

The Voice

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM OF FLUSHING

FEBRUARY

BOWLING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

SUPER BOWL PARTY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

PRESIDENT'S DAY/OFFICE CLOSED
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**SHABBAT DINNER, SERVICE &
PURIM SHPIEL**
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MARCH

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA
FRIDAY, MARCH 13

BOWLING
MONDAY, MARCH 16

P.A. FUNDRAISER – JUST SALAD
BAY TERRACE SHOPPING CENTER
THURSDAY, MARCH 19

SISTERHOOD PASSOVER EVENT
SUNDAY, MARCH 22

P.A. GAME NIGHT
SATURDAY, MARCH 28

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AND
CONFIRMATION CLASS**
MODEL SEDER
SUNDAY, MARCH 29



SAVE THE DATE!



From the Rabbi's desk

(continued from previous column)

February opens with a quiet but powerful moment on the Jewish calendar: **Tu BiShvat**, the fifteenth day of the month of Shevat, often called the *New Year of the Trees*. In the middle of winter, when the landscape around us still looks bare and dormant, Jewish tradition invites us to pay attention beneath the surface—to roots taking hold, sap beginning to rise, and life quietly preparing to emerge.

Tu BiShvat reminds us that growth does not always announce itself loudly. Sometimes it happens slowly, invisibly, long before we can see the results. It is a fitting teaching for this moment in the year, and perhaps for our own lives as well: change, healing, and renewal often begin long before they are fully revealed.

Midway through the month, we enter **Adar**, a time our tradition associates with joy. "When Adar enters, we increase joy," the rabbis teach—not because everything is perfect, but because joy itself can be an act of resilience. After months of heavy news and winter weariness, Adar encourages us to lean into laughter, connection, and communal celebration.



That spirit will carry us toward **Purim**, which arrives this year on March 2. Here at Temple Beth Shalom, we'll begin the celebration early, welcoming Purim during Friday night services on **February 27**, with an original Purim shpiel created by our very own Confirmation students and performed by our Religious School students. Purim is a holiday that doesn't shy away from the world's messiness—fear, uncertainty, and hiddenness are all part of the story—but it insists that joy, courage, and community have the final word.

As February unfolds, may we allow ourselves to notice what is quietly taking root, to make space for joy even before it feels fully justified, and to remember that Jewish time moves us gently—season by season—from endurance to hope, from roots to celebration.

I look forward to sharing this month with you.

B'shalom,
Rabbi Sharon Ballan

Mazel Tou!

**To Lori & Eric Lustig on
the marriage of their
daughter
Julia to Jon Goracy.**

**To Cantor and Zo-An
Korobow on the Bat
Mitzvah of their
granddaughter Milly.**

All services are hybrid: in-person and Zoomed unless otherwise indicated below.

Worship Schedule

Friday, February 6th: Installation Shabbat Service **7:30 pm**
Torah Portion: Yitro
Candles: Joe deLeon
Kiddush: Joy Bobrow

Saturday, February 7th: Torah Study &
ZOOM ONLY Shabbat Morning Service **10:00 am**

Friday, February 13th: Shabbat Evening Service **7:30 pm**
Torah Portion: Mishpatim
Candles: Geri Weiss
Kiddush: Larry Gold

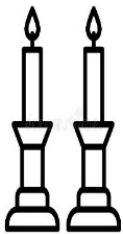
Saturday, February 14th: Torah Study &
ZOOM ONLY Shabbat Morning Service **10:00 am**

Friday, February 20th: Shabbat Evening Service **7:30 pm**
Torah Portion: Teruma
Candles: TBA
Kiddush: TBA

Saturday, February 21st: Torah Study & **ZOOM ONLY**
Shabbat Morning Service **10:00 am**

Friday, February 27th: Shabbat Purim Service **7:30 pm**
Torah Portion: Tetzaveh
Candles: Junior Congregation
Kiddush: Junior Congregation

Saturday, February 28th: Torah Study &
ZOOM ONLY Shabbat Morning Service **10:00 am**



**Volunteer to
light the candles
or do the Kiddush
at Shabbat Services.
Contact Geri Weiss at
geriweiss1@gmail.com**

**Please support our advertisers.
Visit their establishments and
tell them you saw their ad in
The Voice!**

From The President

Writing this article is somewhat bittersweet as this is my last article as President of Temple Beth Sholom. It has been an incredible six years, and I would have been unable to do the job for my wonderful at home family who supported me as I spent many a day/night away from home, or on the computer or phone on Temple business. And without my Temple Family, who perform miracles and make me look good, these six years would not have gone as well as they did!

By the time you receive this issue of The Voice, the elections will probably have been held and I know you will all stand fast and provide the same support to Temple's new President as you have shown to me.

