

HORIZONS

2024-2025

BE YOUR AUTHENTIC JEWISH SELF



TEMPLE
BETH-EL
OF GREAT NECK

Dear Friends,

Shanah Tovah—and welcome to another exciting year at Temple Beth-El.

This catalog tells a great and exciting story. It's the story of a congregation that is deeply committed to its future. It's the story of a vibrant community that is investing in the spiritual, intellectual, social, and cultural lives of its members. It's the story of a congregation that is dedicated to continuing its legacy of communal activism and leadership on our peninsula. And it's the story of a congregation that is generous of spirit, curious of mind, inclusive, openhearted, and eager to live with authenticity.

Temple Beth-El exists to help our members be their authentic Jewish selves. Each person's journey is different, because every single one of us is an absolutely unique creation of God—with our own particular interests, passions, and needs. Inside this catalog you will find an amazing variety of programs, classes, events, worship opportunities, spiritual practices, social and cultural experiences, and avenues for making our world a better place.

Our offerings are organized by Judaism's core values: Torah (Lifelong Learning), Avodah (Worship & Spiritual Practice), G'milut Chasadim (Caring & Social Action), Kehillah (Community), and Israel (the Land of the Jewish People). Taken together, the many opportunities contained inside form a beautiful and rich tapestry of possibility that we hope will inspire you to participate in Jewish life in ways that resonate with you.

Some of what we have planned for this year will be familiar and comfortable to you, while other offerings will challenge you to explore new horizons. During these High Holidays and throughout the year ahead, we invite you to peruse this booklet to find opportunities that spark your interest—and walk through the doorway of your choice into the world of Jewish meaning, purpose, and discovery.

Enjoy the journey.

L'shalom,

Jordana Levine, President

Rabbi A. Brian Stoller, Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Megan Brumer, Assistant Rabbi

Stuart Botwinick, Executive Director

OUR VIVID VISION

OUR “WHY”

An open and inclusive congregation committed to the full and equal participation of every member, our mission is to support you in defining and being your authentic Jewish self.

OUR “HOW”

We pursue our mission by offering our members opportunities for meaningful engagement with the five pillars of Judaism:

- **Torah**—stimulating Jewish learning for people of all ages that transforms the way we see and live in the world.
- **Avodah**—traditional and modern worship, enhanced by the joy of music, that meets the diverse spiritual needs of 21st-century Jews.
- **G'milut Chasadim**—acts of kindness, caring, and social action that touch our congregants' lives and make our wider community a better place.
- **Kehillah**—social and cultural activities that build community and give our members a feeling of belonging.
- **Israel**—recognizing the special relationship among Jews throughout the world, along with the unique and essential bond that we share with the State of Israel.

OUR “WHAT”

Temple Beth-El of Great Neck is a vibrant Reform congregation serving Great Neck and the surrounding communities in western Nassau County and eastern Queens. People join our congregation because they are seeking meaningful personal connections with clergy; a close-knit, family-like community; and a strong culture of sacred partnership and learning in which members are deeply involved in creating the life of the synagogue.

TBE serves those who desire an authentic 21st-century Jewish experience and share our commitments to inclusion, gender egalitarianism, full and equal participation of all, civic involvement, modern spirituality, social action, and support of the State of Israel.

OUR “WHERE”

TBE remains committed to Great Neck, while rightsizing our footprint to better serve the congregation of our current size.

If you have any questions or need additional information about the listings in this book, please contact us by email or phone.



TEMPLE
BETH-EL
OF GREAT NECK

The Marjorie and Mark Gershwind
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TORAH | תורה

LIFELONG LEARNING

Stimulating Jewish study for people of all ages that transforms the way we see and live in the world

THE MIRIAM & MOSES CENTER FOR PLURALISTIC ADULT JEWISH LEARNING

As a show of faith in our vision for TBE's future, one of our congregants recently established the TBE Adult Learning Fund to seed the creation of a robust and intellectually challenging adult learning program. We believe this is key to positioning TBE as a leader in shaping the future of pluralistic Judaism on the western North Shore. Please support adult learning at our congregation by generously giving to this fund.

ONGOING CLASSES

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

Saturdays, 9:15–10:15 AM

Instructors: TBE Clergy

Classical commentators, Jewish history, modern thought, current events, and our own personal experiences intersect each week as our clergy leads us in thought-provoking, in-depth conversations about the weekly Torah portion. No prior knowledge or background is necessary, as each person brings a unique and valuable perspective to the table that enriches the learning for everyone.

Judaism's Spiritual Vocabulary: Discovering Meaning in the Siddur

Thursdays, 9:15–10:15 AM

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

Like other forms of poetry, our prayer book uses vivid imagery to stir our emotions, affirm the majesty and mystery of life, and attempt to express the inexpressible. Rabbi Stoller will guide participants in exploring the siddur in all its many facets: its structure, its language, its history and evolution, and its relevance as a living spiritual vocabulary for our own lives.

“WE AFFIRM THAT TORAH IS THE FOUNDATION OF JEWISH LIFE. THROUGH TORAH STUDY, WE ARE CALLED TO MITZVOT, THE MEANS BY WHICH WE MAKE OUR LIVES HOLY.”

—REFORM JUDAISM'S STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

TUESDAY NIGHT SYMPOSIUM

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 PM

Taught by an impressive lineup of scholars and local rabbis, the Tuesday Night Symposium offers opportunities for challenging intellectual study of a variety of Jewish topics. This year's symposium schedule follows.

Preparing for the High Holidays

Sept. 17 & 24, 2024

*Instructors: Rabbi Brian Stoller
and Rabbi Randy Sheinberg,*

Temple Tikvah of New Hyde Park

Rabbi Stoller and Rabbi Sheinberg will lead participants in exploring texts and themes of the High Holidays, as attendees prepare themselves for repentance and renewal. The Sept. 17 session will be held at Temple Tikvah of New Hyde Park, and the Sept. 24 session will be held at Temple Beth-El of Great Neck.

The Land of Israel in the Talmud

Oct. 15, 22 & 29, 2024

*Instructor: Dr. Alyssa Gray,
Hebrew Union College*

This class will focus on three aspects of the Babylonian Talmud's engagement with the land of Israel: (1) how it portrays the past, present, and future of the geographical land; (2) its portrayal of relationships between Babylonian rabbis and those of the land of Israel; and (3) a couple of key theological and halakhic differences between the two rabbinic centers.

Judaism & Democracy: Debriefing the 2024 Election

Nov. 12, 2024

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

One thing most people agree on is that the November 2024 presidential election will be one of the most consequential political events of our time. In the aftermath of the vote, Rabbi Stoller will facilitate this conversation about what happened, what comes next, and how Jewish tradition can illuminate the way forward.

Women in the Talmud: Unveiling Hidden Voices

Nov. 19 & 26, 2024

Instructor: Rabbi Megan Brumer

Participants will explore some of the women featured in the Talmud, whose voices are often overshadowed by men.

Diaspora & Exile in the Talmud & Related Rabbinic Literature

Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2024

*Instructor: Dr. David Kraemer,
Jewish Theological Seminary*

The centrality of the Land of Israel in biblical and subsequent Jewish teachings is not the only view in our tradition. Attendees will learn about the ways the Talmud and other rabbinic literature push back against that centrality, claiming “exile” as a vibrant center of Jewish life, as well.

Paths to Peace:

Exploring Mipnei Darkhei Shalom

Jan. 7 & 14, 2025

Instructor: Rabbi Megan Brumer

After the destruction of the Temple, Judaism began to shift toward rabbinic and synagogue-based practices. Participants will learn how, during this transition, the rabbis adapted and amended some traditional laws on the grounds of *mipnei darkhei shalom*, avoiding societal conflict and fostering peaceful relations with others.

Hineini: A Taste of Jewish Mindfulness

Jan. 21 & 28, 2025

*Instructor: Rabbi Randy Sheinberg,
Temple Tikvah of New Hyde Park*

How can Judaism improve our ability to live in the present, aware of our blessings and awake to life? Through text study and practice, participants will explore and experience the wisdom of mindful Jewish living.

Rabbi's Book Club:

Journey from the Land of No

by Roya Hakakian

Feb. 4, 2025

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

Roya Hakakian was 12 years old in 1979, when the revolution swept through Tehran. In this autobiography, she tells the story of her family and her childhood as a Jew in revolutionary Iran.

Our Souls on Fire: Modern Lessons from Our Hasidic Masters

Feb. 11 & 18, 2025

Instructor: Rabbi Jerry Blum,

Temple Isaiah of Great Neck

Through discussion and critical text study, attendees will explore the roots of Hasidism and learn how its wisdom can help us, as 21st-century Jews, to deepen our relationships with others and with the Divine.

What's So Funny about the Book of Esther?

March 4 & 11, 2025

Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Andrea Weiss,

Hebrew Union College

Prior to Purim, participants will study the one comedic book in the Bible, the *Book of Esther*. Learn about what classifies Esther as a comedy and what makes the ancient story of this feminist heroine so relevant today.

Christianity & Islam in Jewish Law

March 18 & 25, April 1 & 8, 2025

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

Guiding attendees in reading classical Jewish legal sources, halakhic responsa, and modern legal theory, Rabbi Stoller will help participants learn how Jewish attitudes toward Christianity and Islam, and their practitioners, have evolved over time. To elevate the learning experience, this course will include optional reading outside of class.

Intelligence, Consciousness, or a Soul:

Some Jewish Views on AI

April 22 & 29, 2025

Instructor: Rabbi Geoffrey Mitelman,

Sinai & Synapses

How do we define “intelligence” and “artificial”? Does AI have consciousness? A soul? While traditional Jewish texts wouldn't know about ChatGPT, what analogies can be drawn from biblical, rabbinic, and later Jewish texts?

Talmudic Story & Modern Philosophy:

Based on *Nine Talmudic Readings* by Emmanuel Levinas

May 6, 13 & 20, 2025

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

The Talmudic sages use aggadah (storytelling) to explore the deepest questions of theology, ethics, spirituality, culture, and human existence. Rabbi Stoller will lead attendees in close readings of some of the Talmud's most profound stories, drawing on the writings of the 20th-century French-Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas. To enhance the learning experience, this course may include optional readings outside of class.

JEWISH CULTURE & LITERATURE

Jews in Sports

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, 10 AM

Instructor: Alan Freedman,

Jewish Sports Heritage Association

Following a bagel and lox breakfast, Alan Freedman of JSHA will speak at 10:30 AM on the history of the Jewish-American experience in sports from the turn of the 20th century until today.

