THE Kol
Temple Beth El
בית אל
VOL. 105 NO.2
MARCH 2026–AUGUST 2026
ADAR–ELUL 5786

PASSOVER ISSUE

schedules and information starting on page 19

Save the Date for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration Weekend!

Details on page 7

Mission Statement

Temple Beth El is a vibrant and inclusive community of Jews who join together for prayer, education, celebration, mutual support and comfort, tikkun olam and acts of loving kindness. We are guided by Torah and the principles of the Conservative movement. We are committed to our community, the State of Israel, and Jews around the world.

Vision Statement

Our vision is that Temple Beth El will be an inspiring center of Conservative Judaism in which meaningful experiences and memories take root and grow.

Values Statement

We are a welcoming and inclusive congregation.
We value and respect each congregant and their personal journey in Judaism.

We foster a sense of connectedness with our community.
We value participation in all aspects of synagogue and Jewish life.

Our congregation will be here for the entire Temple family now and for future generations.

Welcome!

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610
Phone: 585-473-1770

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with us at **www.tberoc.org**, where you can find up-to-date information and content.

facebook.com/TBEROCH

@tberochester

Subscribe to our YOUTUBE Channel:
Temple Beth El Rochester

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Shacharit:

Sunday: .....8:30 AM
Monday–Friday: .....7:30 AM
Rosh Hodesh: .....7:15 AM
Secular Holidays: ....8:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:

Sunday–Friday: .....6:00 PM

SHACHARIT ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6p5ky6h
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 846 8881 5480

MINCHA/MA'ARIV ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6d78zsx
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 841 5194 9603

SHABBAT SERVICES

Pesukei dezimra: ....9:30 AM
Shacharit: .....10:00 AM
Torah Service: .....10:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:
Check website for weekly times

LIVE STREAM LINK:
https://www.tberoc.org/live-stream/

JUNIOR CONGREGATION LEARNING

Every Saturday: .....11–11:30 AM
Ideal for children ages 4-11

PRE B'NEI MITZVAH SERVICE

First Saturday of every month: .....10:30 AM
For students who are studying to become B'nei Mitzvah

All Shabbat information including our trifold can be found on our website:
https://www.tberoc.org/pray/shabbat-services/

SAVE THE DATES!

Purim 5786

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Community Purim Festival at JCC

MONDAY, MARCH 2
Megillah Readings, Dinner, and TBE Purim Party featuring Aerial Arts

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
Keshet Purim Celebration

FROM RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S DESK

Dear Friends,

In the words of Ecclesiastes, there is nothing new under the sun. As I sit here writing this, I have just come from the 2026 Rabbinic Training Institute (RTI) hosted by the Rabbinical Assembly and the Jewish Theological Seminary. It's an annual retreat in which about 100 rabbis come together to learn classic texts, share about their experiences in the rabbinate, and talk about the future of our movement. This year was my fifteenth year at RTI, and with apologies to Ecclesiastes, there was something very new about it.

While I was at the retreat, many of my colleagues asked me about my feelings on being here at Temple Beth El. I'll tell them what I told you. I absolutely love being the rabbi of this community. In the last six months, I have thoroughly loved getting to know all of you and this holy community. During the High Holidays I felt an infectious enthusiasm and joy that I hope we can hold on to and off which we can build a bright future for our community.

I realize that none of this would be possible without the leadership of Rabbi Bitran. I am so grateful for his generosity and magnanimity in allowing me to come in and be myself. I have witnessed his indefatigable spirit and dedication to this community and am honored to be following him as your senior rabbi. In the coming months, I hope we can honor him in ways befitting his enormous contributions to our home at Beth El.

Since my arrival I have been privileged to have talked with many of you about the rich history of Temple Beth El. I have learned just how many of you are related to each other (I still can't get over how many of you are cousins or related in some way). We have spoken about your families' legacies and love for TBE and about the future of our community. We have had honest and open conversations about the many opportunities and challenges we face.

I am very excited about how much we can grow and maintain the enthusiasm I've witnessed. One way is our adult education/engagement program. We are excited about the partnerships we have in place with both the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, Hadar Yeshiva in NYC, and the Maas Center from American Jewish University out of Los Angeles. Next year at the High Holidays we hope to be able to have a brochure rich with opportunities for learning and engagement.

Over the course of the next few months, you will be hearing about more opportunities for conversation. I am interested in knowing how TBE and I can best meet your spiritual needs. If there is something you'd like to see, or a program you're interested in, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Change is never easy. We all know the necessity of holding onto our Jewish values and the importance we place on tradition. And, as we know, the most dangerous question we can ask about tradition is "why." Together we will explore the "why's" and "how's" of our tradition. Yes, it can be scary, but we know that our religion is constantly evolving. As we say in our blessings over the torah, "blessed are you, God who is giving the torah." Our tradition acknowledges that we are still being given torah, even to this day. If you think back to what Beth El looked like 30 years ago, and how it looks today, you know what I'm talking about.

We will make changes, yes, but we do not make them lightly. We make them only to better suit the needs of our community, keeping our principles and values always close to us. May we be blessed to experience the bright future of TBE together, going from strength to strength, united in our hope for a bright future of Judaism, for ourselves and our families for generations to come.

FROM RABBI BITRAN'S DESK

Passover: The Power of the Small Things

The observance of *Pesach* contains a central idea that applies not only to this festival, but to Jewish life as a whole—and, indeed, to the very nature of human existence.

Jewish law strictly prohibits the consumption of bread and leavened products during Passover. The regulations are exacting—details of which can be found on our website—but in essence, even the smallest amount of *chametz* renders food unfit for use. Why is a minute particle of leaven so potent that it can invalidate a large quantity of food? The answer is that this law underscores the importance of small things—the details of human existence.

We live in a world that pays homage to size. We are addicted to bigness: bigger industries, bigger cars, king-size screens, and skyscrapers that stretch ever higher into the heavens. Institutions grow larger and larger. In our fascination with size, we have confused bigness with greatness, quantity with quality, and scale with substance.

Consider that the two nations of the ancient world that left the deepest imprint on Western civilization were the Jews and the Greeks. A cursory glance at the map reveals how small these lands were in size, yet how enduring their influence has been. David Lloyd George, the British statesman who guided Britain through World War I and its aftermath, once observed:

"God has chosen little nations as the vessels by which God carries God's choicest wines to the lips of humanity, to rejoice their hearts, to exalt their vision, and to strengthen their faith."

The value of small things becomes clearer when we deal with what is precious. In a ton of coal, the loss of a few lumps is insignificant. But when handling precious stones or volatile chemicals, every minute quantity matters greatly.

The same is true in our relationships with other people. We often focus on grand gestures, but the true difference between refined and crude individuals—politics aside—lies in the small things: a kind word, a gesture of respect, a sympathetic clasp of the hand, a thoughtful remark, a reassuring pat on the shoulder. These simple acts allow us to feel warmth, dignity, and human connection. This principle also defines Jewish life. There is little in Jewish observance that is outwardly spectacular. Washing hands before a meal, reciting a blessing, kindling a few candles—these are the acts through which Jewish values are lived and experienced. American Jews today are not asked to perform heroic deeds or extraordinary sacrifices, only small acts—and precisely because they are small, they are often overlooked.

Creating a Jewish home for a child, reading a Jewish book, enrolling in a Jewish class—these acts seem unspectacular. Reciting *Kiddush*, subscribing to a Jewish publication, buying an Israel Bond, serving on a committee—these are quiet and undramatic. Yet it is precisely through faithfulness to these small acts that our loyalty to Judaism is expressed and the character of Jewish life in America is shaped. As Leo Baeck wrote:

"Piety, especially Jewish piety, respects the little—the little person, the little matter, the little task, the little duty. Through the little, religion encounters the greatness that lies behind."

I know that parents, when truly tested, are capable of enormous sacrifices for their children and loved ones. But I appeal especially to parents this Passover to embrace the humble, undramatic tasks—the "little things" of the season. Introduce the *Seder* in your home in a way that reflects the joy and beauty of the festival. Preparing the home for Passover takes effort, and there are special roles for both parents to play. Yet this shared experience nourishes the Jewish spirit and sanctifies and elevates our lives.

A particle of *chametz* may seem insignificant, but just as one false note can ruin a great symphony, so too do small things matter profoundly. It is in the details of life that we reveal our sensitivity—and earn the right to call ourselves civilized.

A Happy Passover to all. *Pesach Kasher veSameach*. May the ideals of this Festival of Freedom bring renewed hope here and in Israel, and inspire fresh strength within the Jewish community. May the dream of freedom be realized for families everywhere as we celebrate the event that gave birth to liberty for our ancestors.

From my family to yours,
May you have a meaningful *Sedarim* and
a *Pesach Kasher veSameach*.

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran

You are invited to join us for

RABBI BITRAN'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION WEEKEND

MAY 29–31, 2026

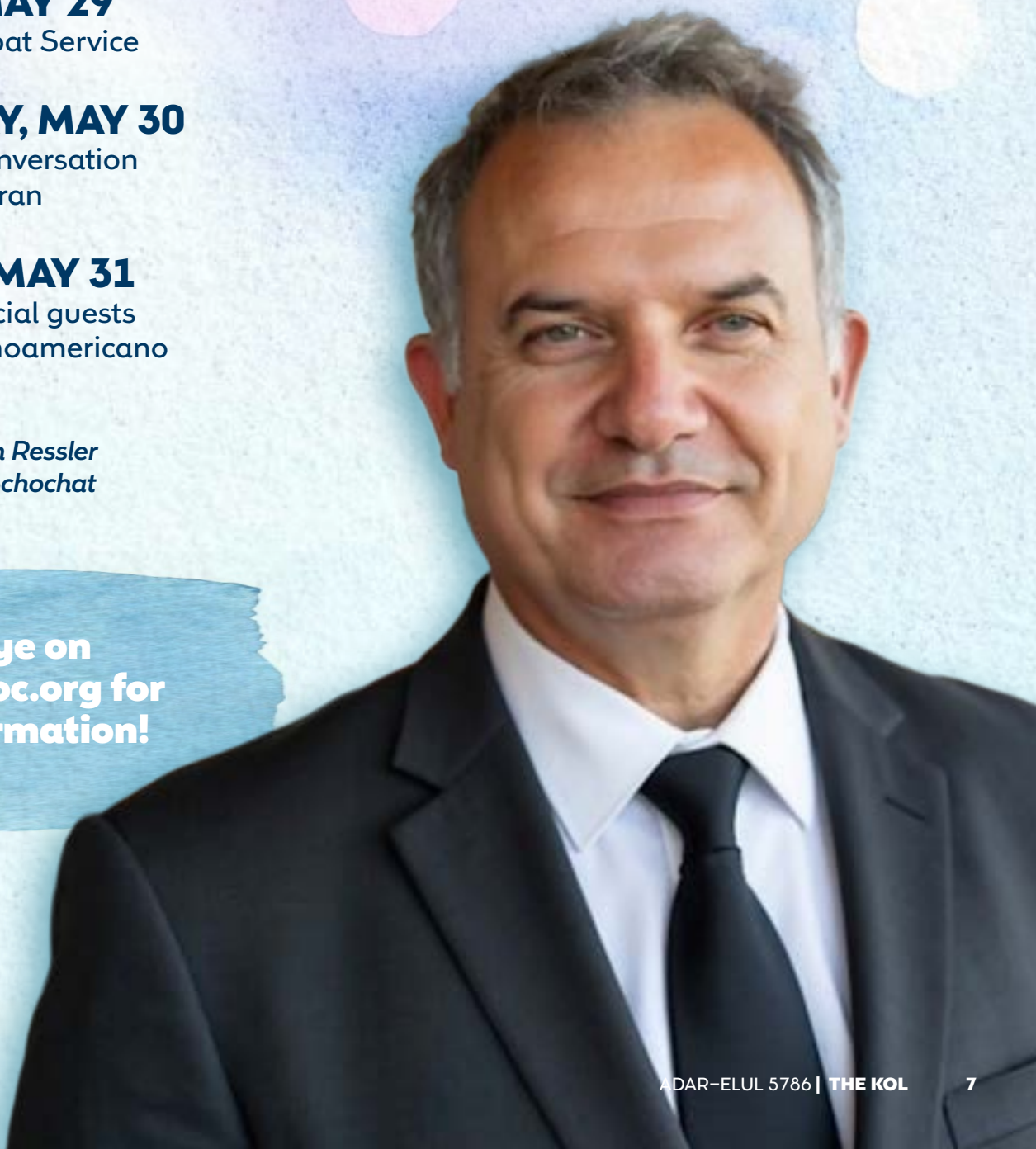
FRIDAY, MAY 29
Special Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MAY 30
Kiddush & Conversation
with Rabbi Bitran

SUNDAY, MAY 31
Gala with special guests
Cuarteto Latinoamericano

Event chairs:
Sara and Darren Ressler
Aviva and Arie Schochat

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My daughter likes to poke fun at me by saying that all I do for a living is look at emails. Strangely there is an element of truth to her assertion. Email is the delivery system for much of what I do, whether it is responding to inquiries from any number of sources, or syncing with my work database, my eyeballs are glued to a screen for more hours than I would like to admit. Like everybody else connected to the digital world, my daily existence is linked to technology be it via cell phone, pc, or iPad. Seemingly nobody is spared. And those few who choose to unplug and disconnect we somewhat sarcastically refer to as being off the grid.

Growing up in the 70's and 80's, life was very different. But not just the absence of digital connectivity. Human connectivity was actually—well—human. We talked to each other. We lived in a society that was both accessible and open. I mean really open. Take our very own Temple Beth El. Doors were unlocked. There was no hired security. Hebrew School was in session three times a week, and when we were let out of class, we waited outside for our parents to come pick us up with little or no adult supervision. I held the distinction of being one of the last kids to get their ride. My dad's office was downtown, and he was tasked with pickup duty. He would lose track of time, or take that one last phone call, and—I kid you not—got around to picking me up sometimes over an hour after classes ended. Don't mean to throw you under the bus dad—love you!

There is a point to all this reminiscing. Those of us old enough to remember a different world in which we lived mourn the loss of that open society. That human interaction. The absence of technology running our lives. There are certainly very tangible benefits to the truly amazing pace of technological advancement. But the decline of human contact and spiritual connectivity is just so palpable.

One of the great things about this community is that we connect. Sure, we use technology like everybody else. But the very purpose of our temple community is just that—community. And there are a lot of people—staff, teachers, clergy and temple members—that make sure that is so.

Last year at this time, my president's message detailed what we expected to accomplish for our temple community in 2025. First and foremost, we have welcomed our new Senior Rabbi Benjamin Goldstein. The NYS Office of Children and Family Services has licensed our Keshet program. Strides have been made to build upon the success of our BeWise program. And infrastructural improvements have been completed to ensure our Synagogue will be our spiritual home for many more years to come. Time has brought many changes to the world in which we live. But our Temple community continues to flourish as a source of Jewish community and connectivity.

Evan Spindelman
TBE Board President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the past year at Temple Beth El, I am filled with gratitude for the strength, generosity, and commitment of this community. Synagogue life is built not only on moments of prayer, but on shared experiences, collective effort, and the relationships that sustain us through times of celebration and transition. This year reminded us just how powerful those connections can be.

One of the most exciting milestones of the year was our first-ever crowdfunding campaign in the fall of 2025. Through the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteer ambassadors, we raised more than $155,000 in support of Temple Beth El. This effort was about more than fundraising—it was a testament to how deeply our congregants believe in this community and in ensuring a strong future for our synagogue. I am deeply thankful to everyone who participated, donated, and helped spread the word.

This year also marked a profound moment of leadership transition. We joyfully celebrated the installation of Rabbi Ben Goldstein as Temple Beth El's 12th Senior Rabbi, welcoming him into a role that carries both tradition and vision. Rabbi Goldstein's installation was a meaningful communal moment, reflecting our optimism and excitement for the path ahead.

At the same time, we began to honor the legacy of Rabbi Bitran, who will retire in May 2026 after 13 years of dedicated service as our Senior Rabbi. Rabbi Bitran's impact on Temple Beth El is immeasurable. He has guided our congregation with wisdom, compassion, and care through moments of joy and challenge, and his leadership has helped shape the vibrant community we are today. We will be celebrating his retirement at the end of May. Please save the dates of May 29–31!

None of these accomplishments happen in isolation. They are made possible by the generosity of our donors, the commitment of our volunteers, and the ongoing engagement of our congregants. Together, you create a community that is resilient, welcoming, and deeply rooted in shared values.

Thank you for being part of Temple Beth El's story. It is a privilege to reflect on what we have accomplished together, and I am hopeful and inspired as we look toward the future we are building side by side.

Deborah Zeger
TBE Executive Director

FROM THE YOUTH & FAMILY DIRECTOR

Shalom,

As we start the second half of the school year, I can't help but look back at all of our successes from the first half of the year that will carry us through.

Our school year started out very smoothly, and we were able to quickly adapt to being newly licensed by New York State. The professional development that has been made available has been highly utilized to benefit the quality of care, instruction, classroom management, and communication amongst our teachers. We have a very active Parent Council of four parents that have been helping to plan events, make recommendations based on experience and feedback from other parents, and serve as room parents for each of the classes.

From an Early Childhood Department standpoint, we have had several successful family programs that partnered with BE WISE Jr. that included apple picking before Rosh Hashanah, bringing Seneca Park Zoo to Temple Beth El to teach about Parsha Noach, and prepping for Hanukkah by making menorahs, dreidels, and latke plates. All of our programs attracted large crowds, including close to 100 for apple picking. We have also brought back monthly Tot Shabbat, rotating between Friday night services and Saturday morning. We have even combined with BE WISE for a meaningful morning.

After all of the successes from the first half of the year, we are looking forward to springing forward with some exciting new events and offerings for our youngest congregants.

We are looking forward to our first ever Chametz Scavenger hunt for Early Childhood families in March to prepare for Passover on March 15, which will take place at Wegmans. The goal behind this is to give children and their families a list of foods, have them find them in the store, and determine if they are Passover-friendly or not. We also have an Israel Family Program to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut on April 19, and we will conclude this school year with a Shavuot Cooking Class on May 17.

Camp Keshet will begin on July 6, and we will debut our new extension program. Registration is out, and we have some new and exciting themes including Camp Keshet Campout, Around the World, and Fairytale Forest, as well as returning fan favorite, Messy Art! We will also bring back Watermelon Wednesday which will feature some new guests, as well as fan favorites like the City of Rochester Fire Department! We typically get campers from all over the world including Israel, Germany, and even Ukraine! You will not want your little one to miss the Camp Keshet experience!

Both Camp Keshet and Keshet registration is out, and with our extension until 4, spaces are filling up quickly! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or even just to chat about opportunities for your little one! I have coffee and tea in my office and am always open to a

L'Shalom,

Mandi Warner

Mandi Warner
TBE Youth & Family Director

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DIRECTOR

Shalom,

Here at Temple Beth El, we are proud of the varied opportunities to engage in Jewish living and learning that we provide Jewish Rochesterians of all ages. Beginning with early childhood, we guide our students on a track in our BE.WISE Religious School, through the process of becoming a B'nei Mitzvah and onward to youth groups, weekly learning with peers, and into adulthood.

Our synagogue's BE.WISE Religious School is named after the core values of our educational program: Beth El Wisdom, Identity, Spirit and Education. We begin welcoming 4 year old students into our PreK program BE.WISE Junior, which consists of one monthly early childhood program for the whole family and one day per month of class at our Sunday school. Our BE.WISE Junior program gives students a fantastic and fun jumpstart to their Alef Bet, Torah story and Jewish holiday learning!

Students continue together as a learning cohort throughout the BE.WISE program into Kindergarten and through the Seventh Grade. The BE.WISE program strives to integrate joy and fun into Jewish learning, and to make Judaism more meaningful and accessible through the development of the foundational skills for engaging in Jewish life. BE.WISE students learn from The Beverly Goldstick z"l Curriculum for 21st Century Learning, focusing on Hebrew literacy, prayer skills, Jewish peoplehood and a strong relationship with Eretz Yisrael. We invite families of our students several times a year to join us for holiday programming, BE.WISE Shabbat experiences, and celebrations. As students approach their B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies, they are invited to participate in a year-long cohort of fun and learning together as they and their families prepare and study to become full-fledged members of the Jewish community.

After graduating from the BE.WISE program as 7th graders, students have an array of choices for their continued involvement in Jewish life and learning at Temple Beth El. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade have the opportunity to split their time earning volunteer hours by assisting in classrooms and taking higher learning classes in our BE.WISE Madrichim program. Older Madrichim have the opportunity to become paid tutors in lieu of volunteer credit. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade also have the opportunity to join our USY community, which provides teens with fun Jewish programming throughout the year. Additionally, we are proud to offer our new weekly teen learning series, which will have students engage in Jewish learning and discussion with Rabbi Goldstein and myself while enjoying a weekly dinner together.

As lifelong learners, there are great educational opportunities for our congregants at Temple Beth El as well! Participants can choose from a variety of opportunities such as Introduction to Judaism, a monthly Java & Jeans discussion and learning series from distinguished institutions such as Hadar and The Hartman Institute. Adult congregants are also invited to join Torah On Tap, our monthly Jewish discussion program where we learn while enjoying cold drinks.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions about Jewish education here at Temple Beth El!

Stephen Papkin,
TBE Congregational Learning Director

TBE EDUCATION

Keshet
קשת
Temple Beth El's Early Childhood Program

Keshet Preschool, a Jewish early childhood program, is dedicated to serving the entire Rochester community. In a warm loving environment, through play, your child will gain a love of Jewish and secular learning as well as develop their social-emotional skills.

For more information, contact Mandi Warner at mwarner@tberochester.org

BE.WISE:
JEWISH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

BE.WISE, (Beth El wisdom, identity, spirit, education) offers quality supplementary Jewish education for students in grades Kindergarten through seventh grade, and offers Madrichim programs for students in eighth grade and high school. New this year, we also offer BE.WISE Junior for Pre-K students. Core courses focus on building Hebrew literacy while building connections to Hebrew language, Jewish peoplehood, Israel, Jewish history, Tanakh, Tefillah and the chagim. Elective classes change frequently with offerings including Judaism through Art, Jewish Music and Cafe Ivrit.

For more information, contact Stephen Papkin at spapkin@tberochester.org

Early Childhood Calendar

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt

MARCH 30
Professional Development

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

WATERMELON WEDNESDAY

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29
AUGUST 5, 12

1 PM | TBE PLAYGROUND

Join other families with young children every Wednesday this summer, featuring special guests like the Rochester Fire Department, Butterfly Kids Yoga, and more!

Temple Beth El **CAMP KESHET 2026** Keshet קשת

JULY 6–AUGUST 14 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Find more information and sign up at www.tberoc.org/camp

JULY 6–10
Sensing Summer

JULY 13–17
Messy Art

July 20–24
Camp Keshet Campout

JULY 27–31
Fairytale Forest

AUGUST 3–7
Around the World

AUGUST 10–14
Camp Keshet Maccabiah Games

ONLINE RESOURCES

YAHRZEITS You should have received an email or letter stating when the Yahrzeit of your loved one will be observed according to the Jewish calendar. Names will be read on the Shabbat dates prior to the actual Yahrzeit. See link below. Kaddish is also recited at Ma'ariv (evening service) on the night on which the Yahrzeit begins and at Shacharit (morning service) and Mincha (afternoon service) on the day of the Yahrzeit. Actual dates can be found on your Shulcloud account or by calling the office at (585) 473-1700.
The monthly list of daily Yahrzeit dates can be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/yahrzeits

DONATIONS

Temple Beth El is very grateful for every donation we receive. Your support enables us to provide ongoing services and programs to the congregation and community.
Give now to Temple Beth El at www.tberoc.org/support

VOLUNTEER

Give your time and talents to help at Temple Beth El throughout the year.
Find opportunities and initiatives at www.tberoc.org/meet/volunteer

MAZEL TOV

We are happy to pass along news about our congregants and community. Share yours by calling the office at (585) 473-1770 or by emailing communications@tberochester.org. **Mazel Tovs can now be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/mazel-tovs**

COMMUNITY EVENTS & CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Temple Beth El programs and candle lighting times for Holy Days and Shabbat can be found by month and date **starting on page 30 and at www.tberoc.org/calendar**

20s & 30s

This is a welcoming place for Jews in their 20/30s. Jewish and non Jewish partners are always welcome to join! Parents may bring children under the age of 2.

Join the 20s & 30s on Facebook for information on all upcoming events at www.facebook.com/TBE2030. All times are subject to change.

MARCH 27
Shabbat Services

MARCH 28
Torah on Tap

APRIL 15 | 7 PM
Yoga

APRIL 24
Shabbat Services

MAY 16
Torah On Tap

MAY 29
Shabbat Services

JUNE 7 | 4 PM
Eric Weiner Memorial Event

JUNE 26
Shabbat Services

JULY 31
Shabbat Services

AUGUST (TBD)
TBE at the Red Wings

AUGUST 28
Shabbat Services

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club of Temple Beth El
Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life

MARCH 7
Men's Club Shabbat

MARCH 28
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Keith Freedman

MAY 16
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Jeff Levinson

JUNE 14
Men's Club Annual Meeting

JUNE 20
Members Stories: Getting to Know us speaker TBD

MEN'S CLUB OF TEMPLE BETH EL
2025–2026 JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I'm interested in: _____

_____

Send completed form with $40 check payable to Men's Club of Temple Beth El to:
Temple Beth El – Men's Club,
139 S. Winton Road South,
Rochester, NY 14610

Or, pay via PayPal at https://www.tberochester.org/meet/mens-club/

SISTERHOOD

When women support each other, incredible things happen.

All Sisterhood meetings and programs are open to the entire Temple Beth El family.

Celebrating our 105TH Year!

We Are Sisterhood!

We are a community of Conservative Jewish women. From the beginning of our movement's history, our women have sought out the company of likeminded women—recognizing and appreciating the mission of our founders.

- We come together for camaraderie, for support, inspiration and comfort.
- We look to one another for wisdom, practical knowledge and spiritual guidance.
- We look to one another for support and guidance about how to maintain that delicate balance between tradition and change.
- We are the evolved version of Mathilde Schechter's Sisterhood vision, now more than one hundred years old, of education and learning for Jewish women.
- Conservative Jewish women have been at the forefront of religious progress and change. We celebrate our community.

Join us in strengthening our Sisterhood. We've grown stronger together and now it's your turn to dive in. Community workshops that spark lively chats, conferences and conventions that touch hearts and spiritual retreats that recharge your soul. Come to an event, stay for the connection, stay for the inspiration—let's build lasting bonds. Sign up today and Temple Beth El your home. Join us as we grow!

Lynda and Wendy, Co-Presidents

Just Judaica
The Gift Shop at Temple Beth El

The largest retail Judaica Gift Shop in western and central New York

Regular Shopping Hours
Sunday mornings: 9:30 AM–noon
(when school is in session)
Wednesday afternoons: 4–6 PM

Can't make regular hours?
Call for an appointment: Lynda (585-314-8288) or Iris (585-739-2428)

Sisterhood Mission Statement

Our mission is to strengthen and unite the women of Sisterhood and support them to understand and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism in the home, synagogue and community and reinforce their bonds with Israel and Jews worldwide.

RICHARD W. BRISKIN CANTOR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

MAY 1–3, 2026

Featuring Toby Banks

2026 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

With Special Guest Cantor Noah Rachels

2022 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!

Toby Banks is a fourth-year cantorial student who was born and raised in New York City. After completing a BA in psychology from Cornell University, she went on to have a 20+ year career as both a professional classical singer and a development professional.

Toby has performed as a featured soloist with opera companies and symphony orchestras in major concert halls across the United States. In addition to the classical opera and concert repertoire, she made a name for herself in the world of avant-garde and contemporary classical music and has been a featured soloist in countless premieres and recordings. She also sang for nearly 20 years in the professional choir of Park Avenue Synagogue, where she is now a member.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, Toby is serving as the cantorial intern at Ansche Chesed in New York City and served as the High Holiday Cantor at Congregation Agudat Achim in Schenectady, NY. As a cantorial student, she is excited to bring together her passion for music, Judaism, and pastoral care in order to serve the Jewish community through leadership, healing, prayer, and song.

Cantor Noah Rachels was born and raised in the "Borscht Belt". He currently serves as the Hazzan of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto, Canada, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He previously held a pulpit at Mosaic Law Congregation in Sacramento, California, from 2023 to 2025. A graduate of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Cantor Rachels was the recipient of the 2022 Richard W. Briskin Award. He is particularly passionate about music, prayer, and fostering spiritual growth and meaning, and is delighted to return to Temple Beth El.

Temple Beth El
בית אל

Passover 5786

Temple Beth El בית אל

5786 Passover SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, MARCH 31
7 AM .....Morning Minyan
followed by Siyum Bechorim & breakfast
6 PM .....Mincha & Ma'ariv
8 PM .....Bedikat Hametz at Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
(EREV PESACH) - FIRST SEDER
7 AM .....Morning Minyan, followed by
Siyum Bechorim and breakfast
12 PM .....Burn the Hametz (Biyur Hametz)
6 PM ..... Mincha
7:18 PM..... Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
SECOND SEDER
9 AM .....Morning services for First Day of Passover
8:21 PM.....Candle lighting

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
9 AM .....Morning services for Second Day of Passover
6 PM .....Kabbalat Shabbat
7:21 PM.....Candle lighting (from a pre-existing flame)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
9 AM .....Morning services for Third Day of Passover,
followed by Kiddush lunch
7:08 PM ....Mincha
8:20 PM ....Ma'ariv
8:23 PM ....Shabbat ends

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
FOURTH DAY OF PASSOVER
8:30 AM....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

MONDAY, APRIL 6
FIFTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

TUESDAY, APRIL 7
SIXTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv
7:25 PM.....Candle lighting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Seventh Day of Passover
12 PM .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:28 PM ....Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
EIGHTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Eighth Day of Passover
11 AM .....Yizkor
12 pm .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:30 PM ....Passover ends

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR ANNUAL

Second Seder

APRIL 2, 2026
6:00 PM | MINCHA
6:30 PM | SEDER

Our menu will include matzah ball soup, turkey breast, brisket, kugels, fresh vegetables, and dessert.

Vegetarian and vegan options available!

Adults (13 years and older): $75 per person
Children (12 and younger): $25 per person

Sign up at www.tberoc.org to reserve your meal today!

Prices increase March 18.
Adults $80 | Child $30

Passover INFORMATION

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: ***rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.***

EREV PESACH SIYUM

The sunrise to sunset *ta'anit* (fast) *bekhorim* (of the firstborn), which occurs on the day before Passover, is the only fast that applies to just a segment of the community: all males who are the firstborn children in their families (if the firstborn child is female, the first son born after her is not obligated).

There is a widely practiced exemption: On the principle that fasting is prohibited on a joyous occasion, Judaism allows for anyone who attends a religious feast to forego fasting. It is customary to hold a celebratory meal on the completion of study of a tractate of rabbinic literature, called a *siyyum* (conclusion). So the sages initiated the practice of studying the end of a tractate after morning services on Erev Pesach followed by a celebratory meal.

This year, Siyum B'khorim is held on Wednesday, April 1, as the day before Passover falls on Shabbat. At 7AM on Wednesday, April 1, the firstborn in each family is invited to the Siyum B'khorim. Following the meal, there is an opportunity to burn your family's remaining hametz in a bonfire in the TBE Garden.

IS IT KOSHER FOR PASSOVER?

Passover has its own special rules of kashrut. On Pesach, Jews are forbidden from owning or consuming hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt).

Most Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (kitniyot) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above kitniyot.

PERMITTED FOODS:

A. The following foods require no kosher l'Pesach label when purchased before or during Passover: fresh fruits and eggs, fresh fish (whole or gutted), fresh or frozen kosher meat other than chopped meat, whole (unground) spices and nuts, including whole or half pecans (not pieces), pure black, green, or white tea leaves or teabags, Nestea regular and decaffeinated unflavored tea, coffee (unflavored regular), baking soda and bicarbonate of soda.

B. The following items may be purchased before Pesach without a Pesach hekhsher but if bought during Pesach require a kosher l'Pesach label: white milk, 100% pure fruit juice, filleted fish, frozen fruit (with no additives), pure white sugar (with no additive), olive oil (extra virgin only), non-iodized salt, quinoa (with no additional ingredients).

C. The following products require reliable ("kosher l"Pesach") certification (regular rabbinic supervision is not sufficient), whether purchased before or during Pesach: all baked goods (matzah, Pesach cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzfel meal, and any other products containing matzoh), herbal teas, canned tuna, wine, vinegar, liquor, decaffeinated coffee and tea, dried fruits, oils, frozen uncooked vegetables and all frozen processed foods, candy, chocolate-flavored milk, ice-cream, yogurt, cheeses, butter, and soda. Any processed food bought during Pesach must have a ("kosher l"Pesach") certification.

D. Any detergents, cleaners, etc. which are not a foodstuff and which are not eaten, may be used for Pesach and do not require a special label. These items include: isopropyl alcohol, aluminum products, ammonia, coffee filters, baby oil, powder and ointment, bleach, charcoal, candles, contact paper, plastic cutlery, laundry and dish detergent, fabric softener, oven cleaner, paper bags, plates, wax paper, plastic wrap, polish, sanitizers, scouring pads, stain remover, and bottled water with no additives.