I will continue to help where needed and ensure a smooth transition so that all that has been accomplished these past six years (and years past) continues to blossom and Temple continues to bear fruit.

Please do not forget that we need every member of our Temple Family to attend and take an active role in our ongoing efforts to keep our Temple strong and vibrant!

Again, I want to thank everyone for all that they are doing and continue to do for Temple so that we keep on keeping on. Remember to be kind to one another, stay positive, and stay healthy.

Hoping to see you all at Shabbat Across America Friday, March 13, 2026!!

As we have ushered in 2026, let's work, celebrate, and overcome any challenges that we might face together.

Your President,
Joy A. Bobrow

✧ **Zichronam Livracha** ✧

Joanne Glanz

Mother of Robin Myers

Mother-in-Law of Ron Myers

Robert Abelson

Past Cantor of Temple Beth Sholom

Miriam Scharf

Wife of

Past President Seymour Scharf

May their memories

be a blessing

TBS Fund Acknowledgments as of January 22, 2026

PULPIT FLOWER FUND	TBS Office 718-463-4143
<i>Roger & Sharon Opstbaum in memory of Cantor Abelson</i>	
GENERAL FUND	TBS Office 718-463-4143
<i>Eva Heisler in memory of Joanne Glanz, mother of Robin Myers</i>	
<i>Debi Hessel-Roher in memory of Joanne Glanz, mother of Robin Myers</i>	
<i>Charlene Metz in memory of Joanne Glanz, mother of Robin Myers</i>	
<i>Geri Weiss & David Chenkin in memory of Joanne Glanz, mother of Robin Myers</i>	
<i>Deirdre Weliky in memory of Joanne Glanz, mother of Robin Myers</i>	
TORAH FUND	TBS Office 718-463-4143
<i>Barry and Renee Katz Packer in memory of Joanne Glanz, mother of Robin Myers</i>	
<i>Barry and Renee Katz Packer wishing Andrea Odintz a speedy recovery</i>	
RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	Rabbi Sharon Ballan 718-463-4143
<i>Deirdre Weliky to thank Rabbi for her extraordinary ability to combine Theology and Technology!</i>	
MEN'S CLUB TEMPLE BEAUTIFICATION FUND	Eric Bernstein 917-902-4894
BUILDING FUND	TBS Office 718-463-4143
<i>Sharon Haimer in loving memory of her sister, Madeline Daitch</i>	
<i>Deirdre Weliky to support the building that supports us</i>	
COOLING TOWER FUND	TBS Office 718-463-4143

Celebrating milestone birthdays or anniversaries



Stuart Belsky* *Steve Levinsky

Ben & Myra Pitt



Simchat Shabbat Friday, February 20th

February Birthdays

Stuart Belsky
Walter Costanza
Damon Ehrlich
Valentina Gillin
Nancy Goldwasser
Jody Harkavy



February
BIRTHDAYS

Steve Levinsky
Sharon Opstbaum
Stephanie Rosenberg
Deirdre Weliky
Sharon Yontef

February Anniversaries

Andrea Odintz & Michael Rosenberg
Ben & Myra Pitt

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Sholom Sistergrams: March/April 2026

If you wish to send a greeting to anyone on this list, please check the name(s) and return this list with your check (\$.50 per name - made out to SISTERHOOD, Temple Beth Sholom by **February 15th, 2026**). You can **pay** for the **remaining ten months of the year in advance (\$105)**, or **monthly as before!** Lori Lustig and Robin Myers are handling the Sistergrams so please write "Sistergrams" on the envelope so that the envelopes can be distributed properly.



March Birthdays

- Barbara Gandelman 3/01___
- Oliver Gellerman 3/01___
- Dorothy Rosenberg 3/06___
- Jean Reichler 3/10___
- Fran Goldman 3/11___
- Nancy Lothammer 3/12___
- Susan Ecker 3/13___
- Norma Benvenuto 3/14___
- Joseph deLeon 3/17___
- Erica Bernstein 3/20___
- Lillian Tandatnick 3/21___
- Robin Myers 3/23___
- Michael Gross 3/25___
- Leza Lerea 3/26___
- Cindy Weiss 3/27___

April Birthdays

- Alan Berck 4/08___
- Dr. Andrew Fradkin 4/09___
- Robbie Schecter 4/09___
- Stanley Schecter 4/16___
- Ronald Myers 4/18___
- Elana White 4/20___
- Andrew Larkin 4/21___
- Mona Fabricant 4/22___
- Roger Opstbaum 4/22___
- Steven J. Rosenberg 4/23___
- Anne Horowitz 4/27___
- Dr. Mark Pepper 4/27___
- Valerie Gellerman 4/30___



- Valentina Hellman 4/26___

Mazel Tov!