If You Will It: Rebuilding Jewish

Peoplehood for the 21st Century

Sunday, Oct. 20, 10–11:30 AM

Instructor: Elliott Abrams, Book Author

What can Jewish parents and organizations

do to ensure that future generations of American Jews will have a strong Jewish identity? Elliott Abrams, a former Middle East policy official for the U.S. government, will examine the history of the American Jewish community and its relationship with Israel, even now when many Americans have turned away from the Jewish state. Following the presentation, stay for brunch and a book signing.

Field Trip:

A Tour of the JTS Rare Book Collection

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, 10–11 AM

Instructor: Dr. David Kraemer, JTS Librarian

The Jewish Theological Seminary Library has one of the most outstanding collections of rare Judaica in the world. The works in its collections testify to the tenacity and vibrancy of Judaism in its many homes through the centuries. Join Library Director Dr. David Kraemer for a “tour”—via these rare gems—of some of the great moments of our past.

Klezmer in the Jewish Musical Tradition

Monday, Jan. 13, 2025, 2–3:30 PM

at North Shore Towers

Instructor: Cantorial Soloist

Stephanie Horowitz-Mulry

Our cantorial soloist will lead attendees in study and conversation about the Klezmer musical tradition.

Sisterhood Learning: Judith in Art— Presentation and Discussion

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, 7–8:30 PM

on Zoom

Instructor: Matthew Moshen

Judith, the Jewish character associated with Hanukkah, is depicted in many famous and fascinating paintings. Participants will study images, learn about some infamous and provocative versions of Judith’s adventures, and discuss her heroic actions.

Painting the Text: The Land of Israel in Rabbinic Literature—

A Hands-on Artistic Experience

**Sundays, April 27, May 4 & 18, 2025,
10–11:30 AM**

Instructors: Rabbi Brian Stoller

and Regina Gil, Gold Coast Arts Center

Rabbi Stoller will lead participants in the study of rabbinic texts about the Land of Israel, and accomplished artist Regina Gil, founder and executive director of the Gold Coast Arts Center, will guide attendees in creating paintings that express their thoughts and feelings about the texts. No previous painting experience is required, only an open heart and a willingness to try is needed.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Holy Spirits: For the Men of TBE

Thursdays, July 18, Sept. 12 & Nov. 7, 2024,

Feb. 6 & June 5, 2025, 7–9 PM

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

The men of TBE gather for spirits, study, and conversation about issues of interest to males of all ages. TBE Brotherhood will sponsor dinner.

Adult Education at North Shore Towers

Mondays, Sept. 16, 2024, Jan. 13 &

May 19, 2025, 2–3:30 PM

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

Participants will study and converse at North Shore Towers, hosted in the apartment of one of our congregants.

Israel Discussion Group

Sundays, Sept. 22 & Dec. 8, 2024,

Jan. 26 & March 2, 2025, 10–11 AM

Facilitator: Rabbi Brian Stoller

With so much happening in Israel, this group will offer an opportunity for participants to talk, share, and process their thoughts and feelings in a community setting. Rabbi Stoller will facilitate conversations based on news articles, books, podcasts, and other sources covering current events in Israel.

Sisterhood Breakfasts & Book Discussions

**Sundays, Nov. 17, 2024, Jan. 12 &
March 9, 2025, 9:30 AM–12:30 PM**

Led by: Sandy Lubert

Following an energetic musical learning and prayer experience with our Kehillah Project students, participants will gather for a bagel breakfast and book discussion led by Sandy Lubert. Those who wish can bring knitting and/or crocheting projects to work on with Rebecca Wotman after the discussion.

SATURDAY SCHOLARS-IN-RESIDENCE

Israeli Poems for Our Post-October 7 World

**Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, 9:15–10:15 AM
on Zoom**

*Instructor: Rachel Korazim,
Jewish Education Consultant*

Participants will read poems written by Israelis during the challenging times following the calamity of October 7. These poems, raw and painful, come from many different segments of Israeli society and express a beautiful tapestry of voices. This session is sponsored by Dorothy & Ed Greenbaum.

“Where Are You?": God's Eternal Question

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, 9:15–10:15 AM

*Instructor: Rabbi Esther Lederman,
Union for Reform Judaism*

What might God's first question to Adam and Eve—“where are you?”—mean for us today? Rabbi Lederman will help attendees explore key themes of the first chapter of *Genesis*.

“The Voice Is the Voice of Jacob”:

Deception and Truth, Lifting the Mask

Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024, 9:15–10:15 AM

Instructors: Rabbis Tara and Meir Feldman

Our rabbis emeriti will counter the anti-Israel slogans of our day with the truths at the core of our history and our identity as Jews and as Israelis. This will go beyond anti-Israel rallies and college campuses and focus on us all: the learning we can take on, the conversations we can embrace, the “voice” that each of us can raise up.

The Apostle Paul:

A First-Century Reform Jew?

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, 9:15–10:15 AM

*Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Joshua Garroway,
Hebrew Union College*

His disparagement of the Torah and his conferral of the Abrahamic covenant on gentiles have earned Paul the reputation among Jews as a perfidious huckster who abandoned Judaism to create another religion. Is it possible we've been too hard on Paul? Might modern Jews come to see him as a loyal Jew—indeed a Jew much like us?

Lunch & Learn:

What's a Messiah, Anyway?

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, 12:30–1:30 PM

*Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Joshua Garroway,
Hebrew Union College*

Anticipating a messiah has been a feature of Judaism for centuries. Worshipping a messiah has become the central feature of Christianity. But where did this idea of a messiah come from? What is a messiah and how have Jewish conceptions changed throughout the years?

The Spirituality of Secular Music

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, 5 PM

*Instructor: Jacob “Spike” Kraus,
Artist-in-Residence*

This sing-along program uses popular music from a variety of genres to explore Jewish *middot* (values) and texts from a lens outside the Jewish tradition. This presentation will be set up as a page of Talmud, with song lyrics tied directly to quotations from Jewish text. The session will conclude with Havdalah.

Creating Sacred Spaces

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 9:15–10:15 AM

*Instructor: Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz,
Scholar-in-Residence*

In a study of the weekly Torah portion, Rabbi Berkowitz will engage attendees in conversation about how we create sacred spaces and what we

want—and don't want—to include in them. Inspired by *midrashim* about the building of the Tabernacle in the wilderness, she will invite participants to think about what we take with us from the past as we move forward.

The Rabbi in the Attic

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 4–6 PM

Instructor: Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz, Scholar-in-Residence

The character of the rabbi has long been a source of wisdom and humor in Jewish storytelling. Rabbis appear in books and on-screen as detectives, social justice warriors, overworked community leaders, and romantic leads. They can be men with or without beards, as well as women, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. This exploration of modern rabbinical characters in fiction and film will examine what changing portrayals of the rabbi can tell us about our communities and ourselves.

THE KEHILLAH PROJECT

Learning. Belonging. Becoming. The Kehillah Project at the Gershwind Family Religious School is Temple Beth-El's new learning community. In Hebrew, kehillah means community, and the word is part of our name as well as our mission. The Kehillah Project is a joyous, forward-thinking Jewish education program designed to enhance our children's lives through fun, innovative, and active experiences. We believe that Jewish community is at its most vibrant when our children are rooted in and inspired by core Jewish values like inclusivity, character building and tikkun olam. The Kehillah Project complements children's secular lives, encouraging development of Jewish identity and values. The education extends beyond the classroom to include the child's family along with our North Shore neighbors.

Sunday mornings, 9:30 AM–12 PM for Grades K–7

Tuesday evenings, 5:30–7 PM for Grades 4–7, with optional 5 PM drop-off

HOLIDAY LEARNING

Yom Kippur Afternoon Study

Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, 2:15 PM

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

As afternoon sets in on the holiest day of the year, Rabbi Stoller will lead participants in study and conversation about the themes of the day.

Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot at Temple Tikvah

Sunday, June 1, 2025, 7–10 PM

Instructors: Clergy from Local Synagogues
This evening of Torah study will be taught by the clergy of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, Temple Judea of Manhasset, Temple Tikvah of New Hyde Park, Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, North Country Reform Temple of Glen Cove, and Port Jewish Center of Port Washington.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE KEHILLAH PROJECT

Opening Day: Sundaes on Sunday

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, 11:30 AM–12 PM

Kick off The Kehillah Project with delicious ice cream sundaes, meet our teachers, and build community.

First Tuesday Evening Session

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, 5–7 PM

The first Tuesday meeting of The Kehillah Project will be held.

Off-site Meeting at Kings Point Park

Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, 9:30 AM–12 PM

In this beautiful outdoor setting, The Kehillah Project students will enjoy learning and connecting with our community surrounded by nature.

Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, 11:45 AM–12:15 PM

At the end of the session, bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends to receive a blessing, and celebrate the joy they bring to our lives.

Off-site Visit to Parker Institute

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024, 9:30 AM–12 PM

The Kehilla Project will visit Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation, engaging in activities and programs designed to foster intergenerational connections and community spirit. This event aims to enrich the lives of both students and seniors through meaningful interactions and shared experiences.

Tzedakah Project & Hanukkah Celebration

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024, 9:30 AM–12 PM

The Kehillah Project will join our community's annual Tzedakah Project by helping to package meals for local families in need. The Kehillah Project Hanukkah Celebration will follow with festive family fun, doughnuts, dreidels, and games.

STEM Night at Great Neck Public Library

Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, 6–7:30 PM

Our middle schoolers and high schoolers will engage in exciting hands-on activities and experiments at the Great Neck Public Library's innovative STEM Lab.

Sunday with Artist-in-Residence

Jacob “Spike” Kraus

Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025, 9:30 AM

Jacob “Spike” Kraus will be joining The Kehillah Project, sharing his expertise in Jewish music, teaching engaging songs, exploring modern and traditional melodies, and creating joyful, meaningful musical experiences.

Purim Celebration at Temple Tikvah

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 9:30 AM–12 PM

The Kehillah Project will visit its friends

at Temple Tikvah's Religious School for an entertaining Purim celebration.

Sunday with Scholar-in-Residence

Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz

Sunday, March 23, 2025, 9:30 AM–12 PM

Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz will lead the discussion, sharing her expertise in the stories of heroic women in the Bible, writing creative *midrash*, exploring modern Jewish literature, storytelling live, teaching prayer, and creating meaningful worship and life-cycle experiences.