E. Medicines: Prescription medicines are permitted. Non-prescription pills and capsules are permitted, for liquid medications, check with your rabbi.

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.

BEDIKAT HAMETZ

One of the required holiday ceremonies is Bedikat Hametz, searching for leaven. On the night before the first seder, Tuesday, March 31, we conduct a candle-lit search through our home to ensure that no hametz is still present. It is a brief ceremony in which the entire family can and should participate.

1. Make sure that all hametz has been removed or locked away with the exception of what will be needed for the morning.

2. Carefully hide some crumbs of bread. This is to ensure that the blessing and the ceremony will not be performed in vain.

3. Take a candle, a feather or brush, and a box or cloth for the crumbs, and recite this blessing:
Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheynu Melekh haolam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu al biur hametz.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with the commandments and commanded us to remove all leaven.

4. Perform the search and gather up all the crumbs. Tie them in a bundle which will be burned the next morning. Feel free to (safely) burn it on your own, or use the bonfire at Temple Beth El following morning minyan.

5. Recite the following: All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have not seen or removed shall be annulled and void of any ownership and considered as the dust of the earth. (The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.).

6. On Wednesday, April 1, at or before 12 PM, burn the leaven and recite the following:
All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have seen or not seen, that I have removed or not removed, that I have destroyed or not destroyed shall be annulled and void of my ownership and considered as the dust of the earth.
(The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.)

TO SELL YOUR HAMETZ

The Torah prohibits the ownership of hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt) during Passover. Ideally, we burn or remove all hametz from our premises which may be done through donations to a local food pantry. In some cases, however, this would cause prohibitive financial loss. In such cases, we arrange for the sale of the hametz to a non-Jew and its repurchase after Passover. You can arrange for this sale of your Hametz by sending the following form to Rabbi Bitran at theTemple office ***no later than Friday, March 27.***

It is customary to include a donation to provide Maot Hittin funds for Passover supplies for the needy. Please make checks payable to Temple Beth El which will be contributed to Maot Hittin on everyone's behalf.

Form is also available on our website at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/passover/

Dear Rabbi Bitran:
Please act as my agent for this sale of any hametz on my premises.

Name _____

Address _____

email _____

PREPARING A FLAME FOR YOM TOV

On Yom Tov, kindling a new fire is not permitted; however, the use of an existing fire for cooking or other purposes is permitted.

To light candles for Day 2 of Yom Tov (Friday night) and Shabbat, ensure you have a fire burning before candle-lighting time for Day 1 (Thursday evening) that will continue to burn until Shabbat candle-lighting time.

For example:

- A burning candle that lasts for more than 25 hours
- A pilot light on a gas range (not a gas range with an electronic starter)

Information from Luah Hashanah 5786
by Rabbi Miles B. Cohen and Leslie Rubin

Happy Passover

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran & Silvana Bacman
Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Deborah and Mark Zeger
Scotty Ginett
Stephen Papkin
Mandi & Paul Warner
Evan & Monique Spindelman
Aviva & Arie Schochat
Lina & Martin Spokony
Howard & Rachel Goldberg
Roberta & David Feldman
Gerald Gamm & Charles Towles
Lisa & Dan Tellem

COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH EVENTS

We invite all to join in community Yom HaShoah events organized by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester. Stay tuned for more information, coming soon.

APRIL 20
Yom Hazikaron

APRIL 22
Yom Ha'azmaut, Israel's Independence Day

March
ADAR /NISAN

MARCH 1
BE WISE Purim Carnival

MARCH 2
Temple Beth El Purim Party

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 4
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 6
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Glow In The Dark Shabbat

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 11
Wisdom Wednesdays
BE WISE Amerks Game

MARCH 14-MARCH 15
Zikaron for 8th and 9th graders

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Challah Baking

MARCH 18
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 21
BE WISE Shabbat and Soko Hill
Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Hill

MARCH 28
USY Laser Tag
Torah on Tap

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

6	5:47 pm
7	6:49 pm
13	6:56 pm
14	7:58 pm
20	7:04 pm
21	8:06 pm
27	7:12 pm
28	8:15 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

April
NISAN/IYAR

APRIL 12
BE WISE Yom HaShoa Ceremony

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 15
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 18
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Ice Cream and Israel Torah on Tap

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program
BE WISE Israel Program

APRIL 22
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE
Tot Shabbat

APRIL 25
USY Volunteering and Overnight at Temple Beth El

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

APRIL 29
Wisdom Wednesdays

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

🕯🕯	2	8:21 pm
🕯🕯	3	7:21 pm
🕯	4	8:23 pm
🕯🕯	8	8:28 pm
🕯🕯	10	7:29 pm
🕯	11	8:32 pm
🕯🕯	17	7:37 pm
🕯	18	8:41 pm
🕯🕯	24	7:45 pm
🕯	25	8:51 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

May

IYAR/SIVAN

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 6
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 10
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Group Volunteer Outing

MAY 13
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 16
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Bowling
Torah on Tap

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 20
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

MAY 31
USY Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	7:53 pm
2	9:00 pm
8	8:01 pm
9	9:09 pm
15	8:09 pm
16	9:18 pm
21	8:15 pm
22	8:16 pm
23	9:26 pm
29	8:22 pm
30	9:34 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

June
SIVAN/TAMUZ

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JUNE 25
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

5	8:28 pm
6	9:40 pm
12	8:32 pm
13	9:45 pm
19	8:35 pm
20	9:48 pm
26	8:36 pm
27	9:48 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

July

TAMUZ/AV

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

JULY 16
Torah on Tap

AUGUST 13
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

3	8:35 pm
4	9:46 pm
10	8:32 pm
11	9:42 pm
17	8:28 pm
18	9:37 pm
24	8:22 pm
25	9:29 pm
31	8:14 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

August
AV/ELUL

AUGUST 23
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	8:13 pm
8	8:04 pm
9	9:08 pm
15	7:54 pm
16	8:51 pm
22	7:43 pm
23	8:44pm
29	7:31 pm
30	8:32 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

WISDOM WEDNESDAYS

Join us for Wisdom Wednesdays where your teen can have dinner and a discussion!

Grades 8-12
Grades 8-9 learn with Stephen Papkin
Grades 10-12 learn with Rabbi Goldstein

Cost is $180 per participant

6–7:30 PM at Temple Beth El

Please note: No refunds will be issued after completing registration.

MARCH 4
MARCH 11
MARCH 18
MARCH 25
APRIL 15
APRIL 22
APRIL 29
MAY 6
MAY 13
MAY 20

scan to register

JAVA & JEANS

WITH RABBI GOLDSTEIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 25
MAY 16
JUNE 20
JULY 11

Do you have questions about Jewish prayer that you have never been able to ask? Are you seeking a deeper meaning behind the prayers? Join us for Java and Jeans, where we explore theology, prayer, mussar, mindfulness, and psychology capped off with lively Torah study discussion over coffee while wearing your favorite pair of jeans.

TORAH ON TAP

WITH STEPHEN PAPKIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 18
MAY 16
JUNE 25
JULY 16
AUGUST 13

A monthly pub crawl featuring Jewish learning and discussions at alternating venues around Rochester. Enjoy a cold one with friends while learning how the Jewish take on different topics.

JOIN US FOR A LAG B'OMER BBQ & BONFIRE

THURSDAY, MAY 4 | 6 PM

We invite all to join us for our annual Lag B'Omer bonfire. Hot dogs and chips will be provided!

Mincha held at 6 PM with food and fun to follow.

This event is free but registration is required.

We hope to see you there!

ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 21

MINCHA | 6 PM
ANNUAL MEETING | 6:30 PM
MA'ARIV | 7:30 PM

DINNER & TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT TO FOLLOW

Join us for the installation of new Officers and Board Members, Dinner, and Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

This event is free but registration is requested at tberoc.org

SHAVUOT

THURSDAY, MAY 21
6 PM: Mincha
6:30 PM: Annual Meeting
7:30 PM: Ma'ariv
Dinner & Tikkun Leil Shavuot to follow

FRIDAY, MAY 22
9 AM: Shavuot Services
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha

SATURDAY, MAY 23
9 AM: Shavuot Services
11 AM: Yizkor
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha
9:38 PM: Shavuot Ends

Temple Beth El
בית אל
An Inclusive Jewish Community

PRIDE SHABBAT

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 18

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 19

More information to be announced soon—
Watch www.tberoc.org for details!

TISHA B'AV

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 (SHABBAT CHAZON)

8:30 PM: Mincha & Eicha
8:42 PM: Fast Begins

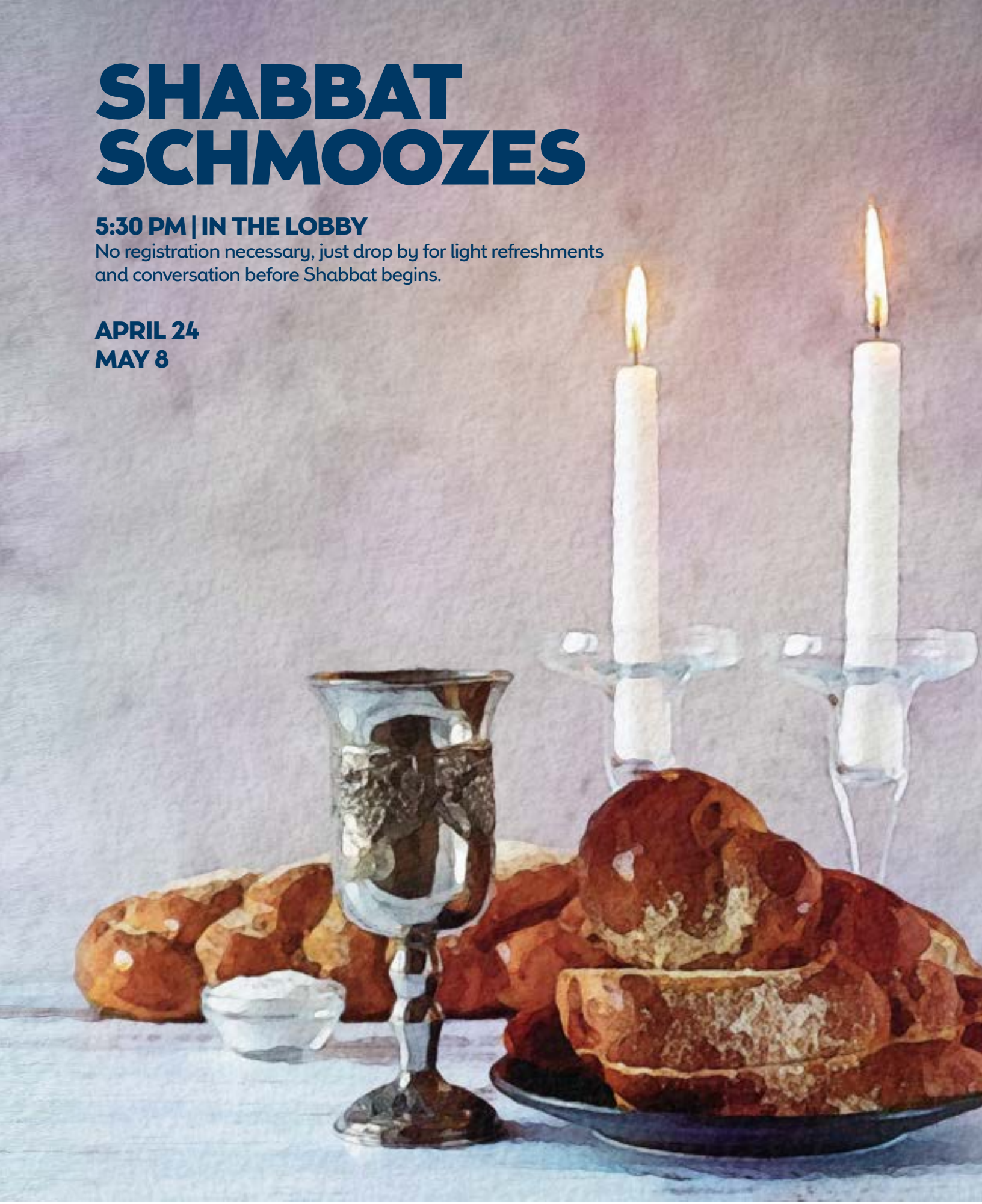
THURSDAY, JULY 23

7:30 AM: Shacharit
2 PM: Mincha
6 PM: Mincha
9:22 PM: Fast Ends

SHABBAT SCHMOOZES

5:30 PM | IN THE LOBBY
No registration necessary, just drop by for light refreshments and conversation before Shabbat begins.

APRIL 24
MAY 8



SHABBAT DINNERS AT TEMPLE BETH EL

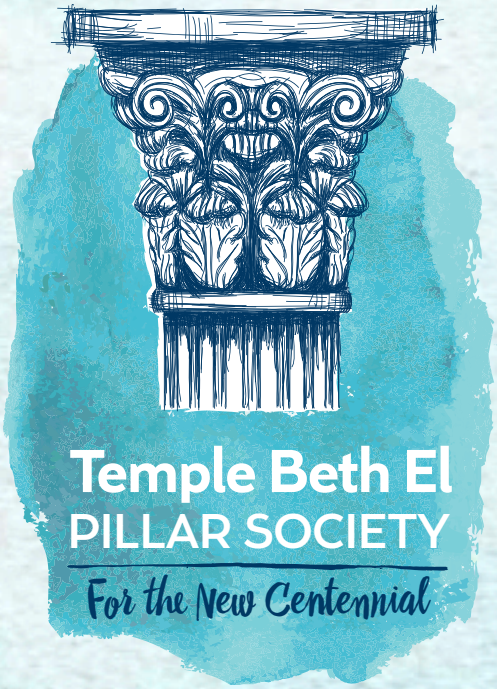
JUNE 19
JULY 17
AUGUST 7

Please register for dinners online at www.tberoc.org
or by calling the office at (585) 473-1770.

MEMORIES WITH RABBI BITRAN

Please send your favorite pictures and memories of Rabbi Bitran to **Communications@tberochester.org.** Your submission may be included in graphics for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration weekend.

RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S INSTALLATION AS TEMPLE BETH EL'S SENIOR RABBI



"The world stands on three things: on the Torah, on the service to God, and on deeds of loving kindness."

Ethics of the Fathers

Fulfill the Mitzvah of *G'milut Chasadim* (deeds of loving kindness) by supporting our synagogue. Members of the Pillar Society make annual commitments over and above full membership dues to help ensure the well-being of our synagogue. As a member of the Pillar Society you will be instrumental in preserving the future of Temple Beth El for generations to come. In appreciation of your exceptional commitment, which is also recognized as a contribution to the High Holy Day Appeal, you will receive the following additional benefits:

All Pillars Receive:
- Recognition as a Contributor to the High Holy Day Appeal
- Apples and Honey Sponsorship
- Invitation to the Annual Pillar Event
- Honored at Pillar Society Shabbat

YACHAD UNDER 40
($1,000-$1,499)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book

CHAI
($1,500-$2,999)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book
- 2 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

SHOMER
($3,000-$5,499)
- ½ page in Remembrance Book
- 4 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

KOACH
($5,500-$9,999)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 6 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

OHR
($10,000+)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 8 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)
- Reserved High Holy Day seating

Please join members of the Temple Beth El family who have already made the additional commitment to our congregation by becoming members of the Pillar Society.

For more information contact Deborah Zeger at the Temple Beth El office at 473-1770 or by email to dzeger@tberochester.org.

Yes, I would like to support Temple Beth El by making a 3 year commitment to the Pillar Society for the New Centennial, in the amount of: $_____ a year.

Name_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ YACHAD ☐ CHAI ☐ SHOMER ☐ KOACH ☐ OHR

__ My check for $_____ is enclosed

__ Please bill me: ___Annually ___Quarterly ___Monthly

__ Please charge for my first installment of $_____ ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ DISCOVER

Card #_____ Expires _____ Signature_____

L'Dor V'Dor
לדר ודר
Temple Beth El's Giving Society

from one generation to the next... for our future.

For Over a Century Temple Beth El has continued to play a unique role in the Rochester community providing a place where Jewish tradition and Innovation combine and where we share the most meaningful events in our lives. TBE is the place that offers anyone the opportunity to find their own spirituality and meaning.

Our legacy donors are individuals and families who wish to ensure that TBE remains an enriching community for generations to come. We continue to seek meaning together. Please consider making a legacy gift today.

For more information about supporting Temple Beth El's future please contact Debbie Zeger at dzeger@tberochester.org or 473-1770.

LIFE & LEGACY

EachOne ReachOne
Magnifying Your Impact

The Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester

If you have made provisions for Temple Beth El in your estate plans, or would like more information about doing so, please let us know by providing the information requested here. We would be honored to include you as a member of the L'Dor V'Dor Society and recognize your commitment.

- ☐ *I/We would like more information on becoming part of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We wish to receive more information about how to make a planned gift*
- ☐ *I/ We have provided for a gift to Temple Beth El in my/our will or estate plan*
- ☐ *I/We wish to be listed as member(s) of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We accept membership in the L'Dor V'Dor society but wish to remain anonymous at this time*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHESTER, NY
PERMIT NO. 407

1*1*******SCH 3-DIGIT 144

1

John Q. Sample
Suite 100
123 Main Street
Anytown, NY 12345-6789

Happy Passover

SENIOR STAFF

Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Senior Rabbi
bgoldstein@tberochester.org

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran
Senior Rabbi
lbitran@tberochester.org

Hazzan Martin Leubitz
Hazzan Emeritus, z"l

Deborah Zeger
Executive Director
dzeger@tberochester.org

Scotty Ginett
Director of Communications and Development
sginett@tberochester.org

Stephen Papkin
Director of Congregational Learning
spapkin@tberochester.org

Mandi Warner
Youth & Family Director
mwarner@tberochester.org

OFFICERS 2025–26

Evan Spindelman
President

Lina Spokony
Vice President

Aviva Schochat
Vice President

Howard Goldberg
Treasurer

Roberta Feldman
Secretary

Lisa Tellem
Officer-at-Large

Gerald Gamm
Officer-at-Large

Matt Ryen
Immediate Past President

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM–6:00 PM
Friday 8:30 AM–3:00 PM

Phone 585.473.1770

Carol Konuksever
Reception/Admin. Asst.
ckonuksever@tberochester.org

Willow Knight
Communications Assistant
wknight@tberochester.org

Suzie Syracuse
Finance & Facility Supervisor
ssyracuse@tberochester.org

EDUCATION OFFICE

Phone 585.473.1190

THE Kol
Temple Beth El
בית אל
VOL. 105 NO.2
MARCH 2026–AUGUST 2026
ADAR–ELUL 5786

PASSOVER ISSUE

schedules and information starting on page 19

Save the Date for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration Weekend!

Details on page 7

Mission Statement

Temple Beth El is a vibrant and inclusive community of Jews who join together for prayer, education, celebration, mutual support and comfort, tikkun olam and acts of loving kindness. We are guided by Torah and the principles of the Conservative movement. We are committed to our community, the State of Israel, and Jews around the world.

Vision Statement

Our vision is that Temple Beth El will be an inspiring center of Conservative Judaism in which meaningful experiences and memories take root and grow.

Values Statement

We are a welcoming and inclusive congregation.
We value and respect each congregant and their personal journey in Judaism.

We foster a sense of connectedness with our community.
We value participation in all aspects of synagogue and Jewish life.

Our congregation will be here for the entire Temple family now and for future generations.

Welcome!

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610
Phone: 585-473-1770

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with us at **www.tberoc.org**, where you can find up-to-date information and content.

facebook.com/TBEROCH

@tberochester

Subscribe to our YOUTUBE Channel:
Temple Beth El Rochester

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Shacharit:

Sunday: .....8:30 AM
Monday–Friday: .....7:30 AM
Rosh Hodesh: .....7:15 AM
Secular Holidays: ....8:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:

Sunday–Friday: .....6:00 PM

SHACHARIT ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6p5ky6h
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 846 8881 5480

MINCHA/MA'ARIV ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6d78zsx
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 841 5194 9603

SHABBAT SERVICES

Pesukei dezimra: ....9:30 AM
Shacharit: .....10:00 AM
Torah Service: .....10:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:
Check website for weekly times

LIVE STREAM LINK:
https://www.tberoc.org/live-stream/

JUNIOR CONGREGATION LEARNING

Every Saturday: .....11–11:30 AM
Ideal for children ages 4-11

PRE B'NEI MITZVAH SERVICE

First Saturday of every month: .....10:30 AM
For students who are studying to become B'nei Mitzvah

All Shabbat information including our trifold can be found on our website:
https://www.tberoc.org/pray/shabbat-services/

SAVE THE DATES!

Purim 5786

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Community Purim Festival at JCC

MONDAY, MARCH 2
Megillah Readings, Dinner, and TBE Purim Party featuring Aerial Arts

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
Keshet Purim Celebration

FROM RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S DESK

Dear Friends,

In the words of Ecclesiastes, there is nothing new under the sun. As I sit here writing this, I have just come from the 2026 Rabbinic Training Institute (RTI) hosted by the Rabbinical Assembly and the Jewish Theological Seminary. It's an annual retreat in which about 100 rabbis come together to learn classic texts, share about their experiences in the rabbinate, and talk about the future of our movement. This year was my fifteenth year at RTI, and with apologies to Ecclesiastes, there was something very new about it.

While I was at the retreat, many of my colleagues asked me about my feelings on being here at Temple Beth El. I'll tell them what I told you. I absolutely love being the rabbi of this community. In the last six months, I have thoroughly loved getting to know all of you and this holy community. During the High Holidays I felt an infectious enthusiasm and joy that I hope we can hold on to and off which we can build a bright future for our community.

I realize that none of this would be possible without the leadership of Rabbi Bitran. I am so grateful for his generosity and magnanimity in allowing me to come in and be myself. I have witnessed his indefatigable spirit and dedication to this community and am honored to be following him as your senior rabbi. In the coming months, I hope we can honor him in ways befitting his enormous contributions to our home at Beth El.

Since my arrival I have been privileged to have talked with many of you about the rich history of Temple Beth El. I have learned just how many of you are related to each other (I still can't get over how many of you are cousins or related in some way). We have spoken about your families' legacies and love for TBE and about the future of our community. We have had honest and open conversations about the many opportunities and challenges we face.

I am very excited about how much we can grow and maintain the enthusiasm I've witnessed. One way is our adult education/engagement program. We are excited about the partnerships we have in place with both the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, Hadar Yeshiva in NYC, and the Maas Center from American Jewish University out of Los Angeles. Next year at the High Holidays we hope to be able to have a brochure rich with opportunities for learning and engagement.

Over the course of the next few months, you will be hearing about more opportunities for conversation. I am interested in knowing how TBE and I can best meet your spiritual needs. If there is something you'd like to see, or a program you're interested in, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Change is never easy. We all know the necessity of holding onto our Jewish values and the importance we place on tradition. And, as we know, the most dangerous question we can ask about tradition is "why." Together we will explore the "why's" and "how's" of our tradition. Yes, it can be scary, but we know that our religion is constantly evolving. As we say in our blessings over the torah, "blessed are you, God who is giving the torah." Our tradition acknowledges that we are still being given torah, even to this day. If you think back to what Beth El looked like 30 years ago, and how it looks today, you know what I'm talking about.

We will make changes, yes, but we do not make them lightly. We make them only to better suit the needs of our community, keeping our principles and values always close to us. May we be blessed to experience the bright future of TBE together, going from strength to strength, united in our hope for a bright future of Judaism, for ourselves and our families for generations to come.

FROM RABBI BITRAN'S DESK

Passover: The Power of the Small Things

The observance of *Pesach* contains a central idea that applies not only to this festival, but to Jewish life as a whole—and, indeed, to the very nature of human existence.

Jewish law strictly prohibits the consumption of bread and leavened products during Passover. The regulations are exacting—details of which can be found on our website—but in essence, even the smallest amount of *chametz* renders food unfit for use. Why is a minute particle of leaven so potent that it can invalidate a large quantity of food? The answer is that this law underscores the importance of small things—the details of human existence.

We live in a world that pays homage to size. We are addicted to bigness: bigger industries, bigger cars, king-size screens, and skyscrapers that stretch ever higher into the heavens. Institutions grow larger and larger. In our fascination with size, we have confused bigness with greatness, quantity with quality, and scale with substance.

Consider that the two nations of the ancient world that left the deepest imprint on Western civilization were the Jews and the Greeks. A cursory glance at the map reveals how small these lands were in size, yet how enduring their influence has been. David Lloyd George, the British statesman who guided Britain through World War I and its aftermath, once observed:

"God has chosen little nations as the vessels by which God carries God's choicest wines to the lips of humanity, to rejoice their hearts, to exalt their vision, and to strengthen their faith."

The value of small things becomes clearer when we deal with what is precious. In a ton of coal, the loss of a few lumps is insignificant. But when handling precious stones or volatile chemicals, every minute quantity matters greatly.

The same is true in our relationships with other people. We often focus on grand gestures, but the true difference between refined and crude individuals—politics aside—lies in the small things: a kind word, a gesture of respect, a sympathetic clasp of the hand, a thoughtful remark, a reassuring pat on the shoulder. These simple acts allow us to feel warmth, dignity, and human connection. This principle also defines Jewish life. There is little in Jewish observance that is outwardly spectacular. Washing hands before a meal, reciting a blessing, kindling a few candles—these are the acts through which Jewish values are lived and experienced. American Jews today are not asked to perform heroic deeds or extraordinary sacrifices, only small acts—and precisely because they are small, they are often overlooked.

Creating a Jewish home for a child, reading a Jewish book, enrolling in a Jewish class—these acts seem unspectacular. Reciting *Kiddush*, subscribing to a Jewish publication, buying an Israel Bond, serving on a committee—these are quiet and undramatic. Yet it is precisely through faithfulness to these small acts that our loyalty to Judaism is expressed and the character of Jewish life in America is shaped. As Leo Baeck wrote:

"Piety, especially Jewish piety, respects the little—the little person, the little matter, the little task, the little duty. Through the little, religion encounters the greatness that lies behind."

I know that parents, when truly tested, are capable of enormous sacrifices for their children and loved ones. But I appeal especially to parents this Passover to embrace the humble, undramatic tasks—the "little things" of the season. Introduce the *Seder* in your home in a way that reflects the joy and beauty of the festival. Preparing the home for Passover takes effort, and there are special roles for both parents to play. Yet this shared experience nourishes the Jewish spirit and sanctifies and elevates our lives.

A particle of *chametz* may seem insignificant, but just as one false note can ruin a great symphony, so too do small things matter profoundly. It is in the details of life that we reveal our sensitivity—and earn the right to call ourselves civilized.

A Happy Passover to all. *Pesach Kasher veSameach*. May the ideals of this Festival of Freedom bring renewed hope here and in Israel, and inspire fresh strength within the Jewish community. May the dream of freedom be realized for families everywhere as we celebrate the event that gave birth to liberty for our ancestors.

From my family to yours,
May you have a meaningful *Sedarim* and
a *Pesach Kasher veSameach*.

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran

You are invited to join us for

RABBI BITRAN'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION WEEKEND

MAY 29–31, 2026

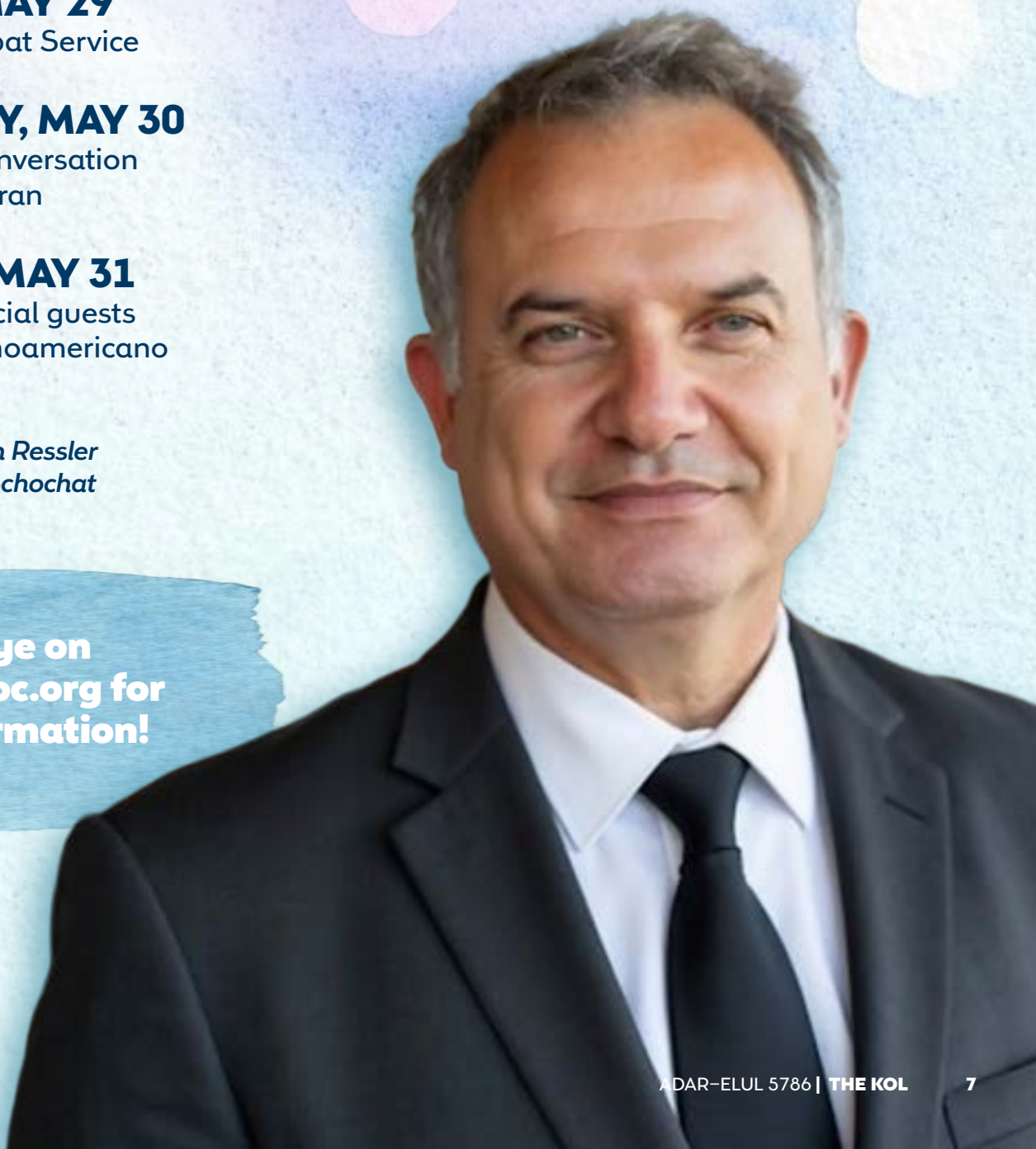
FRIDAY, MAY 29
Special Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MAY 30
Kiddush & Conversation
with Rabbi Bitran

SUNDAY, MAY 31
Gala with special guests
Cuarteto Latinoamericano

Event chairs:
Sara and Darren Ressler
Aviva and Arie Schochat

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My daughter likes to poke fun at me by saying that all I do for a living is look at emails. Strangely there is an element of truth to her assertion. Email is the delivery system for much of what I do, whether it is responding to inquiries from any number of sources, or syncing with my work database, my eyeballs are glued to a screen for more hours than I would like to admit. Like everybody else connected to the digital world, my daily existence is linked to technology be it via cell phone, pc, or iPad. Seemingly nobody is spared. And those few who choose to unplug and disconnect we somewhat sarcastically refer to as being off the grid.

Growing up in the 70's and 80's, life was very different. But not just the absence of digital connectivity. Human connectivity was actually—well—human. We talked to each other. We lived in a society that was both accessible and open. I mean really open. Take our very own Temple Beth El. Doors were unlocked. There was no hired security. Hebrew School was in session three times a week, and when we were let out of class, we waited outside for our parents to come pick us up with little or no adult supervision. I held the distinction of being one of the last kids to get their ride. My dad's office was downtown, and he was tasked with pickup duty. He would lose track of time, or take that one last phone call, and—I kid you not—got around to picking me up sometimes over an hour after classes ended. Don't mean to throw you under the bus dad—love you!

There is a point to all this reminiscing. Those of us old enough to remember a different world in which we lived mourn the loss of that open society. That human interaction. The absence of technology running our lives. There are certainly very tangible benefits to the truly amazing pace of technological advancement. But the decline of human contact and spiritual connectivity is just so palpable.

One of the great things about this community is that we connect. Sure, we use technology like everybody else. But the very purpose of our temple community is just that—community. And there are a lot of people—staff, teachers, clergy and temple members—that make sure that is so.

Last year at this time, my president's message detailed what we expected to accomplish for our temple community in 2025. First and foremost, we have welcomed our new Senior Rabbi Benjamin Goldstein. The NYS Office of Children and Family Services has licensed our Keshet program. Strides have been made to build upon the success of our BeWise program. And infrastructural improvements have been completed to ensure our Synagogue will be our spiritual home for many more years to come. Time has brought many changes to the world in which we live. But our Temple community continues to flourish as a source of Jewish community and connectivity.

Evan Spindelman
TBE Board President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the past year at Temple Beth El, I am filled with gratitude for the strength, generosity, and commitment of this community. Synagogue life is built not only on moments of prayer, but on shared experiences, collective effort, and the relationships that sustain us through times of celebration and transition. This year reminded us just how powerful those connections can be.