March Anniversaries

- Brett & Jean Reichler 3/05___
- Fay Schildkraut & Don Nelinson 3/16___
- Alan & Maggie Berck 3/23___
- Bret & Suzanne Fertig 3/25___



April Anniversaries

- Mark & Kathleen Flug 4/17___
- Adam Fertig & Stacy Kroun 4/21___



Full Name: _____

Phone # _____



Cantor's Corner



By the time you read this column, my wife Zo and I will have attended my granddaughter Milly's Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, January 17. My daughter Jenna and son-in-law Zack belong to a Reconstructionist synagogue in Montclair, New Jersey. As I'm writing this, we're on the tail end of finding dresses, shoes, etc., etc.

Truthfully, it seems as if only a short time ago, each of my daughters was celebrating her Bat Mitzvah. I remember the fussing over guest lists, catering choices, speech preparations, and yes, dresses. And, poof, here we are some 29 years later at it again.

Along with Zack's parents, we'll be honored to be called up to the Torah for an Aliyah.

But Jenna made an additional request. "Dad, could you sing that song you wrote and sang at my Bat Mitzvah?" I had to pause for a second-then I remembered the song she was talking about. She started singing it on the phone, and I started to sing with her. I told her that I probably still had the file with the song lyrics in our basement. When I got off the phone, I ran downstairs and, sure enough, found the file! I never throw anything away (just ask my wife).

Out came the guitar, and within a few minutes, back came the song. Way back when, folks found it to be sweet and touching. Hopefully, they still will.

Happily, I didn't have to worry too much about my wardrobe for the big event. Suit, tie, dress shirt, and dress shoes. Oh, and, what every doting grandpa/cantor will be wearing this Bat Mitzvah season....his guitar! I'll fill you in on all the details next month. Stay warm!

With affection,
Cantor Jerry Korobow

Dear Members,

As we begin the new fiscal year at Temple, we recently sent out the Temple dues statement. Thank you to those who have already paid!! For those of you who have not, we are asking that payment of dues/school fees be made as soon as possible! If you still have arrears, please pay those as soon as possible as well. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Robin Myers, Financial Secretary at the Temple Office or you may contact her directly via email at robinl.myers@gmail.com.

Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP

Security Brief

It has been almost a year-and-a-half since we started down this path of providing an increased security presence at Temple Beth Shalom. Our mentor in this effort has been Community Security Services (CSS). The initial foray into CSS security was the Entry Point Zoom presentation that was available for all TBS members to participate in. Now that the team has actually done shift work for selected events at Temple, it was suggested that we sign up, once again, for the Entry Point training Zoom presentation. This will give us a chance to reintroduce CSS to Temple members as well as reminding everyone what goes into providing high level security for an organization.

There is no date yet, but it should take place in February. When the date is set, a blast email will go out.

David Chenkin



Join us for the 30th Annual
Shabbat Scross America

Friday, March 13, 2026

Shabbat Service 6:30 pm

Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm

More details coming soon!

Join our new BAZAAR Campaign!

Help us purchase items for the
fabulous Bazaar Baskets. See the



flyer for the new

Spread the Love

Fundraiser!

January Board of Trustees Meeting

(continued from previous column)

The Board of Trustees met on Monday, January 12, 2026, and the meeting was called to order at 8:04 pm. President Joy Bobrow thanked the outgoing Board members and officers. She reported we received the bequest from Margot Anker's estate. She is looking forward to the Congregational Meeting on January 28 and Shabbat Across America on March 13. She added that this is her last Board Meeting as Temple President. She stated, "It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve in this role. I have learned so much during these past six years, but it is time to pass the baton. I will always be available and will not be stepping away from Temple as I have put so much time and effort into trying to keep Temple on an even keel. Thank you everyone for helping us to be a vibrant community – we are a temple family, through the good times and the bad. Remember to please be kind to one another and stay positive." December Meeting Minutes were accepted as corrected.

Robin Myers, Financial Secretary, reported as of December 31, 2025, our number of member units is 111. Treasurer Charlene Metz reviewed the December Financial Report which was approved by the Board as presented. Treasurer Charlene Metz reviewed the proposed 2026-2027 Budget, and the Board approved it as presented. It will be presented to the Congregation for vote at the Congregational Meeting. President Bobrow demonstrated how, at the Congregational Meeting, we will be able to have an anonymous vote via the Poll feature on Zoom.