Pesach Seder at Temple Tikvah

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 9:30 AM–12 PM

The Kehillah Project will visit its friends at Temple Tikvah's Religious School for a shared Passover Seder.

The Kehillah Project Park Cleanup

Sunday, April 27, 2025, 1–3 PM

All TBE members are welcome to join The Kehillah Project children and their families in performing this mitzvah.

Note: This afternoon activity will replace the morning program.

TBE and Temple Tikvah Havdalah

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 5:30–8 PM

Temple Beth-El and Temple Tikvah will celebrate Havdalah together.

Closing Day Celebration

Sunday, May 18, 2025, 11 AM–12 PM

Celebrate the end of the school year in style with game and ice cream trucks.

B'nei Mitzvah Date Ceremony

Friday, June 6, 2025, 7 PM

Receiving a b'nei mitzvah date is a special life-cycle moment for a child and their family. Our young people will be celebrated at this Shabbat service, as the clergy calls them to the bimah and provides their date and Torah portion.

THE KEHILLAH PROJECT SHABBATS

Musical Shabbat with

Artists-in-Residence Soul Zimra

Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, 7 PM

With a musical style combining acoustic guitar, bass guitar, and mandolin, Chicago Jewish band Soul Zimra blends modern secular folk, rock, and blues music—with familiar songs—with traditional liturgy to make the prayer experience participatory, contemporary, and relevant to our lives today.

Musical Shabbat with Artist-in-Residence Jacob “Spike” Kraus

Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, 7 PM

Boston-based Jacob “Spike” Kraus is a singer-songwriter, music producer, educator, and innovator. He has been performing for two decades at synagogues, Jewish day schools, and summer camps, touring Jewish communities across the country as a performer, teacher, composer, consultant, and energetically joyful individual. *Al shlosa d’varim*, the three things that he stands on, are a deep understanding of Jewish content, musicianship of the highest caliber, and an infectious energy and joy for his work.

Storytelling Shabbat with Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz

Friday, March 21, 2025, 7 PM

Drawing on the wisdom of Jewish tradition and her own work in the field of creative *midrash*, Rabbi Berkowitz will discuss how storytelling plays an important role in building a vibrant, sacred community.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER

Our ECEC is committed to building an inclusive and diverse Jewish community of learners. The program serves children from 18 months to 5 years old in a nurturing environment that recognizes

and respects each child and family as valued and active participants in social, emotional, and educational development. Our Jewish preschool emphasizes the richness and joy of Judaism within a diverse and multicultural world and values each family as they begin to explore their own relationship to Jewish life. Celebration, joy, and connection to Jewish life in the community are fundamental parts of the school’s curriculum. Our preschool benefits from being housed in one of the nation’s most prominent synagogues, and Jewish community values underpin our approaches.

Tot Playground & Play at Allenwood Park *Sunday, July 21, 2024, 10:30–11:30 AM*

Little ones can enjoy the playground and splash pad, as well as a tasty snack, while hanging out with friends and family.

Early Childhood Parent Orientation *Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024, 7 PM*

Parents will be welcomed to the ECEC and temple community by the rabbis and ECEC director, learn about the dynamic and exciting schoolyear their children are about to embark upon, and meet their child’s classroom teachers.

Consecration in the Sukkah

Monday, Oct. 21, 2024, 9:45 AM

Parents are welcome in our beautiful sukkah, located on the rooftop in the Rudin Garden, as our clergy offers special blessings upon our early-childhood students—and their families—as they formally begin their Jewish education in our community.

Connect & Impact Mixer:

ECEC Parent Events

Thursdays, Nov. 7, 2024

& Jan. 16, 2025, 8 PM

ECEC parents can enjoy an evening out together, as they connect and create an impactful hands-on social action project to benefit those in need in our community.

Hanukkah Pajama Party Havdalah in Partnership with PJ Library

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, 5:45–7:30 PM

Children ages 2 to 5 can wear their favorite pajamas to celebrate Hanukkah with music and treats.

ECEC Schoolwide Hanukkah Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024, 11 AM

To welcome this year's Festival of Lights, ECEC children, *morot*, and parents will commemorate Hanukkah together with singing, dancing, dreidel spinning, and latkes.

Early Childhood World Cultures Week

Monday, Jan. 27–Friday, Jan. 31, 2025

As our ECEC families originally come from all over our vast globe and are linguistically diverse, each one celebrates and passes down traditions for their children to embrace, connecting them to Jewish holidays, birthdays, and national events. To embrace our diversity, parents and grandparents are invited to share a dance, song, story, or cultural custom from their homeland with the ECEC community.

Pre-K Graduation Ceremony

Friday, June 13, 2025

Our teachers and clergy honor our graduating students as they mark the completion of preschool and prepare to begin kindergarten.

EARLY CHILDHOOD & FAMILY ACTIVITIES FOR THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Friday Community Shabbat Sing

***Fridays, Aug. 9, Sept. 27 & Dec. 13, 2024,
March 7 & May 9, 2025, 10–10:30 AM***

Children younger than 5 and their families can experience the warmth and spirit of Shabbat at these joyous celebrations with singing and dancing that welcome the entire community.

Tot Shabbat

***Saturdays, Sept. 21, 2024, Feb. 1, April 5
& June 7, 2025, 10–11:30 AM***

All families in the community with children ages 2 to 5 are welcome to sing and celebrate Shabbat with Rabbi Megan in the Rudin Chapel, followed by an art project and playground time.

Tot Sunday Sing-along

Sunday, May 4, 2025, 10 AM–12 PM

All families in the community with children ages 2 to 5 are invited to hear a fun musical guest performing new and familiar songs, enjoy a snack, and make new friends in this lively Sunday morning program.



DO NOT SAY, 'SOMEDAY, WHEN I HAVE MORE LEISURE TIME, I WILL STUDY TORAH.' PERHAPS YOU WILL NOT HAVE MORE LEISURE TIME, AND YOU WILL NEVER STUDY. SO, MAKE TIME FOR TORAH STUDY IN YOUR LIFE TODAY."

—PIRKEI AVOT

WORSHIP & SPIRITUALITY

Traditional and modern prayer, enhanced by the joy of music, that meets the diverse spiritual needs of 21st-century Jews

LEADERSHIP

Worship Committee

This group partners with our clergy to imagine and engage congregants in the prayer life of our community.

SHABBAT

SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday Night Services

Weekly, 7 PM (6:30 PM during the summer)

Every TBE service is soulful and musical and includes a thought-provoking sermon. We read Torah on the last Friday night of every month. In addition, our services frequently include guest musicians and speakers, as well as other special celebrations.

Saturday Morning Services

Weekly, 10:30–11:30 AM

At the conclusion of Torah study, attendees gather for an informal musical service featuring guitar, mandolin, and a Torah reading, followed by a kiddush bagel brunch.

Friday Community Shabbat Sing

Fridays, Aug. 9, Sept. 27 & Dec. 13, 2024,

March 7 & May 9, 2025, 10–10:30 AM

Children younger than 5 and their families can experience the warmth and spirit of Shabbat at these joyous celebrations with singing and dancing that welcome the entire community.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, Sept. 21, 2024, Feb. 1, April 5

& June 7, 2025, 10–11:30 AM

All families in the community with children ages 2 to 5 are welcome to sing and celebrate Shabbat with Rabbi Megan in the Rudin Chapel, followed by an art project and playground time.

SPECIAL FRIDAY NIGHTS

Shabbat at Steppingstone Park with Temple Tikvah

Friday, July 19, 2024, 6:30 PM

Shabbat at Firefighters Park

Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, 6:30 PM

Blessing of the Children Shabbat

Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, 7 PM

The clergy will call all children to the bimah to offer them a blessing for the start of the school year.

Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat

Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, 7 PM

We will honor the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in a worship service featuring our interfaith choir and a keynote address by a prominent civic leader.

Shabbat @ Home

Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, 5–10 PM

Our tradition teaches that our home is the center of Jewish life. Our Shabbat@Home program offers an opportunity to either host dinner guests in your house or be a guest at a TBE friend's place. Our Shabbat@Home team will connect hosts and guests, as well as provide some prayers and activities to make the evening special. There is no cost to participate. Just bring a side dish, dessert, or wine.

Girl Scout Shabbat

Friday, April 4, 2025, 5:30–8:30 PM

Our local Girl Scout troop will participate in Shabbat, learning about Judaism and completing a social action project.

B'nei Mitzvah Date Ceremony

Friday, June 6, 2025, 7 PM

Receiving a b'nei mitzvah date is a special life-cycle moment for a child and their family. Our young people will be celebrated at this Shabbat service, as the clergy calls them to the bimah and provides their date and Torah portion.

HAVDALAHS

Entwining Our Multiple Wicks:

A Havdalah Yoga Practice

Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024, 5:30–7 PM

Led by: Rabbi Tara Feldman and Sharon Epstein, Lev Shalem Yoga

In this time of division and uncertainty both within our Jewish world and beyond, end Shabbat with this gentle yoga practice. The session will conclude with Havdalah and will be followed by the opportunity to speak, share, and enjoy light refreshments.

No previous experience is required. Bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing.

Board of Trustees Training: Lessons in Leadership from Ancient Jewish Statesmen

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, 4–6 PM

Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Joshua Garroway, Hebrew Union College

Philo of Alexandria was a leader of the robust Jewish community of first-century CE Egypt. His interpretation of the story of Joseph, the Torah's archetypal Jewish statesman, offers a vision of leadership, politics, and statecraft that in many respects resembles our own. Through interactive study of Philo's work, Dr. Garroway will help our board discover wisdom that can guide TBE through change—and visioning for our future. This program is only open to TBE's Board of Trustees.

Sisterhood Dance and Havdalah

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, 3–4:30 PM

Led by: Rochelle Rosenbloom

Get your pre-Hanukkah moves on with this fun, gentle, and energetic dance program. Afterward, celebrate Havdalah with light refreshments.

Hanukkah Pajama Party Havdalah in Partnership with PJ Library

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, 5:45–7:30 PM

Children ages 2 to 5 can wear their favorite pajamas to celebrate Hanukkah with music and treats.

