forum and rallies have connected me in a very personal way. I am not alone in these connections. Many TBT members also have abiding connections. Even without a direct connection, for the mere fact that we identify as Jewish, we are connected and family.

One of our teenagers remarked that they respected that Shapira showed both sides of the conflict.

Another congregant acknowledged the creativity of the film and said: "The film was wonderful and the interview with the filmmaker made it particularly special and informative." Having Nim Shapira with us gave the audience the opportunity to ask him pertinent questions and learn more of the behind-the-scenes process.

TORN does not discuss politics and now with the return of all the living hostages and most of the deceased (this article was

written the end of October), the posters are no longer necessary. Yet, until they are all home and have a Jewish funeral, the country and many so deeply connected cannot begin to heal.

Here in America, the poster war uncovered the centuries-old disdain for Jewish people and the State of Israel: the indigenous homeland of the Jewish people. The posters may be gone, but the hate they exposed has been infused in the social and cultural fabric of our lives. Torn does not offer a fix but it does end with a message of hope. In the darkest of times, the one thing upon which Jews hold tight is hope.

L'Shalom: Rabbi Poticha





TBT's Inaugural Family Getaway Villa Roma Resort, Callicoon, NY

10/18 & 10/19 was full of fall fun for several TBT families! Thanks to Gregg Wallis for organizing this weekend including a spiritual hike led by Rabbi Bar-Nahum, bingo, great meals, puzzles and a trip to the site of Woodstock! We hope this becomes an annual event!







Chai Club Program Technology and the Constitution Monday, December 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.



Please join us live at the temple as James Coll will speak to the group about how the Constitution, many of its clauses written in the 18th century, has been applied to new technology. The discussion will include some speculation about how our courts might continue to blend the document's original text and modern reality in the future.

James Coll is an adjunct professor of American and Constitutional history at Nassau Community College. He has written numerous articles for *Politico*, *The Hill*, *Newsday* and others and is the founder of ChangeNYS.org, a not-for-profit dedicated to promoting honest, open, and responsive government in our state.

All Temple members are invited to this free program!

We will also celebrate December and January birthdays.
Drinks, snacks, and desserts will be served.
Questions? Contact Jay Schoenberg at (516) 476-0989
or Email Jaydiane@yahoo.com

Temple B'nai Torah, 2900 Jerusalem Ave., Wantagh, NY 11793



Continuing Our Story Through Legacy Giving



When we think about our congregation, we think about the moments that have bound us together: celebrating holidays side by side, watching our children and grandchildren grow up on the bimah, finding comfort in times of loss, and joining our voices in prayer. Temple B'nai Torah has been more than just a synagogue—it has been our spiritual home, a place where Judaism comes alive in ways that touch each of us deeply.

We now have an opportunity to ensure that this home endures for generations to come. That's why we are excited to introduce our new **TBT Legacy Society** program.

The idea of legacy is woven into Jewish tradition. In Pirkei Avot we are taught: "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it." For millennia Jews have embraced this teaching by building schools, synagogues, libraries, and community centers—acts of love and responsibility for those who would come after. A legacy gift is the modern expression of this timeless value: ensuring that the Jewish life we treasure continues long beyond our own lifetimes.

Our story here in America is also one of legacy. The synagogues we worship in today were founded and sustained by those who came before us—immigrants and visionaries who invested in the future of Jewish life in this country. They understood that their gifts would allow future generations to pray, learn, and celebrate together in freedom. We are the beneficiaries of their generosity, and now it is our turn to carry the legacy forward.

A legacy gift is not about giving today—it is about including Temple B'nai Torah in your estate planning, whether through a will, a retirement account, a life insurance policy, or any number of new, modern programs. It is a way of planting seeds now that will continue to grow long after we are gone.

Across the Reform Movement, hundreds of congregations have embraced Legacy Giving programs. They have found that these commitments secure the financial future of their communities while strengthening the spiritual bonds between generations. For us, it means that those that follow us will always have a place to gather, to learn, to celebrate, and to live "Jewishly."