One of the most exciting milestones of the year was our first-ever crowdfunding campaign in the fall of 2025. Through the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteer ambassadors, we raised more than $155,000 in support of Temple Beth El. This effort was about more than fundraising—it was a testament to how deeply our congregants believe in this community and in ensuring a strong future for our synagogue. I am deeply thankful to everyone who participated, donated, and helped spread the word.

This year also marked a profound moment of leadership transition. We joyfully celebrated the installation of Rabbi Ben Goldstein as Temple Beth El's 12th Senior Rabbi, welcoming him into a role that carries both tradition and vision. Rabbi Goldstein's installation was a meaningful communal moment, reflecting our optimism and excitement for the path ahead.

At the same time, we began to honor the legacy of Rabbi Bitran, who will retire in May 2026 after 13 years of dedicated service as our Senior Rabbi. Rabbi Bitran's impact on Temple Beth El is immeasurable. He has guided our congregation with wisdom, compassion, and care through moments of joy and challenge, and his leadership has helped shape the vibrant community we are today. We will be celebrating his retirement at the end of May. Please save the dates of May 29–31!

None of these accomplishments happen in isolation. They are made possible by the generosity of our donors, the commitment of our volunteers, and the ongoing engagement of our congregants. Together, you create a community that is resilient, welcoming, and deeply rooted in shared values.

Thank you for being part of Temple Beth El's story. It is a privilege to reflect on what we have accomplished together, and I am hopeful and inspired as we look toward the future we are building side by side.

Deborah Zeger
TBE Executive Director

FROM THE YOUTH & FAMILY DIRECTOR

Shalom,

As we start the second half of the school year, I can't help but look back at all of our successes from the first half of the year that will carry us through.

Our school year started out very smoothly, and we were able to quickly adapt to being newly licensed by New York State. The professional development that has been made available has been highly utilized to benefit the quality of care, instruction, classroom management, and communication amongst our teachers. We have a very active Parent Council of four parents that have been helping to plan events, make recommendations based on experience and feedback from other parents, and serve as room parents for each of the classes.

From an Early Childhood Department standpoint, we have had several successful family programs that partnered with BE WISE Jr. that included apple picking before Rosh Hashanah, bringing Seneca Park Zoo to Temple Beth El to teach about Parsha Noach, and prepping for Hanukkah by making menorahs, dreidels, and latke plates. All of our programs attracted large crowds, including close to 100 for apple picking. We have also brought back monthly Tot Shabbat, rotating between Friday night services and Saturday morning. We have even combined with BE WISE for a meaningful morning.

After all of the successes from the first half of the year, we are looking forward to springing forward with some exciting new events and offerings for our youngest congregants.

We are looking forward to our first ever Chametz Scavenger hunt for Early Childhood families in March to prepare for Passover on March 15, which will take place at Wegmans. The goal behind this is to give children and their families a list of foods, have them find them in the store, and determine if they are Passover-friendly or not. We also have an Israel Family Program to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut on April 19, and we will conclude this school year with a Shavuot Cooking Class on May 17.

Camp Keshet will begin on July 6, and we will debut our new extension program. Registration is out, and we have some new and exciting themes including Camp Keshet Campout, Around the World, and Fairytale Forest, as well as returning fan favorite, Messy Art! We will also bring back Watermelon Wednesday which will feature some new guests, as well as fan favorites like the City of Rochester Fire Department! We typically get campers from all over the world including Israel, Germany, and even Ukraine! You will not want your little one to miss the Camp Keshet experience!

Both Camp Keshet and Keshet registration is out, and with our extension until 4, spaces are filling up quickly! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or even just to chat about opportunities for your little one! I have coffee and tea in my office and am always open to a

L'Shalom,

Mandi Warner

Mandi Warner
TBE Youth & Family Director

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DIRECTOR

Shalom,

Here at Temple Beth El, we are proud of the varied opportunities to engage in Jewish living and learning that we provide Jewish Rochesterians of all ages. Beginning with early childhood, we guide our students on a track in our BE.WISE Religious School, through the process of becoming a B'nei Mitzvah and onward to youth groups, weekly learning with peers, and into adulthood.

Our synagogue's BE.WISE Religious School is named after the core values of our educational program: Beth El Wisdom, Identity, Spirit and Education. We begin welcoming 4 year old students into our PreK program BE.WISE Junior, which consists of one monthly early childhood program for the whole family and one day per month of class at our Sunday school. Our BE.WISE Junior program gives students a fantastic and fun jumpstart to their Alef Bet, Torah story and Jewish holiday learning!

Students continue together as a learning cohort throughout the BE.WISE program into Kindergarten and through the Seventh Grade. The BE.WISE program strives to integrate joy and fun into Jewish learning, and to make Judaism more meaningful and accessible through the development of the foundational skills for engaging in Jewish life. BE.WISE students learn from The Beverly Goldstick z"l Curriculum for 21st Century Learning, focusing on Hebrew literacy, prayer skills, Jewish peoplehood and a strong relationship with Eretz Yisrael. We invite families of our students several times a year to join us for holiday programming, BE.WISE Shabbat experiences, and celebrations. As students approach their B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies, they are invited to participate in a year-long cohort of fun and learning together as they and their families prepare and study to become full-fledged members of the Jewish community.

After graduating from the BE.WISE program as 7th graders, students have an array of choices for their continued involvement in Jewish life and learning at Temple Beth El. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade have the opportunity to split their time earning volunteer hours by assisting in classrooms and taking higher learning classes in our BE.WISE Madrichim program. Older Madrichim have the opportunity to become paid tutors in lieu of volunteer credit. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade also have the opportunity to join our USY community, which provides teens with fun Jewish programming throughout the year. Additionally, we are proud to offer our new weekly teen learning series, which will have students engage in Jewish learning and discussion with Rabbi Goldstein and myself while enjoying a weekly dinner together.

As lifelong learners, there are great educational opportunities for our congregants at Temple Beth El as well! Participants can choose from a variety of opportunities such as Introduction to Judaism, a monthly Java & Jeans discussion and learning series from distinguished institutions such as Hadar and The Hartman Institute. Adult congregants are also invited to join Torah On Tap, our monthly Jewish discussion program where we learn while enjoying cold drinks.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions about Jewish education here at Temple Beth El!

Stephen Papkin,
TBE Congregational Learning Director

TBE EDUCATION

Keshet
קשת
Temple Beth El's Early Childhood Program

Keshet Preschool, a Jewish early childhood program, is dedicated to serving the entire Rochester community. In a warm loving environment, through play, your child will gain a love of Jewish and secular learning as well as develop their social-emotional skills.

For more information, contact Mandi Warner at mwarner@tberochester.org

BE.WISE:
JEWISH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

BE.WISE, (Beth El wisdom, identity, spirit, education) offers quality supplementary Jewish education for students in grades Kindergarten through seventh grade, and offers Madrichim programs for students in eighth grade and high school. New this year, we also offer BE.WISE Junior for Pre-K students. Core courses focus on building Hebrew literacy while building connections to Hebrew language, Jewish peoplehood, Israel, Jewish history, Tanakh, Tefillah and the chagim. Elective classes change frequently with offerings including Judaism through Art, Jewish Music and Cafe Ivrit.

For more information, contact Stephen Papkin at spapkin@tberochester.org

Early Childhood Calendar

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt

MARCH 30
Professional Development

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

WATERMELON WEDNESDAY

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29
AUGUST 5, 12

1 PM | TBE PLAYGROUND

Join other families with young children every Wednesday this summer, featuring special guests like the Rochester Fire Department, Butterfly Kids Yoga, and more!

Temple Beth El **CAMP KESHET 2026** Keshet קשת

JULY 6–AUGUST 14 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Find more information and sign up at www.tberoc.org/camp

JULY 6–10
Sensing Summer

JULY 13–17
Messy Art

July 20–24
Camp Keshet Campout

JULY 27–31
Fairytale Forest

AUGUST 3–7
Around the World

AUGUST 10–14
Camp Keshet Maccabiah Games

ONLINE RESOURCES

YAHRZEITS You should have received an email or letter stating when the Yahrzeit of your loved one will be observed according to the Jewish calendar. Names will be read on the Shabbat dates prior to the actual Yahrzeit. See link below. Kaddish is also recited at Ma'ariv (evening service) on the night on which the Yahrzeit begins and at Shacharit (morning service) and Mincha (afternoon service) on the day of the Yahrzeit. Actual dates can be found on your Shulcloud account or by calling the office at (585) 473-1700.
The monthly list of daily Yahrzeit dates can be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/yahrzeits

DONATIONS

Temple Beth El is very grateful for every donation we receive. Your support enables us to provide ongoing services and programs to the congregation and community.
Give now to Temple Beth El at www.tberoc.org/support

VOLUNTEER

Give your time and talents to help at Temple Beth El throughout the year.
Find opportunities and initiatives at www.tberoc.org/meet/volunteer

MAZEL TOV

We are happy to pass along news about our congregants and community. Share yours by calling the office at (585) 473-1770 or by emailing communications@tberochester.org. **Mazel Tovs can now be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/mazel-tovs**

COMMUNITY EVENTS & CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Temple Beth El programs and candle lighting times for Holy Days and Shabbat can be found by month and date **starting on page 30 and at www.tberoc.org/calendar**

20s & 30s

This is a welcoming place for Jews in their 20/30s. Jewish and non Jewish partners are always welcome to join! Parents may bring children under the age of 2.

Join the 20s & 30s on Facebook for information on all upcoming events at www.facebook.com/TBE2030. All times are subject to change.

MARCH 27
Shabbat Services

MARCH 28
Torah on Tap

APRIL 15 | 7 PM
Yoga

APRIL 24
Shabbat Services

MAY 16
Torah On Tap

MAY 29
Shabbat Services

JUNE 7 | 4 PM
Eric Weiner Memorial Event

JUNE 26
Shabbat Services

JULY 31
Shabbat Services

AUGUST (TBD)
TBE at the Red Wings

AUGUST 28
Shabbat Services

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club of Temple Beth El
Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life

MARCH 7
Men's Club Shabbat

MARCH 28
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Keith Freedman

MAY 16
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Jeff Levinson

JUNE 14
Men's Club Annual Meeting

JUNE 20
Members Stories: Getting to Know us speaker TBD

MEN'S CLUB OF TEMPLE BETH EL
2025–2026 JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I'm interested in: _____

_____

Send completed form with $40 check payable to Men's Club of Temple Beth El to:
Temple Beth El – Men's Club,
139 S. Winton Road South,
Rochester, NY 14610

Or, pay via PayPal at https://www.tberochester.org/meet/mens-club/

SISTERHOOD

When women support each other, incredible things happen.

All Sisterhood meetings and programs are open to the entire Temple Beth El family.

Celebrating our 105TH Year!

We Are Sisterhood!

We are a community of Conservative Jewish women. From the beginning of our movement's history, our women have sought out the company of likeminded women—recognizing and appreciating the mission of our founders.

- We come together for camaraderie, for support, inspiration and comfort.
- We look to one another for wisdom, practical knowledge and spiritual guidance.
- We look to one another for support and guidance about how to maintain that delicate balance between tradition and change.
- We are the evolved version of Mathilde Schechter's Sisterhood vision, now more than one hundred years old, of education and learning for Jewish women.
- Conservative Jewish women have been at the forefront of religious progress and change. We celebrate our community.

Join us in strengthening our Sisterhood. We've grown stronger together and now it's your turn to dive in. Community workshops that spark lively chats, conferences and conventions that touch hearts and spiritual retreats that recharge your soul. Come to an event, stay for the connection, stay for the inspiration—let's build lasting bonds. Sign up today and Temple Beth El your home. Join us as we grow!

Lynda and Wendy, Co-Presidents

Just Judaica
The Gift Shop at Temple Beth El

The largest retail Judaica Gift Shop in western and central New York

Regular Shopping Hours
Sunday mornings: 9:30 AM–noon
(when school is in session)
Wednesday afternoons: 4–6 PM

Can't make regular hours?
Call for an appointment: Lynda (585-314-8288) or Iris (585-739-2428)

Sisterhood Mission Statement

Our mission is to strengthen and unite the women of Sisterhood and support them to understand and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism in the home, synagogue and community and reinforce their bonds with Israel and Jews worldwide.

RICHARD W. BRISKIN CANTOR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

MAY 1–3, 2026

Featuring Toby Banks

2026 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

With Special Guest Cantor Noah Rachels

2022 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!

Toby Banks is a fourth-year cantorial student who was born and raised in New York City. After completing a BA in psychology from Cornell University, she went on to have a 20+ year career as both a professional classical singer and a development professional.

Toby has performed as a featured soloist with opera companies and symphony orchestras in major concert halls across the United States. In addition to the classical opera and concert repertoire, she made a name for herself in the world of avant-garde and contemporary classical music and has been a featured soloist in countless premieres and recordings. She also sang for nearly 20 years in the professional choir of Park Avenue Synagogue, where she is now a member.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, Toby is serving as the cantorial intern at Ansche Chesed in New York City and served as the High Holiday Cantor at Congregation Agudat Achim in Schenectady, NY. As a cantorial student, she is excited to bring together her passion for music, Judaism, and pastoral care in order to serve the Jewish community through leadership, healing, prayer, and song.

Cantor Noah Rachels was born and raised in the "Borscht Belt". He currently serves as the Hazzan of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto, Canada, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He previously held a pulpit at Mosaic Law Congregation in Sacramento, California, from 2023 to 2025. A graduate of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Cantor Rachels was the recipient of the 2022 Richard W. Briskin Award. He is particularly passionate about music, prayer, and fostering spiritual growth and meaning, and is delighted to return to Temple Beth El.

Temple Beth El
בית אל

Passover 5786

Temple Beth El בית אל

5786 Passover SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, MARCH 31
7 AM .....Morning Minyan
followed by Siyum Bechorim & breakfast
6 PM .....Mincha & Ma'ariv
8 PM .....Bedikat Hametz at Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
(EREV PESACH) - FIRST SEDER
7 AM .....Morning Minyan, followed by
Siyum Bechorim and breakfast
12 PM .....Burn the Hametz (Biyur Hametz)
6 PM ..... Mincha
7:18 PM..... Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
SECOND SEDER
9 AM .....Morning services for First Day of Passover
8:21 PM.....Candle lighting

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
9 AM .....Morning services for Second Day of Passover
6 PM .....Kabbalat Shabbat
7:21 PM.....Candle lighting (from a pre-existing flame)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
9 AM .....Morning services for Third Day of Passover,
followed by Kiddush lunch
7:08 PM ....Mincha
8:20 PM ....Ma'ariv
8:23 PM ....Shabbat ends

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
FOURTH DAY OF PASSOVER
8:30 AM....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

MONDAY, APRIL 6
FIFTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

TUESDAY, APRIL 7
SIXTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv
7:25 PM.....Candle lighting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Seventh Day of Passover
12 PM .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:28 PM ....Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
EIGHTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Eighth Day of Passover
11 AM .....Yizkor
12 pm .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:30 PM ....Passover ends

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR ANNUAL

Second Seder

APRIL 2, 2026
6:00 PM | MINCHA
6:30 PM | SEDER

Our menu will include matzah ball soup, turkey breast, brisket, kugels, fresh vegetables, and dessert.

Vegetarian and vegan options available!

Adults (13 years and older): $75 per person
Children (12 and younger): $25 per person

Sign up at www.tberoc.org to reserve your meal today!

Prices increase March 18.
Adults $80 | Child $30

Passover INFORMATION

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: ***rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.***

EREV PESACH SIYUM

The sunrise to sunset *ta'anit* (fast) *bekhorim* (of the firstborn), which occurs on the day before Passover, is the only fast that applies to just a segment of the community: all males who are the firstborn children in their families (if the firstborn child is female, the first son born after her is not obligated).

There is a widely practiced exemption: On the principle that fasting is prohibited on a joyous occasion, Judaism allows for anyone who attends a religious feast to forego fasting. It is customary to hold a celebratory meal on the completion of study of a tractate of rabbinic literature, called a *siyyum* (conclusion). So the sages initiated the practice of studying the end of a tractate after morning services on Erev Pesach followed by a celebratory meal.

This year, Siyum B'khorim is held on Wednesday, April 1, as the day before Passover falls on Shabbat. At 7AM on Wednesday, April 1, the firstborn in each family is invited to the Siyum B'khorim. Following the meal, there is an opportunity to burn your family's remaining hametz in a bonfire in the TBE Garden.

IS IT KOSHER FOR PASSOVER?

Passover has its own special rules of kashrut. On Pesach, Jews are forbidden from owning or consuming hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt).

Most Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (kitniyot) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above kitniyot.

PERMITTED FOODS:

A. The following foods require no kosher l'Pesach label when purchased before or during Passover: fresh fruits and eggs, fresh fish (whole or gutted), fresh or frozen kosher meat other than chopped meat, whole (unground) spices and nuts, including whole or half pecans (not pieces), pure black, green, or white tea leaves or teabags, Nestea regular and decaffeinated unflavored tea, coffee (unflavored regular), baking soda and bicarbonate of soda.

B. The following items may be purchased before Pesach without a Pesach hekhsher but if bought during Pesach require a kosher l'Pesach label: white milk, 100% pure fruit juice, filleted fish, frozen fruit (with no additives), pure white sugar (with no additive), olive oil (extra virgin only), non-iodized salt, quinoa (with no additional ingredients).

C. The following products require reliable ("kosher l"Pesach") certification (regular rabbinic supervision is not sufficient), whether purchased before or during Pesach: all baked goods (matzah, Pesach cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzfel meal, and any other products containing matzoh), herbal teas, canned tuna, wine, vinegar, liquor, decaffeinated coffee and tea, dried fruits, oils, frozen uncooked vegetables and all frozen processed foods, candy, chocolate-flavored milk, ice-cream, yogurt, cheeses, butter, and soda. Any processed food bought during Pesach must have a ("kosher l"Pesach") certification.

D. Any detergents, cleaners, etc. which are not a foodstuff and which are not eaten, may be used for Pesach and do not require a special label. These items include: isopropyl alcohol, aluminum products, ammonia, coffee filters, baby oil, powder and ointment, bleach, charcoal, candles, contact paper, plastic cutlery, laundry and dish detergent, fabric softener, oven cleaner, paper bags, plates, wax paper, plastic wrap, polish, sanitizers, scouring pads, stain remover, and bottled water with no additives.

E. Medicines: Prescription medicines are permitted. Non-prescription pills and capsules are permitted, for liquid medications, check with your rabbi.

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.

BEDIKAT HAMETZ

One of the required holiday ceremonies is Bedikat Hametz, searching for leaven. On the night before the first seder, Tuesday, March 31, we conduct a candle-lit search through our home to ensure that no hametz is still present. It is a brief ceremony in which the entire family can and should participate.

1. Make sure that all hametz has been removed or locked away with the exception of what will be needed for the morning.

2. Carefully hide some crumbs of bread. This is to ensure that the blessing and the ceremony will not be performed in vain.

3. Take a candle, a feather or brush, and a box or cloth for the crumbs, and recite this blessing:
Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheynu Melekh haolam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu al biur hametz.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with the commandments and commanded us to remove all leaven.

4. Perform the search and gather up all the crumbs. Tie them in a bundle which will be burned the next morning. Feel free to (safely) burn it on your own, or use the bonfire at Temple Beth El following morning minyan.

5. Recite the following: All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have not seen or removed shall be annulled and void of any ownership and considered as the dust of the earth. (The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.).

6. On Wednesday, April 1, at or before 12 PM, burn the leaven and recite the following:
All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have seen or not seen, that I have removed or not removed, that I have destroyed or not destroyed shall be annulled and void of my ownership and considered as the dust of the earth.
(The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.)

TO SELL YOUR HAMETZ

The Torah prohibits the ownership of hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt) during Passover. Ideally, we burn or remove all hametz from our premises which may be done through donations to a local food pantry. In some cases, however, this would cause prohibitive financial loss. In such cases, we arrange for the sale of the hametz to a non-Jew and its repurchase after Passover. You can arrange for this sale of your Hametz by sending the following form to Rabbi Bitran at theTemple office ***no later than Friday, March 27.***

It is customary to include a donation to provide Maot Hittin funds for Passover supplies for the needy. Please make checks payable to Temple Beth El which will be contributed to Maot Hittin on everyone's behalf.

Form is also available on our website at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/passover/

Dear Rabbi Bitran:
Please act as my agent for this sale of any hametz on my premises.

Name _____

Address _____

email _____

PREPARING A FLAME FOR YOM TOV

On Yom Tov, kindling a new fire is not permitted; however, the use of an existing fire for cooking or other purposes is permitted.

To light candles for Day 2 of Yom Tov (Friday night) and Shabbat, ensure you have a fire burning before candle-lighting time for Day 1 (Thursday evening) that will continue to burn until Shabbat candle-lighting time.

For example:

- A burning candle that lasts for more than 25 hours
- A pilot light on a gas range (not a gas range with an electronic starter)

Information from Luah Hashanah 5786
by Rabbi Miles B. Cohen and Leslie Rubin

Happy Passover

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran & Silvana Bacman
Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Deborah and Mark Zeger
Scotty Ginett
Stephen Papkin
Mandi & Paul Warner
Evan & Monique Spindelman
Aviva & Arie Schochat
Lina & Martin Spokony
Howard & Rachel Goldberg
Roberta & David Feldman
Gerald Gamm & Charles Towles
Lisa & Dan Tellem

COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH EVENTS

We invite all to join in community Yom HaShoah events organized by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester. Stay tuned for more information, coming soon.

APRIL 20
Yom Hazikaron

APRIL 22
Yom Ha'azmaut, Israel's Independence Day

March
ADAR /NISAN

MARCH 1
BE WISE Purim Carnival

MARCH 2
Temple Beth El Purim Party

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 4
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 6
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Glow In The Dark Shabbat

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 11
Wisdom Wednesdays
BE WISE Amerks Game

MARCH 14-MARCH 15
Zikaron for 8th and 9th graders

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Challah Baking

MARCH 18
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 21
BE WISE Shabbat and Soko Hill
Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Hill

MARCH 28
USY Laser Tag
Torah on Tap

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

6	5:47 pm
7	6:49 pm
13	6:56 pm
14	7:58 pm
20	7:04 pm
21	8:06 pm
27	7:12 pm
28	8:15 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

April
NISAN/IYAR

APRIL 12
BE WISE Yom HaShoa Ceremony

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 15
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 18
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Ice Cream and Israel Torah on Tap

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program
BE WISE Israel Program

APRIL 22
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE
Tot Shabbat

APRIL 25
USY Volunteering and Overnight at Temple Beth El

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

APRIL 29
Wisdom Wednesdays

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

🕯🕯	2	8:21 pm
🕯🕯	3	7:21 pm
🕯	4	8:23 pm
🕯🕯	8	8:28 pm
🕯🕯	10	7:29 pm
🕯	11	8:32 pm
🕯🕯	17	7:37 pm
🕯	18	8:41 pm
🕯🕯	24	7:45 pm
🕯	25	8:51 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

May

IYAR/SIVAN

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 6
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 10
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Group Volunteer Outing

MAY 13
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 16
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Bowling
Torah on Tap

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 20
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

MAY 31
USY Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	7:53 pm
2	9:00 pm
8	8:01 pm
9	9:09 pm
15	8:09 pm
16	9:18 pm
21	8:15 pm
22	8:16 pm
23	9:26 pm
29	8:22 pm
30	9:34 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

June
SIVAN/TAMUZ

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JUNE 25
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

5	8:28 pm
6	9:40 pm
12	8:32 pm
13	9:45 pm
19	8:35 pm
20	9:48 pm
26	8:36 pm
27	9:48 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

July

TAMUZ/AV

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

JULY 16
Torah on Tap

AUGUST 13
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

3	8:35 pm
4	9:46 pm
10	8:32 pm
11	9:42 pm
17	8:28 pm
18	9:37 pm
24	8:22 pm
25	9:29 pm
31	8:14 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

August
AV/ELUL

AUGUST 23
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	8:13 pm
8	8:04 pm
9	9:08 pm
15	7:54 pm
16	8:51 pm
22	7:43 pm
23	8:44pm
29	7:31 pm
30	8:32 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

WISDOM WEDNESDAYS

Join us for Wisdom Wednesdays where your teen can have dinner and a discussion!

Grades 8-12
Grades 8-9 learn with Stephen Papkin
Grades 10-12 learn with Rabbi Goldstein

Cost is $180 per participant

6–7:30 PM at Temple Beth El

Please note: No refunds will be issued after completing registration.

MARCH 4
MARCH 11
MARCH 18
MARCH 25
APRIL 15
APRIL 22
APRIL 29
MAY 6
MAY 13
MAY 20

scan to register

JAVA & JEANS

WITH RABBI GOLDSTEIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 25
MAY 16
JUNE 20
JULY 11

Do you have questions about Jewish prayer that you have never been able to ask? Are you seeking a deeper meaning behind the prayers? Join us for Java and Jeans, where we explore theology, prayer, mussar, mindfulness, and psychology capped off with lively Torah study discussion over coffee while wearing your favorite pair of jeans.

TORAH ON TAP

WITH STEPHEN PAPKIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 18
MAY 16
JUNE 25
JULY 16
AUGUST 13

A monthly pub crawl featuring Jewish learning and discussions at alternating venues around Rochester. Enjoy a cold one with friends while learning how the Jewish take on different topics.

JOIN US FOR A LAG B'OMER BBQ & BONFIRE

THURSDAY, MAY 4 | 6 PM

We invite all to join us for our annual Lag B'Omer bonfire. Hot dogs and chips will be provided!

Mincha held at 6 PM with food and fun to follow.

This event is free but registration is required.

We hope to see you there!

ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 21

MINCHA | 6 PM
ANNUAL MEETING | 6:30 PM
MA'ARIV | 7:30 PM

DINNER & TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT TO FOLLOW

Join us for the installation of new Officers and Board Members, Dinner, and Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

This event is free but registration is requested at tberoc.org

SHAVUOT

THURSDAY, MAY 21
6 PM: Mincha
6:30 PM: Annual Meeting
7:30 PM: Ma'ariv
Dinner & Tikkun Leil Shavuot to follow

FRIDAY, MAY 22
9 AM: Shavuot Services
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha

SATURDAY, MAY 23
9 AM: Shavuot Services
11 AM: Yizkor
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha
9:38 PM: Shavuot Ends

Temple Beth El
בית אל
An Inclusive Jewish Community

PRIDE SHABBAT

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 18

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 19

More information to be announced soon—
Watch www.tberoc.org for details!

TISHA B'AV

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 (SHABBAT CHAZON)

8:30 PM: Mincha & Eicha
8:42 PM: Fast Begins

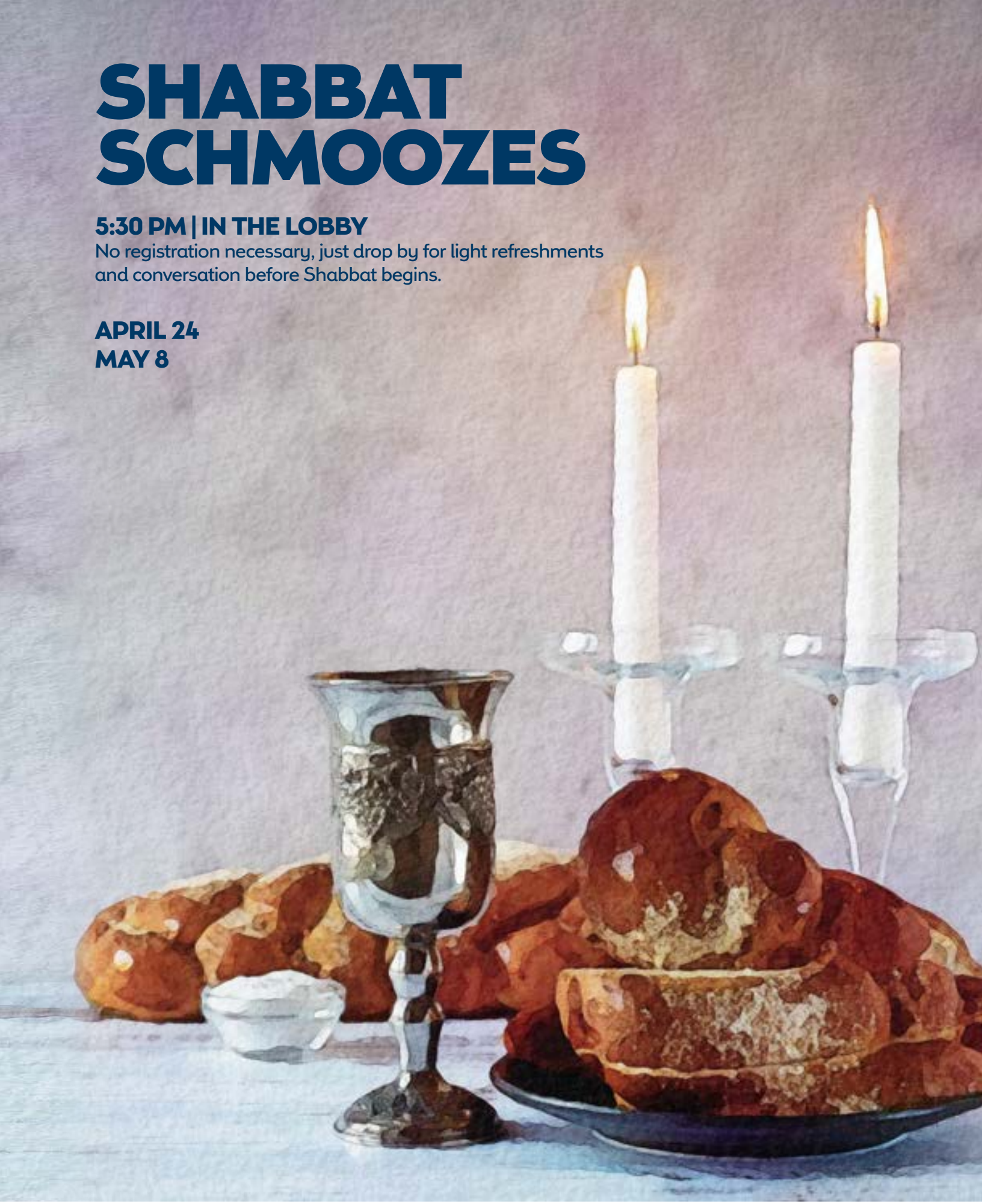
THURSDAY, JULY 23

7:30 AM: Shacharit
2 PM: Mincha
6 PM: Mincha
9:22 PM: Fast Ends

SHABBAT SCHMOOZES

5:30 PM | IN THE LOBBY
No registration necessary, just drop by for light refreshments and conversation before Shabbat begins.

APRIL 24
MAY 8



SHABBAT DINNERS AT TEMPLE BETH EL

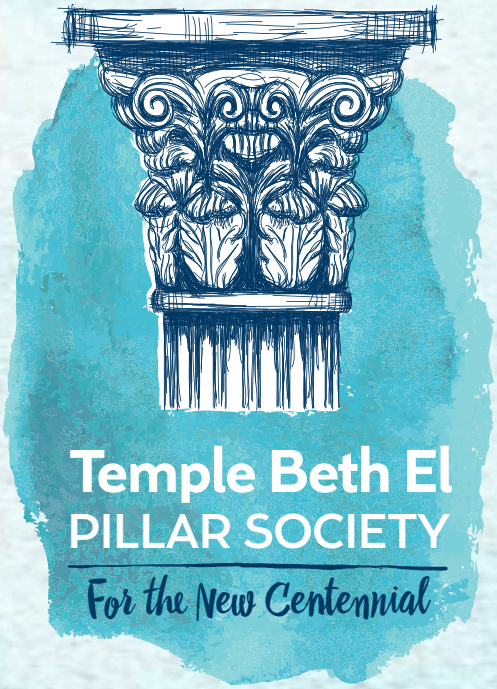
JUNE 19
JULY 17
AUGUST 7

Please register for dinners online at www.tberoc.org
or by calling the office at (585) 473-1770.

MEMORIES WITH RABBI BITRAN

Please send your favorite pictures and memories of Rabbi Bitran to **Communications@tberochester.org.** Your submission may be included in graphics for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration weekend.

RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S INSTALLATION AS TEMPLE BETH EL'S SENIOR RABBI



"The world stands on three things: on the Torah, on the service to God, and on deeds of loving kindness."

Ethics of the Fathers

Fulfill the Mitzvah of *G'milut Chasadim* (deeds of loving kindness) by supporting our synagogue. Members of the Pillar Society make annual commitments over and above full membership dues to help ensure the well-being of our synagogue. As a member of the Pillar Society you will be instrumental in preserving the future of Temple Beth El for generations to come. In appreciation of your exceptional commitment, which is also recognized as a contribution to the High Holy Day Appeal, you will receive the following additional benefits:

All Pillars Receive:
- Recognition as a Contributor to the High Holy Day Appeal
- Apples and Honey Sponsorship
- Invitation to the Annual Pillar Event
- Honored at Pillar Society Shabbat

YACHAD UNDER 40
($1,000-$1,499)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book

CHAI
($1,500-$2,999)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book
- 2 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

SHOMER
($3,000-$5,499)
- ½ page in Remembrance Book
- 4 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

KOACH
($5,500-$9,999)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 6 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

OHR
($10,000+)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 8 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)
- Reserved High Holy Day seating

Please join members of the Temple Beth El family who have already made the additional commitment to our congregation by becoming members of the Pillar Society.