The Spirituality of Secular Music

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, 5 PM

Led by: Jacob "Spike" Kraus, Artist-in-Residence

Boston-based Jacob "Spike" Kraus is a singer-songwriter, music producer, educator, and innovator. He has been performing for two decades at synagogues, Jewish day schools, and summer camps, touring Jewish communities across the country as a performer, teacher, composer, consultant, and energetically

joyful individual. *Al shlosha d'varim*, the three things that he stands on, are a deep understanding of Jewish content, musicianship of the highest caliber, and an infectious energy and joy for his work.

The Rabbi in the Attic

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 4–6 PM

Instructor: Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz, Scholar-in-Residence

The character of the rabbi has long been a source of wisdom and humor in Jewish storytelling. Rabbis appear in books and on-screen as detectives, social justice warriors, overworked community leaders, and romantic leads. They can be men with or without beards, as well as women, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. This exploration of modern rabbinical characters in fiction and film will examine what changing portrayals of the rabbi can tell us about our communities and ourselves.

TBE and Temple Tikvah Havdalah

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 5:30–8 PM

Temple Beth-El and Temple Tikvah will celebrate Havdalah together.

FRIDAY NIGHT GUEST SERMONS

Human Connection—From Different Paths to the Common Ascent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, 7 PM

Speaker: Steve Chen, President, Great Neck Chinese Association and Trustee, Great Neck Public Schools Board

Art & Soul: Jewish Tradition as Reflected Through the Lens of Cultural Arts

Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, 7 PM

Speaker: Regina Gil, Founder and Executive Director, Gold Coast Arts Center

Who Are the Ancestors Our Future Needs?

Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, 7 PM

Speaker: Rabbi Esther Lederman, Vice President, Union for Reform Judaism

Reclaiming Zionism— the Word and the Wonder

Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, 7 PM

Speakers: Rabbis Tara and Meir Feldman, Rabbis Emeriti, Temple Beth-El of Great Neck

What's a Half Jew? Fuzzy Identities, Ancient and Modern

Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, 7 PM

Speaker: Rabbi Dr. Joshua Garroway, Sol & Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judaeo-Christian Studies, Hebrew Union College–Los Angeles

The Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, 7 PM

Pikuach Nefesh Shabbat:

Organ Donation and Social Justice

Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: Rabbi Joshua Rabin, Community and Government Affairs Liaison, LiveOnNY

Repro Shabbat:

A Former Jewish Legislator's Perspective on Abortion Rights

Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: Anna Kaplan, Former New York State Senator

Creativity at the Nexus of Legacy and Innovation: The Future of the Reform Cantorate

Friday, March 7, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: Cantor Jill Abramson, Director, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College

Why Do We Tell the Stories We Tell?

Friday, March 21, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz, Scholar-in-Residence

Parashat Sh'mini and Public Service

Friday, April 25, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: Justice Mojgan Cohaniam Lancman, New York State Supreme Court

**In Honor of Asian-American/Pacific
Islander and Jewish Heritage Months**

Friday, May 16, 2025, 7 PM

*Speaker: Hon. Christine Liu,
Councilwoman, Town of North Hempstead*

**Pride Shabbat: How Temple Beth-El
Uplifted Me on My Coming-Out Journey**

Friday, June 13, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: Rabbi Laurie Gold

SHABBAT MUSICAL GUESTS

Stephanie & the Shabbatones

**Fridays, Sept. 13 & Dec. 6, 2024,
March 14, April 4, May 16 & June 13, 2025**

Featuring drums, clarinet, and bass guitar, along with our cantorial soloist's powerful voice, Stephanie & the Shabbatones bring energy, joy, and an exciting blend of Jewish and secular music to elevate our prayer experience.

Soul Zimra

Friday, Nov. 15 & Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024

Friday, 7 PM • Shabbat Service

**Saturday, 9:15 AM • Integrated Music
and Torah Study**

Saturday, 10:30 AM • Musical Shabbat

Morning Service Honoring Danna Sobiecki

With a musical style combining acoustic guitar, bass guitar, and mandolin, Chicago Jewish band Soul Zimra blends modern secular folk, rock, and blues music—and familiar songs—with traditional liturgy to make the prayer experience participatory, contemporary, and relevant to our lives today.

Jacob “Spike” Kraus

Friday, Feb. 7–Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025

Friday, 7 PM • Shabbat Service

Saturday, 9:15 AM • Torah Study

Saturday, 10:30 AM • Musical Shabbat

Morning Service Honoring Joanna Stolove

**Saturday, 5 PM • The Spirituality
of Secular Music**

Sunday, 9:30 AM • The Kehillah Project

Boston-based Jacob “Spike” Kraus is a singer-songwriter, music producer, educator, and innovator. He has been performing for two decades at synagogues, Jewish day schools, and summer camps, touring Jewish communities across the country as a performer, teacher, composer, consultant, and energetically joyful individual. *Al shlosa d'varim*, the three things that he stands on, are a deep understanding of Jewish content, musicianship of the highest caliber, and an infectious energy and joy for his work.

Cantor Jill Abramson

Friday, March 7, 2025, 7 PM

Cantor Abramson, who serves as the director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music—the cantorial School—at Hebrew Union College and was previously the senior cantor at Westchester Reform Congregation, will join our clergy in leading a soulful Shabbat service. She will also present a guest sermon about Jewish music and the future of the Reform cantorate.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Daily Virtual Morning Minyan

Monday–Friday, 8–8:40 AM on Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 852 8446 5546

TBE's morning minyan brings together Reform Jews from across the country on Zoom every weekday to pray, say Kaddish for our loved ones, and chat in a friendly and caring community.

HIGH HOLIDAYS

T'kiah Team

In pursuit of expanding opportunities for congregants to participate in the High Holidays, the T'kiah Team will be engaged in blowing shofar. Teammates are drawn from Temple Beth-El's members of all ages, genders, and levels of experience, including those brand-new to the shofar.

S'LICHOT

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024

7 PM • Study Session with Wine and Cheese

8 PM • Havdalah, Torah Cover Ceremony, and Service

ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Oct. 2–Friday, Oct. 4, 2024

Erev Rosh Hashanah • Wednesday, Oct. 2

8 PM • Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

First Day of Rosh Hashanah • Thursday, Oct. 3

9–9:30 AM • Tot Service (ages 2–6 with an adult)

10 AM • Babysitting (ages 2–6)

10–11 AM • Family Service (grades K–6)

10 AM • Rosh Hashanah Service

11 AM • Youth Programming

2:30 PM • Tashlich at Steppingstone Park

Second Day of Rosh Hashanah • Friday, Oct. 4

10 AM • Rosh Hashanah Service

12 PM • Kiddush Brunch

THE 10 DAYS OF AWE

Shabbat Shuvah • Friday, Oct. 4

6:30 PM • Cherry Tree Service

for Those Who Have Lost a Child

7 PM • Friday Night Service

Sunday, Oct. 6

11:30 AM • Memorial Service

at Beth Moses Cemetery

YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Oct. 11–Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024

Erev Yom Kippur • Friday, Oct. 11

8 PM • Kol Nidre and Erev Shabbat Service

Yom Kippur Day • Saturday, Oct. 12

9–9:30 AM • Tot Service (ages 2–6 with an adult)

10 AM • Babysitting (ages 2–6)

10–11 AM • Family Service (grades K–6)

10 AM • Yom Kippur Service

11 AM • Youth Programming

1 PM • Chapel Meditations and Reflections

2:15 PM • Study Session with Rabbi Stoller

2:15 PM • Hands-on Social Action Project Supporting the Great Neck Interfaith Food Pantry

3:45 PM • Yizkor Service

4:45 PM • Afternoon, N'ilah, and Havdalah Services

FESTIVALS & HOLIDAYS

Tisha B'Av Service

Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, 7:30 PM

At this solemn and spiritual service commemorating the tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people and the brokenness and loss in our own lives, TBE will be joined by Temple Isaiah of Great Neck.

Sukkot Service

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, 10 AM

Erev Simchat Torah Service

Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, 7 PM

at Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, 1 Chelsea Place

Simchat Torah and Shemini Atzeret Service with Yizkor

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, 10 AM

Shabbat Hanukkah

Friday, Dec. 27, 2024, 7 PM

Bring your own menorah and candles to light with your TBE family after the congregation recites the blessings together at the start of the service. A festive Hanukkah Oneg will follow.

Purim Shabbat with Temple Tikvah

Friday, March 14, 2025, 7 PM

Temple Beth-El will welcome Temple Tikvah for a Purim Shabbat extravaganza featuring a shpiel, amazing music by Stephanie & the Shabbatones, and reading of the megillah.

Women's Passover Seder

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 10:30 AM–2 PM

Daughters and granddaughters are especially welcome as Rabbi Megan Brumer leads a celebration of the upcoming Passover holiday with women friends and family.

Passover Morning Service

Sunday, April 13, 2025, 10 AM

Passover Seventh Day, Yizkor, and Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 19, 2025, 10:30 AM

Great Neck Community

Yom HaShoah Service

*Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 7 PM
at Temple Israel of Great Neck,
108 Old Mill Road*

TBE/Gahelet Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) Service

Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 7 PM

Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) Shabbat Service & Oneg

Friday, May 2, 2025, 7 PM

Memorial Day Barbecue

Monday, May 26, 2025, 5–6:30 PM

Our Brotherhood grill masters welcome the entire TBE family to celebrate with kosher hamburgers and hot dogs, vegetarian burgers, side dishes, watermelon, and drinks.

Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot at Temple Tikvah

Sunday, June 1, 2025, 7–10 PM

Instructors: Clergy from Local Synagogues
This evening of Torah study will be taught by the clergy of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, Temple Judea of Manhasset, Temple Tikvah of New Hyde Park, Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, North Country Reform Temple of Glen Cove, and Port Jewish Center of Port Washington.

Shavuot Service with Yizkor

Monday, June 2, 2025, 10 AM

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

9/11 Memorial Service

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, 7 PM

*On the Memorial Bridge—
Bayview Avenue, Next to the Library*

Standing on the bridge from which many in our community witnessed the towers fall, attendees will take a few moments for memory, reflection, song, and hope.

Consecration in the Sukkah

Monday, Oct. 21, 2024, 9 AM–12:30 PM

TBE clergy will offer special blessings upon our Early Childhood Education Center students and their families, as they formally begin their Jewish education in our community.

Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, 11:45 AM–12:15 PM

At the end of the session, bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends to receive a blessing, and celebrate the joy they bring to our lives.

Pre-K Graduation Ceremony

Friday, June 13, 2025

Our teachers and clergy honor our graduating students as they mark the completion of preschool and prepare to begin kindergarten.