Rabbi Sharon Ballan reported services continue to go well. Due to the boiler work, we have been holding services in the ballroom, with a consistent and encouraging turnout. She reported that her Healing Services returns to a weekly schedule on February 3. The Beginning Adult Hebrew Class has concluded, and she is exploring options for another class in the spring or next fall. Introduction to Judaism Class is ongoing. The Confirmation Class will be writing and directing the Purim Shpiel this year, with our Religious School students performing it on Friday night, February 27. She will be on vacation from Saturday, January 17 through January 24. She will have limited availability but can be reached in case of emergency via cell phone. Cantor Jerry Korobow thanked outgoing Board members and Joy Bobrow for her service as President. Services and Religious School are going well. He reported the services in the ballroom provided a nice, immediate experience with no fixed seating and participants close to the clergy. Geri Weiss and Lori Lustig will be on the bima with him on January 23 while the Rabbi is on vacation. Maestro David Close will be joining us on keyboard for the Installation Service on February 6 as well as the Shabbat Morning Service involving the Religious School students on March 21.

Geri Weiss, Pulpit & Ritual Committee Chair reported on rescheduled Shabbat and Purim Services.

Details from Erica Bernstein's P.A. and Religious School reports are available in her articles in this issue.

Lori Lustig, Membership Committee Chair, submitted her report that the committee is in the process of planning Shabbat Across America on March 13.

Details from Barbara Gandelman's Sisterhood report are available in her articles in this issue.

President Joy Bobrow reported for Use of Building that we have had some parties booked for the ballroom and we are looking at other options to use our ballroom.

Jim Kettig, House Committee Chair, reported work on AC equipment and ducts, fans, and controls is nearing completion and almost ready for testing. Boiler installation is substantially complete, The chimney lining was recently installed and tested. We are expecting those test results shortly.

Details from Andrew Larkin's Men's Club report are available in his article in this issue.

Deirdre Weliky, Caring Committee Chair, submitted her report that condolence and get-well cards were sent, and touch-base calls were made. The next Women's Discussion Group will meet on Zoom Wednesday, March 11. The next Food Pantry is on January 13.

Barry Packer, Ways & Means Committee Chair, reported the committee is considering fundraising possibilities using the ballroom. The Chicken Soup Cook-Off #5 is this October.

Details from Eric Bernstein's Adult Education report are available in his article in this issue.

President Joy Bobrow reported on Bazaar, that the Monday morning email blast will include a flyer for the new "Tree of Love" designed by Beth Dulberg and Elana White to raise money for the beautiful bazaar baskets that they prepare.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Tishcoff,
Recording Secretary



Rummage

Let's take advantage of the time this winter that we spend indoors! Why not look through your closets and dresser drawers and pull out all the clothes you no longer wear! You know you have lots of them! Bag them up and bring them to Temple for our Memorial Day Rummage Sale!

**Someone somewhere will be happy to have them!
Whatever isn't sold is donated!**

RUMMAGE SALE

Men's Club

Welcome to February! Good news... warmer weather is coming soon. Hopefully the groundhog will project an early spring.

I want to wish all participants good luck in our Super Bowl Pool! Thank you to everyone who participated. Half of the funds collected will go to quarterly prizes. The other half will be donated to Temple Beth Sholom. I hope that many of you will join us at our Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 8. Doors will open at 5:30 pm; kickoff is scheduled for 6:30 pm. It's going to be a great time! See the flyer in the Monday morning emails and in this issue of *The Voice* for all the details! We will watch as two outstanding football teams battle it out for the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

If you are interested in giving us input for new ideas for Men's Club events, please join us at a meeting or email us at Mensclub@templebethsholom.org. We would love to hear from you.

Our next two Men's Club Meetings will take place Sunday, March 8 and Sunday, April 26 at 11:00 am following the Parents Association meeting at Temple Beth Sholom as well as via Zoom. Zoom information will be emailed prior to the meeting.

Andrew Larkin
Men's Club President

Bernstein Bowling Blog

While we ended our December bowling event on a high note, unfortunately, our January league play had to be canceled due to illness. We are all keeping our fingers crossed for David Chenkin's continued recovery and eagerly look forward to his long-awaited return to the lanes!

Join the League!

Ready to join the fun? We've been running this social and recreational league since 2016, and we'd be glad to have you.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or just want to have some fun, all adult members are welcome—no skill is required!

How to Sign Up:

If you wish to join us for an evening, or become a part of the league, please be sure to send me an email to EricDBernstein@gmail.com. It is important that you email me so that you are made aware of any future changes to the schedule.

See you on the lanes,
Eric Bernstein



Sisterhood Corner

We are now in the middle of winter, and we have had many cold days as well as some snowy days. I hope that you are keeping warm.

The Women's Discussion Group will meet on March 11 at 7:30 pm. Thank you to Deirdre for continuing these groups for our members.