For more information contact Deborah Zeger at the Temple Beth El office at 473-1770 or by email to dzeger@tberochester.org.

Yes, I would like to support Temple Beth El by making a 3 year commitment to the Pillar Society for the New Centennial, in the amount of: $_____ a year.

Name_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ YACHAD ☐ CHAI ☐ SHOMER ☐ KOACH ☐ OHR

__ My check for $_____ is enclosed

__ Please bill me: ___Annually ___Quarterly ___Monthly

__ Please charge for my first installment of $_____ ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ DISCOVER

Card #_____ Expires _____ Signature_____

L'Dor V'Dor
לדר ודר
Temple Beth El's Giving Society

from one generation to the next... for our future.

For Over a Century Temple Beth El has continued to play a unique role in the Rochester community providing a place where Jewish tradition and Innovation combine and where we share the most meaningful events in our lives. TBE is the place that offers anyone the opportunity to find their own spirituality and meaning.

Our legacy donors are individuals and families who wish to ensure that TBE remains an enriching community for generations to come. We continue to seek meaning together. Please consider making a legacy gift today.

For more information about supporting Temple Beth El's future please contact Debbie Zeger at dzeger@tberochester.org or 473-1770.

LIFE & LEGACY

EachOne ReachOne
Magnifying Your Impact

The Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester

If you have made provisions for Temple Beth El in your estate plans, or would like more information about doing so, please let us know by providing the information requested here. We would be honored to include you as a member of the L'Dor V'Dor Society and recognize your commitment.

- ☐ *I/We would like more information on becoming part of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We wish to receive more information about how to make a planned gift*
- ☐ *I/ We have provided for a gift to Temple Beth El in my/our will or estate plan*
- ☐ *I/We wish to be listed as member(s) of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We accept membership in the L'Dor V'Dor society but wish to remain anonymous at this time*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHESTER, NY
PERMIT NO. 407

1*1*******SCH 3-DIGIT 145

2

Mr. John Q. Sample
Suite 100
123 Main Street
Anytown, NY 12345-6789

Happy Passover

SENIOR STAFF

Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Senior Rabbi
bgoldstein@tberochester.org

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran
Senior Rabbi
lbitran@tberochester.org

Hazzan Martin Leubitz
Hazzan Emeritus, z"l

Deborah Zeger
Executive Director
dzeger@tberochester.org

Scotty Ginett
Director of Communications and Development
sginett@tberochester.org

Stephen Papkin
Director of Congregational Learning
spapkin@tberochester.org

Mandi Warner
Youth & Family Director
mwarner@tberochester.org

OFFICERS 2025–26

Evan Spindelman
President

Lina Spokony
Vice President

Aviva Schochat
Vice President

Howard Goldberg
Treasurer

Roberta Feldman
Secretary

Lisa Tellem
Officer-at-Large

Gerald Gamm
Officer-at-Large

Matt Ryen
Immediate Past President

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM–6:00 PM
Friday 8:30 AM–3:00 PM

Phone 585.473.1770

Carol Konuksever
Reception/Admin. Asst.
ckonuksever@tberochester.org

Willow Knight
Communications Assistant
wknight@tberochester.org

Suzie Syracuse
Finance & Facility Supervisor
ssyracuse@tberochester.org

EDUCATION OFFICE

Phone 585.473.1190

THE Kol
Temple Beth El
בית אל
VOL. 105 NO.2
MARCH 2026–AUGUST 2026
ADAR–ELUL 5786

PASSOVER ISSUE

schedules and information starting on page 19

Save the Date for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration Weekend!

Details on page 7

Mission Statement

Temple Beth El is a vibrant and inclusive community of Jews who join together for prayer, education, celebration, mutual support and comfort, tikkun olam and acts of loving kindness. We are guided by Torah and the principles of the Conservative movement. We are committed to our community, the State of Israel, and Jews around the world.

Vision Statement

Our vision is that Temple Beth El will be an inspiring center of Conservative Judaism in which meaningful experiences and memories take root and grow.

Values Statement

We are a welcoming and inclusive congregation.
We value and respect each congregant and their personal journey in Judaism.

We foster a sense of connectedness with our community.
We value participation in all aspects of synagogue and Jewish life.

Our congregation will be here for the entire Temple family now and for future generations.

Welcome!

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610
Phone: 585-473-1770

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with us at **www.tberoc.org**, where you can find up-to-date information and content.

facebook.com/TBEROCH

@tberochester

Subscribe to our YOUTUBE Channel:
Temple Beth El Rochester

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Shacharit:

Sunday: .....8:30 AM
Monday–Friday: .....7:30 AM
Rosh Hodesh: .....7:15 AM
Secular Holidays: ....8:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:

Sunday–Friday: .....6:00 PM

SHACHARIT ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6p5ky6h
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 846 8881 5480

MINCHA/MA'ARIV ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6d78zsx
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 841 5194 9603

SHABBAT SERVICES

Pesukei dezimra: ....9:30 AM
Shacharit: .....10:00 AM
Torah Service: .....10:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:
Check website for weekly times

LIVE STREAM LINK:
https://www.tberoc.org/live-stream/

JUNIOR CONGREGATION LEARNING

Every Saturday: .....11–11:30 AM
Ideal for children ages 4-11

PRE B'NEI MITZVAH SERVICE

First Saturday of every month: .....10:30 AM
For students who are studying to become B'nei Mitzvah

All Shabbat information including our trifold can be found on our website:
https://www.tberoc.org/pray/shabbat-services/

SAVE THE DATES!

Purim 5786

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Community Purim Festival at JCC

MONDAY, MARCH 2
Megillah Readings, Dinner, and TBE Purim Party featuring Aerial Arts

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
Keshet Purim Celebration

FROM RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S DESK

Dear Friends,

In the words of Ecclesiastes, there is nothing new under the sun. As I sit here writing this, I have just come from the 2026 Rabbinic Training Institute (RTI) hosted by the Rabbinical Assembly and the Jewish Theological Seminary. It's an annual retreat in which about 100 rabbis come together to learn classic texts, share about their experiences in the rabbinate, and talk about the future of our movement. This year was my fifteenth year at RTI, and with apologies to Ecclesiastes, there was something very new about it.

While I was at the retreat, many of my colleagues asked me about my feelings on being here at Temple Beth El. I'll tell them what I told you. I absolutely love being the rabbi of this community. In the last six months, I have thoroughly loved getting to know all of you and this holy community. During the High Holidays I felt an infectious enthusiasm and joy that I hope we can hold on to and off which we can build a bright future for our community.

I realize that none of this would be possible without the leadership of Rabbi Bitran. I am so grateful for his generosity and magnanimity in allowing me to come in and be myself. I have witnessed his indefatigable spirit and dedication to this community and am honored to be following him as your senior rabbi. In the coming months, I hope we can honor him in ways befitting his enormous contributions to our home at Beth El.

Since my arrival I have been privileged to have talked with many of you about the rich history of Temple Beth El. I have learned just how many of you are related to each other (I still can't get over how many of you are cousins or related in some way). We have spoken about your families' legacies and love for TBE and about the future of our community. We have had honest and open conversations about the many opportunities and challenges we face.

I am very excited about how much we can grow and maintain the enthusiasm I've witnessed. One way is our adult education/engagement program. We are excited about the partnerships we have in place with both the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, Hadar Yeshiva in NYC, and the Maas Center from American Jewish University out of Los Angeles. Next year at the High Holidays we hope to be able to have a brochure rich with opportunities for learning and engagement.

Over the course of the next few months, you will be hearing about more opportunities for conversation. I am interested in knowing how TBE and I can best meet your spiritual needs. If there is something you'd like to see, or a program you're interested in, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Change is never easy. We all know the necessity of holding onto our Jewish values and the importance we place on tradition. And, as we know, the most dangerous question we can ask about tradition is "why." Together we will explore the "why's" and "how's" of our tradition. Yes, it can be scary, but we know that our religion is constantly evolving. As we say in our blessings over the torah, "blessed are you, God who is giving the torah." Our tradition acknowledges that we are still being given torah, even to this day. If you think back to what Beth El looked like 30 years ago, and how it looks today, you know what I'm talking about.

We will make changes, yes, but we do not make them lightly. We make them only to better suit the needs of our community, keeping our principles and values always close to us. May we be blessed to experience the bright future of TBE together, going from strength to strength, united in our hope for a bright future of Judaism, for ourselves and our families for generations to come.

FROM RABBI BITRAN'S DESK

Passover: The Power of the Small Things

The observance of *Pesach* contains a central idea that applies not only to this festival, but to Jewish life as a whole—and, indeed, to the very nature of human existence.

Jewish law strictly prohibits the consumption of bread and leavened products during Passover. The regulations are exacting—details of which can be found on our website—but in essence, even the smallest amount of *chametz* renders food unfit for use. Why is a minute particle of leaven so potent that it can invalidate a large quantity of food? The answer is that this law underscores the importance of small things—the details of human existence.

We live in a world that pays homage to size. We are addicted to bigness: bigger industries, bigger cars, king-size screens, and skyscrapers that stretch ever higher into the heavens. Institutions grow larger and larger. In our fascination with size, we have confused bigness with greatness, quantity with quality, and scale with substance.

Consider that the two nations of the ancient world that left the deepest imprint on Western civilization were the Jews and the Greeks. A cursory glance at the map reveals how small these lands were in size, yet how enduring their influence has been. David Lloyd George, the British statesman who guided Britain through World War I and its aftermath, once observed:

"God has chosen little nations as the vessels by which God carries God's choicest wines to the lips of humanity, to rejoice their hearts, to exalt their vision, and to strengthen their faith."

The value of small things becomes clearer when we deal with what is precious. In a ton of coal, the loss of a few lumps is insignificant. But when handling precious stones or volatile chemicals, every minute quantity matters greatly.

The same is true in our relationships with other people. We often focus on grand gestures, but the true difference between refined and crude individuals—politics aside—lies in the small things: a kind word, a gesture of respect, a sympathetic clasp of the hand, a thoughtful remark, a reassuring pat on the shoulder. These simple acts allow us to feel warmth, dignity, and human connection. This principle also defines Jewish life. There is little in Jewish observance that is outwardly spectacular. Washing hands before a meal, reciting a blessing, kindling a few candles—these are the acts through which Jewish values are lived and experienced. American Jews today are not asked to perform heroic deeds or extraordinary sacrifices, only small acts—and precisely because they are small, they are often overlooked.

Creating a Jewish home for a child, reading a Jewish book, enrolling in a Jewish class—these acts seem unspectacular. Reciting *Kiddush*, subscribing to a Jewish publication, buying an Israel Bond, serving on a committee—these are quiet and undramatic. Yet it is precisely through faithfulness to these small acts that our loyalty to Judaism is expressed and the character of Jewish life in America is shaped. As Leo Baeck wrote:

"Piety, especially Jewish piety, respects the little—the little person, the little matter, the little task, the little duty. Through the little, religion encounters the greatness that lies behind."

I know that parents, when truly tested, are capable of enormous sacrifices for their children and loved ones. But I appeal especially to parents this Passover to embrace the humble, undramatic tasks—the "little things" of the season. Introduce the *Seder* in your home in a way that reflects the joy and beauty of the festival. Preparing the home for Passover takes effort, and there are special roles for both parents to play. Yet this shared experience nourishes the Jewish spirit and sanctifies and elevates our lives.

A particle of *chametz* may seem insignificant, but just as one false note can ruin a great symphony, so too do small things matter profoundly. It is in the details of life that we reveal our sensitivity—and earn the right to call ourselves civilized.

A Happy Passover to all. *Pesach Kasher veSameach*. May the ideals of this Festival of Freedom bring renewed hope here and in Israel, and inspire fresh strength within the Jewish community. May the dream of freedom be realized for families everywhere as we celebrate the event that gave birth to liberty for our ancestors.

From my family to yours,
May you have a meaningful *Sedarim* and
a *Pesach Kasher veSameach*.

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran

You are invited to join us for

RABBI BITRAN'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION WEEKEND

MAY 29–31, 2026

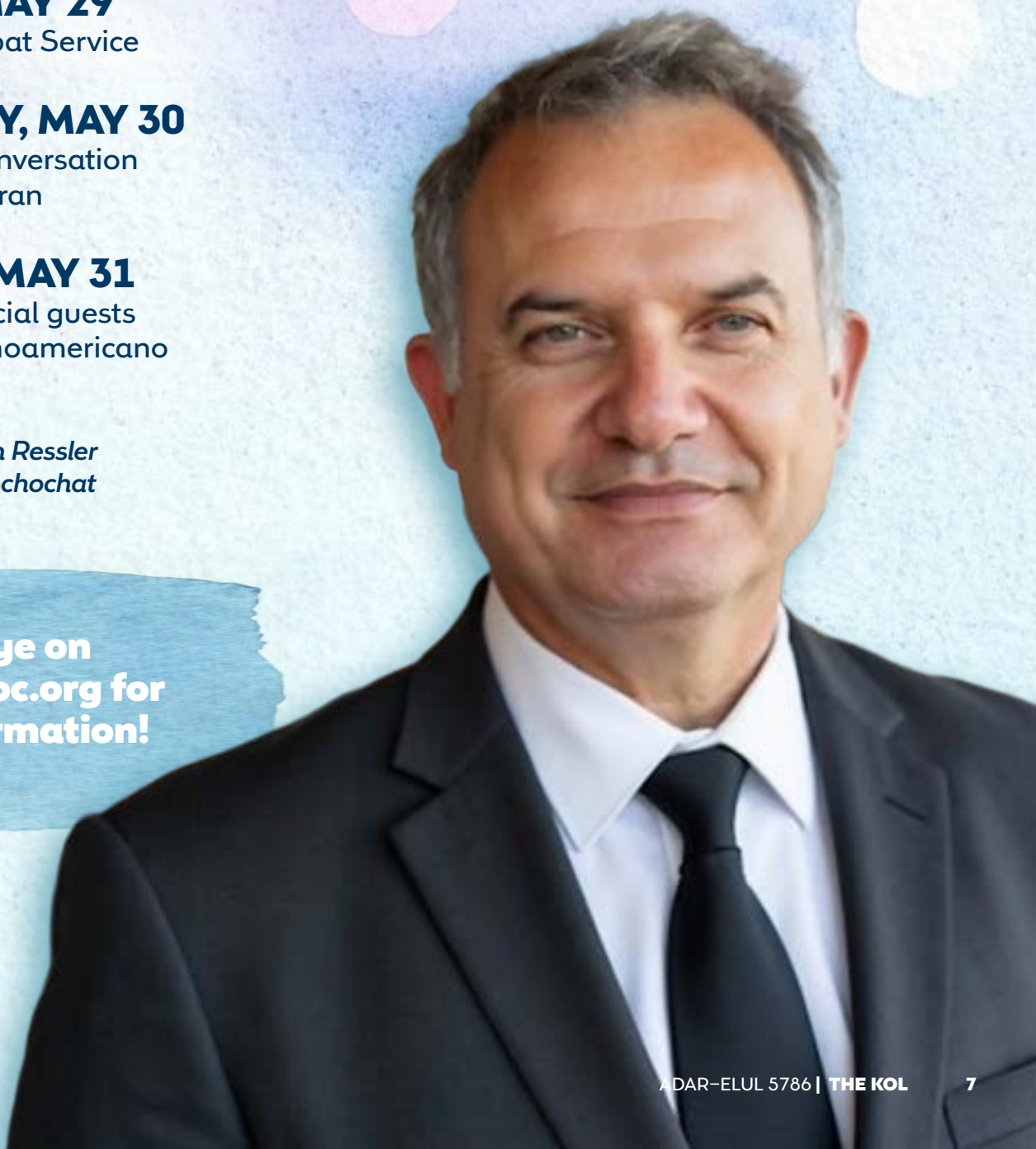
FRIDAY, MAY 29
Special Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MAY 30
Kiddush & Conversation
with Rabbi Bitran

SUNDAY, MAY 31
Gala with special guests
Cuarteto Latinoamericano

Event chairs:
Sara and Darren Ressler
Aviva and Arie Schochat

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My daughter likes to poke fun at me by saying that all I do for a living is look at emails. Strangely there is an element of truth to her assertion. Email is the delivery system for much of what I do, whether it is responding to inquiries from any number of sources, or syncing with my work database, my eyeballs are glued to a screen for more hours than I would like to admit. Like everybody else connected to the digital world, my daily existence is linked to technology be it via cell phone, pc, or iPad. Seemingly nobody is spared. And those few who choose to unplug and disconnect we somewhat sarcastically refer to as being off the grid.

Growing up in the 70's and 80's, life was very different. But not just the absence of digital connectivity. Human connectivity was actually—well—human. We talked to each other. We lived in a society that was both accessible and open. I mean really open. Take our very own Temple Beth El. Doors were unlocked. There was no hired security. Hebrew School was in session three times a week, and when we were let out of class, we waited outside for our parents to come pick us up with little or no adult supervision. I held the distinction of being one of the last kids to get their ride. My dad's office was downtown, and he was tasked with pickup duty. He would lose track of time, or take that one last phone call, and—I kid you not—got around to picking me up sometimes over an hour after classes ended. Don't mean to throw you under the bus dad—love you!

There is a point to all this reminiscing. Those of us old enough to remember a different world in which we lived mourn the loss of that open society. That human interaction. The absence of technology running our lives. There are certainly very tangible benefits to the truly amazing pace of technological advancement. But the decline of human contact and spiritual connectivity is just so palpable.

One of the great things about this community is that we connect. Sure, we use technology like everybody else. But the very purpose of our temple community is just that—community. And there are a lot of people—staff, teachers, clergy and temple members—that make sure that is so.

Last year at this time, my president's message detailed what we expected to accomplish for our temple community in 2025. First and foremost, we have welcomed our new Senior Rabbi Benjamin Goldstein. The NYS Office of Children and Family Services has licensed our Keshet program. Strides have been made to build upon the success of our BeWise program. And infrastructural improvements have been completed to ensure our Synagogue will be our spiritual home for many more years to come. Time has brought many changes to the world in which we live. But our Temple community continues to flourish as a source of Jewish community and connectivity.

Evan Spindelman
TBE Board President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the past year at Temple Beth El, I am filled with gratitude for the strength, generosity, and commitment of this community. Synagogue life is built not only on moments of prayer, but on shared experiences, collective effort, and the relationships that sustain us through times of celebration and transition. This year reminded us just how powerful those connections can be.

One of the most exciting milestones of the year was our first-ever crowdfunding campaign in the fall of 2025. Through the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteer ambassadors, we raised more than $155,000 in support of Temple Beth El. This effort was about more than fundraising—it was a testament to how deeply our congregants believe in this community and in ensuring a strong future for our synagogue. I am deeply thankful to everyone who participated, donated, and helped spread the word.

This year also marked a profound moment of leadership transition. We joyfully celebrated the installation of Rabbi Ben Goldstein as Temple Beth El's 12th Senior Rabbi, welcoming him into a role that carries both tradition and vision. Rabbi Goldstein's installation was a meaningful communal moment, reflecting our optimism and excitement for the path ahead.

At the same time, we began to honor the legacy of Rabbi Bitran, who will retire in May 2026 after 13 years of dedicated service as our Senior Rabbi. Rabbi Bitran's impact on Temple Beth El is immeasurable. He has guided our congregation with wisdom, compassion, and care through moments of joy and challenge, and his leadership has helped shape the vibrant community we are today. We will be celebrating his retirement at the end of May. Please save the dates of May 29–31!

None of these accomplishments happen in isolation. They are made possible by the generosity of our donors, the commitment of our volunteers, and the ongoing engagement of our congregants. Together, you create a community that is resilient, welcoming, and deeply rooted in shared values.

Thank you for being part of Temple Beth El's story. It is a privilege to reflect on what we have accomplished together, and I am hopeful and inspired as we look toward the future we are building side by side.

Deborah Zeger
TBE Executive Director

FROM THE YOUTH & FAMILY DIRECTOR

Shalom,

As we start the second half of the school year, I can't help but look back at all of our successes from the first half of the year that will carry us through.

Our school year started out very smoothly, and we were able to quickly adapt to being newly licensed by New York State. The professional development that has been made available has been highly utilized to benefit the quality of care, instruction, classroom management, and communication amongst our teachers. We have a very active Parent Council of four parents that have been helping to plan events, make recommendations based on experience and feedback from other parents, and serve as room parents for each of the classes.

From an Early Childhood Department standpoint, we have had several successful family programs that partnered with BE WISE Jr. that included apple picking before Rosh Hashanah, bringing Seneca Park Zoo to Temple Beth El to teach about Parsha Noach, and prepping for Hanukkah by making menorahs, dreidels, and latke plates. All of our programs attracted large crowds, including close to 100 for apple picking. We have also brought back monthly Tot Shabbat, rotating between Friday night services and Saturday morning. We have even combined with BE WISE for a meaningful morning.

After all of the successes from the first half of the year, we are looking forward to springing forward with some exciting new events and offerings for our youngest congregants.

We are looking forward to our first ever Chametz Scavenger hunt for Early Childhood families in March to prepare for Passover on March 15, which will take place at Wegmans. The goal behind this is to give children and their families a list of foods, have them find them in the store, and determine if they are Passover-friendly or not. We also have an Israel Family Program to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut on April 19, and we will conclude this school year with a Shavuot Cooking Class on May 17.

Camp Keshet will begin on July 6, and we will debut our new extension program. Registration is out, and we have some new and exciting themes including Camp Keshet Campout, Around the World, and Fairytale Forest, as well as returning fan favorite, Messy Art! We will also bring back Watermelon Wednesday which will feature some new guests, as well as fan favorites like the City of Rochester Fire Department! We typically get campers from all over the world including Israel, Germany, and even Ukraine! You will not want your little one to miss the Camp Keshet experience!

Both Camp Keshet and Keshet registration is out, and with our extension until 4, spaces are filling up quickly! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or even just to chat about opportunities for your little one! I have coffee and tea in my office and am always open to a

L'Shalom,

Mandi Warner

Mandi Warner
TBE Youth & Family Director

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DIRECTOR

Shalom,

Here at Temple Beth El, we are proud of the varied opportunities to engage in Jewish living and learning that we provide Jewish Rochesterians of all ages. Beginning with early childhood, we guide our students on a track in our BE.WISE Religious School, through the process of becoming a B'nei Mitzvah and onward to youth groups, weekly learning with peers, and into adulthood.

Our synagogue's BE.WISE Religious School is named after the core values of our educational program: Beth El Wisdom, Identity, Spirit and Education. We begin welcoming 4 year old students into our PreK program BE.WISE Junior, which consists of one monthly early childhood program for the whole family and one day per month of class at our Sunday school. Our BE.WISE Junior program gives students a fantastic and fun jumpstart to their Alef Bet, Torah story and Jewish holiday learning!

Students continue together as a learning cohort throughout the BE.WISE program into Kindergarten and through the Seventh Grade. The BE.WISE program strives to integrate joy and fun into Jewish learning, and to make Judaism more meaningful and accessible through the development of the foundational skills for engaging in Jewish life. BE.WISE students learn from The Beverly Goldstick z"l Curriculum for 21st Century Learning, focusing on Hebrew literacy, prayer skills, Jewish peoplehood and a strong relationship with Eretz Yisrael. We invite families of our students several times a year to join us for holiday programming, BE.WISE Shabbat experiences, and celebrations. As students approach their B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies, they are invited to participate in a year-long cohort of fun and learning together as they and their families prepare and study to become full-fledged members of the Jewish community.

After graduating from the BE.WISE program as 7th graders, students have an array of choices for their continued involvement in Jewish life and learning at Temple Beth El. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade have the opportunity to split their time earning volunteer hours by assisting in classrooms and taking higher learning classes in our BE.WISE Madrichim program. Older Madrichim have the opportunity to become paid tutors in lieu of volunteer credit. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade also have the opportunity to join our USY community, which provides teens with fun Jewish programming throughout the year. Additionally, we are proud to offer our new weekly teen learning series, which will have students engage in Jewish learning and discussion with Rabbi Goldstein and myself while enjoying a weekly dinner together.

As lifelong learners, there are great educational opportunities for our congregants at Temple Beth El as well! Participants can choose from a variety of opportunities such as Introduction to Judaism, a monthly Java & Jeans discussion and learning series from distinguished institutions such as Hadar and The Hartman Institute. Adult congregants are also invited to join Torah On Tap, our monthly Jewish discussion program where we learn while enjoying cold drinks.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions about Jewish education here at Temple Beth El!

Stephen Papkin,
TBE Congregational Learning Director

TBE EDUCATION

Keshet
קשת
Temple Beth El's Early Childhood Program

Keshet Preschool, a Jewish early childhood program, is dedicated to serving the entire Rochester community. In a warm loving environment, through play, your child will gain a love of Jewish and secular learning as well as develop their social-emotional skills.

For more information, contact Mandi Warner at mwarner@tberochester.org

BE.WISE:
JEWISH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

BE.WISE, (Beth El wisdom, identity, spirit, education) offers quality supplementary Jewish education for students in grades Kindergarten through seventh grade, and offers Madrichim programs for students in eighth grade and high school. New this year, we also offer BE.WISE Junior for Pre-K students. Core courses focus on building Hebrew literacy while building connections to Hebrew language, Jewish peoplehood, Israel, Jewish history, Tanakh, Tefillah and the chagim. Elective classes change frequently with offerings including Judaism through Art, Jewish Music and Cafe Ivrit.

For more information, contact Stephen Papkin at spapkin@tberochester.org

Early Childhood Calendar

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt

MARCH 30
Professional Development

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

WATERMELON WEDNESDAY

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29
AUGUST 5, 12

1 PM | TBE PLAYGROUND

Join other families with young children every Wednesday this summer, featuring special guests like the Rochester Fire Department, Butterfly Kids Yoga, and more!

Temple Beth El **CAMP KESHET 2026** Keshet קשת

JULY 6–AUGUST 14 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Find more information and sign up at www.tberoc.org/camp

JULY 6–10
Sensing Summer

JULY 13–17
Messy Art

July 20–24
Camp Keshet Campout

JULY 27–31
Fairytale Forest

AUGUST 3–7
Around the World

AUGUST 10–14
Camp Keshet Maccabiah Games

ONLINE RESOURCES

YAHRZEITS You should have received an email or letter stating when the Yahrzeit of your loved one will be observed according to the Jewish calendar. Names will be read on the Shabbat dates prior to the actual Yahrzeit. See link below. Kaddish is also recited at Ma'ariv (evening service) on the night on which the Yahrzeit begins and at Shacharit (morning service) and Mincha (afternoon service) on the day of the Yahrzeit. Actual dates can be found on your Shulcloud account or by calling the office at (585) 473-1700.
The monthly list of daily Yahrzeit dates can be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/yahrzeits

DONATIONS

Temple Beth El is very grateful for every donation we receive. Your support enables us to provide ongoing services and programs to the congregation and community.
Give now to Temple Beth El at www.tberoc.org/support

VOLUNTEER

Give your time and talents to help at Temple Beth El throughout the year.
Find opportunities and initiatives at www.tberoc.org/meet/volunteer

MAZEL TOV

We are happy to pass along news about our congregants and community. Share yours by calling the office at (585) 473-1770 or by emailing communications@tberochester.org. **Mazel Tovs can now be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/mazel-tovs**

COMMUNITY EVENTS & CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Temple Beth El programs and candle lighting times for Holy Days and Shabbat can be found by month and date **starting on page 30 and at www.tberoc.org/calendar**

20s & 30s

This is a welcoming place for Jews in their 20/30s. Jewish and non Jewish partners are always welcome to join! Parents may bring children under the age of 2.

Join the 20s & 30s on Facebook for information on all upcoming events at www.facebook.com/TBE2030. All times are subject to change.

MARCH 27
Shabbat Services

MARCH 28
Torah on Tap

APRIL 15 | 7 PM
Yoga

APRIL 24
Shabbat Services

MAY 16
Torah On Tap

MAY 29
Shabbat Services

JUNE 7 | 4 PM
Eric Weiner Memorial Event

JUNE 26
Shabbat Services

JULY 31
Shabbat Services

AUGUST (TBD)
TBE at the Red Wings

AUGUST 28
Shabbat Services

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club of Temple Beth El
Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life

MARCH 7
Men's Club Shabbat

MARCH 28
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Keith Freedman

MAY 16
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Jeff Levinson

JUNE 14
Men's Club Annual Meeting

JUNE 20
Members Stories: Getting to Know us speaker TBD

MEN'S CLUB OF TEMPLE BETH EL
2025–2026 JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I'm interested in: _____

_____

Send completed form with $40 check payable to Men's Club of Temple Beth El to:
Temple Beth El – Men's Club,
139 S. Winton Road South,
Rochester, NY 14610

Or, pay via PayPal at https://www.tberochester.org/meet/mens-club/

SISTERHOOD

When women support each other, incredible things happen.

All Sisterhood meetings and programs are open to the entire Temple Beth El family.

Celebrating our 105TH Year!

We Are Sisterhood!

We are a community of Conservative Jewish women. From the beginning of our movement's history, our women have sought out the company of likeminded women—recognizing and appreciating the mission of our founders.

- We come together for camaraderie, for support, inspiration and comfort.
- We look to one another for wisdom, practical knowledge and spiritual guidance.
- We look to one another for support and guidance about how to maintain that delicate balance between tradition and change.
- We are the evolved version of Mathilde Schechter's Sisterhood vision, now more than one hundred years old, of education and learning for Jewish women.
- Conservative Jewish women have been at the forefront of religious progress and change. We celebrate our community.

Join us in strengthening our Sisterhood. We've grown stronger together and now it's your turn to dive in. Community workshops that spark lively chats, conferences and conventions that touch hearts and spiritual retreats that recharge your soul. Come to an event, stay for the connection, stay for the inspiration—let's build lasting bonds. Sign up today and Temple Beth El your home. Join us as we grow!

Lynda and Wendy, Co-Presidents

Just Judaica
The Gift Shop at Temple Beth El

The largest retail Judaica Gift Shop in western and central New York

Regular Shopping Hours
Sunday mornings: 9:30 AM–noon
(when school is in session)
Wednesday afternoons: 4–6 PM

Can't make regular hours?
Call for an appointment: Lynda (585-314-8288) or Iris (585-739-2428)

Sisterhood Mission Statement

Our mission is to strengthen and unite the women of Sisterhood and support them to understand and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism in the home, synagogue and community and reinforce their bonds with Israel and Jews worldwide.

RICHARD W. BRISKIN CANTOR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

MAY 1–3, 2026

Featuring Toby Banks

2026 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

With Special Guest Cantor Noah Rachels

2022 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!

Toby Banks is a fourth-year cantorial student who was born and raised in New York City. After completing a BA in psychology from Cornell University, she went on to have a 20+ year career as both a professional classical singer and a development professional.

Toby has performed as a featured soloist with opera companies and symphony orchestras in major concert halls across the United States. In addition to the classical opera and concert repertoire, she made a name for herself in the world of avant-garde and contemporary classical music and has been a featured soloist in countless premieres and recordings. She also sang for nearly 20 years in the professional choir of Park Avenue Synagogue, where she is now a member.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, Toby is serving as the cantorial intern at Ansche Chesed in New York City and served as the High Holiday Cantor at Congregation Agudat Achim in Schenectady, NY. As a cantorial student, she is excited to bring together her passion for music, Judaism, and pastoral care in order to serve the Jewish community through leadership, healing, prayer, and song.

Cantor Noah Rachels was born and raised in the "Borscht Belt". He currently serves as the Hazzan of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto, Canada, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He previously held a pulpit at Mosaic Law Congregation in Sacramento, California, from 2023 to 2025. A graduate of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Cantor Rachels was the recipient of the 2022 Richard W. Briskin Award. He is particularly passionate about music, prayer, and fostering spiritual growth and meaning, and is delighted to return to Temple Beth El.

Temple Beth El
בית אל

Passover 5786

Temple Beth El בית אל

5786 Passover SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, MARCH 31
7 AM .....Morning Minyan
followed by Siyum Bechorim & breakfast
6 PM .....Mincha & Ma'ariv
8 PM .....Bedikat Hametz at Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
(EREV PESACH) - FIRST SEDER
7 AM .....Morning Minyan, followed by
Siyum Bechorim and breakfast
12 PM .....Burn the Hametz (Biyur Hametz)
6 PM ..... Mincha
7:18 PM..... Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
SECOND SEDER
9 AM .....Morning services for First Day of Passover
8:21 PM.....Candle lighting

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
9 AM .....Morning services for Second Day of Passover
6 PM .....Kabbalat Shabbat
7:21 PM.....Candle lighting (from a pre-existing flame)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
9 AM .....Morning services for Third Day of Passover,
followed by Kiddush lunch
7:08 PM ....Mincha
8:20 PM ....Ma'ariv
8:23 PM ....Shabbat ends

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
FOURTH DAY OF PASSOVER
8:30 AM....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

MONDAY, APRIL 6
FIFTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

TUESDAY, APRIL 7
SIXTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv
7:25 PM.....Candle lighting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Seventh Day of Passover
12 PM .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:28 PM ....Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
EIGHTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Eighth Day of Passover
11 AM .....Yizkor
12 pm .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:30 PM ....Passover ends

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR ANNUAL

Second Seder

APRIL 2, 2026
6:00 PM | MINCHA
6:30 PM | SEDER

Our menu will include matzah ball soup, turkey breast, brisket, kugels, fresh vegetables, and dessert.