HONORING OUR CONGREGANTS

Shabbat Morning Service

Honoring Danna Sobiecki

Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, 10:30 AM

Our honoree is a member of TBE's Executive Committee, who joined the synagogue while going through a difficult life transition. Our temple community immediately made her feel welcome and offered a strong sense of belonging.

Shabbat Morning Service

Honoring Joanna Stolove

Saturday, Feb. 8, 10:30 AM

For the past eight years, our honoree and her family have been TBE members.

They love the community aspect of the temple and value its warmth, inclusivity, and openness.

Shabbat Morning Service Honoring Julius Myer

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 10:30 AM

Since 2009, he and his wife, Felisa, have been temple members. Our honoree has been on the board for three years and the financial secretary for one.

YOGA & DANCE

Sukkot Rooftop Yoga

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, 9–9:45 AM

Led by: Sharon Epstein

During the harvest festival of Sukkot, we acknowledge the fragility and sanctity of life. In this invigorating yoga class inspired by Jewish values, the body as a sacred vessel for spiritual growth will be honored. In our rooftop sukkah, we emphasize gratitude for the bounty of the season along with the health of body, mind, and spirit.

Entwining Our Multiple Wicks:

A Havdalah Yoga Practice

Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024, 5:30–7 PM

Led by: Rabbi Tara Feldman

and Sharon Epstein, Lev Shalem Yoga

In this time of division and uncertainty both within our Jewish world and beyond, end Shabbat with this gentle yoga practice. The session will conclude with Havdalah and will be followed by the opportunity to speak, share, and enjoy light refreshments. No previous experience is required. Bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing.

Sisterhood Dance and Havdalah

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, 3–4:30 PM

Led by: Rochelle Rosenbloom

Get your pre-Hanukkah moves on with this fun, gentle, and energetic dance program. Afterward, celebrate Havdalah with light refreshments.

Tu B'Shevat Yoga

Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, 10–10:45 AM

Led by: Sharon Epstein

Celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish New Year for the Trees, with a revitalizing yoga class connecting participants to nature and their inner selves. Open to all levels, this practice will focus on grounding, balance, mindfulness, and well-being.

STUDIES IN SPIRITUALITY

Judaism's Spiritual Vocabulary:

Discovering Meaning in the Siddur

Thursdays, 9:15–10:15 AM

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

Like other forms of poetry, our prayer book uses vivid imagery to stir our emotions, affirm the majesty and mystery of life, and attempt to express the inexpressible. Rabbi Stoller will guide participants in exploring the siddur in all its many facets: its structure, its language, its history and evolution, and its relevance as a living spiritual vocabulary for our own lives.

Preparing for the High Holidays

Tuesdays, Sept. 17 & 24, 2024, 7–8:30 PM

Instructors: Rabbi Brian Stoller and

Rabbi Randy Sheinberg, Temple Tikvah

Rabbi Stoller and Rabbi Sheinberg will lead participants in exploring texts and themes of the High Holidays, as attendees prepare themselves for repentance and renewal. The Sept. 17 session will be held at Temple Tikvah of New Hyde Park, and the Sept. 24 session will be held at Temple Beth-El of Great Neck.

“Where Are You?": God's Eternal Question

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, 9:15–10:15 AM

Instructor: Rabbi Esther Lederman,

Union for Reform Judaism

What might God's first question to Adam and Eve—"where are you?"—mean for us today? Rabbi Lederman will help attendees explore key themes of the first chapter of *Genesis*.

Hineini: A Taste of Jewish Mindfulness
Tuesdays, Jan. 21 & 28, 2025, 7–8:30 PM

*Instructor: Rabbi Randy Sheinberg,
Temple Tikvah of New Hyde Park*

How can Judaism improve our ability to live in the present, aware of our blessings and awake to life? Through text study and practice, participants will explore and experience the wisdom of mindful Jewish living.

**Intelligence, Consciousness, or a Soul:
Some Jewish Views on AI**

Tuesdays, April 22 & 29, 2025, 7–8:30 PM

*Instructor: Rabbi Geoffrey Mitelman,
Sinai & Synapses*

How do we define “intelligence” and “artificial”? Does AI have consciousness? A soul? While traditional Jewish texts wouldn’t know about ChatGPT, what analogies can be drawn from biblical, rabbinic, and later Jewish texts?

“ULTIMATELY THE
GOAL OF PRAYER IS NOT
TO TRANSLATE A
WORD BUT TO TRANSLATE
THE SELF.”

—RABBI ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

גמילות חסדים | G'MILUT CHASADIM

CARING & SOCIAL ACTION

Acts of kindness that touch our congregants' lives and make our wider community a better place

CARING FOR OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

Chesed Committee

The Chesed Committee is here to help mark the joyful moments in our lives, comfort the bereaved in meaningful ways, and provide support to all members of our community during times of need.

Clergy Pastoral Care

Our rabbis want to know when your family or loved ones experience illness or death so that they can support you in your times of need. Contact the temple office to speak with the clergy's assistant. Be sure to provide all relevant information and where you can be reached.

Outreach Phone Calls

Help support our congregants by making calls to invite them to programs and/or to check in on homebound seniors and members who are ill.

Spousal Bereavement Group

*Mondays, beginning Aug. 5, 2024,
4-5:30 PM or 6-7:30 PM*

Facilitated by licensed social worker Nelson Rothstein, the social services supervisor at the Sid Jacobson JCC, this group offers our members who have recently lost a spouse an opportunity to find comfort, support, and understanding with others who are also navigating this very difficult time. A phone intake is required prior to joining the group.

Hamantaschen Packing

Monday, March 10, 2025, 11 AM-1:30 PM

Make Purim joyous for our community by packing and delivering hamantaschen to TBE seniors. After packing is complete on Monday, deliveries can be made anytime during the week.

SOCIAL ACTION: HELPING THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Great Neck Interfaith Food Pantry at St. Aloysius Church

Help our TBE Brotherhood support families in Great Neck who are experiencing food insecurity.

GNPS Snack Program

Our congregation helps provide food for Great Neck Public Schools students who are experiencing food insecurity.

Social Justice Advocacy Group

Sundays, Sept. 22 & Oct. 27, 2024, 10:30 AM

Part of a national effort called Vote Forward, this nonpartisan group meets once a month to write letters to citizens around the country, encouraging them to vote in upcoming elections.

Connect & Impact Mixer:

ECEC Parent Events

Thursdays, Nov. 7, 2024 & Jan. 16, 2025, 8 PM

ECEC parents will enjoy an evening out together, as they connect and create an impactful hands-on social action project to benefit those in need in our community.

Teen Midnight Run

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, 6 PM–12 AM

Volunteers, from ninth grade through adult, are invited to help people in need by collecting and delivering essential supplies to the homeless in New York City.

HUC Soup-Kitchen Volunteering

Monday, Nov. 25, 2024, 3–6:30 PM

Prepare and serve food to those in need at the HUC Soup Kitchen in New York City.

The Kehillah Project Goes to Parker Institute

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024, 9:30 AM–12 PM

The Kehilla Project will visit Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation, engaging in activities and programs designed to foster intergenerational connections and community spirit. This event aims to enrich the lives of both students and seniors through meaningful interactions and shared experiences.

Annual Tzedakah Project

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024, 9:30–11 AM

Provide local families in need with a holiday dinner by donating a complete meal and/or by helping package and deliver the meals this morning.

Sharing Holiday Cheer

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024

On Christmas Day, TBE volunteers will share joy and warmth at Northwell Health's North Shore University Hospital and Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation.

L'taken Social Justice Trip to Washington, DC

Friday, Jan. 10–Monday, Jan. 13, 2025

TBE teens and their peers from Temple Tikvah will gather with Reform Jewish teens from around the country at the Religious Action Center's L'taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington, DC. During this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, attendees will learn about social justice issues they're passionate about, develop lifelong advocacy and leadership skills, meet with their congressional representatives' offices, and explore our nation's capital.

Hamantaschen Packing

Monday, March 10, 2025, 11 AM–1:30 PM

Make Purim joyous for our community by packing and delivering hamantaschen to TBE seniors. After packing is complete on Monday, deliveries can be made anytime during the week.

The Kehillah Project Park Cleanup

Sunday, April 27, 2025, 1–3 PM

All TBE members are welcome to join The Kehillah Project children and their families in performing this mitzvah. *Note:* This afternoon activity will replace the morning program.

**“DOING G'MILUT CHASADIM
MEANS GIVING AWAY THREE
THINGS: YOUR MONEY, YOUR
KINDNESS, AND YOUR TIME.”**

—RABBI KARYN KEDAR

SOCIAL ACTION SPEAKERS

Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat

Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: TBA

We will honor the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in a worship service featuring our interfaith choir and a keynote address by a prominent civic leader.

Pikuach Nefesh Shabbat:

Organ Donation and Social Justice

Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: Rabbi Joshua Rabin, Community and Government Affairs Liaison, LiveOnNY

Across the United States, more people need lifesaving organs than are available from organ donors. To make matters worse, issues surrounding organ donation parallel many of those related to inequality and structural racism. This session will examine organ donation through the lens of social justice and how better understanding can help decrease the waiting list and further social equity.

Repro Shabbat:

A Former Jewish Legislator's Perspective on Abortion Rights

Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: Anna Kaplan,

Former New York State Senator

Drawing on her experiences as a lawmaker and as a Jew, this former state senator will discuss the state of abortion rights in America and the outlook for the future.

Pride Shabbat:

How Temple Beth-El Uplifted Me on My Coming-Out Journey

Friday, June 13, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: Rabbi Laurie Gold

TBE member Rabbi Laurie Gold will talk about the important role our congregation played in her coming out—and how Jewish values guided her on her journey.

“YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD, O MORTAL, WHAT IS GOOD, AND WHAT GOD REQUIRES OF YOU: ONLY TO DO JUSTICE, LOVE MERCY, AND WALK HUMBLLY WITH YOUR GOD.”

—MICAH

FOR THE MEN OF TBE

BROTHERHOOD

Brotherhood of Temple Beth-El has a long and proud tradition of serving both our synagogue and the local community. Monthly gatherings to catch up with one another and plan activities, special events, and community service are just some of the ways men can experience being part of TBE's Brotherhood. The members are especially proud of Brotherhood's commitment to the Great Neck Interfaith Food Pantry at St. Aloysius Church and works year-round to help support this vital community resource.