Please join us on Thursday, February 12 at 7:30 via Zoom when we will be discussing *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmel. We hope to see you at this meeting!

We had fun at the last Bingo which we played via Zoom. Look for details for the next Bagels and Bingo which will be held at Temple on Sunday, April 19 at 10:00 am. We hope you will Invite your friends to join in the fun!

If you have not paid your dues for this year, please remember to send them to Temple, Attention: Geri Weiss. We really need your participation in Sisterhood. Please consider becoming a member if you have not done so already.

Please look for details in *The Voice* for the upcoming Shalach Manot bags and baskets for Purim. Thank you to Geri Weiss, Lori Lustig and Karri Kaufman for once again making sure that we are able to celebrate Purim with our Temple Family.

If you are cleaning out your closets, please keep Rummage in mind. You can drop off your gently used, clean clothes to temple for the May Memorial Day Rummage Sale.

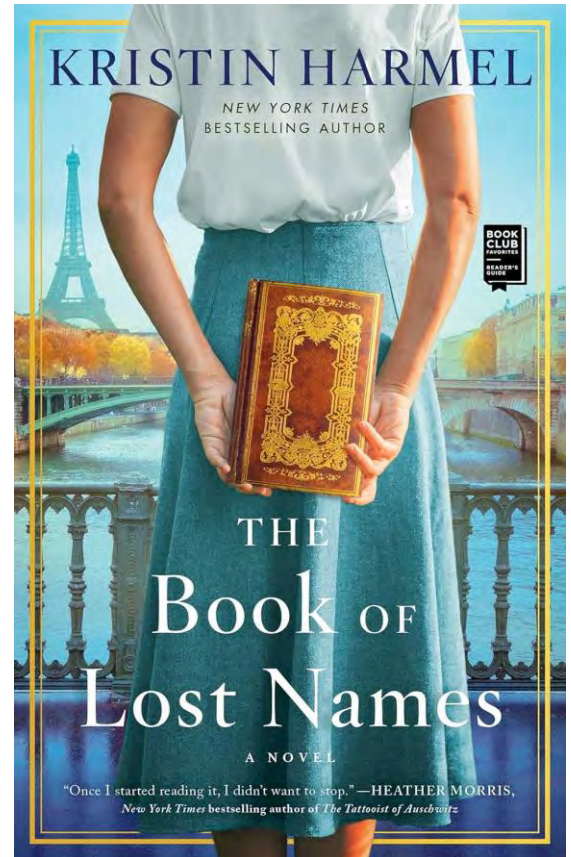
I hope to see all of you at our events, even our virtual ones, as well as the PA, Men's Club and Temple events that will be coming up in the future.

Barbara Gandelman
Sisterhood President



TBS SISTERHOOD PRESENTS:
Zoom Book Club
Thursday February 12, 2026 7:30PM

BOOK CLUB DATE:
THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 12, 2026
TIME: 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM
COPIES OF THE BOOK ARE
AVAILABLE FROM AMAZON
IN PAPERBACK, HARD-COPY
AND KINDLE AND
AUDIOBOOK VERSIONS.
ZOOM INFORMATION TO
FOLLOW.



“A fascinating, heartrending page-turner that, like the real-life forgers who inspired the novel, should never be forgotten.”
—Kristina McMorris, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Sold on a Monday*

Inspired by an astonishing true story from World War II, a young woman with a talent for forgery helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis in this “sweeping and magnificent” (Fiona Davis, bestselling author of *The Lions of Fifth Avenue*) historical novel from the #1 international bestselling author of *The Winemaker’s Wife*.

Eva Traube Abrams, a semi-retired librarian in Florida, is shelving books when her eyes lock on a photograph in the *New York Times*. She freezes; it’s an image of a book she hasn’t seen in more than sixty years—a book she recognizes as *The Book of Lost Names*.

The accompanying article discusses the looting of libraries by the Nazis across Europe during World War II—an experience Eva remembers well—and the search to reunite people with the texts taken from them so long ago. The book in the photograph, an eighteenth-century religious text thought to have been taken from France in the waning days of the war, is one of the most fascinating cases. Now housed in Berlin’s Zentral- und Landesbibliothek library, it appears to contain some sort of code, but researchers don’t know where it came from—or what the code means. Only Eva holds the answer, but does she have the strength to revisit old memories?

As a graduate student in 1942, Eva was forced to flee Paris and find refuge in a small mountain town in the Free Zone, where she began forging identity documents for Jewish children fleeing to neutral Switzerland. But erasing people comes with a price, and along with a mysterious, handsome forger named Rémy, Eva decides she must find a way to preserve the real names of the children who are too young to remember who they really are. The records they keep in *The Book of Lost Names* will become even more vital when the resistance cell they work for is betrayed and Rémy disappears.