Vegetarian and vegan options available!

Adults (13 years and older): $75 per person
Children (12 and younger): $25 per person

Sign up at www.tberoc.org to reserve your meal today!

Prices increase March 18.
Adults $80 | Child $30

Passover INFORMATION

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: ***rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.***

EREV PESACH SIYUM

The sunrise to sunset *ta'anit* (fast) *bekhorim* (of the firstborn), which occurs on the day before Passover, is the only fast that applies to just a segment of the community: all males who are the firstborn children in their families (if the firstborn child is female, the first son born after her is not obligated).

There is a widely practiced exemption: On the principle that fasting is prohibited on a joyous occasion, Judaism allows for anyone who attends a religious feast to forego fasting. It is customary to hold a celebratory meal on the completion of study of a tractate of rabbinic literature, called a *siyyum* (conclusion). So the sages initiated the practice of studying the end of a tractate after morning services on Erev Pesach followed by a celebratory meal.

This year, Siyum B'khorim is held on Wednesday, April 1, as the day before Passover falls on Shabbat. At 7AM on Wednesday, April 1, the firstborn in each family is invited to the Siyum B'khorim. Following the meal, there is an opportunity to burn your family's remaining hametz in a bonfire in the TBE Garden.

IS IT KOSHER FOR PASSOVER?

Passover has its own special rules of kashrut. On Pesach, Jews are forbidden from owning or consuming hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt).

Most Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (kitniyot) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above kitniyot.

PERMITTED FOODS:

A. The following foods require no kosher l'Pesach label when purchased before or during Passover: fresh fruits and eggs, fresh fish (whole or gutted), fresh or frozen kosher meat other than chopped meat, whole (unground) spices and nuts, including whole or half pecans (not pieces), pure black, green, or white tea leaves or teabags, Nestea regular and decaffeinated unflavored tea, coffee (unflavored regular), baking soda and bicarbonate of soda.

B. The following items may be purchased before Pesach without a Pesach hekhsher but if bought during Pesach require a kosher l'Pesach label: white milk, 100% pure fruit juice, filleted fish, frozen fruit (with no additives), pure white sugar (with no additive), olive oil (extra virgin only), non-iodized salt, quinoa (with no additional ingredients).

C. The following products require reliable ("kosher l"Pesach") certification (regular rabbinic supervision is not sufficient), whether purchased before or during Pesach: all baked goods (matzah, Pesach cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzfel meal, and any other products containing matzoh), herbal teas, canned tuna, wine, vinegar, liquor, decaffeinated coffee and tea, dried fruits, oils, frozen uncooked vegetables and all frozen processed foods, candy, chocolate-flavored milk, ice-cream, yogurt, cheeses, butter, and soda. Any processed food bought during Pesach must have a ("kosher l"Pesach") certification.

D. Any detergents, cleaners, etc. which are not a foodstuff and which are not eaten, may be used for Pesach and do not require a special label. These items include: isopropyl alcohol, aluminum products, ammonia, coffee filters, baby oil, powder and ointment, bleach, charcoal, candles, contact paper, plastic cutlery, laundry and dish detergent, fabric softener, oven cleaner, paper bags, plates, wax paper, plastic wrap, polish, sanitizers, scouring pads, stain remover, and bottled water with no additives.

E. Medicines: Prescription medicines are permitted. Non-prescription pills and capsules are permitted, for liquid medications, check with your rabbi.

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.

BEDIKAT HAMETZ

One of the required holiday ceremonies is Bedikat Hametz, searching for leaven. On the night before the first seder, Tuesday, March 31, we conduct a candle-lit search through our home to ensure that no hametz is still present. It is a brief ceremony in which the entire family can and should participate.

1. Make sure that all hametz has been removed or locked away with the exception of what will be needed for the morning.

2. Carefully hide some crumbs of bread. This is to ensure that the blessing and the ceremony will not be performed in vain.

3. Take a candle, a feather or brush, and a box or cloth for the crumbs, and recite this blessing:
Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheynu Melekh haolam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu al biur hametz.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with the commandments and commanded us to remove all leaven.

4. Perform the search and gather up all the crumbs. Tie them in a bundle which will be burned the next morning. Feel free to (safely) burn it on your own, or use the bonfire at Temple Beth El following morning minyan.

5. Recite the following: All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have not seen or removed shall be annulled and void of any ownership and considered as the dust of the earth. (The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.).

6. On Wednesday, April 1, at or before 12 PM, burn the leaven and recite the following:
All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have seen or not seen, that I have removed or not removed, that I have destroyed or not destroyed shall be annulled and void of my ownership and considered as the dust of the earth.
(The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.)

TO SELL YOUR HAMETZ

The Torah prohibits the ownership of hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt) during Passover. Ideally, we burn or remove all hametz from our premises which may be done through donations to a local food pantry. In some cases, however, this would cause prohibitive financial loss. In such cases, we arrange for the sale of the hametz to a non-Jew and its repurchase after Passover. You can arrange for this sale of your Hametz by sending the following form to Rabbi Bitran at theTemple office ***no later than Friday, March 27.***

It is customary to include a donation to provide Maot Hittin funds for Passover supplies for the needy. Please make checks payable to Temple Beth El which will be contributed to Maot Hittin on everyone's behalf.

Form is also available on our website at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/passover/

Dear Rabbi Bitran:
Please act as my agent for this sale of any hametz on my premises.

Name _____

Address _____

email _____

PREPARING A FLAME FOR YOM TOV

On Yom Tov, kindling a new fire is not permitted; however, the use of an existing fire for cooking or other purposes is permitted.

To light candles for Day 2 of Yom Tov (Friday night) and Shabbat, ensure you have a fire burning before candle-lighting time for Day 1 (Thursday evening) that will continue to burn until Shabbat candle-lighting time.

For example:

- A burning candle that lasts for more than 25 hours
- A pilot light on a gas range (not a gas range with an electronic starter)

Information from Luah Hashanah 5786
by Rabbi Miles B. Cohen and Leslie Rubin

Happy Passover

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran & Silvana Bacman
Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Deborah and Mark Zeger
Scotty Ginett
Stephen Papkin
Mandi & Paul Warner
Evan & Monique Spindelman
Aviva & Arie Schochat
Lina & Martin Spokony
Howard & Rachel Goldberg
Roberta & David Feldman
Gerald Gamm & Charles Towles
Lisa & Dan Tellem

COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH EVENTS

We invite all to join in community Yom HaShoah events organized by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester. Stay tuned for more information, coming soon.

APRIL 20
Yom Hazikaron

APRIL 22
Yom Ha'azmaut, Israel's Independence Day

March
ADAR /NISAN

MARCH 1
BE WISE Purim Carnival

MARCH 2
Temple Beth El Purim Party

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 4
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 6
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Glow In The Dark Shabbat

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 11
Wisdom Wednesdays
BE WISE Amerks Game

MARCH 14-MARCH 15
Zikaron for 8th and 9th graders

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Challah Baking

MARCH 18
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 21
BE WISE Shabbat and Soko Hill
Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Hill

MARCH 28
USY Laser Tag
Torah on Tap

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

6	5:47 pm
7	6:49 pm
13	6:56 pm
14	7:58 pm
20	7:04 pm
21	8:06 pm
27	7:12 pm
28	8:15 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

April
NISAN/IYAR

APRIL 12
BE WISE Yom HaShoa Ceremony

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 15
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 18
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Ice Cream and Israel Torah on Tap

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program
BE WISE Israel Program

APRIL 22
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE
Tot Shabbat

APRIL 25
USY Volunteering and Overnight at Temple Beth El

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

APRIL 29
Wisdom Wednesdays

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

🕯🕯	2	8:21 pm
🕯🕯	3	7:21 pm
🕯	4	8:23 pm
🕯🕯	8	8:28 pm
🕯🕯	10	7:29 pm
🕯	11	8:32 pm
🕯🕯	17	7:37 pm
🕯	18	8:41 pm
🕯🕯	24	7:45 pm
🕯	25	8:51 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

May

IYAR/SIVAN

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 6
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 10
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Group Volunteer Outing

MAY 13
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 16
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Bowling
Torah on Tap

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 20
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

MAY 31
USY Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	7:53 pm
2	9:00 pm
8	8:01 pm
9	9:09 pm
15	8:09 pm
16	9:18 pm
21	8:15 pm
22	8:16 pm
23	9:26 pm
29	8:22 pm
30	9:34 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

June
SIVAN/TAMUZ

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JUNE 25
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

5	8:28 pm
6	9:40 pm
12	8:32 pm
13	9:45 pm
19	8:35 pm
20	9:48 pm
26	8:36 pm
27	9:48 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

July

TAMUZ/AV

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

JULY 16
Torah on Tap

AUGUST 13
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

3	8:35 pm
4	9:46 pm
10	8:32 pm
11	9:42 pm
17	8:28 pm
18	9:37 pm
24	8:22 pm
25	9:29 pm
31	8:14 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

August
AV/ELUL

AUGUST 23
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	8:13 pm
8	8:04 pm
9	9:08 pm
15	7:54 pm
16	8:51 pm
22	7:43 pm
23	8:44pm
29	7:31 pm
30	8:32 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

WISDOM WEDNESDAYS

Join us for Wisdom Wednesdays where your teen can have dinner and a discussion!

Grades 8-12
Grades 8-9 learn with Stephen Papkin
Grades 10-12 learn with Rabbi Goldstein

Cost is $180 per participant

6–7:30 PM at Temple Beth El

Please note: No refunds will be issued after completing registration.

MARCH 4
MARCH 11
MARCH 18
MARCH 25
APRIL 15
APRIL 22
APRIL 29
MAY 6
MAY 13
MAY 20

scan to register

JAVA & JEANS

WITH RABBI GOLDSTEIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 25
MAY 16
JUNE 20
JULY 11

Do you have questions about Jewish prayer that you have never been able to ask? Are you seeking a deeper meaning behind the prayers? Join us for Java and Jeans, where we explore theology, prayer, mussar, mindfulness, and psychology capped off with lively Torah study discussion over coffee while wearing your favorite pair of jeans.

TORAH ON TAP

WITH STEPHEN PAPKIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 18
MAY 16
JUNE 25
JULY 16
AUGUST 13

A monthly pub crawl featuring Jewish learning and discussions at alternating venues around Rochester. Enjoy a cold one with friends while learning how the Jewish take on different topics.

JOIN US FOR A LAG B'OMER BBQ & BONFIRE

THURSDAY, MAY 4 | 6 PM

We invite all to join us for our annual Lag B'Omer bonfire. Hot dogs and chips will be provided!

Mincha held at 6 PM with food and fun to follow.

This event is free but registration is required.

We hope to see you there!

ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 21

MINCHA | 6 PM
ANNUAL MEETING | 6:30 PM
MA'ARIV | 7:30 PM

DINNER & TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT TO FOLLOW

Join us for the installation of new Officers and Board Members, Dinner, and Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

This event is free but registration is requested at tberoc.org

SHAVUOT

THURSDAY, MAY 21
6 PM: Mincha
6:30 PM: Annual Meeting
7:30 PM: Ma'ariv
Dinner & Tikkun Leil Shavuot to follow

FRIDAY, MAY 22
9 AM: Shavuot Services
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha

SATURDAY, MAY 23
9 AM: Shavuot Services
11 AM: Yizkor
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha
9:38 PM: Shavuot Ends

Temple Beth El
בית אל
An Inclusive Jewish Community

PRIDE SHABBAT

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 18

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 19

More information to be announced soon—
Watch www.tberoc.org for details!

TISHA B'AV

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 (SHABBAT CHAZON)

8:30 PM: Mincha & Eicha
8:42 PM: Fast Begins

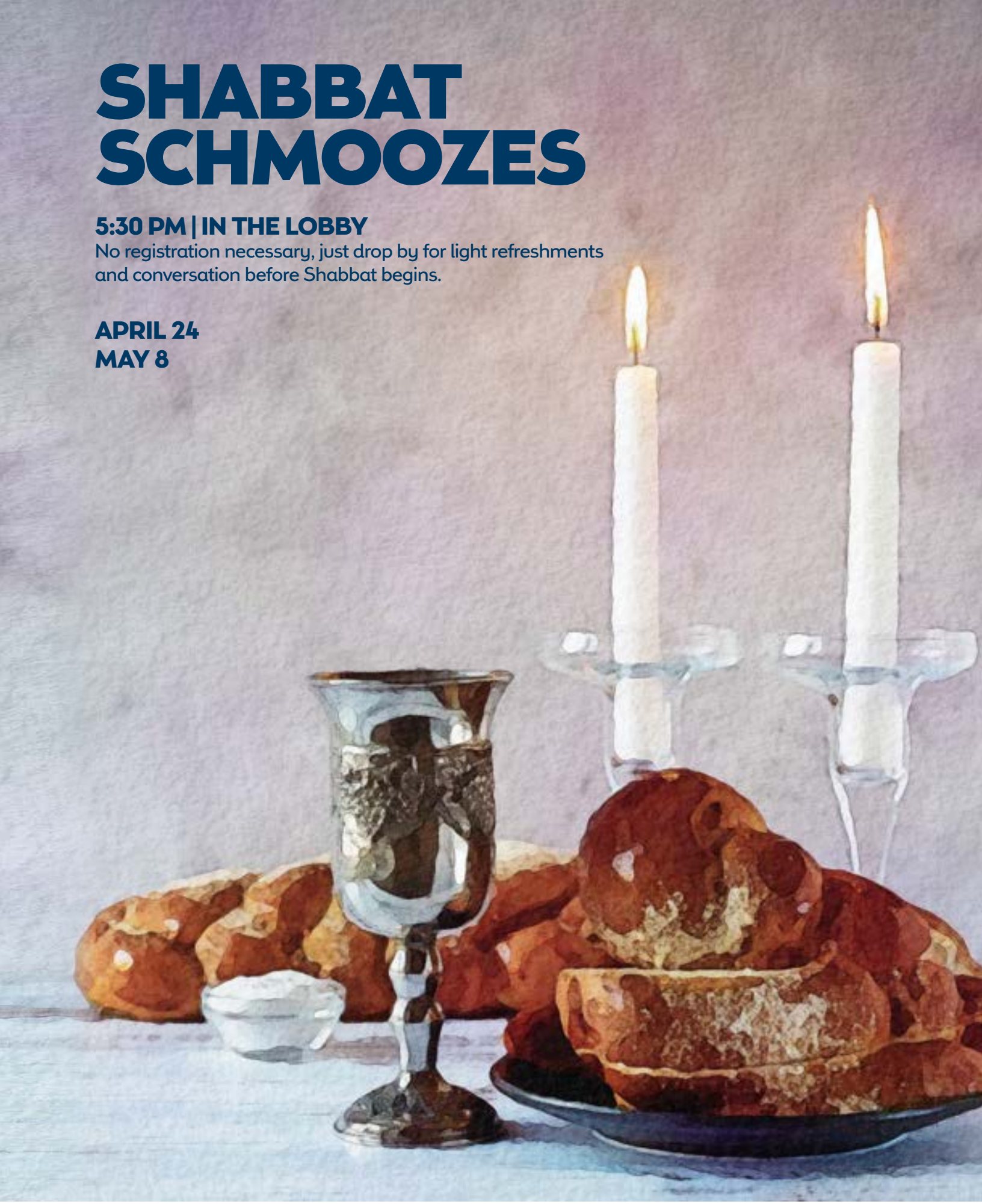
THURSDAY, JULY 23

7:30 AM: Shacharit
2 PM: Mincha
6 PM: Mincha
9:22 PM: Fast Ends

SHABBAT SCHMOOZES

5:30 PM | IN THE LOBBY
No registration necessary, just drop by for light refreshments and conversation before Shabbat begins.

APRIL 24
MAY 8



SHABBAT DINNERS AT TEMPLE BETH EL

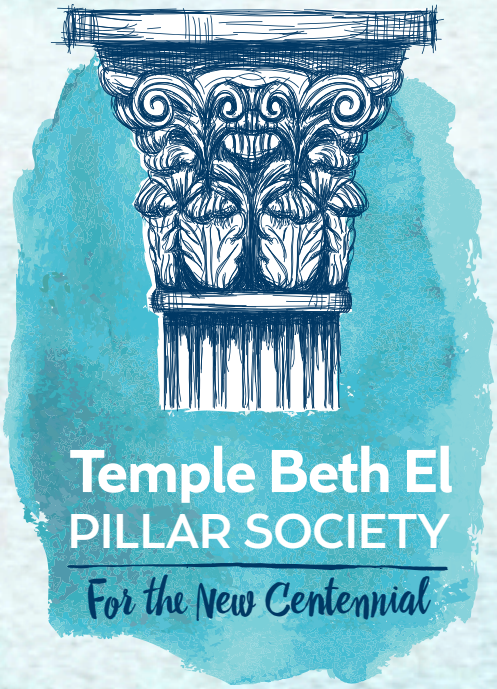
JUNE 19
JULY 17
AUGUST 7

Please register for dinners online at www.tberoc.org
or by calling the office at (585) 473-1770.

MEMORIES WITH RABBI BITRAN

Please send your favorite pictures and memories of Rabbi Bitran to **Communications@tberochester.org.** Your submission may be included in graphics for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration weekend.

RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S INSTALLATION AS TEMPLE BETH EL'S SENIOR RABBI



"The world stands on three things: on the Torah, on the service to God, and on deeds of loving kindness."

Ethics of the Fathers

Fulfill the Mitzvah of *G'milut Chasadim* (deeds of loving kindness) by supporting our synagogue. Members of the Pillar Society make annual commitments over and above full membership dues to help ensure the well-being of our synagogue. As a member of the Pillar Society you will be instrumental in preserving the future of Temple Beth El for generations to come. In appreciation of your exceptional commitment, which is also recognized as a contribution to the High Holy Day Appeal, you will receive the following additional benefits:

All Pillars Receive:
- Recognition as a Contributor to the High Holy Day Appeal
- Apples and Honey Sponsorship
- Invitation to the Annual Pillar Event
- Honored at Pillar Society Shabbat

YACHAD UNDER 40
($1,000-$1,499)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book

CHAI
($1,500-$2,999)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book
- 2 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

SHOMER
($3,000-$5,499)
- ½ page in Remembrance Book
- 4 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

KOACH
($5,500-$9,999)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 6 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

OHR
($10,000+)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 8 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)
- Reserved High Holy Day seating

Please join members of the Temple Beth El family who have already made the additional commitment to our congregation by becoming members of the Pillar Society.

For more information contact Deborah Zeger at the Temple Beth El office at 473-1770 or by email to dzeger@tberochester.org.

Yes, I would like to support Temple Beth El by making a 3 year commitment to the Pillar Society for the New Centennial, in the amount of: $_____ a year.

Name_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ YACHAD ☐ CHAI ☐ SHOMER ☐ KOACH ☐ OHR

__ My check for $_____ is enclosed

__ Please bill me: ___Annually ___Quarterly ___Monthly

__ Please charge for my first installment of $_____ ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ DISCOVER

Card #_____ Expires _____ Signature_____

L'Dor V'Dor
לדר ודר
Temple Beth El's Giving Society

from one generation to the next... for our future.

For Over a Century Temple Beth El has continued to play a unique role in the Rochester community providing a place where Jewish tradition and Innovation combine and where we share the most meaningful events in our lives. TBE is the place that offers anyone the opportunity to find their own spirituality and meaning.

Our legacy donors are individuals and families who wish to ensure that TBE remains an enriching community for generations to come. We continue to seek meaning together. Please consider making a legacy gift today.

For more information about supporting Temple Beth El's future please contact Debbie Zeger at dzeger@tberochester.org or 473-1770.

LIFE & LEGACY

EachOne ReachOne
Magnifying Your Impact

The Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester

If you have made provisions for Temple Beth El in your estate plans, or would like more information about doing so, please let us know by providing the information requested here. We would be honored to include you as a member of the L'Dor V'Dor Society and recognize your commitment.

- ☐ *I/We would like more information on becoming part of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We wish to receive more information about how to make a planned gift*
- ☐ *I/ We have provided for a gift to Temple Beth El in my/our will or estate plan*
- ☐ *I/We wish to be listed as member(s) of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We accept membership in the L'Dor V'Dor society but wish to remain anonymous at this time*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHESTER, NY
PERMIT NO. 407

1*1*******SCH 3-DIGIT 144

3
Mr. John Q. Sample
Suite 100
123 Main Street
Anytown, NY 12345-6789

Happy Passover

SENIOR STAFF

Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Senior Rabbi
bgoldstein@tberochester.org

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran
Senior Rabbi
lbitran@tberochester.org

Hazzan Martin Leubitz
Hazzan Emeritus, z"l

Deborah Zeger
Executive Director
dzeger@tberochester.org

Scotty Ginett
Director of Communications and Development
sginett@tberochester.org

Stephen Papkin
Director of Congregational Learning
spapkin@tberochester.org

Mandi Warner
Youth & Family Director
mwarner@tberochester.org

OFFICERS 2025–26

Evan Spindelman
President

Lina Spokony
Vice President

Aviva Schochat
Vice President

Howard Goldberg
Treasurer

Roberta Feldman
Secretary

Lisa Tellem
Officer-at-Large

Gerald Gamm
Officer-at-Large

Matt Ryen
Immediate Past President

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM–6:00 PM
Friday 8:30 AM–3:00 PM

Phone 585.473.1770

Carol Konuksever
Reception/Admin. Asst.
ckonuksever@tberochester.org

Willow Knight
Communications Assistant
wknight@tberochester.org

Suzie Syracuse
Finance & Facility Supervisor
ssyracuse@tberochester.org

EDUCATION OFFICE

Phone 585.473.1190

THE Kol
Temple Beth El
בית אל
VOL. 105 NO.2
MARCH 2026–AUGUST 2026
ADAR–ELUL 5786

PASSOVER ISSUE

schedules and information starting on page 19

Save the Date for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration Weekend!

Details on page 7

Mission Statement

Temple Beth El is a vibrant and inclusive community of Jews who join together for prayer, education, celebration, mutual support and comfort, tikkun olam and acts of loving kindness. We are guided by Torah and the principles of the Conservative movement. We are committed to our community, the State of Israel, and Jews around the world.

Vision Statement

Our vision is that Temple Beth El will be an inspiring center of Conservative Judaism in which meaningful experiences and memories take root and grow.

Values Statement

We are a welcoming and inclusive congregation.
We value and respect each congregant and their personal journey in Judaism.

We foster a sense of connectedness with our community.
We value participation in all aspects of synagogue and Jewish life.

Our congregation will be here for the entire Temple family now and for future generations.

Welcome!

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610
Phone: 585-473-1770

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with us at **www.tberoc.org**, where you can find up-to-date information and content.

facebook.com/TBEROCH

@tberochester

Subscribe to our YOUTUBE Channel:
Temple Beth El Rochester

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Shacharit:

Sunday: .....8:30 AM
Monday–Friday: .....7:30 AM
Rosh Hodesh: .....7:15 AM
Secular Holidays: ....8:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:

Sunday–Friday: .....6:00 PM

SHACHARIT ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6p5ky6h
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 846 8881 5480

MINCHA/MA'ARIV ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6d78zsx
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 841 5194 9603

SHABBAT SERVICES

Pesukei dezimra: ....9:30 AM
Shacharit: .....10:00 AM
Torah Service: .....10:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:
Check website for weekly times

LIVE STREAM LINK:
https://www.tberoc.org/live-stream/

JUNIOR CONGREGATION LEARNING

Every Saturday: .....11–11:30 AM
Ideal for children ages 4-11

PRE B'NEI MITZVAH SERVICE

First Saturday of every month: .....10:30 AM
For students who are studying to become B'nei Mitzvah

All Shabbat information including our trifold can be found on our website:
https://www.tberoc.org/pray/shabbat-services/

SAVE THE DATES!

Purim 5786

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Community Purim Festival at JCC

MONDAY, MARCH 2
Megillah Readings, Dinner, and TBE Purim Party featuring Aerial Arts

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
Keshet Purim Celebration

FROM RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S DESK

Dear Friends,

In the words of Ecclesiastes, there is nothing new under the sun. As I sit here writing this, I have just come from the 2026 Rabbinic Training Institute (RTI) hosted by the Rabbinical Assembly and the Jewish Theological Seminary. It's an annual retreat in which about 100 rabbis come together to learn classic texts, share about their experiences in the rabbinate, and talk about the future of our movement. This year was my fifteenth year at RTI, and with apologies to Ecclesiastes, there was something very new about it.

While I was at the retreat, many of my colleagues asked me about my feelings on being here at Temple Beth El. I'll tell them what I told you. I absolutely love being the rabbi of this community. In the last six months, I have thoroughly loved getting to know all of you and this holy community. During the High Holidays I felt an infectious enthusiasm and joy that I hope we can hold on to and off which we can build a bright future for our community.

I realize that none of this would be possible without the leadership of Rabbi Bitran. I am so grateful for his generosity and magnanimity in allowing me to come in and be myself. I have witnessed his indefatigable spirit and dedication to this community and am honored to be following him as your senior rabbi. In the coming months, I hope we can honor him in ways befitting his enormous contributions to our home at Beth El.

Since my arrival I have been privileged to have talked with many of you about the rich history of Temple Beth El. I have learned just how many of you are related to each other (I still can't get over how many of you are cousins or related in some way). We have spoken about your families' legacies and love for TBE and about the future of our community. We have had honest and open conversations about the many opportunities and challenges we face.

I am very excited about how much we can grow and maintain the enthusiasm I've witnessed. One way is our adult education/engagement program. We are excited about the partnerships we have in place with both the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, Hadar Yeshiva in NYC, and the Maas Center from American Jewish University out of Los Angeles. Next year at the High Holidays we hope to be able to have a brochure rich with opportunities for learning and engagement.

Over the course of the next few months, you will be hearing about more opportunities for conversation. I am interested in knowing how TBE and I can best meet your spiritual needs. If there is something you'd like to see, or a program you're interested in, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Change is never easy. We all know the necessity of holding onto our Jewish values and the importance we place on tradition. And, as we know, the most dangerous question we can ask about tradition is "why." Together we will explore the "why's" and "how's" of our tradition. Yes, it can be scary, but we know that our religion is constantly evolving. As we say in our blessings over the torah, "blessed are you, God who is giving the torah." Our tradition acknowledges that we are still being given torah, even to this day. If you think back to what Beth El looked like 30 years ago, and how it looks today, you know what I'm talking about.

We will make changes, yes, but we do not make them lightly. We make them only to better suit the needs of our community, keeping our principles and values always close to us. May we be blessed to experience the bright future of TBE together, going from strength to strength, united in our hope for a bright future of Judaism, for ourselves and our families for generations to come.

FROM RABBI BITRAN'S DESK

Passover: The Power of the Small Things

The observance of *Pesach* contains a central idea that applies not only to this festival, but to Jewish life as a whole—and, indeed, to the very nature of human existence.

Jewish law strictly prohibits the consumption of bread and leavened products during Passover. The regulations are exacting—details of which can be found on our website—but in essence, even the smallest amount of *chametz* renders food unfit for use. Why is a minute particle of leaven so potent that it can invalidate a large quantity of food? The answer is that this law underscores the importance of small things—the details of human existence.

We live in a world that pays homage to size. We are addicted to bigness: bigger industries, bigger cars, king-size screens, and skyscrapers that stretch ever higher into the heavens. Institutions grow larger and larger. In our fascination with size, we have confused bigness with greatness, quantity with quality, and scale with substance.

Consider that the two nations of the ancient world that left the deepest imprint on Western civilization were the Jews and the Greeks. A cursory glance at the map reveals how small these lands were in size, yet how enduring their influence has been. David Lloyd George, the British statesman who guided Britain through World War I and its aftermath, once observed:

"God has chosen little nations as the vessels by which God carries God's choicest wines to the lips of humanity, to rejoice their hearts, to exalt their vision, and to strengthen their faith."

The value of small things becomes clearer when we deal with what is precious. In a ton of coal, the loss of a few lumps is insignificant. But when handling precious stones or volatile chemicals, every minute quantity matters greatly.

The same is true in our relationships with other people. We often focus on grand gestures, but the true difference between refined and crude individuals—politics aside—lies in the small things: a kind word, a gesture of respect, a sympathetic clasp of the hand, a thoughtful remark, a reassuring pat on the shoulder. These simple acts allow us to feel warmth, dignity, and human connection. This principle also defines Jewish life. There is little in Jewish observance that is outwardly spectacular. Washing hands before a meal, reciting a blessing, kindling a few candles—these are the acts through which Jewish values are lived and experienced. American Jews today are not asked to perform heroic deeds or extraordinary sacrifices, only small acts—and precisely because they are small, they are often overlooked.

Creating a Jewish home for a child, reading a Jewish book, enrolling in a Jewish class—these acts seem unspectacular. Reciting *Kiddush*, subscribing to a Jewish publication, buying an Israel Bond, serving on a committee—these are quiet and undramatic. Yet it is precisely through faithfulness to these small acts that our loyalty to Judaism is expressed and the character of Jewish life in America is shaped. As Leo Baeck wrote:

"Piety, especially Jewish piety, respects the little—the little person, the little matter, the little task, the little duty. Through the little, religion encounters the greatness that lies behind."

I know that parents, when truly tested, are capable of enormous sacrifices for their children and loved ones. But I appeal especially to parents this Passover to embrace the humble, undramatic tasks—the "little things" of the season. Introduce the *Seder* in your home in a way that reflects the joy and beauty of the festival. Preparing the home for Passover takes effort, and there are special roles for both parents to play. Yet this shared experience nourishes the Jewish spirit and sanctifies and elevates our lives.

A particle of *chametz* may seem insignificant, but just as one false note can ruin a great symphony, so too do small things matter profoundly. It is in the details of life that we reveal our sensitivity—and earn the right to call ourselves civilized.

A Happy Passover to all. *Pesach Kasher veSameach*. May the ideals of this Festival of Freedom bring renewed hope here and in Israel, and inspire fresh strength within the Jewish community. May the dream of freedom be realized for families everywhere as we celebrate the event that gave birth to liberty for our ancestors.

From my family to yours,
May you have a meaningful *Sedarim* and
a *Pesach Kasher veSameach*.

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran

You are invited to join us for

RABBI BITRAN'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION WEEKEND

MAY 29–31, 2026

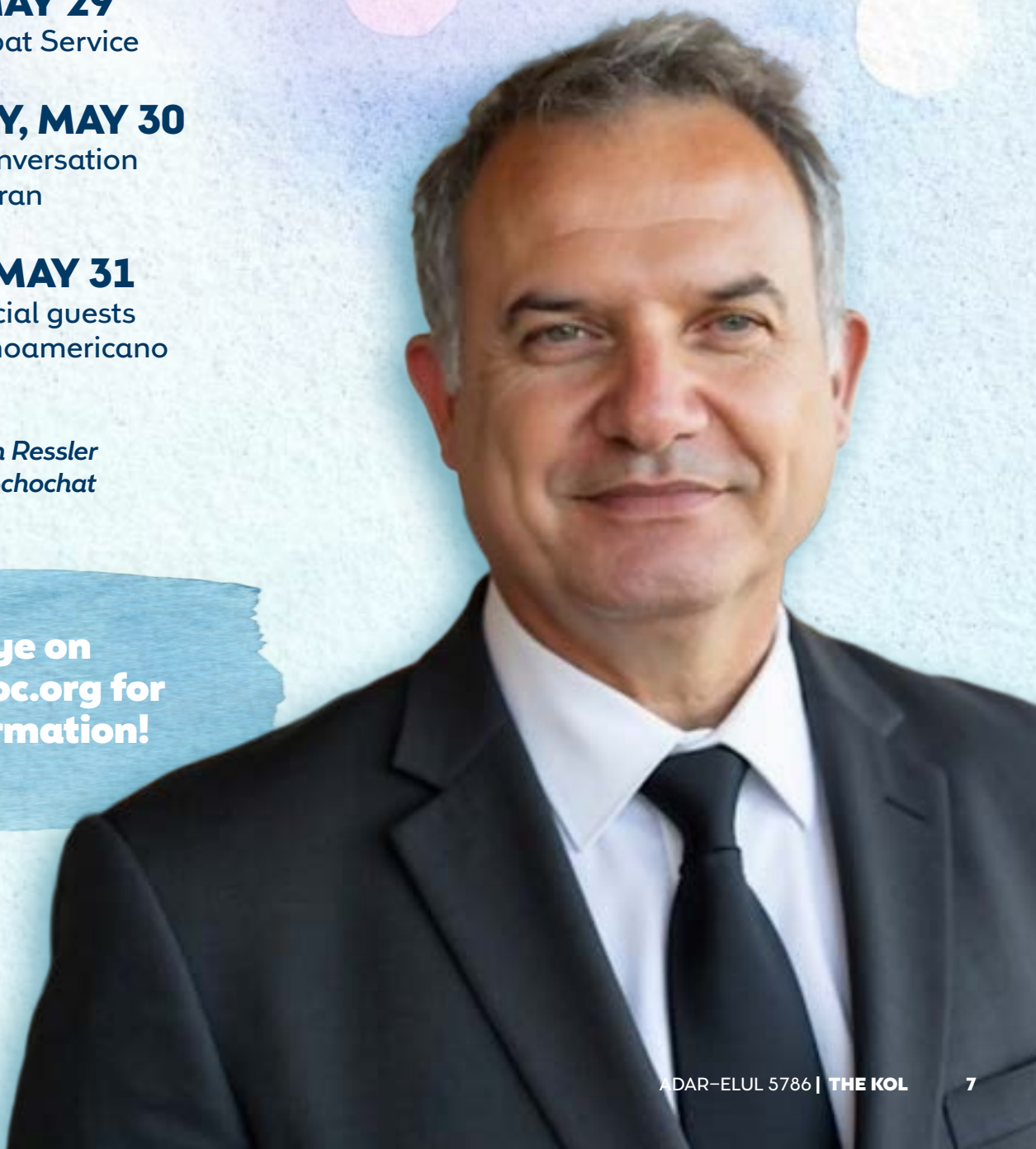
FRIDAY, MAY 29
Special Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MAY 30
Kiddush & Conversation
with Rabbi Bitran

SUNDAY, MAY 31
Gala with special guests
Cuarteto Latinoamericano

Event chairs:
Sara and Darren Ressler
Aviva and Arie Schochat

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My daughter likes to poke fun at me by saying that all I do for a living is look at emails. Strangely there is an element of truth to her assertion. Email is the delivery system for much of what I do, whether it is responding to inquiries from any number of sources, or syncing with my work database, my eyeballs are glued to a screen for more hours than I would like to admit. Like everybody else connected to the digital world, my daily existence is linked to technology be it via cell phone, pc, or iPad. Seemingly nobody is spared. And those few who choose to unplug and disconnect we somewhat sarcastically refer to as being off the grid.