Holy Spirits

**Thursdays, July 18, Sept. 12 & Nov. 7, 2024,
Feb. 6 & June 5, 2025, 7-9 PM**

Rabbi Brian Stoller will lead the men of TBE, as they gather for spirits, study, and conversation about issues of interest to males of all ages. TBE Brotherhood will sponsor dinner.

Jews in Sports

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, 10 AM

Following a bagel and lox breakfast, Alan Freedman of the Jewish Sports Heritage Association will speak at 10:30 AM on the history of the Jewish-American experience in sports from the turn of the 20th century until today.

Brotherhood Meetings

Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, 9-11 AM

Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, 9-11 AM

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, 7-9 PM

Winter/Spring dates TBA

Members attend monthly meetings, which typically include Sunday bagel breakfasts or Thursday evening dinners.

Sukkah Building

Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024, 11 AM

Join our handy Brotherhood friends, as we build our community sukkah in the Rudin Garden.

Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 26, 2025, 8:30-10:30 AM

The entire congregation is invited to join Brotherhood as group members march in the Memorial Day parade. Congregants will meet at Best Bagels in Great Neck, where breakfast will be provided by Brotherhood.

COMMUNITY

Social and cultural activities that build community and give our members a feeling of belonging

Memorial Day Barbecue

Monday, May 26, 2025, 5–6:30 PM

Our Brotherhood grill masters welcome the entire TBE family to celebrate with kosher hamburgers and hot dogs, vegetarian burgers, side dishes, watermelon, and drinks.

FOR THE WOMEN OF TBE

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood strives to meet the needs of all women in our congregation. Through Rosh Chodesh programs, a Sukkot event, Girls' Night Out Dinners, book discussions, and other social activities, membership is a vital arm of our community. Sisterhood embraces its name, because it speaks to the sense of family and mutual care its members seek to create. Through volunteering and working side-by-side, Sisterhood members build bonds of connection to each other and to the synagogue.

Trip to Long Island Music Hall of Fame

Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 9:30 AM–4 PM

Concert at Steppingstone Park: Lady

Supreme—A Diana Ross Experience

Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, 6:30–9:30 PM

Tour of Grand Central Station

Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024

Dinner, Learning, and Singing in the Sukkah

Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024, 4–6 PM

Feminine energy will be incorporated into the mitzvot of Sukkot at this program led by Rabbi Megan, which will include a catered dinner.

Sisterhood Breakfast and Book Discussion

Sundays, Nov. 17, 2024, Jan. 12 &

March 9, 2025, 9:30 AM–12:30 PM

Following an energetic musical learning and prayer experience with our Kehillah Project students, participants will gather for a bagel breakfast and book discussion

led by Sandy Lubert. Those who wish can bring knitting and/or crocheting projects to work on with Rebecca Wotman after the discussion.

Sisterhood Dance and Havdalah

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, 3–4:30 PM

Get your pre-Hanukkah moves on with this fun, gentle, and energetic dance program led by Rochelle Rosenbloom. Afterward, celebrate Havdalah with light refreshments.

Sisterhood Learning: Judith in Art— Presentation and Discussion

**Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, 7–8:30 PM
on Zoom**

Judith, the Jewish character associated with Hanukkah, is depicted in many famous and fascinating paintings. Matthew Moshen will lead participants as they study images, learn about some infamous and provocative versions of Judith's adventures, and discuss her heroic actions.

Sisterhood Arts & Crafts Night

Wednesday, June 4, 2025, 6:30–8 PM

Enjoy a fun and creative project with your Sisterhood friends. Light refreshments will be served.

INTERGENERATIONAL WOMEN'S PROGRAMMING

Intergenerational Women's Steering Team

This group partners with our engagement and programming director to design intergenerational experiences for the women of TBE.

Krav Maga Women's Self Defense Program with Sushi and Saki

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, 7:30–9:30 PM

Dive into Krav Maga self-defense and enjoy sushi and saki on the side. Train hard, stay safe, and savor every moment.

Potluck Cookbook

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, 7–8:30 PM

Participants will cook through the Jewish Food Society Cookbook, which will be featured at a Gold Coast Program this fall. Attendees can choose to bring either a side or dessert to this potluck.

Salt Caves Women's Trip

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 6:30–7:30 PM

Attendees will visit the Roslyn Salt Caves and have a light bite while reclining in relaxation.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & INITIATIVES

SOCIAL ACTION, CARING, AND OFFICE SUPPORT

Great Neck Interfaith Food Pantry at St. Aloysius Church

Help our TBE Brotherhood support families in Great Neck who are experiencing food insecurity.

GNPS Snack Program

Provide food for Great Neck Public Schools students who are experiencing food insecurity.

Outreach Phone Calls

Make calls to invite fellow congregants to programs and/or check in on homebound seniors and members who are ill.

Food Shopping and Errands

Help our team plan for major programs by going to Target, Costco, BJ's, and other retailers to pick up supplies.

Office Support

Assist our staff by answering phone calls and welcoming congregants when they visit the temple office.

Mailing Support

Help our team with mailings for the High Holidays and other events.

COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

Susan Stumer Cultural Arts Committee

This group partners with our engagement and programming director and the Gold Coast Arts Center to create cultural arts programs for our congregation and the wider Great Neck community.

Membership Committee

This team collaborates with our engagement and programming director to integrate new members into the TBE community, spread the word about our wonderful congregation, and help bring new members to the temple.

Young Family Committee

This group works with Rabbi Megan to imagine and create opportunities for young families to experience Judaism and Jewish community at TBE.

Teen Family Committee

This group partners with Rabbi Megan to strengthen our teen involvement.

The Kehillah Project Working Group

Having designed our new Kehillah Project religious school, this group works with Rabbi Megan to oversee, strengthen, and grow our youth education program.

College Connect

This group organizes outreach initiatives to help keep our college kids connected to our congregation.

Intergenerational Women's Steering Team

This group collaborates with our engagement and programming director to design intergenerational experiences for the women of TBE.

TBE Explorers Planning Team

This group works to plan cultural, learning, and other community outings for our community.

Worship Committee

This group partners with our clergy to imagine and engage congregants in the prayer life of our community.

FOR THE YOUTH OF TBE

Teen Midnight Run

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, 6 PM–12 AM

Volunteers, from ninth grade through adult, are invited to help people in need by collecting and delivering essential supplies to the homeless in New York City.

L'taken Social Justice Trip to Washington, DC

Friday, Jan. 10–Monday, Jan. 13, 2025

TBE teens and their peers from Temple Tikvah will gather with Reform Jewish teens from around the country at the Religious Action Center's L'taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington, DC. During this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, attendees will learn about social justice issues they're passionate about, develop lifelong advocacy and leadership skills, meet with their congressional representatives' offices, and explore our nation's capital.

STEM Night at Great Neck Public Library

Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, 6–7:30 PM

Our middle schoolers and high schoolers will engage in exciting hands-on activities and experiments at the Great Neck Public Library's innovative STEM Lab.

Purim Celebration at Temple Tikvah

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 9:30 AM–12 PM

The Kehillah Project will visit its friends at Temple Tikvah's Religious School for an entertaining Purim celebration.

Pesach Seder at Temple Tikvah

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 9:30 AM–12 PM

The Kehillah Project will visit its friends at Temple Tikvah's Religious School for a shared Passover Seder.

Joint Youth Programming with Temple Tikvah

Temple Beth-El and Temple Tikvah are thrilled to collaborate on a variety of individual programs, enriching both communities with diverse and engaging activities. From social programming to social action events, this partnership aims to offer unique experiences and foster a strong sense of community.

CULTURAL ARTS

Susan Stumer, a longtime TBE member and singer in our choir, was passionate about music and art. Her family established a fund in her memory to ensure that her love for the arts would continue at TBE for many years to come. Please support cultural arts programming at TBE by donating generously to the Susan Stumer Cultural Arts Fund.

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOLD COAST ARTS CENTER

TBE's partnership with the Gold Coast Arts Center has been made possible through the generous support of the Stumer family in memory of Susan Stumer. Gold Coast has been bringing high-quality programs to the Great Neck Community for more than 20 years. Cultural arts enrich communities by sparking creativity and deepening the appreciation of Jewish and Israeli heritage.

Commemoration of October 7

Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, 4–5:30 PM

In a joint event with the Gold Coast Arts Center, Temple Beth-El will present a special program of music, conversation, and hope, to mark the first anniversary since the horrific October 7 massacres and kidnappings in Israel.

Gold Coast Presents—

Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, 7–9 PM

A special screening of the award-winning film *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles* will be followed by a conversation/performance by musician, composer, and *Fiddler* aficionado Salomon Lerner.

Gold Coast Presents—

The Jewish Holiday Table: A World of Recipes, Traditions & Stories to Celebrate All Year Long

Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024, 7–9 PM

With a special focus on Hanukkah traditions, Yael Raviv, COO of the Jewish Food Society, and Gabriella Gershenson, a James Beard Award-winning food writer and editor, will lead a lively conversation about Jewish food, family celebrations from around the world, and how culinary traditions can instill Jewish pride. Each ticket will include a copy of the award-winning book *The Jewish Holiday Table*, a vibrant collection of 135 recipes, along with stories from Jewish families who have roots around the world, and a celebration of Jewish holidays, resilience, tradition, and joy.

Gold Coast Presents—The History of the American Yiddish Theater: A Musical Overview with Zalmen Mlotek

Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025, 7–9 PM

This one-of-a-kind journey of the Yiddish theater—from its European roots to Ellis Island, Second Avenue, and beyond—will be led by Zalmen Mlotek, the award-winning artistic director of the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene (www.nytf.org) and musical director of *Fidler Afn Dakh (Fiddler on the Roof)*, directed by Joel Grey. With musical influences from operetta, Tin Pan Alley, and Broadway—and translating as he sings—he will take attendees from despair to hope to entertainment.

Gold Coast Presents—

Hummus the Movie with a Culinary Demonstration and Tasting

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 7–9:30 PM

Hummus the Movie follows three Israelis from very different backgrounds as they are brought together by their love for a common dietary staple: hummus. Weaving together their stories, director Oren Rosenfeld tastefully demonstrates how food can positively affect our culture—and is even able to transcend religious and political divides. This special screening will be followed by a hummus-making demonstration and conversation with Lenny Messina from Lola of Great Neck. Mezze appetizers from Lola will be served.