An engaging and evocative novel reminiscent of *The Lost Girls of Paris* and *The Alice Network*, *The Book of Lost Names* is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of bravery and love in the face of evil.

Parents Association

Shalom to our TBS Family. We hope that everyone is doing well. It has been a quiet month of January for P.A. Our December meeting was cancelled. Our January meeting was held on January 14 on Zoom. Thank you to those who attended. We discussed future fundraising ideas and events that we will be having.

Be on the lookout for information pertaining to our annual Passover Zoom Cooking Event. It will be held on Saturday, April 4 at 6:00 pm. These events are always fun, and recipes are very tasty.

Our next P.A. Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8 at 10:00 am. The meeting will be both in-person and virtual. We hope to see you there.

Thank you as always for the support given to P.A. May the winter months be kind to everyone.

Erica Bernstein and Elain Larkin, Co-Presidents

Religious School

Greetings everyone. I hope that the winter has been kind to you. The Religious School Board met via Zoom on Wednesday, January 21, to discuss how Religious/Hebrew School is going. We also discussed upcoming events at Religious School.

Here is a list of events/services happening with Religious School in the upcoming weeks:

There will be a Tu B'shvat Family Seder on Sunday, February 1 at 10:00 am. We hope to see families at this festive event.

Let's get ready for our annual Purim celebration which will held on Friday, February 27. Students are getting ready to perform a fantastic Purim Shpiel for everyone. A pizza dinner will start at 6:00 pm, with services starting at 7:30 pm. Please read The Voice and Monday morning email blasts for more information. We look forward to seeing you there.

A special Saturday morning Shabbat Service will be held on Saturday, March 21 at 10:00 am. Religious School students will be helping Rabbi Ballan and Cantor Korobow lead the service. We hope that you will be able to attend.

The next Religious School Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25 at 8:00 pm on Zoom.

Stay well everyone.

Erica Bernstein
Religious School Board Member

**Why not host an Oneg or sponsor a
Shabbat Service?**

**It's a great way to celebrate a simcha
or loved one!**

**Call the office for details
718 463 4143**

Adult Education

Dear Temple Members and Friends,

Our Adult Education season began with a gripping presentation by retired Deputy Inspector Ralph Pascullo, who led us through the high-stakes events of July 31, 1997. As a key member of the NYPD Emergency Service Unit (ESU), Ralph provided a firsthand account of the tactical raid that successfully prevented a devastating bombing targeting of the New York City Subway system.

Ralph's insights highlighted the intense, multi-agency coordination required to protect Brooklyn during that critical moment in history. He left us with a powerful reminder of the ESU's role: "When people need help, they call the cops. When cops need help, they call ESU."

For those who wish to dive deeper into the history of this incident, the book *Jihad in Brooklyn* is available on Amazon. We are incredibly grateful to Ralph Pascullo for sharing his expertise, and to Victor Wurtzel from Temple B'Nai Torah—whom I met at a recent MRJ meeting—for his kind introduction.

While I continue to curate more sessions for the coming year, I look forward to connecting with you at Shabbat services and other TBS activities.

Eric Bernstein
Adult Education Chairman



ITS NOT TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT

BAZAAR 2026

**Do you have unredeemed points on your
credit cards? How about redeeming some
of them for gift cards and donating them to
Temple as raffle or basket prizes!**

Purim is Coming!
It's Time to Order Your
SUNSHINE Themed
Shalach Manot Baskets
And Purim Greetings



Sisterhood will make it easier for you to fulfill the mitzvot of Purim

Listen to the Purim story on Friday, February 27, 2026, during our Shabbat service at 7:30 pm
Come early for a pizza dinner starting at 6:00 pm (RSVP to Natalie) by Monday, February 23

Order gift packages known as Shalach Manot by Friday, February 13

Donation of \$36 (Double Chai) – You will receive a basket of Purim delights with a Sunshine theme and Your name on a **Purim greeting card** sent to all TBS member families.

Donation of \$18 (Chai) – You will receive our traditional bag of Purim goodies and Your name on a **Purim greeting card** sent to all TBS member families.

Consider ordering extra bags to give to family and friends!

Purim Greeting of \$9 (Half Chai) - Don't want a Purim bag?

Donate and have your name listed on the **Purim greeting card** sent to your TBS family.

Distribution of baskets/bags will be at Temple on:

Friday. February. 27, 2026 at Shabbat/Purim service

Sunday. March. 1, 2026 during Religious School from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Call the Temple office to make other arrangements for pick up.

What a wonderful way to honor your Temple friends while supporting our synagogue.