Growing up in the 70's and 80's, life was very different. But not just the absence of digital connectivity. Human connectivity was actually—well—human. We talked to each other. We lived in a society that was both accessible and open. I mean really open. Take our very own Temple Beth El. Doors were unlocked. There was no hired security. Hebrew School was in session three times a week, and when we were let out of class, we waited outside for our parents to come pick us up with little or no adult supervision. I held the distinction of being one of the last kids to get their ride. My dad's office was downtown, and he was tasked with pickup duty. He would lose track of time, or take that one last phone call, and—I kid you not—got around to picking me up sometimes over an hour after classes ended. Don't mean to throw you under the bus dad—love you!

There is a point to all this reminiscing. Those of us old enough to remember a different world in which we lived mourn the loss of that open society. That human interaction. The absence of technology running our lives. There are certainly very tangible benefits to the truly amazing pace of technological advancement. But the decline of human contact and spiritual connectivity is just so palpable.

One of the great things about this community is that we connect. Sure, we use technology like everybody else. But the very purpose of our temple community is just that—community. And there are a lot of people—staff, teachers, clergy and temple members—that make sure that is so.

Last year at this time, my president's message detailed what we expected to accomplish for our temple community in 2025. First and foremost, we have welcomed our new Senior Rabbi Benjamin Goldstein. The NYS Office of Children and Family Services has licensed our Keshet program. Strides have been made to build upon the success of our BeWise program. And infrastructural improvements have been completed to ensure our Synagogue will be our spiritual home for many more years to come. Time has brought many changes to the world in which we live. But our Temple community continues to flourish as a source of Jewish community and connectivity.

Evan Spindelman
TBE Board President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the past year at Temple Beth El, I am filled with gratitude for the strength, generosity, and commitment of this community. Synagogue life is built not only on moments of prayer, but on shared experiences, collective effort, and the relationships that sustain us through times of celebration and transition. This year reminded us just how powerful those connections can be.

One of the most exciting milestones of the year was our first-ever crowdfunding campaign in the fall of 2025. Through the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteer ambassadors, we raised more than $155,000 in support of Temple Beth El. This effort was about more than fundraising—it was a testament to how deeply our congregants believe in this community and in ensuring a strong future for our synagogue. I am deeply thankful to everyone who participated, donated, and helped spread the word.

This year also marked a profound moment of leadership transition. We joyfully celebrated the installation of Rabbi Ben Goldstein as Temple Beth El's 12th Senior Rabbi, welcoming him into a role that carries both tradition and vision. Rabbi Goldstein's installation was a meaningful communal moment, reflecting our optimism and excitement for the path ahead.

At the same time, we began to honor the legacy of Rabbi Bitran, who will retire in May 2026 after 13 years of dedicated service as our Senior Rabbi. Rabbi Bitran's impact on Temple Beth El is immeasurable. He has guided our congregation with wisdom, compassion, and care through moments of joy and challenge, and his leadership has helped shape the vibrant community we are today. We will be celebrating his retirement at the end of May. Please save the dates of May 29–31!

None of these accomplishments happen in isolation. They are made possible by the generosity of our donors, the commitment of our volunteers, and the ongoing engagement of our congregants. Together, you create a community that is resilient, welcoming, and deeply rooted in shared values.

Thank you for being part of Temple Beth El's story. It is a privilege to reflect on what we have accomplished together, and I am hopeful and inspired as we look toward the future we are building side by side.

Deborah Zeger
TBE Executive Director

FROM THE YOUTH & FAMILY DIRECTOR

Shalom,

As we start the second half of the school year, I can't help but look back at all of our successes from the first half of the year that will carry us through.

Our school year started out very smoothly, and we were able to quickly adapt to being newly licensed by New York State. The professional development that has been made available has been highly utilized to benefit the quality of care, instruction, classroom management, and communication amongst our teachers. We have a very active Parent Council of four parents that have been helping to plan events, make recommendations based on experience and feedback from other parents, and serve as room parents for each of the classes.

From an Early Childhood Department standpoint, we have had several successful family programs that partnered with BE WISE Jr. that included apple picking before Rosh Hashanah, bringing Seneca Park Zoo to Temple Beth El to teach about Parsha Noach, and prepping for Hanukkah by making menorahs, dreidels, and latke plates. All of our programs attracted large crowds, including close to 100 for apple picking. We have also brought back monthly Tot Shabbat, rotating between Friday night services and Saturday morning. We have even combined with BE WISE for a meaningful morning.

After all of the successes from the first half of the year, we are looking forward to springing forward with some exciting new events and offerings for our youngest congregants.

We are looking forward to our first ever Chametz Scavenger hunt for Early Childhood families in March to prepare for Passover on March 15, which will take place at Wegmans. The goal behind this is to give children and their families a list of foods, have them find them in the store, and determine if they are Passover-friendly or not. We also have an Israel Family Program to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut on April 19, and we will conclude this school year with a Shavuot Cooking Class on May 17.

Camp Keshet will begin on July 6, and we will debut our new extension program. Registration is out, and we have some new and exciting themes including Camp Keshet Campout, Around the World, and Fairytale Forest, as well as returning fan favorite, Messy Art! We will also bring back Watermelon Wednesday which will feature some new guests, as well as fan favorites like the City of Rochester Fire Department! We typically get campers from all over the world including Israel, Germany, and even Ukraine! You will not want your little one to miss the Camp Keshet experience!

Both Camp Keshet and Keshet registration is out, and with our extension until 4, spaces are filling up quickly! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or even just to chat about opportunities for your little one! I have coffee and tea in my office and am always open to a

L'Shalom,

Mandi Warner

Mandi Warner
TBE Youth & Family Director

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DIRECTOR

Shalom,

Here at Temple Beth El, we are proud of the varied opportunities to engage in Jewish living and learning that we provide Jewish Rochesterians of all ages. Beginning with early childhood, we guide our students on a track in our BE.WISE Religious School, through the process of becoming a B'nei Mitzvah and onward to youth groups, weekly learning with peers, and into adulthood.

Our synagogue's BE.WISE Religious School is named after the core values of our educational program: Beth El Wisdom, Identity, Spirit and Education. We begin welcoming 4 year old students into our PreK program BE.WISE Junior, which consists of one monthly early childhood program for the whole family and one day per month of class at our Sunday school. Our BE.WISE Junior program gives students a fantastic and fun jumpstart to their Alef Bet, Torah story and Jewish holiday learning!

Students continue together as a learning cohort throughout the BE.WISE program into Kindergarten and through the Seventh Grade. The BE.WISE program strives to integrate joy and fun into Jewish learning, and to make Judaism more meaningful and accessible through the development of the foundational skills for engaging in Jewish life. BE.WISE students learn from The Beverly Goldstick z"l Curriculum for 21st Century Learning, focusing on Hebrew literacy, prayer skills, Jewish peoplehood and a strong relationship with Eretz Yisrael. We invite families of our students several times a year to join us for holiday programming, BE.WISE Shabbat experiences, and celebrations. As students approach their B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies, they are invited to participate in a year-long cohort of fun and learning together as they and their families prepare and study to become full-fledged members of the Jewish community.

After graduating from the BE.WISE program as 7th graders, students have an array of choices for their continued involvement in Jewish life and learning at Temple Beth El. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade have the opportunity to split their time earning volunteer hours by assisting in classrooms and taking higher learning classes in our BE.WISE Madrichim program. Older Madrichim have the opportunity to become paid tutors in lieu of volunteer credit. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade also have the opportunity to join our USY community, which provides teens with fun Jewish programming throughout the year. Additionally, we are proud to offer our new weekly teen learning series, which will have students engage in Jewish learning and discussion with Rabbi Goldstein and myself while enjoying a weekly dinner together.

As lifelong learners, there are great educational opportunities for our congregants at Temple Beth El as well! Participants can choose from a variety of opportunities such as Introduction to Judaism, a monthly Java & Jeans discussion and learning series from distinguished institutions such as Hadar and The Hartman Institute. Adult congregants are also invited to join Torah On Tap, our monthly Jewish discussion program where we learn while enjoying cold drinks.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions about Jewish education here at Temple Beth El!

Stephen Papkin,
TBE Congregational Learning Director

TBE EDUCATION

Keshet
קשת
Temple Beth El's Early Childhood Program

Keshet Preschool, a Jewish early childhood program, is dedicated to serving the entire Rochester community. In a warm loving environment, through play, your child will gain a love of Jewish and secular learning as well as develop their social-emotional skills.

For more information, contact Mandi Warner at mwarner@tberochester.org

BE.WISE:
JEWISH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

BE.WISE, (Beth El wisdom, identity, spirit, education) offers quality supplementary Jewish education for students in grades Kindergarten through seventh grade, and offers Madrichim programs for students in eighth grade and high school. New this year, we also offer BE.WISE Junior for Pre-K students. Core courses focus on building Hebrew literacy while building connections to Hebrew language, Jewish peoplehood, Israel, Jewish history, Tanakh, Tefillah and the chagim. Elective classes change frequently with offerings including Judaism through Art, Jewish Music and Cafe Ivrit.

For more information, contact Stephen Papkin at spapkin@tberochester.org

Early Childhood Calendar

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt

MARCH 30
Professional Development

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

WATERMELON WEDNESDAY

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29
AUGUST 5, 12

1 PM | TBE PLAYGROUND

Join other families with young children every Wednesday this summer, featuring special guests like the Rochester Fire Department, Butterfly Kids Yoga, and more!

Temple Beth El **CAMP KESHET 2026** Keshet קשת

JULY 6–AUGUST 14 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Find more information and sign up at www.tberoc.org/camp

JULY 6–10
Sensing Summer

JULY 13–17
Messy Art

July 20–24
Camp Keshet Campout

JULY 27–31
Fairytale Forest

AUGUST 3–7
Around the World

AUGUST 10–14
Camp Keshet Maccabiah Games

ONLINE RESOURCES

YAHRZEITS You should have received an email or letter stating when the Yahrzeit of your loved one will be observed according to the Jewish calendar. Names will be read on the Shabbat dates prior to the actual Yahrzeit. See link below. Kaddish is also recited at Ma'ariv (evening service) on the night on which the Yahrzeit begins and at Shacharit (morning service) and Mincha (afternoon service) on the day of the Yahrzeit. Actual dates can be found on your Shulcloud account or by calling the office at (585) 473-1700.
The monthly list of daily Yahrzeit dates can be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/yahrzeits

DONATIONS

Temple Beth El is very grateful for every donation we receive. Your support enables us to provide ongoing services and programs to the congregation and community.
Give now to Temple Beth El at www.tberoc.org/support

VOLUNTEER

Give your time and talents to help at Temple Beth El throughout the year.
Find opportunities and initiatives at www.tberoc.org/meet/volunteer

MAZEL TOV

We are happy to pass along news about our congregants and community. Share yours by calling the office at (585) 473-1770 or by emailing communications@tberochester.org. **Mazel Tovs can now be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/mazel-tovs**

COMMUNITY EVENTS & CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Temple Beth El programs and candle lighting times for Holy Days and Shabbat can be found by month and date **starting on page 30 and at www.tberoc.org/calendar**

20s & 30s

This is a welcoming place for Jews in their 20/30s. Jewish and non Jewish partners are always welcome to join! Parents may bring children under the age of 2.

Join the 20s & 30s on Facebook for information on all upcoming events at www.facebook.com/TBE2030. All times are subject to change.

MARCH 27
Shabbat Services

MARCH 28
Torah on Tap

APRIL 15 | 7 PM
Yoga

APRIL 24
Shabbat Services

MAY 16
Torah On Tap

MAY 29
Shabbat Services

JUNE 7 | 4 PM
Eric Weiner Memorial Event

JUNE 26
Shabbat Services

JULY 31
Shabbat Services

AUGUST (TBD)
TBE at the Red Wings

AUGUST 28
Shabbat Services

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club of Temple Beth El
Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life

MARCH 7
Men's Club Shabbat

MARCH 28
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Keith Freedman

MAY 16
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Jeff Levinson

JUNE 14
Men's Club Annual Meeting

JUNE 20
Members Stories: Getting to Know us speaker TBD

MEN'S CLUB OF TEMPLE BETH EL
2025–2026 JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I'm interested in: _____

_____

Send completed form with $40 check payable to Men's Club of Temple Beth El to:
Temple Beth El – Men's Club,
139 S. Winton Road South,
Rochester, NY 14610

Or, pay via PayPal at https://www.tberochester.org/meet/mens-club/

SISTERHOOD

When women support each other, incredible things happen.

All Sisterhood meetings and programs are open to the entire Temple Beth El family.

Celebrating our 105TH Year!

We Are Sisterhood!

We are a community of Conservative Jewish women. From the beginning of our movement's history, our women have sought out the company of likeminded women—recognizing and appreciating the mission of our founders.

- We come together for camaraderie, for support, inspiration and comfort.
- We look to one another for wisdom, practical knowledge and spiritual guidance.
- We look to one another for support and guidance about how to maintain that delicate balance between tradition and change.
- We are the evolved version of Mathilde Schechter's Sisterhood vision, now more than one hundred years old, of education and learning for Jewish women.
- Conservative Jewish women have been at the forefront of religious progress and change. We celebrate our community.

Join us in strengthening our Sisterhood. We've grown stronger together and now it's your turn to dive in. Community workshops that spark lively chats, conferences and conventions that touch hearts and spiritual retreats that recharge your soul. Come to an event, stay for the connection, stay for the inspiration—let's build lasting bonds. Sign up today and Temple Beth El your home. Join us as we grow!

Lynda and Wendy, Co-Presidents

Just Judaica
The Gift Shop at Temple Beth El

The largest retail Judaica Gift Shop in western and central New York

Regular Shopping Hours
Sunday mornings: 9:30 AM–noon
(when school is in session)
Wednesday afternoons: 4–6 PM

Can't make regular hours?
Call for an appointment: Lynda (585-314-8288) or Iris (585-739-2428)

Sisterhood Mission Statement

Our mission is to strengthen and unite the women of Sisterhood and support them to understand and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism in the home, synagogue and community and reinforce their bonds with Israel and Jews worldwide.

RICHARD W. BRISKIN CANTOR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

MAY 1–3, 2026

Featuring Toby Banks

2026 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

With Special Guest Cantor Noah Rachels

2022 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!

Toby Banks is a fourth-year cantorial student who was born and raised in New York City. After completing a BA in psychology from Cornell University, she went on to have a 20+ year career as both a professional classical singer and a development professional.

Toby has performed as a featured soloist with opera companies and symphony orchestras in major concert halls across the United States. In addition to the classical opera and concert repertoire, she made a name for herself in the world of avant-garde and contemporary classical music and has been a featured soloist in countless premieres and recordings. She also sang for nearly 20 years in the professional choir of Park Avenue Synagogue, where she is now a member.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, Toby is serving as the cantorial intern at Ansche Chesed in New York City and served as the High Holiday Cantor at Congregation Agudat Achim in Schenectady, NY. As a cantorial student, she is excited to bring together her passion for music, Judaism, and pastoral care in order to serve the Jewish community through leadership, healing, prayer, and song.

Cantor Noah Rachels was born and raised in the "Borscht Belt". He currently serves as the Hazzan of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto, Canada, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He previously held a pulpit at Mosaic Law Congregation in Sacramento, California, from 2023 to 2025. A graduate of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Cantor Rachels was the recipient of the 2022 Richard W. Briskin Award. He is particularly passionate about music, prayer, and fostering spiritual growth and meaning, and is delighted to return to Temple Beth El.

Temple Beth El
בית אל

Passover 5786

Temple Beth El בית אל

5786 Passover SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, MARCH 31
7 AM .....Morning Minyan
followed by Siyum Bechorim & breakfast
6 PM .....Mincha & Ma'ariv
8 PM .....Bedikat Hametz at Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
(EREV PESACH) - FIRST SEDER
7 AM .....Morning Minyan, followed by
Siyum Bechorim and breakfast
12 PM .....Burn the Hametz (Biyur Hametz)
6 PM ..... Mincha
7:18 PM..... Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
SECOND SEDER
9 AM .....Morning services for First Day of Passover
8:21 PM.....Candle lighting

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
9 AM .....Morning services for Second Day of Passover
6 PM .....Kabbalat Shabbat
7:21 PM.....Candle lighting (from a pre-existing flame)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
9 AM .....Morning services for Third Day of Passover,
followed by Kiddush lunch
7:08 PM ....Mincha
8:20 PM ....Ma'ariv
8:23 PM ....Shabbat ends

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
FOURTH DAY OF PASSOVER
8:30 AM....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

MONDAY, APRIL 6
FIFTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

TUESDAY, APRIL 7
SIXTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv
7:25 PM.....Candle lighting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Seventh Day of Passover
12 PM .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:28 PM ....Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
EIGHTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Eighth Day of Passover
11 AM .....Yizkor
12 pm .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:30 PM ....Passover ends

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR ANNUAL

Second Seder

APRIL 2, 2026
6:00 PM | MINCHA
6:30 PM | SEDER

Our menu will include matzah ball soup, turkey breast, brisket, kugels, fresh vegetables, and dessert.

Vegetarian and vegan options available!

Adults (13 years and older): $75 per person
Children (12 and younger): $25 per person

Sign up at www.tberoc.org to reserve your meal today!

Prices increase March 18.
Adults $80 | Child $30

Passover INFORMATION

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: ***rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.***

EREV PESACH SIYUM

The sunrise to sunset *ta'anit* (fast) *bekhorim* (of the firstborn), which occurs on the day before Passover, is the only fast that applies to just a segment of the community: all males who are the firstborn children in their families (if the firstborn child is female, the first son born after her is not obligated).

There is a widely practiced exemption: On the principle that fasting is prohibited on a joyous occasion, Judaism allows for anyone who attends a religious feast to forego fasting. It is customary to hold a celebratory meal on the completion of study of a tractate of rabbinic literature, called a *siyyum* (conclusion). So the sages initiated the practice of studying the end of a tractate after morning services on Erev Pesach followed by a celebratory meal.

This year, Siyum B'khorim is held on Wednesday, April 1, as the day before Passover falls on Shabbat. At 7AM on Wednesday, April 1, the firstborn in each family is invited to the Siyum B'khorim. Following the meal, there is an opportunity to burn your family's remaining hametz in a bonfire in the TBE Garden.

IS IT KOSHER FOR PASSOVER?

Passover has its own special rules of kashrut. On Pesach, Jews are forbidden from owning or consuming hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt).

Most Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (kitniyot) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above kitniyot.

PERMITTED FOODS:

A. The following foods require no kosher l'Pesach label when purchased before or during Passover: fresh fruits and eggs, fresh fish (whole or gutted), fresh or frozen kosher meat other than chopped meat, whole (unground) spices and nuts, including whole or half pecans (not pieces), pure black, green, or white tea leaves or teabags, Nestea regular and decaffeinated unflavored tea, coffee (unflavored regular), baking soda and bicarbonate of soda.

B. The following items may be purchased before Pesach without a Pesach hekhsher but if bought during Pesach require a kosher l'Pesach label: white milk, 100% pure fruit juice, filleted fish, frozen fruit (with no additives), pure white sugar (with no additive), olive oil (extra virgin only), non-iodized salt, quinoa (with no additional ingredients).

C. The following products require reliable ("kosher l"Pesach") certification (regular rabbinic supervision is not sufficient), whether purchased before or during Pesach: all baked goods (matzah, Pesach cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzfel meal, and any other products containing matzoh), herbal teas, canned tuna, wine, vinegar, liquor, decaffeinated coffee and tea, dried fruits, oils, frozen uncooked vegetables and all frozen processed foods, candy, chocolate-flavored milk, ice-cream, yogurt, cheeses, butter, and soda. Any processed food bought during Pesach must have a ("kosher l"Pesach") certification.

D. Any detergents, cleaners, etc. which are not a foodstuff and which are not eaten, may be used for Pesach and do not require a special label. These items include: isopropyl alcohol, aluminum products, ammonia, coffee filters, baby oil, powder and ointment, bleach, charcoal, candles, contact paper, plastic cutlery, laundry and dish detergent, fabric softener, oven cleaner, paper bags, plates, wax paper, plastic wrap, polish, sanitizers, scouring pads, stain remover, and bottled water with no additives.

E. Medicines: Prescription medicines are permitted. Non-prescription pills and capsules are permitted, for liquid medications, check with your rabbi.

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.

BEDIKAT HAMETZ

One of the required holiday ceremonies is Bedikat Hametz, searching for leaven. On the night before the first seder, Tuesday, March 31, we conduct a candle-lit search through our home to ensure that no hametz is still present. It is a brief ceremony in which the entire family can and should participate.

1. Make sure that all hametz has been removed or locked away with the exception of what will be needed for the morning.

2. Carefully hide some crumbs of bread. This is to ensure that the blessing and the ceremony will not be performed in vain.

3. Take a candle, a feather or brush, and a box or cloth for the crumbs, and recite this blessing:
Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheynu Melekh haolam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu al biur hametz.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with the commandments and commanded us to remove all leaven.

4. Perform the search and gather up all the crumbs. Tie them in a bundle which will be burned the next morning. Feel free to (safely) burn it on your own, or use the bonfire at Temple Beth El following morning minyan.

5. Recite the following: All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have not seen or removed shall be annulled and void of any ownership and considered as the dust of the earth. (The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.).

6. On Wednesday, April 1, at or before 12 PM, burn the leaven and recite the following:
All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have seen or not seen, that I have removed or not removed, that I have destroyed or not destroyed shall be annulled and void of my ownership and considered as the dust of the earth.
(The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.)

TO SELL YOUR HAMETZ

The Torah prohibits the ownership of hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt) during Passover. Ideally, we burn or remove all hametz from our premises which may be done through donations to a local food pantry. In some cases, however, this would cause prohibitive financial loss. In such cases, we arrange for the sale of the hametz to a non-Jew and its repurchase after Passover. You can arrange for this sale of your Hametz by sending the following form to Rabbi Bitran at theTemple office ***no later than Friday, March 27.***

It is customary to include a donation to provide Maot Hittin funds for Passover supplies for the needy. Please make checks payable to Temple Beth El which will be contributed to Maot Hittin on everyone's behalf.

Form is also available on our website at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/passover/

Dear Rabbi Bitran:
Please act as my agent for this sale of any hametz on my premises.

Name _____

Address _____

email _____

PREPARING A FLAME FOR YOM TOV

On Yom Tov, kindling a new fire is not permitted; however, the use of an existing fire for cooking or other purposes is permitted.

To light candles for Day 2 of Yom Tov (Friday night) and Shabbat, ensure you have a fire burning before candle-lighting time for Day 1 (Thursday evening) that will continue to burn until Shabbat candle-lighting time.

For example:

- A burning candle that lasts for more than 25 hours
- A pilot light on a gas range (not a gas range with an electronic starter)

Information from Luah Hashanah 5786
by Rabbi Miles B. Cohen and Leslie Rubin

Happy Passover

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran & Silvana Bacman
Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Deborah and Mark Zeger
Scotty Ginett
Stephen Papkin
Mandi & Paul Warner
Evan & Monique Spindelman
Aviva & Arie Schochat
Lina & Martin Spokony
Howard & Rachel Goldberg
Roberta & David Feldman
Gerald Gamm & Charles Towles
Lisa & Dan Tellem

COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH EVENTS

We invite all to join in community Yom HaShoah events organized by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester. Stay tuned for more information, coming soon.

APRIL 20
Yom Hazikaron

APRIL 22
Yom Ha'azmaut, Israel's Independence Day

March
ADAR /NISAN

MARCH 1
BE WISE Purim Carnival

MARCH 2
Temple Beth El Purim Party

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 4
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 6
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Glow In The Dark Shabbat

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 11
Wisdom Wednesdays
BE WISE Amerks Game

MARCH 14-MARCH 15
Zikaron for 8th and 9th graders

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Challah Baking

MARCH 18
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 21
BE WISE Shabbat and Soko Hill
Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Hill

MARCH 28
USY Laser Tag
Torah on Tap

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

6	5:47 pm
7	6:49 pm
13	6:56 pm
14	7:58 pm
20	7:04 pm
21	8:06 pm
27	7:12 pm
28	8:15 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

April
NISAN/IYAR

APRIL 12
BE WISE Yom HaShoa Ceremony

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 15
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 18
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Ice Cream and Israel Torah on Tap

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program
BE WISE Israel Program

APRIL 22
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE
Tot Shabbat

APRIL 25
USY Volunteering and Overnight at Temple Beth El

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

APRIL 29
Wisdom Wednesdays

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

🕯🕯	2	8:21 pm
🕯🕯	3	7:21 pm
🕯	4	8:23 pm
🕯🕯	8	8:28 pm
🕯🕯	10	7:29 pm
🕯	11	8:32 pm
🕯🕯	17	7:37 pm
🕯	18	8:41 pm
🕯🕯	24	7:45 pm
🕯	25	8:51 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

May

IYAR/SIVAN

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 6
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 10
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Group Volunteer Outing

MAY 13
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 16
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Bowling
Torah on Tap

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 20
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

MAY 31
USY Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	7:53 pm
2	9:00 pm
8	8:01 pm
9	9:09 pm
15	8:09 pm
16	9:18 pm
21	8:15 pm
22	8:16 pm
23	9:26 pm
29	8:22 pm
30	9:34 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

June
SIVAN/TAMUZ

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JUNE 25
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

5	8:28 pm
6	9:40 pm
12	8:32 pm
13	9:45 pm
19	8:35 pm
20	9:48 pm
26	8:36 pm
27	9:48 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

July

TAMUZ/AV

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

JULY 16
Torah on Tap

AUGUST 13
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

3	8:35 pm
4	9:46 pm
10	8:32 pm
11	9:42 pm
17	8:28 pm
18	9:37 pm
24	8:22 pm
25	9:29 pm
31	8:14 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

August
AV/ELUL

AUGUST 23
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	8:13 pm
8	8:04 pm
9	9:08 pm
15	7:54 pm
16	8:51 pm
22	7:43 pm
23	8:44pm
29	7:31 pm
30	8:32 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

WISDOM WEDNESDAYS

Join us for Wisdom Wednesdays where your teen can have dinner and a discussion!

Grades 8-12
Grades 8-9 learn with Stephen Papkin
Grades 10-12 learn with Rabbi Goldstein

Cost is $180 per participant

6–7:30 PM at Temple Beth El

Please note: No refunds will be issued after completing registration.

MARCH 4
MARCH 11
MARCH 18
MARCH 25
APRIL 15
APRIL 22
APRIL 29
MAY 6
MAY 13
MAY 20

scan to register

JAVA & JEANS

WITH RABBI GOLDSTEIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 25
MAY 16
JUNE 20
JULY 11

Do you have questions about Jewish prayer that you have never been able to ask? Are you seeking a deeper meaning behind the prayers? Join us for Java and Jeans, where we explore theology, prayer, mussar, mindfulness, and psychology capped off with lively Torah study discussion over coffee while wearing your favorite pair of jeans.

TORAH ON TAP

WITH STEPHEN PAPKIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 18
MAY 16
JUNE 25
JULY 16
AUGUST 13

A monthly pub crawl featuring Jewish learning and discussions at alternating venues around Rochester. Enjoy a cold one with friends while learning how the Jewish take on different topics.

JOIN US FOR A LAG B'OMER BBQ & BONFIRE

THURSDAY, MAY 4 | 6 PM

We invite all to join us for our annual Lag B'Omer bonfire. Hot dogs and chips will be provided!

Mincha held at 6 PM with food and fun to follow.

This event is free but registration is required.

We hope to see you there!

ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 21

MINCHA | 6 PM
ANNUAL MEETING | 6:30 PM
MA'ARIV | 7:30 PM

DINNER & TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT TO FOLLOW

Join us for the installation of new Officers and Board Members, Dinner, and Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

This event is free but registration is requested at tberoc.org

SHAVUOT

THURSDAY, MAY 21
6 PM: Mincha
6:30 PM: Annual Meeting
7:30 PM: Ma'ariv
Dinner & Tikkun Leil Shavuot to follow

FRIDAY, MAY 22
9 AM: Shavuot Services
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha

SATURDAY, MAY 23
9 AM: Shavuot Services
11 AM: Yizkor
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha
9:38 PM: Shavuot Ends

Temple Beth El
בית אל
An Inclusive Jewish Community

PRIDE SHABBAT

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 18

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 19

More information to be announced soon—
Watch www.tberoc.org for details!

TISHA B'AV

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 (SHABBAT CHAZON)

8:30 PM: Mincha & Eicha
8:42 PM: Fast Begins

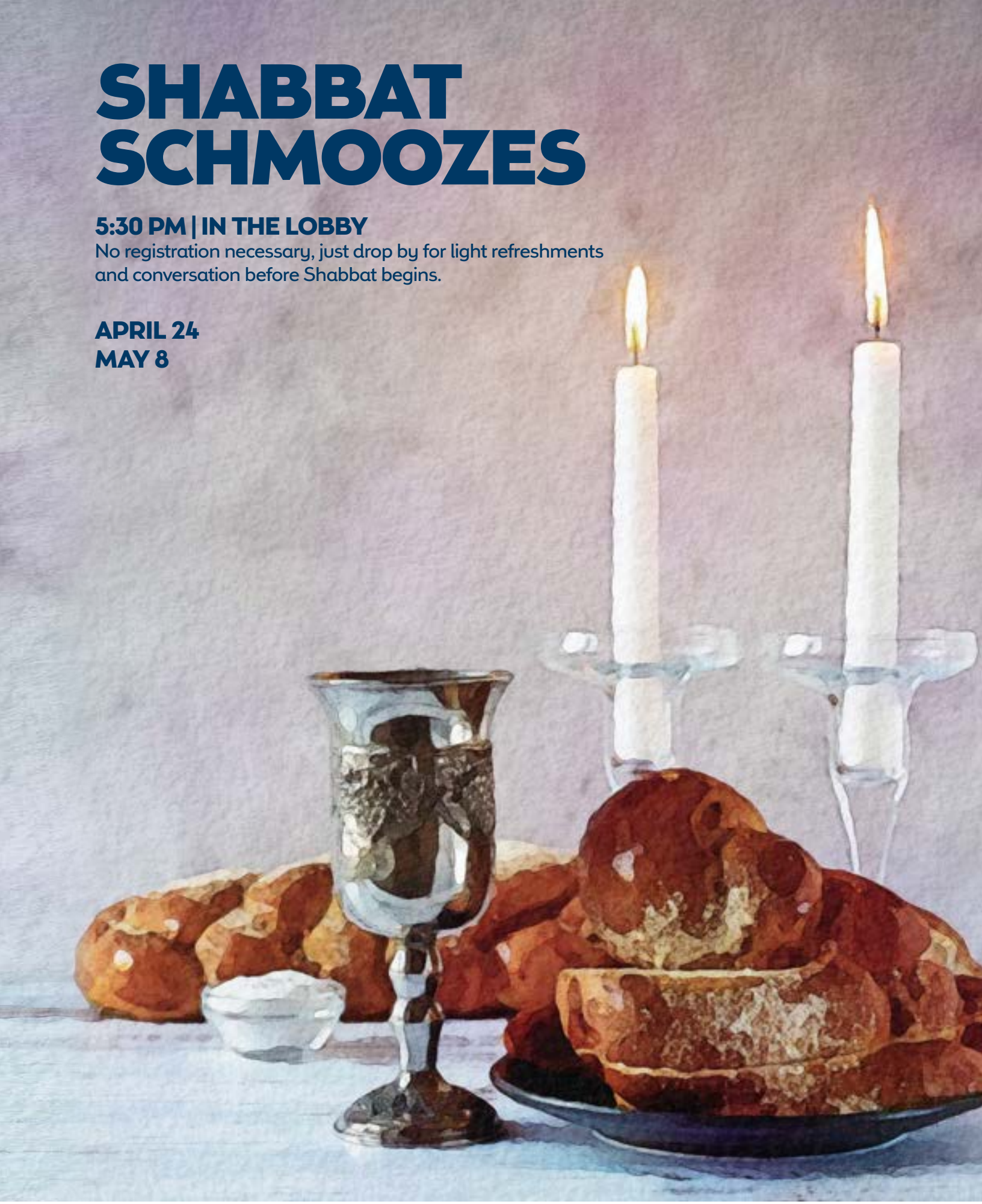
THURSDAY, JULY 23

7:30 AM: Shacharit
2 PM: Mincha
6 PM: Mincha
9:22 PM: Fast Ends

SHABBAT SCHMOOZES

5:30 PM | IN THE LOBBY
No registration necessary, just drop by for light refreshments and conversation before Shabbat begins.