An Afternoon with Shireinu Choir of Long Island

Sunday, June 22, 2025, 3 PM

Enjoy an afternoon of stirring melodies, rich harmonies, and community togetherness at this musical performance by the Shireinu Choir of Long Island, under the baton of Deborah Tartell and sponsored by the Queens College Center for Jewish Studies.

MAJOR EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

Comedy Night

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, 7 PM

Enjoy the funniest night of the year with a three-comedian set, food, and fun.

TBE Gala: Celebrating Temple Beth-El of Great Neck

Thursday, March 13, 2025, 7 PM

Celebrate Temple Beth-El and our community with a special evening of food, folks, and fun.

Elana Arian: A Rooftop Concert for TBE Cultural Arts

Thursday, May 8, 2025, 7 PM

Enjoy an elegant cocktail party and rooftop concert with popular Jewish

musician Elana Arian. Proceeds will support the Susan Stumer Cultural Arts Fund, enabling TBE to continue offering robust musical, cultural, and arts experiences for our congregation.

TBE EXPLORERS

The TBE Explorers program, a new group led by our own Joy Palevsky, is about bringing our community closer together through shared experiences. TBE Explorers are much more than events, they're about the connections created and the memories made. Attend monthly outings at theaters, museums, and intriguing walking tours to enjoy culture, delicious food, and each other's company.

Trip to YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
Monday, Aug. 19, 2024, 11:30 AM–4:30 PM

James Taylor Concert
Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024, 8–11 PM
Northwell at Jones Beach Theater

NYC Theater Trip
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024, 11 AM

Docent-Led Tour of The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Monday, Nov. 4, 2024

Museum/Ballet/Walking Tour
Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, 1 PM

Trip to Botanical Garden
Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, 11 AM

Winter/Spring dates TBA

STUDIES IN CULTURAL ARTS

Israeli Poems for Our Post-October 7 World
Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, 9:15–10:15 AM
on Zoom

Instructor: Rachel Korazim, Jewish Education Consultant

Participants will read poems written by Israelis during the challenging times following the calamity of October 7. These poems, raw and painful, come from many different segments of Israeli society and express a beautiful tapestry of voices. This session is sponsored by Dorothy & Ed Greenbaum.

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKENDS

Soul Zimra

Friday, Nov. 15 & Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024

Friday, 7 PM • Shabbat Service

Saturday, 9:15 AM • Integrated Music & Torah Study

Saturday, 10:30 AM • Musical Shabbat Morning Service Honoring Danna Sobiecki

With a musical style combining acoustic guitar, bass guitar, and mandolin, Chicago Jewish band Soul Zimra blends modern secular folk, rock, and blues music—and familiar songs—with traditional liturgy to make the prayer experience participatory, contemporary, and relevant to our lives today.

Jacob “Spike” Kraus

Friday, Feb. 7–Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025

Friday, 7 PM • Shabbat Service

Saturday, 9:15 AM • Torah Study

Saturday, 10:30 AM • Musical Shabbat Morning Service Honoring Joanna Stolove

Saturday, 5 PM • The Spirituality of Secular Music

Sunday, 9:30 AM • The Kehillah Project

Boston-based Jacob “Spike” Kraus is a singer-songwriter, music producer, educator, and innovator. He has been performing for two decades at synagogues, Jewish day schools, and summer camps, touring Jewish communities across the country as a performer, teacher, composer, consultant, and energetically joyful individual. Al shloshe d'varim, the three things that he stands on, are a deep understanding of Jewish content, musicianship of the highest caliber, and an infectious energy and joy for his work.

Art & Soul: Jewish Tradition as Reflected Through the Lens of Cultural Arts

Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, 7 PM

Speaker: Regina Gil, Founder and Executive Director, Gold Coast Arts Center
An accomplished artist and community leader, Regina Gil will outline our shared vision for the partnership between TBE and the Gold Coast Arts Center to inspire the Great Neck Jewish community through cultural arts.

Klezmer in the Jewish Musical Tradition

**Monday, Jan. 13, 2025, 2–3:30 PM
at North Shore Towers**

*Instructor: Cantorial Soloist
Stephanie Horowitz-Mulry*
Our cantorial soloist will lead attendees in study and conversation about the Klezmer musical tradition.

Sisterhood Learning: Judith in Art— Presentation and Discussion

**Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, 7–8:30 PM
on Zoom**

Instructor: Matthew Moshen
Judith, the Jewish character associated with Hanukkah, is depicted in many famous and fascinating paintings. Participants will study images, learn about some infamous and provocative versions of Judith's adventures, and discuss her heroic actions.

Creativity at the Nexus of Legacy & Innovation: The Future of the Reform Cantorate

Friday, March 7, 2025, 7 PM

*Speaker: Cantor Jill Abramson,
Director, Debbie Friedman School
of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College*

The Rabbi in the Attic

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 4–6 PM

*Instructor: Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz,
Scholar-in-Residence*
The character of the rabbi has long been a

source of wisdom and humor in Jewish storytelling. Rabbis appear in books and on-screen as detectives, social justice warriors, overworked community leaders, and romantic leads. They can be men with or without beards, as well as women, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. This exploration of modern rabbinical characters in fiction and film will examine what changing portrayals of the rabbi can tell us about our communities and ourselves.

Painting the Text: The Land of Israel in Rabbinic Literature—

A Hands-on Artistic Experience

**Sundays, April 27, May 4 & 18, 2025,
10–11:30 AM**

*Instructors: Rabbi Brian Stoller
and Regina Gil, Gold Coast Arts Center*
Rabbi Stoller will lead participants in the study of rabbinic texts about the Land of Israel, and accomplished artist Regina Gil, founder and executive director of the Gold Coast Arts Center, will guide attendees in creating paintings that express their thoughts and feelings about the texts. No previous painting experience is required, only an open heart and a willingness to try is needed.

PURELY SOCIAL

Mets Games with Our Rabbis

Thursday, July 25, 2024, 7:10 PM

**Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, 4:10 PM,
Followed by Havdalah at Citi Field**

Campfire Sing-along and Barbecue with Temple Tikvah

Sunday, July 28, 2024, 4:30–6:30 PM

Spend a fun summer afternoon with a barbecue and a campfire sing-along in the Rudin Garden with our friends from Temple Tikvah.

Rooftop Karaoke

Thursday, Aug. 8, 2024, 6:30–10:30 PM
Sing and enjoy a few hits by our cantorial soloist, Stephanie Horowitz-Mulry, great food (pizza, pasta, and salad; BYOB), friends, and a photo booth.

Sip 'n' Schmooze for College Parents

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, 5:30–7 PM
Parents with children in college can enjoy our Sip 'n' Schmooze evening.

Krav Maga Women's Self Defense Program with Sushi and Saki

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, 7:30–9:30 PM
Dive into Krav Maga self-defense and enjoy sushi and saki on the side. Train hard, stay safe, and savor every moment.

Coffee Chat Social

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024, 12–1:30 PM with a Light Lunch
Connect with our engagement and programming director and other members with a hot or cold cup of coffee.

Challah Baking with Gloria Landsberg

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, 1–2:30 PM
Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 1–2:30 PM
Join Gloria Landsberg in her home to bake and braid challah. Only six spots are available per session, and it's first come, first served.

BREAKING BREAD: SHARING A MEAL TOGETHER

SHABBAT DINNERS

Blessing of the Children Shabbat Dinner
Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, 5:30 PM

The Kehillah Project Shabbat Dinner with Musical Guests Soul Zimra
Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, 5:30 PM

Community Shabbat Dinner with Rabbis Tara and Meir Feldman
Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, 5:30 PM

Community Shabbat Dinner with Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Joshua Garroway
Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, 5:30 PM

Community Shabbat Dinner with Artist-in-Residence Jacob "Spike" Kraus
Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, 5:30 PM

Shabbat @ Home

Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, 5–10 PM
Our tradition teaches that our home is the center of Jewish life. Our Shabbat@Home program offers an opportunity to either host dinner guests in your house or be a guest at a TBE friend's place. Our Shabbat@Home team will connect hosts and guests, as well as provide some prayers and activities to make the evening special. There is no cost to participate. Just bring a side dish, dessert, or wine.

Community Shabbat Dinner with Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz
Friday, March 21, 2025, 5:30 PM

Community Shabbat Dinner
Friday, May 16, 2025, 5:30 PM

SPECIAL HOLIDAY ONEGS

Oneg Mensch Committee

If you love baking and would like to prepare goodies on a regular or semi-regular basis, join our group of Oneg bakers, who contribute treats to our weekly Friday night Oneg and other special occasions.

Pre-Rosh Hashanah Apple Oneg
Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, After Service

Purim Hamantaschen Oneg
Friday, March 14, 2025, After Service

Yom Ha'atzmaut Israeli Oneg
Friday, May 2, 2025, After Service

Lag B'Omer Oneg Dessert and Campfire
Friday, May 16, 2025, 8:15–9 PM

CELEBRATORY COMMUNITY DINNERS

Shabbat Sukkot Barbecue

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, 5:30–7 PM

Celebrate Sukkot with a delicious dinner, sponsored by Brotherhood, and then attend our Erev Shabbat service, both in the sukkah in the Rudin Garden.

Recent Member Brunch

Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024, 11:30 AM

Members who have joined the temple in the past three years are invited as our complimentary guests to a book discussion by distinguished author Elliott Abrams, followed by a special brunch.

Sisterhood Dinner, Learning, and Singing in the Sukkah

Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024, 4–6 PM

Feminine energy will be incorporated into the mitzvot of Sukkot at this program led by Rabbi Megan, which will include a catered dinner.

Memorial Day Barbecue

Monday, May 26, 2025, 5–6:30 PM

Our Brotherhood grill masters welcome the entire TBE family to celebrate with kosher hamburgers and hot dogs, vegetarian burgers, side dishes, watermelon, and drinks.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS & OUTREACH

CIVIC LEADERS VISIT TBE

Human Connection—From Different Paths to the Common Ascent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, 7 PM

Speaker: Steve Chen, President, Great Neck Chinese Association and Trustee, Great Neck Public Schools Board

The Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, 7 PM

Parashat Sh'mini and Public Service

Friday, April 25, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: Justice Mojgan Cohaniam Lancman, New York State Supreme Court

In Honor of Asian-American/Pacific Islander and Jewish Heritage Months

Friday, May 16, 2025, 7 PM

Speaker: Hon. Christine Liu, Councilwoman, Town of North Hempstead

JEWISH COMMUNAL PARTNERSHIPS

Shabbat at Steppingstone Park with Temple Tikvah

Friday, July 19, 2024, 6:30 PM

Tisha B'Av Service with Temple Isaiah

Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, 7:30 PM

At this solemn and spiritual service commemorating the tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people and the brokenness and loss in our own lives, TBE will be joined by Temple Isaiah of Great Neck.