All orders must arrive at the Temple office by Friday. February 23 - Attention: Shalach Manot



Please use this form and return with a check made payable to “TBS Sisterhood” or use “Zelle”

Name: (as you would like it to be written on Purim greeting card):

Check off desired donation

_____ # of Purim Baskets at \$36 each = Total Amount \$ _____

_____ # of Purim Bags at \$18 each = Total Amount \$ _____

_____ Purim Greeting only - \$18 enclosed

Email/Phone # for contact information

Scoop's Schmooze

While many people who celebrate Chanukah have adopted the tradition of spending Christmas Eve/Day in a Chinese restaurant and a movie theatre, there has been another long-established custom on December 24 that Renee and I, for the second time, became a part of a most unique event, which following up on her recent show and album, seems so apropos.

For many Christmas Eves, people, led by a gentleman named John Wallowitch, gathered outside a home at 17 Beekman Place in Midtown Manhattan and would sing Christmas carols, including *White Christmas*. And, aside from that song being one of the most recorded songs in history, 17 Beekman Place was also the home of *White Christmas*'s writer, Irving Berlin, which is who Renee's show and CD were tributes to. And during the time when Berlin was living there, he actually invited the carolers in to his home for refreshments and warmth. A year after Berlin's death in 1989, the residence was purchased by The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and, among others, it is now home to the Consulate General of Luxembourg.

For a while, after Wallowitch's passing, there was an unfortunate separation of the tradition that lasted until recently when cabaret reviewer and Irving Berlin aficionado, Jacqueline Parker, successfully mended fences between the Berlin devotees and Luxembourg.

And, so this year, Renee and I, along with Jacqueline, Renee's Director and cabaret icon Jeff Harnar and photographer Steve Ember, as well as a couple of dozen other Irving Berlin followers, made our way into Midtown, where the wonderful tradition was reignited.

Yet, prior to the 6:00 singing of *White Christmas* and *God Bless America*, along with a couple of other selections; the journey for the five of us began during the early afternoon at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, visiting the graves and paying respects to the world's hierarchy of the arts including Berlin, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, and Dorothy Parker.

And, in between the visit to Woodlawn and the gathering at Irving Berlin's former residence, we enjoyed lunch at Antonio's Trattoria in Little Italy. There, in the middle of our conversation, following up on where we had just been, Jacqueline posed a question as to what we would like to be remembered for that started with me; and I instantly answered, "to be remembered as a good person."

And, while you could scour the internet to find out what makes a good person, there are motivational words that I derived when I was overseeing the athletic department and coaching the baseball team at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy about 35 years ago that speaks to what a good person is.

"There are four things that you have in life that nobody can, or should take from you. And as long as you keep your name, your pride, your reputation, and your integrity, you are golden."

(continued next column)

And while we all have our own traditions for holidays, events or everyday occurrences, may we all be able to follow the title of one of Irving Berlin's songs written between 1922 and 1926 and be *At Peace With The World*.

Barry Paker
Chairman, Ways & Means

Cantor Robert Paul Abelson Remembered

In 1957, Cantor Abelson became the first full-time cantor at Temple Beth Sholom. When my family joined the synagogue in 1959, they quickly became active members. My mother sang in the congregation choir at the High Holy Day Services with Cantor. As a 5-year-old, I used to sit in the seats closest to the choir with my father and apparently, I liked to conduct the choir when they sang! When I started Hebrew school, Cantor Abelson was the Aleph teacher.

By then, our families used to socialize together. In following years, there were a few member families who would close the Temple on Friday evenings after Shabbat Services, and then continue our socialization at someone's house, or the local pancake diner, where unbeknownst to me, my future husband worked as a bus boy! It was only natural that Cantor would marry us in 1979.

He enjoyed singing opera, and we used to go to Lake George in the summers to attend the performances. A member for many seasons of the New York City Opera, he also sang with other prestigious operatic companies throughout the country.

Cantor Abelson exhibited a special devotion to Yiddish song, both art and theatrical. Among some of his appearances, he starred in New York in the Jewish musical revue *On Second Avenue*, and in the 1990 Broadway musical *Those Were the Days*. He also sang a lead role in *Gimpel the Fool*, the acclaimed Yiddish opera by *David Schiff*.

After leaving Temple Beth Sholom, Cantor Abelson sang at a synagogue in Washington Heights, and then at Temple Israel of the City of NY, where he had served as the Cantor since 1980. He began teaching at Hebrew Union College's School of Sacred Music (now the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music) until his retirement but stayed involved with the faculty and his students until very recently.

Cantor Robert Paul Abelson passed away at the age of 96 on January 5, 2026.