APRIL 24
MAY 8



SHABBAT DINNERS AT TEMPLE BETH EL

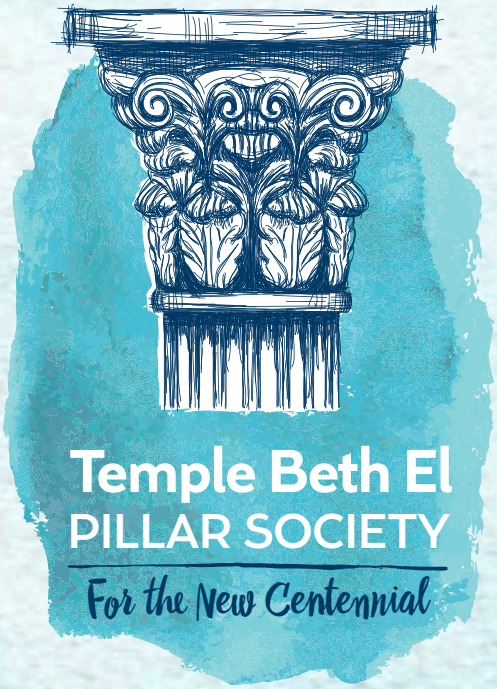
JUNE 19
JULY 17
AUGUST 7

Please register for dinners online at www.tberoc.org
or by calling the office at (585) 473-1770.

MEMORIES WITH RABBI BITRAN

Please send your favorite pictures and memories of Rabbi Bitran to **Communications@tberochester.org.** Your submission may be included in graphics for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration weekend.

RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S INSTALLATION AS TEMPLE BETH EL'S SENIOR RABBI



"The world stands on three things: on the Torah, on the service to God, and on deeds of loving kindness."

Ethics of the Fathers

Fulfill the Mitzvah of *G'milut Chasadim* (deeds of loving kindness) by supporting our synagogue. Members of the Pillar Society make annual commitments over and above full membership dues to help ensure the well-being of our synagogue. As a member of the Pillar Society you will be instrumental in preserving the future of Temple Beth El for generations to come. In appreciation of your exceptional commitment, which is also recognized as a contribution to the High Holy Day Appeal, you will receive the following additional benefits:

All Pillars Receive:
- Recognition as a Contributor to the High Holy Day Appeal
- Apples and Honey Sponsorship
- Invitation to the Annual Pillar Event
- Honored at Pillar Society Shabbat

YACHAD UNDER 40
($1,000-$1,499)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book

CHAI
($1,500-$2,999)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book
- 2 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

SHOMER
($3,000-$5,499)
- ½ page in Remembrance Book
- 4 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

KOACH
($5,500-$9,999)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 6 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

OHR
($10,000+)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 8 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)
- Reserved High Holy Day seating

Please join members of the Temple Beth El family who have already made the additional commitment to our congregation by becoming members of the Pillar Society.

For more information contact Deborah Zeger at the Temple Beth El office at 473-1770 or by email to dzeger@tberochester.org.

Yes, I would like to support Temple Beth El by making a 3 year commitment to the Pillar Society for the New Centennial, in the amount of: $_____ a year.

Name_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ YACHAD ☐ CHAI ☐ SHOMER ☐ KOACH ☐ OHR

__ My check for $_____ is enclosed

__ Please bill me: ___Annually ___Quarterly ___Monthly

__ Please charge for my first installment of $_____ ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ DISCOVER

Card #_____ Expires _____ Signature_____

L'Dor V'Dor
לדר ודר
Temple Beth El's Giving Society

from one generation to the next... for our future.

For Over a Century Temple Beth El has continued to play a unique role in the Rochester community providing a place where Jewish tradition and Innovation combine and where we share the most meaningful events in our lives. TBE is the place that offers anyone the opportunity to find their own spirituality and meaning.

Our legacy donors are individuals and families who wish to ensure that TBE remains an enriching community for generations to come. We continue to seek meaning together. Please consider making a legacy gift today.

For more information about supporting Temple Beth El's future please contact Debbie Zeger at dzeger@tberochester.org or 473-1770.

LIFE & LEGACY

EachOne ReachOne
Magnifying Your Impact

The Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester

If you have made provisions for Temple Beth El in your estate plans, or would like more information about doing so, please let us know by providing the information requested here. We would be honored to include you as a member of the L'Dor V'Dor Society and recognize your commitment.

- ☐ *I/We would like more information on becoming part of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We wish to receive more information about how to make a planned gift*
- ☐ *I/ We have provided for a gift to Temple Beth El in my/our will or estate plan*
- ☐ *I/We wish to be listed as member(s) of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We accept membership in the L'Dor V'Dor society but wish to remain anonymous at this time*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHESTER, NY
PERMIT NO. 407

1*1*******SCH 3-DIGIT 144

4

Mr. John Q. Sample
Suite 100
123 Main Street
Anytown, NY 12345-6789

Happy Passover

SENIOR STAFF

Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Senior Rabbi
bgoldstein@tberochester.org

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran
Senior Rabbi
lbitran@tberochester.org

Hazzan Martin Leubitz
Hazzan Emeritus, z"l

Deborah Zeger
Executive Director
dzeger@tberochester.org

Scotty Ginett
Director of Communications and Development
sginett@tberochester.org

Stephen Papkin
Director of Congregational Learning
spapkin@tberochester.org

Mandi Warner
Youth & Family Director
mwarner@tberochester.org

OFFICERS 2025–26

Evan Spindelman
President

Lina Spokony
Vice President

Aviva Schochat
Vice President

Howard Goldberg
Treasurer

Roberta Feldman
Secretary

Lisa Tellem
Officer-at-Large

Gerald Gamm
Officer-at-Large

Matt Ryen
Immediate Past President

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday	8:30 AM–6:00 PM
Friday	8:30 AM–3:00 PM

Phone 585.473.1770

Carol Konuksever
Reception/Admin. Asst.
ckonuksever@tberochester.org

Willow Knight
Communications Assistant
wknight@tberochester.org

Suzie Syracuse
Finance & Facility Supervisor
ssyracuse@tberochester.org

EDUCATION OFFICE

Phone 585.473.1190

THE Kol
Temple Beth El
בית אל
VOL. 105 NO.2
MARCH 2026–AUGUST 2026
ADAR–ELUL 5786

PASSOVER ISSUE

schedules and information starting on page 19

Save the Date for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration Weekend!

Details on page 7

Mission Statement

Temple Beth El is a vibrant and inclusive community of Jews who join together for prayer, education, celebration, mutual support and comfort, tikkun olam and acts of loving kindness. We are guided by Torah and the principles of the Conservative movement. We are committed to our community, the State of Israel, and Jews around the world.

Vision Statement

Our vision is that Temple Beth El will be an inspiring center of Conservative Judaism in which meaningful experiences and memories take root and grow.

Values Statement

We are a welcoming and inclusive congregation.
We value and respect each congregant and their personal journey in Judaism.

We foster a sense of connectedness with our community.
We value participation in all aspects of synagogue and Jewish life.

Our congregation will be here for the entire Temple family now and for future generations.

Welcome!

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610
Phone: 585-473-1770

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with us at **www.tberoc.org**, where you can find up-to-date information and content.

facebook.com/TBEROCH

@tberochester

Subscribe to our YOUTUBE Channel:
Temple Beth El Rochester

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Shacharit:

Sunday: .....8:30 AM
Monday–Friday: .....7:30 AM
Rosh Hodesh: .....7:15 AM
Secular Holidays: ....8:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:

Sunday–Friday: .....6:00 PM

SHACHARIT ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6p5ky6h
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 846 8881 5480

MINCHA/MA'ARIV ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6d78zsx
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 841 5194 9603

SHABBAT SERVICES

Pesukei dezimra: ....9:30 AM
Shacharit: .....10:00 AM
Torah Service: .....10:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:
Check website for weekly times

LIVE STREAM LINK:
https://www.tberoc.org/live-stream/

JUNIOR CONGREGATION LEARNING

Every Saturday: .....11–11:30 AM
Ideal for children ages 4-11

PRE B'NEI MITZVAH SERVICE

First Saturday of every month: .....10:30 AM
For students who are studying to become B'nei Mitzvah

All Shabbat information including our trifold can be found on our website:
https://www.tberoc.org/pray/shabbat-services/

SAVE THE DATES!

Purim 5786

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Community Purim Festival at JCC

MONDAY, MARCH 2
Megillah Readings, Dinner, and TBE Purim Party featuring Aerial Arts

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
Keshet Purim Celebration

FROM RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S DESK

Dear Friends,

In the words of Ecclesiastes, there is nothing new under the sun. As I sit here writing this, I have just come from the 2026 Rabbinic Training Institute (RTI) hosted by the Rabbinical Assembly and the Jewish Theological Seminary. It's an annual retreat in which about 100 rabbis come together to learn classic texts, share about their experiences in the rabbinate, and talk about the future of our movement. This year was my fifteenth year at RTI, and with apologies to Ecclesiastes, there was something very new about it.

While I was at the retreat, many of my colleagues asked me about my feelings on being here at Temple Beth El. I'll tell them what I told you. I absolutely love being the rabbi of this community. In the last six months, I have thoroughly loved getting to know all of you and this holy community. During the High Holidays I felt an infectious enthusiasm and joy that I hope we can hold on to and off which we can build a bright future for our community.

I realize that none of this would be possible without the leadership of Rabbi Bitran. I am so grateful for his generosity and magnanimity in allowing me to come in and be myself. I have witnessed his indefatigable spirit and dedication to this community and am honored to be following him as your senior rabbi. In the coming months, I hope we can honor him in ways befitting his enormous contributions to our home at Beth El.

Since my arrival I have been privileged to have talked with many of you about the rich history of Temple Beth El. I have learned just how many of you are related to each other (I still can't get over how many of you are cousins or related in some way). We have spoken about your families' legacies and love for TBE and about the future of our community. We have had honest and open conversations about the many opportunities and challenges we face.

I am very excited about how much we can grow and maintain the enthusiasm I've witnessed. One way is our adult education/engagement program. We are excited about the partnerships we have in place with both the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, Hadar Yeshiva in NYC, and the Maas Center from American Jewish University out of Los Angeles. Next year at the High Holidays we hope to be able to have a brochure rich with opportunities for learning and engagement.

Over the course of the next few months, you will be hearing about more opportunities for conversation. I am interested in knowing how TBE and I can best meet your spiritual needs. If there is something you'd like to see, or a program you're interested in, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Change is never easy. We all know the necessity of holding onto our Jewish values and the importance we place on tradition. And, as we know, the most dangerous question we can ask about tradition is "why." Together we will explore the "why's" and "how's" of our tradition. Yes, it can be scary, but we know that our religion is constantly evolving. As we say in our blessings over the torah, "blessed are you, God who is giving the torah." Our tradition acknowledges that we are still being given torah, even to this day. If you think back to what Beth El looked like 30 years ago, and how it looks today, you know what I'm talking about.

We will make changes, yes, but we do not make them lightly. We make them only to better suit the needs of our community, keeping our principles and values always close to us. May we be blessed to experience the bright future of TBE together, going from strength to strength, united in our hope for a bright future of Judaism, for ourselves and our families for generations to come.

FROM RABBI BITRAN'S DESK

Passover: The Power of the Small Things

The observance of *Pesach* contains a central idea that applies not only to this festival, but to Jewish life as a whole—and, indeed, to the very nature of human existence.

Jewish law strictly prohibits the consumption of bread and leavened products during Passover. The regulations are exacting—details of which can be found on our website—but in essence, even the smallest amount of *chametz* renders food unfit for use. Why is a minute particle of leaven so potent that it can invalidate a large quantity of food? The answer is that this law underscores the importance of small things—the details of human existence.

We live in a world that pays homage to size. We are addicted to bigness: bigger industries, bigger cars, king-size screens, and skyscrapers that stretch ever higher into the heavens. Institutions grow larger and larger. In our fascination with size, we have confused bigness with greatness, quantity with quality, and scale with substance.

Consider that the two nations of the ancient world that left the deepest imprint on Western civilization were the Jews and the Greeks. A cursory glance at the map reveals how small these lands were in size, yet how enduring their influence has been. David Lloyd George, the British statesman who guided Britain through World War I and its aftermath, once observed:

"God has chosen little nations as the vessels by which God carries God's choicest wines to the lips of humanity, to rejoice their hearts, to exalt their vision, and to strengthen their faith."

The value of small things becomes clearer when we deal with what is precious. In a ton of coal, the loss of a few lumps is insignificant. But when handling precious stones or volatile chemicals, every minute quantity matters greatly.

The same is true in our relationships with other people. We often focus on grand gestures, but the true difference between refined and crude individuals—politics aside—lies in the small things: a kind word, a gesture of respect, a sympathetic clasp of the hand, a thoughtful remark, a reassuring pat on the shoulder. These simple acts allow us to feel warmth, dignity, and human connection. This principle also defines Jewish life. There is little in Jewish observance that is outwardly spectacular. Washing hands before a meal, reciting a blessing, kindling a few candles—these are the acts through which Jewish values are lived and experienced. American Jews today are not asked to perform heroic deeds or extraordinary sacrifices, only small acts—and precisely because they are small, they are often overlooked.

Creating a Jewish home for a child, reading a Jewish book, enrolling in a Jewish class—these acts seem unspectacular. Reciting *Kiddush*, subscribing to a Jewish publication, buying an Israel Bond, serving on a committee—these are quiet and undramatic. Yet it is precisely through faithfulness to these small acts that our loyalty to Judaism is expressed and the character of Jewish life in America is shaped. As Leo Baeck wrote:

"Piety, especially Jewish piety, respects the little—the little person, the little matter, the little task, the little duty. Through the little, religion encounters the greatness that lies behind."

I know that parents, when truly tested, are capable of enormous sacrifices for their children and loved ones. But I appeal especially to parents this Passover to embrace the humble, undramatic tasks—the "little things" of the season. Introduce the *Seder* in your home in a way that reflects the joy and beauty of the festival. Preparing the home for Passover takes effort, and there are special roles for both parents to play. Yet this shared experience nourishes the Jewish spirit and sanctifies and elevates our lives.

A particle of *chametz* may seem insignificant, but just as one false note can ruin a great symphony, so too do small things matter profoundly. It is in the details of life that we reveal our sensitivity—and earn the right to call ourselves civilized.

A Happy Passover to all. *Pesach Kasher veSameach*. May the ideals of this Festival of Freedom bring renewed hope here and in Israel, and inspire fresh strength within the Jewish community. May the dream of freedom be realized for families everywhere as we celebrate the event that gave birth to liberty for our ancestors.

From my family to yours,
May you have a meaningful *Sedarim* and
a *Pesach Kasher veSameach*.

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran

You are invited to join us for

RABBI BITRAN'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION WEEKEND

MAY 29–31, 2026

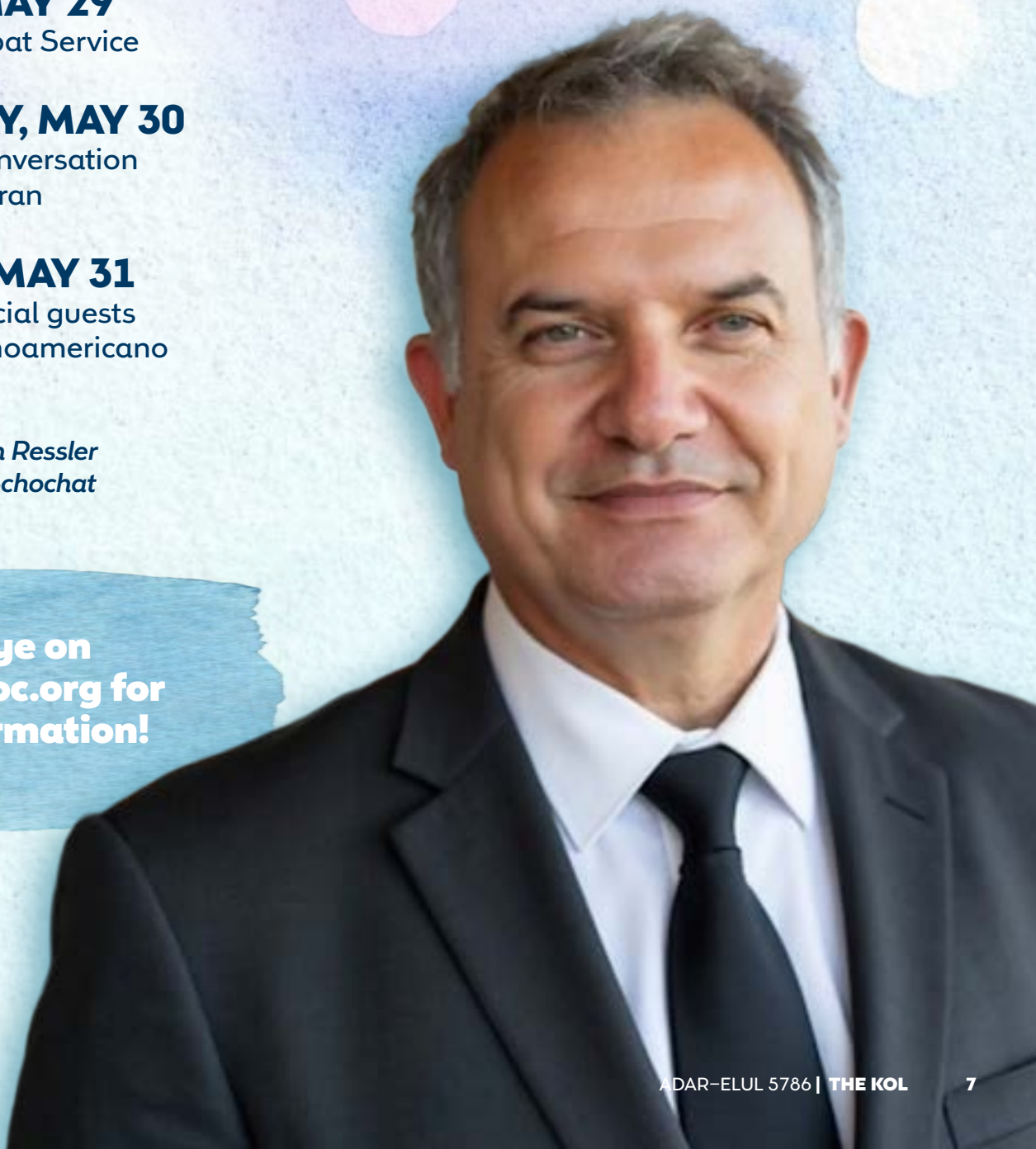
FRIDAY, MAY 29
Special Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MAY 30
Kiddush & Conversation
with Rabbi Bitran

SUNDAY, MAY 31
Gala with special guests
Cuarteto Latinoamericano

Event chairs:
Sara and Darren Ressler
Aviva and Arie Schochat

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My daughter likes to poke fun at me by saying that all I do for a living is look at emails. Strangely there is an element of truth to her assertion. Email is the delivery system for much of what I do, whether it is responding to inquiries from any number of sources, or syncing with my work database, my eyeballs are glued to a screen for more hours than I would like to admit. Like everybody else connected to the digital world, my daily existence is linked to technology be it via cell phone, pc, or iPad. Seemingly nobody is spared. And those few who choose to unplug and disconnect we somewhat sarcastically refer to as being off the grid.

Growing up in the 70's and 80's, life was very different. But not just the absence of digital connectivity. Human connectivity was actually—well—human. We talked to each other. We lived in a society that was both accessible and open. I mean really open. Take our very own Temple Beth El. Doors were unlocked. There was no hired security. Hebrew School was in session three times a week, and when we were let out of class, we waited outside for our parents to come pick us up with little or no adult supervision. I held the distinction of being one of the last kids to get their ride. My dad's office was downtown, and he was tasked with pickup duty. He would lose track of time, or take that one last phone call, and—I kid you not—got around to picking me up sometimes over an hour after classes ended. Don't mean to throw you under the bus dad—love you!

There is a point to all this reminiscing. Those of us old enough to remember a different world in which we lived mourn the loss of that open society. That human interaction. The absence of technology running our lives. There are certainly very tangible benefits to the truly amazing pace of technological advancement. But the decline of human contact and spiritual connectivity is just so palpable.

One of the great things about this community is that we connect. Sure, we use technology like everybody else. But the very purpose of our temple community is just that—community. And there are a lot of people—staff, teachers, clergy and temple members—that make sure that is so.

Last year at this time, my president's message detailed what we expected to accomplish for our temple community in 2025. First and foremost, we have welcomed our new Senior Rabbi Benjamin Goldstein. The NYS Office of Children and Family Services has licensed our Keshet program. Strides have been made to build upon the success of our BeWise program. And infrastructural improvements have been completed to ensure our Synagogue will be our spiritual home for many more years to come. Time has brought many changes to the world in which we live. But our Temple community continues to flourish as a source of Jewish community and connectivity.

Evan Spindelman
TBE Board President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the past year at Temple Beth El, I am filled with gratitude for the strength, generosity, and commitment of this community. Synagogue life is built not only on moments of prayer, but on shared experiences, collective effort, and the relationships that sustain us through times of celebration and transition. This year reminded us just how powerful those connections can be.

One of the most exciting milestones of the year was our first-ever crowdfunding campaign in the fall of 2025. Through the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteer ambassadors, we raised more than $155,000 in support of Temple Beth El. This effort was about more than fundraising—it was a testament to how deeply our congregants believe in this community and in ensuring a strong future for our synagogue. I am deeply thankful to everyone who participated, donated, and helped spread the word.

This year also marked a profound moment of leadership transition. We joyfully celebrated the installation of Rabbi Ben Goldstein as Temple Beth El's 12th Senior Rabbi, welcoming him into a role that carries both tradition and vision. Rabbi Goldstein's installation was a meaningful communal moment, reflecting our optimism and excitement for the path ahead.

At the same time, we began to honor the legacy of Rabbi Bitran, who will retire in May 2026 after 13 years of dedicated service as our Senior Rabbi. Rabbi Bitran's impact on Temple Beth El is immeasurable. He has guided our congregation with wisdom, compassion, and care through moments of joy and challenge, and his leadership has helped shape the vibrant community we are today. We will be celebrating his retirement at the end of May. Please save the dates of May 29–31!

None of these accomplishments happen in isolation. They are made possible by the generosity of our donors, the commitment of our volunteers, and the ongoing engagement of our congregants. Together, you create a community that is resilient, welcoming, and deeply rooted in shared values.

Thank you for being part of Temple Beth El's story. It is a privilege to reflect on what we have accomplished together, and I am hopeful and inspired as we look toward the future we are building side by side.

Deborah Zeger
TBE Executive Director

FROM THE YOUTH & FAMILY DIRECTOR

Shalom,

As we start the second half of the school year, I can't help but look back at all of our successes from the first half of the year that will carry us through.

Our school year started out very smoothly, and we were able to quickly adapt to being newly licensed by New York State. The professional development that has been made available has been highly utilized to benefit the quality of care, instruction, classroom management, and communication amongst our teachers. We have a very active Parent Council of four parents that have been helping to plan events, make recommendations based on experience and feedback from other parents, and serve as room parents for each of the classes.

From an Early Childhood Department standpoint, we have had several successful family programs that partnered with BE WISE Jr. that included apple picking before Rosh Hashanah, bringing Seneca Park Zoo to Temple Beth El to teach about Parsha Noach, and prepping for Hanukkah by making menorahs, dreidels, and latke plates. All of our programs attracted large crowds, including close to 100 for apple picking. We have also brought back monthly Tot Shabbat, rotating between Friday night services and Saturday morning. We have even combined with BE WISE for a meaningful morning.

After all of the successes from the first half of the year, we are looking forward to springing forward with some exciting new events and offerings for our youngest congregants.

We are looking forward to our first ever Chametz Scavenger hunt for Early Childhood families in March to prepare for Passover on March 15, which will take place at Wegmans. The goal behind this is to give children and their families a list of foods, have them find them in the store, and determine if they are Passover-friendly or not. We also have an Israel Family Program to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut on April 19, and we will conclude this school year with a Shavuot Cooking Class on May 17.

Camp Keshet will begin on July 6, and we will debut our new extension program. Registration is out, and we have some new and exciting themes including Camp Keshet Campout, Around the World, and Fairytale Forest, as well as returning fan favorite, Messy Art! We will also bring back Watermelon Wednesday which will feature some new guests, as well as fan favorites like the City of Rochester Fire Department! We typically get campers from all over the world including Israel, Germany, and even Ukraine! You will not want your little one to miss the Camp Keshet experience!

Both Camp Keshet and Keshet registration is out, and with our extension until 4, spaces are filling up quickly! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or even just to chat about opportunities for your little one! I have coffee and tea in my office and am always open to a

L'Shalom,

Mandi Warner

Mandi Warner
TBE Youth & Family Director

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DIRECTOR

Shalom,

Here at Temple Beth El, we are proud of the varied opportunities to engage in Jewish living and learning that we provide Jewish Rochesterians of all ages. Beginning with early childhood, we guide our students on a track in our BE.WISE Religious School, through the process of becoming a B'nei Mitzvah and onward to youth groups, weekly learning with peers, and into adulthood.

Our synagogue's BE.WISE Religious School is named after the core values of our educational program: Beth El Wisdom, Identity, Spirit and Education. We begin welcoming 4 year old students into our PreK program BE.WISE Junior, which consists of one monthly early childhood program for the whole family and one day per month of class at our Sunday school. Our BE.WISE Junior program gives students a fantastic and fun jumpstart to their Alef Bet, Torah story and Jewish holiday learning!

Students continue together as a learning cohort throughout the BE.WISE program into Kindergarten and through the Seventh Grade. The BE.WISE program strives to integrate joy and fun into Jewish learning, and to make Judaism more meaningful and accessible through the development of the foundational skills for engaging in Jewish life. BE.WISE students learn from The Beverly Goldstick z"l Curriculum for 21st Century Learning, focusing on Hebrew literacy, prayer skills, Jewish peoplehood and a strong relationship with Eretz Yisrael. We invite families of our students several times a year to join us for holiday programming, BE.WISE Shabbat experiences, and celebrations. As students approach their B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies, they are invited to participate in a year-long cohort of fun and learning together as they and their families prepare and study to become full-fledged members of the Jewish community.

After graduating from the BE.WISE program as 7th graders, students have an array of choices for their continued involvement in Jewish life and learning at Temple Beth El. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade have the opportunity to split their time earning volunteer hours by assisting in classrooms and taking higher learning classes in our BE.WISE Madrichim program. Older Madrichim have the opportunity to become paid tutors in lieu of volunteer credit. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade also have the opportunity to join our USY community, which provides teens with fun Jewish programming throughout the year. Additionally, we are proud to offer our new weekly teen learning series, which will have students engage in Jewish learning and discussion with Rabbi Goldstein and myself while enjoying a weekly dinner together.

As lifelong learners, there are great educational opportunities for our congregants at Temple Beth El as well! Participants can choose from a variety of opportunities such as Introduction to Judaism, a monthly Java & Jeans discussion and learning series from distinguished institutions such as Hadar and The Hartman Institute. Adult congregants are also invited to join Torah On Tap, our monthly Jewish discussion program where we learn while enjoying cold drinks.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions about Jewish education here at Temple Beth El!

Stephen Papkin,
TBE Congregational Learning Director

TBE EDUCATION

Keshet
קשת
Temple Beth El's Early Childhood Program

Keshet Preschool, a Jewish early childhood program, is dedicated to serving the entire Rochester community. In a warm loving environment, through play, your child will gain a love of Jewish and secular learning as well as develop their social-emotional skills.

For more information, contact Mandi Warner at mwarner@tberochester.org

BE.WISE:
JEWISH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

BE.WISE, (Beth El wisdom, identity, spirit, education) offers quality supplementary Jewish education for students in grades Kindergarten through seventh grade, and offers Madrichim programs for students in eighth grade and high school. New this year, we also offer BE.WISE Junior for Pre-K students. Core courses focus on building Hebrew literacy while building connections to Hebrew language, Jewish peoplehood, Israel, Jewish history, Tanakh, Tefillah and the chagim. Elective classes change frequently with offerings including Judaism through Art, Jewish Music and Cafe Ivrit.

For more information, contact Stephen Papkin at spapkin@tberochester.org

Early Childhood Calendar

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt

MARCH 30
Professional Development

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

WATERMELON WEDNESDAY

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29
AUGUST 5, 12

1 PM | TBE PLAYGROUND

Join other families with young children every Wednesday this summer, featuring special guests like the Rochester Fire Department, Butterfly Kids Yoga, and more!

Temple Beth El **CAMP KESHET 2026** Keshet קשת

JULY 6–AUGUST 14 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Find more information and sign up at www.tberoc.org/camp

JULY 6–10
Sensing Summer

JULY 13–17
Messy Art

July 20–24
Camp Keshet Campout

JULY 27–31
Fairytale Forest

AUGUST 3–7
Around the World

AUGUST 10–14
Camp Keshet Maccabiah Games

ONLINE RESOURCES

YAHRZEITS You should have received an email or letter stating when the Yahrzeit of your loved one will be observed according to the Jewish calendar. Names will be read on the Shabbat dates prior to the actual Yahrzeit. See link below. Kaddish is also recited at Ma'ariv (evening service) on the night on which the Yahrzeit begins and at Shacharit (morning service) and Mincha (afternoon service) on the day of the Yahrzeit. Actual dates can be found on your Shulcloud account or by calling the office at (585) 473-1700.
The monthly list of daily Yahrzeit dates can be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/yahrzeits

DONATIONS

Temple Beth El is very grateful for every donation we receive. Your support enables us to provide ongoing services and programs to the congregation and community.
Give now to Temple Beth El at www.tberoc.org/support

VOLUNTEER

Give your time and talents to help at Temple Beth El throughout the year.
Find opportunities and initiatives at www.tberoc.org/meet/volunteer

MAZEL TOV

We are happy to pass along news about our congregants and community. Share yours by calling the office at (585) 473-1770 or by emailing communications@tberochester.org. **Mazel Tovs can now be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/mazel-tovs**

COMMUNITY EVENTS & CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Temple Beth El programs and candle lighting times for Holy Days and Shabbat can be found by month and date **starting on page 30 and at www.tberoc.org/calendar**

20s & 30s

This is a welcoming place for Jews in their 20/30s. Jewish and non Jewish partners are always welcome to join! Parents may bring children under the age of 2.

Join the 20s & 30s on Facebook for information on all upcoming events at www.facebook.com/TBE2030. All times are subject to change.

MARCH 27
Shabbat Services

MARCH 28
Torah on Tap

APRIL 15 | 7 PM
Yoga

APRIL 24
Shabbat Services

MAY 16
Torah On Tap

MAY 29
Shabbat Services

JUNE 7 | 4 PM
Eric Weiner Memorial Event

JUNE 26
Shabbat Services

JULY 31
Shabbat Services

AUGUST (TBD)
TBE at the Red Wings

AUGUST 28
Shabbat Services

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club of Temple Beth El
Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life

MARCH 7
Men's Club Shabbat

MARCH 28
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Keith Freedman

MAY 16
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Jeff Levinson

JUNE 14
Men's Club Annual Meeting

JUNE 20
Members Stories: Getting to Know us speaker TBD

MEN'S CLUB OF TEMPLE BETH EL
2025–2026 JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I'm interested in: _____

_____

Send completed form with $40 check payable to Men's Club of Temple Beth El to:
Temple Beth El – Men's Club,
139 S. Winton Road South,
Rochester, NY 14610

Or, pay via PayPal at https://www.tberochester.org/meet/mens-club/

SISTERHOOD

When women support each other, incredible things happen.

All Sisterhood meetings and programs are open to the entire Temple Beth El family.

Celebrating our 105TH Year!

We Are Sisterhood!

We are a community of Conservative Jewish women. From the beginning of our movement's history, our women have sought out the company of likeminded women—recognizing and appreciating the mission of our founders.

- We come together for camaraderie, for support, inspiration and comfort.
- We look to one another for wisdom, practical knowledge and spiritual guidance.
- We look to one another for support and guidance about how to maintain that delicate balance between tradition and change.
- We are the evolved version of Mathilde Schechter's Sisterhood vision, now more than one hundred years old, of education and learning for Jewish women.
- Conservative Jewish women have been at the forefront of religious progress and change. We celebrate our community.

Join us in strengthening our Sisterhood. We've grown stronger together and now it's your turn to dive in. Community workshops that spark lively chats, conferences and conventions that touch hearts and spiritual retreats that recharge your soul. Come to an event, stay for the connection, stay for the inspiration—let's build lasting bonds. Sign up today and Temple Beth El your home. Join us as we grow!