Erev Simchat Torah Service with Temple Isaiah

Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, 7 PM

at Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, 1 Chelsea Place

HUC Soup-Kitchen Volunteering

Monday, Nov. 25, 2024, 3–6:30 PM

Prepare and serve food to those in need at the HUC Soup Kitchen in New York City.

Sharing Holiday Cheer

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024

On Christmas Day, TBE volunteers will share joy and warmth at Northwell Health's North Shore University Hospital and Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation.

Temple Beth-El–Temple Tikvah Journey to Israel

Date TBA

*Led by: Rabbi Brian Stoller
and Rabbi Randy Sheinberg*

This trip is for anyone—adult or child, first-timer, or return visitor—interested in experiencing post-October 7 Israel. Travelers will see the sights, enjoy Israeli culture, learn about its history, and hear directly from Israelis about life in the Jewish state since October 7, 2023.

The Kehillah Project Purim Celebration at Temple Tikvah

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 9:30 AM–12 PM

The Kehillah Project will visit its friends at Temple Tikvah's Religious School for an entertaining Purim celebration.

Purim Shabbat with Temple Tikvah

Friday, March 14, 2025, 7 PM

Join Temple Beth-El and Temple Tikvah for a Purim Shabbat Extravaganza featuring a Purim shpiel, amazing music by Stephanie & the Shabbatones, and the reading of the megillah.

Great Neck Community

Yom HaShoah Service

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 7 PM

***at Temple Israel of Great Neck,
108 Old Mill Road***

TBE/Gahelet Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) Service

Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 7 PM

TBE and Temple Tikvah Havdalah

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 5:30–8 PM

Temple Beth-El and Temple Tikvah will celebrate Havdalah together.

Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot at Temple Tikvah

Sunday, June 1, 2025, 7–10 PM

Instructors: Clergy from Local Synagogues
This evening of Torah study will be taught by the clergy of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, Temple Judea of Manhasset, Temple Tikvah of New Hyde Park, Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, North Country Reform Temple of Glen Cove, and Port Jewish Center of Port Washington.

An Afternoon with Shireinu Choir of Long Island

Sunday, June 22, 2025, 3 PM

Enjoy an afternoon of stirring melodies, rich harmonies, and community togetherness at this musical performance by the Shireinu Choir of Long Island, under the baton of Deborah Tartell and sponsored by the Queens College Center for Jewish Studies.

INTERFAITH

INTERFAITH IN ACTION

Great Neck Interfaith Food Pantry at St. Aloysius Church

Our community is committed to living our Jewish values and helping those in need. We are especially proud of our partnership with the Great Neck Interfaith Food Pantry at St. Aloysius Church. Led by our TBE Brotherhood, we raise funds, regularly collect donations, and provide much-needed food throughout the year.

Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat

Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, 7 PM

We will honor the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in a worship service featuring our interfaith choir and a keynote address by a prominent civic leader.

What's a Half Jew? Fuzzy Identities, Ancient and Modern

Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, 7 PM

Speaker: Rabbi Dr. Joshua Garraway, Hebrew Union College

The question of “who is a Jew?” can be complicated in today’s world. Many people even describe themselves with terms like *Jewish*, half-Jewish, Jewish-adjacent, and more. The fuzzy boundaries surrounding Jewish identity are hardly a new phenomenon. Ancient Jews dealt with nearly the same issues and concerns. Learn why Jewish identity has been so uniquely complicated for more than two millennia.

The Apostle Paul:

A First-Century Reform Jew?

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, 9:15–10:15 AM

Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Joshua Garraway, Hebrew Union College

His disparagement of the Torah and his conferral of the Abrahamic covenant on gentiles have earned Paul the reputation among Jews as a perfidious huckster who abandoned Judaism to create another religion. Is it possible we’ve been too hard on Paul? Might modern Jews come to see him as a loyal Jew—indeed a Jew much like us?

Lunch & Learn:

What's a Messiah, Anyway?

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, 12:30–1:30 PM

Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Joshua Garraway, Hebrew Union College

Anticipating a messiah has been a feature of Judaism for centuries. Worshipping a messiah has become the central feature of Christianity. But where did this idea of a messiah come from? What is a messiah and how have Jewish conceptions changed throughout the years?

Christianity and Islam in Jewish Law

March 18 & 25, April 1 & 8, 2025

Instructor: Rabbi Brian Stoller

Guiding attendees in reading classical Jewish legal sources, halakhic responsa, and modern legal theory, Rabbi Stoller will help participants learn how Jewish attitudes toward Christianity and Islam, and their practitioners, have evolved over time. To elevate the learning experience, this course will include optional reading outside of class.

GOVERNANCE & VISIONING

Who Are the Ancestors

Our Future Needs?

Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, 7 PM

Speaker: Rabbi Esther Lederman, Vice President, Union for Reform Judaism

As we continue our visioning work to chart the future of Temple Beth-El, Rabbi Lederman, a leader in the national Reform movement, will explore our current moment in American Jewish life and highlight key issues for us to think about as we move forward.

“Where Are You?”:

God's Eternal Question

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, 9:15–10:15 AM

Instructor: Rabbi Esther Lederman, Union for Reform Judaism

What might God’s first question to Adam and Eve—“where are you?”—mean for us today? Rabbi Lederman will help attendees explore key themes of the first chapter of *Genesis*.

Board of Trustees Training:

Lessons in Leadership from

Ancient Jewish Statesmen

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, 4–6 PM

Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Joshua Garraway, Hebrew Union College

Philo of Alexandria was a leader of the

robust Jewish community of first-century CE Egypt. His interpretation of the story of Joseph, the Torah's archetypal Jewish statesman, offers a vision of leadership, politics, and statecraft that in many respects resembles our own. Through interactive study of Philo's work, Dr. Garroway will help our board discover wisdom that can guide TBE through change—and visioning for our future. This program is only open to TBE's Board of Trustees.

Why Do We Tell the Stories We Tell?

Friday, March 21, 2025, 7 PM

*Speaker: Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz,
Scholar-in-Residence*

Drawing on the wisdom of Jewish tradition and her own work in the field of creative *midrash*, Rabbi Berkowitz will speak about how storytelling plays an important role in building a vibrant sacred community.

Creating Sacred Spaces

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 9:15–10:15 AM

*Instructor: Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz,
Scholar-in-Residence*

In a study of the weekly Torah portion, Rabbi Berkowitz will engage attendees in conversation about how we create sacred spaces and what we want—and don't want—to include in them. Inspired by *midrashim* about the building of the Tabernacle in the wilderness, she will invite participants to think about what we take with us from the past as we move forward.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 7 PM

The entire congregation is welcome to find out what makes Temple Beth-El so special and be part of this annual meeting of our membership. Hear about this past year, learn about plans for the future, vote on our budget, and participate in the election of new trustees.

**“A GOOD FRIEND IS
LIKE A SECURE
SHELTER. WHOEVER
HAS FOUND
ONE HAS FOUND
A TREASURE.”**

—BEN SIRACH

**“THE WHOLE WORLD
EXULTS IN SINGING
TO ITS MAKER.”**

—ZOHAR HADASH

ISRAEL | ישראל

LAND OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Recognizing the special relationship among Jews throughout the world, along with the unique and essential bond that we share with the State of Israel

TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

TBE–Temple Tikvah Journey to Israel

Date TBA

Led by: Rabbi Brian Stoller and Rabbi Randy Sheinberg

This trip is for anyone—adult or child, first-timer, or return visitor—interested in experiencing post-October 7 Israel. Travelers will see the sights, enjoy Israeli culture, learn about its history, and hear directly from Israelis about life in the Jewish state since October 7, 2023.

SERVICES & COMMEMORATIONS

Commemoration of October 7

Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, 4–5:30 PM

In a joint event with the Gold Coast Arts Center, Temple Beth-El will present a special program of music, conversation, and hope, to mark the first anniversary since the horrific October 7 massacres and kidnappings in Israel.

TBE/Gahelet Yom HaZikaron

(Israel's Memorial Day) Service

Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 7 PM

Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day)

Shabbat Service & Oneg

Friday, May 2, 2025, 7 PM

ISRAEL LEARNING

The Land of Israel in the Talmud

Tuesdays, Oct. 15, 22 & 29, 2024, 7–8:30 PM

Instructor: Dr. Alyssa Gray, Hebrew Union College

This class will focus on three aspects of the Babylonian Talmud's engagement with the land of Israel: (1) how it portrays the past, present, and future of the geographical land; (2) its portrayal of relationships between Babylonian rabbis and those of the land of Israel; and (3) a couple of key theological and halakhic differences between the two rabbinic centers.

“A LAND THAT WAS DEAD FOR NEARLY 2,000 YEARS IS NOW A LAND THAT SINGS.”

—RABBI ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

Book Talk with Author Elliott Abrams—***If You Will It: Rebuilding Jewish Peoplehood for the 21st Century*****Sunday, Oct. 20, 10–11:30 AM**

What can Jewish parents and organizations do to ensure that future generations of American Jews will have a strong Jewish identity? Elliott Abrams, a former Middle East policy official for the U.S. government, will examine the history of the American Jewish community and its relationship with Israel, even now when many Americans have turned away from the Jewish state. Following the presentation, stay for brunch and a book signing.

Reclaiming Zionism—the Word and the Wonder**Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, 7 PM**

Speakers: Rabbis Tara and Meir Feldman, Rabbis Emeriti, Temple Beth-El of Great Neck

The word “Zionism” has been twisted and poisoned, becoming our enemies’ most potent and powerful weapon. With honesty about our own experiences, questions, and convictions, the moment is now for us, as Jews, wherever we may live, to reclaim the “Z word” as a source of healing, inspiration, purpose, and hope.

“The Voice Is the Voice of Jacob”:**Deception and Truth, Lifting the Mask****Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024, 9:15–10:15 AM***Instructors: Rabbis Tara and Meir Feldman*

Our rabbis emeriti will counter the anti-Israel slogans of our day with the truths at the core of our history and our identity as Jews and as Israelis. This will go beyond anti-Israel rallies and college campuses and focus on us all: the learning we can take on, the conversations we can embrace, the “voice” that each of us can raise up.

RABBI

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