In the months ahead, you'll hear more about the many ways you can participate in this historic effort. You will also hear stories from fellow members who have already made this sacred commitment. Each story is different, but all are expressions of love for our congregation and faith in its future.

We invite you to reflect on what Temple B'nai Torah has meant in your life, and to consider how you might create your own legacy here. If you'd like to learn more, please reach out to us at LegacySociety@tbtwantagh.org.

Together, we can ensure that the light of our congregation shines brightly for generations to come. With gratitude and warmth,

Temple B'nai Torah Legacy Society Committee

Alisa Baroukh Les Kule Jennifer Brown Heather Lorenz Stephanie Giwner Amy Neidle









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10/16 333 Micky Alterman

10/22 304 Barbara Ringlen

10/26 404 Stan Brosowsky

10/27 225 Janet Walter



















TBT Lifelong Learning Announces

Adult Confirmation

Classes will be taught by the clergy and will begin this winter. Dates and times to be determined by the participants' availability.

Basic Hebrew skills will be required.

Priority will be given to those who have not been Confirmed in the past.

The program will culminate with a service on Saturday,

April 10, 2027.



If you are interested or have questions, send an email to <u>lifelonglearning@tbtwantagh.org</u>.



<u>Uniongrams</u>



<u>PLEASE NOTE</u>: Due to privacy concerns, Uniongrams published on the Scroll, in the Voice or in the lobby flyer rack will no longer carry birth or anniversary dates. Any concerns, please reach out to Ellice at: <u>ellice823@.yahoo.com</u> or 516-987-0693. Thank you as always for your continued support!

JOIN US IN WISHING A HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

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Diane Lewis	Dorian Marshall	Stephanie Dittrich	Aviva Jiran
Les Kule	Ronald Cholewa	Sheila Konsker	Richard Langsam
Stephen Ettinger	Karen Liebovitz	Ira Salzman	Steve Block
David Gellman	Jennifer Lew	Jeremy Taffel	Judy Kule
Justin Pasternak	Joyce Ogrodnik	Michael Steinman	George Bernstein
Jeff Brody	Matthew Novet	Jacob Daniel Scherer	Stephanie Crocco
Leslie Ashinoff	Jodi Luce	John Castellvi	Larry Rosenzweig
Michael Tumbarello	Marcia Bernstein	Shirley Gellman	Ellen Berman
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To send your wishes, circle the names of those you wish to send a Uniongram. Please sign greeting as you would like it to appear. Leave list in the temple office box designated "UNIONGRAMS", or mail to: Ellice Toscano @ 3655 Woodbine Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793. Make check payable to: TBT SISTERHOOD.

20TH, OR REQUEST CANNOT BE PROCESSED.
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The giving of Tzedakah for a birth, birthday, Bet Mitzvah, wedding, anniversary, or death is part of our heritage. Your generosity provides for Temple B'nai Torah to sustain programs for our members. An inscribed card is mailed to the person named, acknowledging your gift. We thank you for your donation.

For either the *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund* or *Cantor's Discretionary Fund*, *Capital Fund* or Endowment Funds, please make your check payable to the fund; for all other fund donations, please make your check payable to TEMPLE B'NAI TORAH, 2900 Jerusalem Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793-2025.

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Adult Education Fund/
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Lowell Golden Center Fund
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"Because in the end, everything matters"

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TEMPLE B'NAITORAH

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Cantor Ellen Weinberg

Mission Statement

Temple B'nai Torah is a diverse caring congregation that embraces a progressive and inclusive vision of Reform Judaism through worship, study of Torah and righteous deeds. We are creating a multigenerational home in our region by staying connected to our roots, as well as offering spiritual enrichment, Jewish education and community engagement.



The TBT

Voice

2900 Jerusalem Avenue Wantagh, NY 11793

Address Correction Requested

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Address Label Here



Candle Lighting



December, 2025

December	5	4:10 pm
December	12	4:11 pm
December	19	4:13 pm
December	26	4:17 pm