Geri Weiss



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☆ UPCOMING YAHRZEITS February 2026 ☆

Week of February 6

Alfred Bamberger
 Marcelle Cohen
 Bob Dorfman
 John Eckman
 Albert Greenberg
 Belle Horowitz
 Betty Lash
 Rabbi Herschel Levin*
 William Lillian
 Sanford Tishcoff
 Norman Tolson
 Jules Weiss
 Albert Yohay
 Morris Youman

Uncle of Fran Goldman
 Sister-in-Law of Michele Attar
 Father of Eliot Dorfman
 Father of Al Eckman
 Cousin of Pamela Weston Abrams
 Grandmother of Andrew Liebrader
 Aunt of Pamela Weston Abrams
 Observed by Temple
 Step-grandfather of Eliot Dorfman
 Uncle of Gail Tishcoff
 Father of Marla Tolson
 Cousin of Fay Schildkraut
 Father of Diane Shtulman
 Grandfather of Barry Packer

Week of February 13

Tinalia Belaure
 Maryann Bluj
 Ruth Dorfman
 Margot Gold
 Gertrude Horowitz
 Irving Horowitz
 William Leff
 Myron Liebrader
 Sidney Person
 Seymour Scharf**
 Rose Shenkoff
 Frances Simon
 Martyn Weston
 Morris Yohay

4x Great Grandmother of Richard Severin
 Relative of Andrew & Elaine Larkin
 Mother of Eliot Dorfman
 Mother of Larry Gold
 Mother of Mitchell Horowitz
 Father of Mitchell Horowitz
 Father of Anne Horowitz
 Father of Andrew Liebrader
 Father of Ruth Davidson
 Observed by Temple
 Grandmother of Steve Levinsky
 Mother-in-Law of Maxine Simon
 Grandfather of Pamela Weston Abrams
 Uncle of Diane Shtulman

Week February 20

Esther Lipow
 Samuel Lutin
 Gloria Wexler
 Harold Zeamans

Grandmother of Alan Berck
 Grandfather of Robin Myers
 Grandmother of Michael Gross
 Grandfather of Anne K. Pepper

Week of February 27

Burton Chenkin
 Bernyce Fertel Metz

Father of David Chenkin
 Mother of Charlene Metz
 Sister of Maxine Simon
 Grandmother of Richard Severin
 Mother of Don Nelinson
 Father of Lillian Tandatnick
 Observed by Ned Steele
 Sister of Francine Klimivicius
 Mother of Alice Newman
 Husband of Bonnie Wilichinsky

Julina Merise
 Lillian Nelinson
 Sam Ostrofsky
 Anna Pomerantz
 Marlene Saloman
 Sylvia Sandler
 Alvin Wilichinsky

*Temple Rabbi 1953 – 1978

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FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Religious School and Confirmation Class Tu Bishvat Seder 10:00 am	2 Introduction to Judaism Zoom only 6:15 pm Bowling Jib Lanes 8:00 pm <i>Tu Bishvat</i>	3 Healing & Meditative Service Zoom only 7:30 pm	4 Hebrew School 4:30 pm	5	6 Installation Shabbat Evening Service Hybrid 7:30 pm	7 Torah Study Zoom only 10:00 am
8 Religious School and Confirmation Class 10:00 am Parents Association Meeting 10:00 am Men's Club Meeting 11:00 am Super Bowl Party! Door Open 5:30 pm	9 Introduction to Judaism Zoom only 6:15 pm Membership Committee Meeting Zoom only 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting Zoom only 8:00 pm	10 Healing & Meditative Service Zoom only 7:30 pm	11 Hebrew School 4:30 pm	12 Sisterhood Book Club Zoom only 7:30 pm	13 Shabbat Evening Service hybrid 7:30 pm	14 Torah Study Zoom only 10:00 am
15 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	16 President's Day OFFICE CLOSED NO INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM CLASS	17 Healing & Meditative Service Zoom only 7:30 pm	18 NO HEBREW SCHOOL	19	20 Shabbat Evening Service hybrid 7:30 pm	21 Torah Study Zoom only 10:00 am
22 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	23 Introduction to Judaism Zoom only 6:15 pm	24 Healing & Meditative Service Zoom only 7:30 pm	25 Hebrew School 4:30 pm Religious School Board Meeting Zoom only 8:00 pm	26	27 Shabbat Dinner 6:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service and Purim Shpiel hybrid 7:30 pm	28 Torah Study Zoom only 10:00 am



The Voice

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM OF FLUSHING

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Deadline for the March Bulletin is February 13th!

Articles should be e-mailed to: natalie@templebethsholom.org

Please indicate "TBS Voice" on the subject line!

The next Simchat Shabbat will
be Friday, February 20 when
we will celebrate the birthdays
and anniversaries for the
month of February.



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

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