Lynda and Wendy, Co-Presidents

Just Judaica
The Gift Shop at Temple Beth El

The largest retail Judaica Gift Shop in western and central New York

Regular Shopping Hours
Sunday mornings: 9:30 AM–noon
(when school is in session)
Wednesday afternoons: 4–6 PM

Can't make regular hours?
Call for an appointment: Lynda (585-314-8288) or Iris (585-739-2428)

Sisterhood Mission Statement

Our mission is to strengthen and unite the women of Sisterhood and support them to understand and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism in the home, synagogue and community and reinforce their bonds with Israel and Jews worldwide.

RICHARD W. BRISKIN CANTOR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

MAY 1–3, 2026

Featuring Toby Banks

2026 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

With Special Guest Cantor Noah Rachels

2022 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!

Toby Banks is a fourth-year cantorial student who was born and raised in New York City. After completing a BA in psychology from Cornell University, she went on to have a 20+ year career as both a professional classical singer and a development professional.

Toby has performed as a featured soloist with opera companies and symphony orchestras in major concert halls across the United States. In addition to the classical opera and concert repertoire, she made a name for herself in the world of avant-garde and contemporary classical music and has been a featured soloist in countless premieres and recordings. She also sang for nearly 20 years in the professional choir of Park Avenue Synagogue, where she is now a member.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, Toby is serving as the cantorial intern at Ansche Chesed in New York City and served as the High Holiday Cantor at Congregation Agudat Achim in Schenectady, NY. As a cantorial student, she is excited to bring together her passion for music, Judaism, and pastoral care in order to serve the Jewish community through leadership, healing, prayer, and song.

Cantor Noah Rachels was born and raised in the "Borscht Belt". He currently serves as the Hazzan of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto, Canada, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He previously held a pulpit at Mosaic Law Congregation in Sacramento, California, from 2023 to 2025. A graduate of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Cantor Rachels was the recipient of the 2022 Richard W. Briskin Award. He is particularly passionate about music, prayer, and fostering spiritual growth and meaning, and is delighted to return to Temple Beth El.

Temple Beth El
בית אל

Passover 5786

Temple Beth El בית אל

5786 Passover SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, MARCH 31
7 AM .....Morning Minyan
followed by Siyum Bechorim & breakfast
6 PM .....Mincha & Ma'ariv
8 PM .....Bedikat Hametz at Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
(EREV PESACH) - FIRST SEDER
7 AM .....Morning Minyan, followed by
Siyum Bechorim and breakfast
12 PM .....Burn the Hametz (Biyur Hametz)
6 PM ..... Mincha
7:18 PM..... Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
SECOND SEDER
9 AM .....Morning services for First Day of Passover
8:21 PM.....Candle lighting

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
9 AM .....Morning services for Second Day of Passover
6 PM .....Kabbalat Shabbat
7:21 PM.....Candle lighting (from a pre-existing flame)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
9 AM .....Morning services for Third Day of Passover,
followed by Kiddush lunch
7:08 PM ....Mincha
8:20 PM ....Ma'ariv
8:23 PM ....Shabbat ends

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
FOURTH DAY OF PASSOVER
8:30 AM....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

MONDAY, APRIL 6
FIFTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

TUESDAY, APRIL 7
SIXTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv
7:25 PM.....Candle lighting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Seventh Day of Passover
12 PM .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:28 PM ....Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
EIGHTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Eighth Day of Passover
11 AM .....Yizkor
12 pm .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:30 PM ....Passover ends

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR ANNUAL

Second Seder

APRIL 2, 2026
6:00 PM | MINCHA
6:30 PM | SEDER

Our menu will include matzah ball soup, turkey breast, brisket, kugels, fresh vegetables, and dessert.

Vegetarian and vegan options available!

Adults (13 years and older): $75 per person
Children (12 and younger): $25 per person

Sign up at www.tberoc.org to reserve your meal today!

Prices increase March 18.
Adults $80 | Child $30

Passover INFORMATION

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: ***rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.***

EREV PESACH SIYUM

The sunrise to sunset *ta'anit* (fast) *bekhorim* (of the firstborn), which occurs on the day before Passover, is the only fast that applies to just a segment of the community: all males who are the firstborn children in their families (if the firstborn child is female, the first son born after her is not obligated).

There is a widely practiced exemption: On the principle that fasting is prohibited on a joyous occasion, Judaism allows for anyone who attends a religious feast to forego fasting. It is customary to hold a celebratory meal on the completion of study of a tractate of rabbinic literature, called a *siyyum* (conclusion). So the sages initiated the practice of studying the end of a tractate after morning services on Erev Pesach followed by a celebratory meal.

This year, Siyum B'khorim is held on Wednesday, April 1, as the day before Passover falls on Shabbat. At 7AM on Wednesday, April 1, the firstborn in each family is invited to the Siyum B'khorim. Following the meal, there is an opportunity to burn your family's remaining hametz in a bonfire in the TBE Garden.

IS IT KOSHER FOR PASSOVER?

Passover has its own special rules of kashrut. On Pesach, Jews are forbidden from owning or consuming hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt).

Most Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (kitniyot) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above kitniyot.

PERMITTED FOODS:

A. The following foods require no kosher l'Pesach label when purchased before or during Passover: fresh fruits and eggs, fresh fish (whole or gutted), fresh or frozen kosher meat other than chopped meat, whole (unground) spices and nuts, including whole or half pecans (not pieces), pure black, green, or white tea leaves or teabags, Nestea regular and decaffeinated unflavored tea, coffee (unflavored regular), baking soda and bicarbonate of soda.

B. The following items may be purchased before Pesach without a Pesach hekhsher but if bought during Pesach require a kosher l'Pesach label: white milk, 100% pure fruit juice, filleted fish, frozen fruit (with no additives), pure white sugar (with no additive), olive oil (extra virgin only), non-iodized salt, quinoa (with no additional ingredients).

C. The following products require reliable ("kosher l"Pesach") certification (regular rabbinic supervision is not sufficient), whether purchased before or during Pesach: all baked goods (matzah, Pesach cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzfel meal, and any other products containing matzoh), herbal teas, canned tuna, wine, vinegar, liquor, decaffeinated coffee and tea, dried fruits, oils, frozen uncooked vegetables and all frozen processed foods, candy, chocolate-flavored milk, ice-cream, yogurt, cheeses, butter, and soda. Any processed food bought during Pesach must have a ("kosher l"Pesach") certification.

D. Any detergents, cleaners, etc. which are not a foodstuff and which are not eaten, may be used for Pesach and do not require a special label. These items include: isopropyl alcohol, aluminum products, ammonia, coffee filters, baby oil, powder and ointment, bleach, charcoal, candles, contact paper, plastic cutlery, laundry and dish detergent, fabric softener, oven cleaner, paper bags, plates, wax paper, plastic wrap, polish, sanitizers, scouring pads, stain remover, and bottled water with no additives.

E. Medicines: Prescription medicines are permitted. Non-prescription pills and capsules are permitted, for liquid medications, check with your rabbi.

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.

BEDIKAT HAMETZ

One of the required holiday ceremonies is Bedikat Hametz, searching for leaven. On the night before the first seder, Tuesday, March 31, we conduct a candle-lit search through our home to ensure that no hametz is still present. It is a brief ceremony in which the entire family can and should participate.

1. Make sure that all hametz has been removed or locked away with the exception of what will be needed for the morning.

2. Carefully hide some crumbs of bread. This is to ensure that the blessing and the ceremony will not be performed in vain.

3. Take a candle, a feather or brush, and a box or cloth for the crumbs, and recite this blessing:
Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheynu Melekh haolam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu al biur hametz.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with the commandments and commanded us to remove all leaven.

4. Perform the search and gather up all the crumbs. Tie them in a bundle which will be burned the next morning. Feel free to (safely) burn it on your own, or use the bonfire at Temple Beth El following morning minyan.

5. Recite the following: All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have not seen or removed shall be annulled and void of any ownership and considered as the dust of the earth. (The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.).

6. On Wednesday, April 1, at or before 12 PM, burn the leaven and recite the following:
All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have seen or not seen, that I have removed or not removed, that I have destroyed or not destroyed shall be annulled and void of my ownership and considered as the dust of the earth.
(The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.)

TO SELL YOUR HAMETZ

The Torah prohibits the ownership of hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt) during Passover. Ideally, we burn or remove all hametz from our premises which may be done through donations to a local food pantry. In some cases, however, this would cause prohibitive financial loss. In such cases, we arrange for the sale of the hametz to a non-Jew and its repurchase after Passover. You can arrange for this sale of your Hametz by sending the following form to Rabbi Bitran at theTemple office ***no later than Friday, March 27.***

It is customary to include a donation to provide Maot Hittin funds for Passover supplies for the needy. Please make checks payable to Temple Beth El which will be contributed to Maot Hittin on everyone's behalf.

Form is also available on our website at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/passover/

Dear Rabbi Bitran:
Please act as my agent for this sale of any hametz on my premises.

Name _____

Address _____

email _____

PREPARING A FLAME FOR YOM TOV

On Yom Tov, kindling a new fire is not permitted; however, the use of an existing fire for cooking or other purposes is permitted.

To light candles for Day 2 of Yom Tov (Friday night) and Shabbat, ensure you have a fire burning before candle-lighting time for Day 1 (Thursday evening) that will continue to burn until Shabbat candle-lighting time.

For example:

- A burning candle that lasts for more than 25 hours
- A pilot light on a gas range (not a gas range with an electronic starter)

Information from Luah Hashanah 5786
by Rabbi Miles B. Cohen and Leslie Rubin

Happy Passover

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran & Silvana Bacman
Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Deborah and Mark Zeger
Scotty Ginett
Stephen Papkin
Mandi & Paul Warner
Evan & Monique Spindelman
Aviva & Arie Schochat
Lina & Martin Spokony
Howard & Rachel Goldberg
Roberta & David Feldman
Gerald Gamm & Charles Towles
Lisa & Dan Tellem

COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH EVENTS

We invite all to join in community Yom HaShoah events organized by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester. Stay tuned for more information, coming soon.

APRIL 20
Yom Hazikaron

APRIL 22
Yom Ha'azmaut, Israel's Independence Day

March
ADAR /NISAN

MARCH 1
BE WISE Purim Carnival

MARCH 2
Temple Beth El Purim Party

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 4
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 6
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Glow In The Dark Shabbat

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 11
Wisdom Wednesdays
BE WISE Amerks Game

MARCH 14-MARCH 15
Zikaron for 8th and 9th graders

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Challah Baking

MARCH 18
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 21
BE WISE Shabbat and Soko Hill
Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Hill

MARCH 28
USY Laser Tag
Torah on Tap

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

6	5:47 pm
7	6:49 pm
13	6:56 pm
14	7:58 pm
20	7:04 pm
21	8:06 pm
27	7:12 pm
28	8:15 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

April
NISAN/IYAR

APRIL 12
BE WISE Yom HaShoa Ceremony

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 15
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 18
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Ice Cream and Israel Torah on Tap

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program
BE WISE Israel Program

APRIL 22
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE
Tot Shabbat

APRIL 25
USY Volunteering and Overnight at Temple Beth El

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

APRIL 29
Wisdom Wednesdays

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

🕯🕯	2	8:21 pm
🕯🕯	3	7:21 pm
🕯	4	8:23 pm
🕯🕯	8	8:28 pm
🕯🕯	10	7:29 pm
🕯	11	8:32 pm
🕯🕯	17	7:37 pm
🕯	18	8:41 pm
🕯🕯	24	7:45 pm
🕯	25	8:51 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

May

IYAR/SIVAN

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 6
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 10
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Group Volunteer Outing

MAY 13
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 16
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Bowling
Torah on Tap

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 20
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

MAY 31
USY Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	7:53 pm
2	9:00 pm
8	8:01 pm
9	9:09 pm
15	8:09 pm
16	9:18 pm
21	8:15 pm
22	8:16 pm
23	9:26 pm
29	8:22 pm
30	9:34 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

June
SIVAN/TAMUZ

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JUNE 25
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

5	8:28 pm
6	9:40 pm
12	8:32 pm
13	9:45 pm
19	8:35 pm
20	9:48 pm
26	8:36 pm
27	9:48 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

July

TAMUZ/AV

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

JULY 16
Torah on Tap

AUGUST 13
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

3	8:35 pm
4	9:46 pm
10	8:32 pm
11	9:42 pm
17	8:28 pm
18	9:37 pm
24	8:22 pm
25	9:29 pm
31	8:14 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

August
AV/ELUL

AUGUST 23
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	8:13 pm
8	8:04 pm
9	9:08 pm
15	7:54 pm
16	8:51 pm
22	7:43 pm
23	8:44pm
29	7:31 pm
30	8:32 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

WISDOM WEDNESDAYS

Join us for Wisdom Wednesdays where your teen can have dinner and a discussion!

Grades 8-12
Grades 8-9 learn with Stephen Papkin
Grades 10-12 learn with Rabbi Goldstein

Cost is $180 per participant

6–7:30 PM at Temple Beth El

Please note: No refunds will be issued after completing registration.

MARCH 4
MARCH 11
MARCH 18
MARCH 25
APRIL 15
APRIL 22
APRIL 29
MAY 6
MAY 13
MAY 20

scan to register

JAVA & JEANS

WITH RABBI GOLDSTEIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 25
MAY 16
JUNE 20
JULY 11

Do you have questions about Jewish prayer that you have never been able to ask? Are you seeking a deeper meaning behind the prayers? Join us for Java and Jeans, where we explore theology, prayer, mussar, mindfulness, and psychology capped off with lively Torah study discussion over coffee while wearing your favorite pair of jeans.

TORAH ON TAP

WITH STEPHEN PAPKIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 18
MAY 16
JUNE 25
JULY 16
AUGUST 13

A monthly pub crawl featuring Jewish learning and discussions at alternating venues around Rochester. Enjoy a cold one with friends while learning how the Jewish take on different topics.

JOIN US FOR A LAG B'OMER BBQ & BONFIRE

THURSDAY, MAY 4 | 6 PM

We invite all to join us for our annual Lag B'Omer bonfire. Hot dogs and chips will be provided!

Mincha held at 6 PM with food and fun to follow.

This event is free but registration is required.

We hope to see you there!

ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 21

MINCHA | 6 PM
ANNUAL MEETING | 6:30 PM
MA'ARIV | 7:30 PM

DINNER & TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT TO FOLLOW

Join us for the installation of new Officers and Board Members, Dinner, and Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

This event is free but registration is requested at tberoc.org

SHAVUOT

THURSDAY, MAY 21
6 PM: Mincha
6:30 PM: Annual Meeting
7:30 PM: Ma'ariv
Dinner & Tikkun Leil Shavuot to follow

FRIDAY, MAY 22
9 AM: Shavuot Services
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha

SATURDAY, MAY 23
9 AM: Shavuot Services
11 AM: Yizkor
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha
9:38 PM: Shavuot Ends

Temple Beth El
בית אל
An Inclusive Jewish Community

PRIDE SHABBAT

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 18

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 19

More information to be announced soon—
Watch www.tberoc.org for details!

TISHA B'AV

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 (SHABBAT CHAZON)

8:30 PM: Mincha & Eicha
8:42 PM: Fast Begins

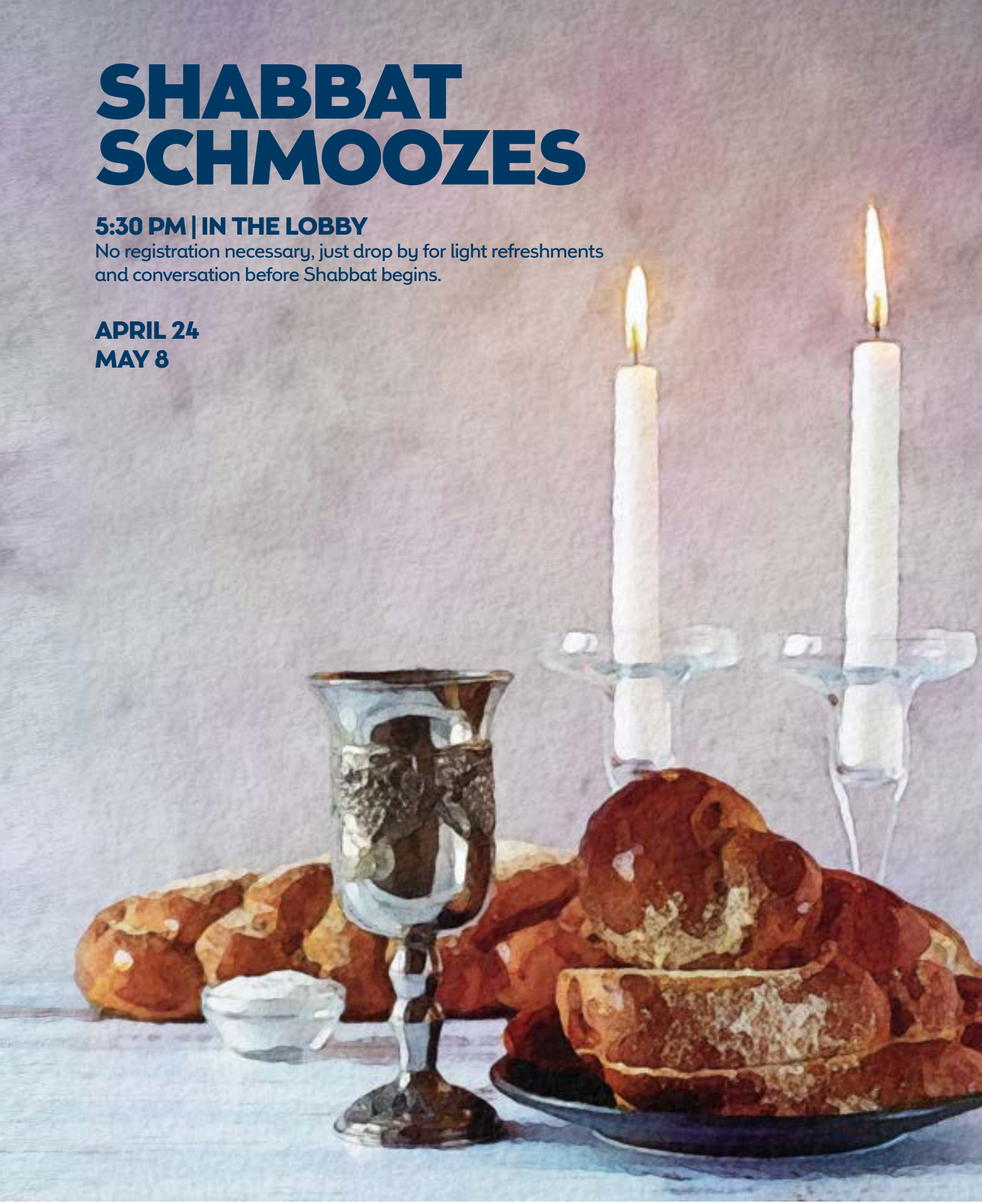
THURSDAY, JULY 23

7:30 AM: Shacharit
2 PM: Mincha
6 PM: Mincha
9:22 PM: Fast Ends

SHABBAT SCHMOOZES

5:30 PM | IN THE LOBBY
No registration necessary, just drop by for light refreshments and conversation before Shabbat begins.

APRIL 24
MAY 8



SHABBAT DINNERS AT TEMPLE BETH EL

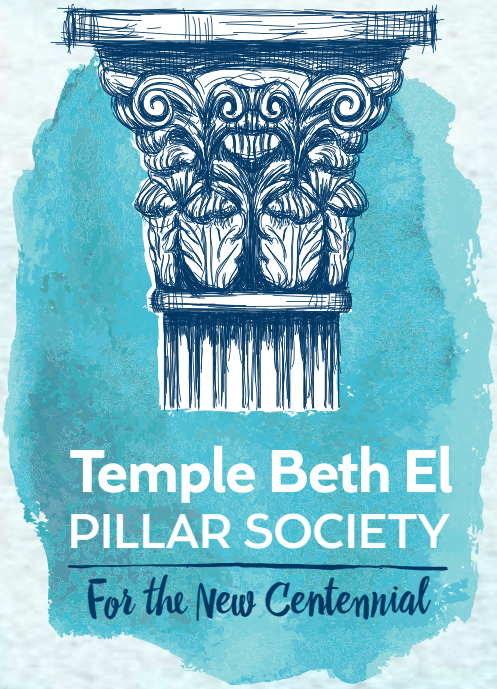
JUNE 19
JULY 17
AUGUST 7

Please register for dinners online at www.tberoc.org
or by calling the office at (585) 473-1770.

MEMORIES WITH RABBI BITRAN

Please send your favorite pictures and memories of Rabbi Bitran to **Communications@tberochester.org.** Your submission may be included in graphics for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration weekend.

RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S INSTALLATION AS TEMPLE BETH EL'S SENIOR RABBI



"The world stands on three things: on the Torah, on the service to God, and on deeds of loving kindness."

Ethics of the Fathers

Fulfill the Mitzvah of *G'milut Chasadim* (deeds of loving kindness) by supporting our synagogue. Members of the Pillar Society make annual commitments over and above full membership dues to help ensure the well-being of our synagogue. As a member of the Pillar Society you will be instrumental in preserving the future of Temple Beth El for generations to come. In appreciation of your exceptional commitment, which is also recognized as a contribution to the High Holy Day Appeal, you will receive the following additional benefits:

All Pillars Receive:
- Recognition as a Contributor to the High Holy Day Appeal
- Apples and Honey Sponsorship
- Invitation to the Annual Pillar Event
- Honored at Pillar Society Shabbat

YACHAD UNDER 40
($1,000-$1,499)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book

CHAI
($1,500-$2,999)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book
- 2 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

SHOMER
($3,000-$5,499)
- ½ page in Remembrance Book
- 4 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

KOACH
($5,500-$9,999)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 6 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

OHR
($10,000+)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 8 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)
- Reserved High Holy Day seating

Please join members of the Temple Beth El family who have already made the additional commitment to our congregation by becoming members of the Pillar Society.

For more information contact Deborah Zeger at the Temple Beth El office at 473-1770 or by email to dzeger@tberochester.org.

Yes, I would like to support Temple Beth El by making a 3 year commitment to the Pillar Society for the New Centennial, in the amount of: $_____ a year.

Name_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ YACHAD ☐ CHAI ☐ SHOMER ☐ KOACH ☐ OHR

__ My check for $_____ is enclosed

__ Please bill me: ___Annually ___Quarterly ___Monthly

__ Please charge for my first installment of $_____ ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ DISCOVER

Card #_____ Expires _____ Signature_____

L'Dor V'Dor
לדר ודר
Temple Beth El's Giving Society

from one generation to the next... for our future.

For Over a Century Temple Beth El has continued to play a unique role in the Rochester community providing a place where Jewish tradition and Innovation combine and where we share the most meaningful events in our lives. TBE is the place that offers anyone the opportunity to find their own spirituality and meaning.

Our legacy donors are individuals and families who wish to ensure that TBE remains an enriching community for generations to come. We continue to seek meaning together. Please consider making a legacy gift today.

For more information about supporting Temple Beth El's future please contact Debbie Zeger at dzeger@tberochester.org or 473-1770.

LIFE & LEGACY

EachOne ReachOne
Magnifying Your Impact

The Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester

If you have made provisions for Temple Beth El in your estate plans, or would like more information about doing so, please let us know by providing the information requested here. We would be honored to include you as a member of the L'Dor V'Dor Society and recognize your commitment.

- ☐ *I/We would like more information on becoming part of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We wish to receive more information about how to make a planned gift*
- ☐ *I/ We have provided for a gift to Temple Beth El in my/our will or estate plan*
- ☐ *I/We wish to be listed as member(s) of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We accept membership in the L'Dor V'Dor society but wish to remain anonymous at this time*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHESTER, NY
PERMIT NO. 407

1*1*******SCH 3-DIGIT 144

5

Mr. John Q. Sample
Suite 100
123 Main Street
Anytown, NY 12345-6789

Happy Passover

SENIOR STAFF

Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Senior Rabbi
bgoldstein@tberochester.org

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran
Senior Rabbi
lbitran@tberochester.org

Hazzan Martin Leubitz
Hazzan Emeritus, z"l

Deborah Zeger
Executive Director
dzeger@tberochester.org

Scotty Ginett
Director of Communications and Development
sginett@tberochester.org

Stephen Papkin
Director of Congregational Learning
spapkin@tberochester.org

Mandi Warner
Youth & Family Director
mwarner@tberochester.org

OFFICERS 2025–26

Evan Spindelman
President

Lina Spokony
Vice President

Aviva Schochat
Vice President

Howard Goldberg
Treasurer

Roberta Feldman
Secretary

Lisa Tellem
Officer-at-Large

Gerald Gamm
Officer-at-Large

Matt Ryen
Immediate Past President

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday	8:30 AM–6:00 PM
Friday	8:30 AM–3:00 PM

Phone 585.473.1770

Carol Konuksever
Reception/Admin. Asst.
ckonuksever@tberochester.org

Willow Knight
Communications Assistant
wknight@tberochester.org

Suzie Syracuse
Finance & Facility Supervisor
ssyracuse@tberochester.org

EDUCATION OFFICE

Phone 585.473.1190

THE Kol
Temple Beth El
בית אל
VOL. 105 NO.2
MARCH 2026–AUGUST 2026
ADAR–ELUL 5786

PASSOVER ISSUE

schedules and information starting on page 19

Save the Date for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration Weekend!

Details on page 7

Mission Statement

Temple Beth El is a vibrant and inclusive community of Jews who join together for prayer, education, celebration, mutual support and comfort, tikkun olam and acts of loving kindness. We are guided by Torah and the principles of the Conservative movement. We are committed to our community, the State of Israel, and Jews around the world.

Vision Statement

Our vision is that Temple Beth El will be an inspiring center of Conservative Judaism in which meaningful experiences and memories take root and grow.

Values Statement

We are a welcoming and inclusive congregation.
We value and respect each congregant and their personal journey in Judaism.

We foster a sense of connectedness with our community.
We value participation in all aspects of synagogue and Jewish life.

Our congregation will be here for the entire Temple family now and for future generations.

Welcome!

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610
Phone: 585-473-1770

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected with us at **www.tberoc.org**, where you can find up-to-date information and content.

facebook.com/TBEROCH

@tberochester

Subscribe to our YOUTUBE Channel:
Temple Beth El Rochester

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Shacharit:

Sunday: .....8:30 AM
Monday–Friday: .....7:30 AM
Rosh Hodesh: .....7:15 AM
Secular Holidays: ....8:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:

Sunday–Friday: .....6:00 PM

SHACHARIT ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6p5ky6h
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 846 8881 5480

MINCHA/MA'ARIV ZOOM LINK:
https://tinyurl.com/y6d78zsx
Call-in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 841 5194 9603

SHABBAT SERVICES

Pesukei dezimra: ....9:30 AM
Shacharit: .....10:00 AM
Torah Service: .....10:30 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv:
Check website for weekly times

LIVE STREAM LINK:
https://www.tberoc.org/live-stream/

JUNIOR CONGREGATION LEARNING

Every Saturday: .....11–11:30 AM
Ideal for children ages 4-11

PRE B'NEI MITZVAH SERVICE

First Saturday of every month: .....10:30 AM
For students who are studying to become B'nei Mitzvah

All Shabbat information including our trifold can be found on our website:
https://www.tberoc.org/pray/shabbat-services/

SAVE THE DATES!

Purim 5786

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Community Purim Festival at JCC

MONDAY, MARCH 2
Megillah Readings, Dinner, and TBE Purim Party featuring Aerial Arts

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
Keshet Purim Celebration

FROM RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S DESK

Dear Friends,

In the words of Ecclesiastes, there is nothing new under the sun. As I sit here writing this, I have just come from the 2026 Rabbinic Training Institute (RTI) hosted by the Rabbinical Assembly and the Jewish Theological Seminary. It's an annual retreat in which about 100 rabbis come together to learn classic texts, share about their experiences in the rabbinate, and talk about the future of our movement. This year was my fifteenth year at RTI, and with apologies to Ecclesiastes, there was something very new about it.

While I was at the retreat, many of my colleagues asked me about my feelings on being here at Temple Beth El. I'll tell them what I told you. I absolutely love being the rabbi of this community. In the last six months, I have thoroughly loved getting to know all of you and this holy community. During the High Holidays I felt an infectious enthusiasm and joy that I hope we can hold on to and off which we can build a bright future for our community.

I realize that none of this would be possible without the leadership of Rabbi Bitran. I am so grateful for his generosity and magnanimity in allowing me to come in and be myself. I have witnessed his indefatigable spirit and dedication to this community and am honored to be following him as your senior rabbi. In the coming months, I hope we can honor him in ways befitting his enormous contributions to our home at Beth El.

Since my arrival I have been privileged to have talked with many of you about the rich history of Temple Beth El. I have learned just how many of you are related to each other (I still can't get over how many of you are cousins or related in some way). We have spoken about your families' legacies and love for TBE and about the future of our community. We have had honest and open conversations about the many opportunities and challenges we face.

I am very excited about how much we can grow and maintain the enthusiasm I've witnessed. One way is our adult education/engagement program. We are excited about the partnerships we have in place with both the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, Hadar Yeshiva in NYC, and the Maas Center from American Jewish University out of Los Angeles. Next year at the High Holidays we hope to be able to have a brochure rich with opportunities for learning and engagement.

Over the course of the next few months, you will be hearing about more opportunities for conversation. I am interested in knowing how TBE and I can best meet your spiritual needs. If there is something you'd like to see, or a program you're interested in, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Change is never easy. We all know the necessity of holding onto our Jewish values and the importance we place on tradition. And, as we know, the most dangerous question we can ask about tradition is "why." Together we will explore the "why's" and "how's" of our tradition. Yes, it can be scary, but we know that our religion is constantly evolving. As we say in our blessings over the torah, "blessed are you, God who is giving the torah." Our tradition acknowledges that we are still being given torah, even to this day. If you think back to what Beth El looked like 30 years ago, and how it looks today, you know what I'm talking about.

We will make changes, yes, but we do not make them lightly. We make them only to better suit the needs of our community, keeping our principles and values always close to us. May we be blessed to experience the bright future of TBE together, going from strength to strength, united in our hope for a bright future of Judaism, for ourselves and our families for generations to come.

FROM RABBI BITRAN'S DESK

Passover: The Power of the Small Things

The observance of *Pesach* contains a central idea that applies not only to this festival, but to Jewish life as a whole—and, indeed, to the very nature of human existence.

Jewish law strictly prohibits the consumption of bread and leavened products during Passover. The regulations are exacting—details of which can be found on our website—but in essence, even the smallest amount of *chametz* renders food unfit for use. Why is a minute particle of leaven so potent that it can invalidate a large quantity of food? The answer is that this law underscores the importance of small things—the details of human existence.

We live in a world that pays homage to size. We are addicted to bigness: bigger industries, bigger cars, king-size screens, and skyscrapers that stretch ever higher into the heavens. Institutions grow larger and larger. In our fascination with size, we have confused bigness with greatness, quantity with quality, and scale with substance.

Consider that the two nations of the ancient world that left the deepest imprint on Western civilization were the Jews and the Greeks. A cursory glance at the map reveals how small these lands were in size, yet how enduring their influence has been. David Lloyd George, the British statesman who guided Britain through World War I and its aftermath, once observed:

"God has chosen little nations as the vessels by which God carries God's choicest wines to the lips of humanity, to rejoice their hearts, to exalt their vision, and to strengthen their faith."

The value of small things becomes clearer when we deal with what is precious. In a ton of coal, the loss of a few lumps is insignificant. But when handling precious stones or volatile chemicals, every minute quantity matters greatly.

The same is true in our relationships with other people. We often focus on grand gestures, but the true difference between refined and crude individuals—politics aside—lies in the small things: a kind word, a gesture of respect, a sympathetic clasp of the hand, a thoughtful remark, a reassuring pat on the shoulder. These simple acts allow us to feel warmth, dignity, and human connection. This principle also defines Jewish life. There is little in Jewish observance that is outwardly spectacular. Washing hands before a meal, reciting a blessing, kindling a few candles—these are the acts through which Jewish values are lived and experienced. American Jews today are not asked to perform heroic deeds or extraordinary sacrifices, only small acts—and precisely because they are small, they are often overlooked.

Creating a Jewish home for a child, reading a Jewish book, enrolling in a Jewish class—these acts seem unspectacular. Reciting *Kiddush*, subscribing to a Jewish publication, buying an Israel Bond, serving on a committee—these are quiet and undramatic. Yet it is precisely through faithfulness to these small acts that our loyalty to Judaism is expressed and the character of Jewish life in America is shaped. As Leo Baeck wrote:

"Piety, especially Jewish piety, respects the little—the little person, the little matter, the little task, the little duty. Through the little, religion encounters the greatness that lies behind."

I know that parents, when truly tested, are capable of enormous sacrifices for their children and loved ones. But I appeal especially to parents this Passover to embrace the humble, undramatic tasks—the "little things" of the season. Introduce the *Seder* in your home in a way that reflects the joy and beauty of the festival. Preparing the home for Passover takes effort, and there are special roles for both parents to play. Yet this shared experience nourishes the Jewish spirit and sanctifies and elevates our lives.

A particle of *chametz* may seem insignificant, but just as one false note can ruin a great symphony, so too do small things matter profoundly. It is in the details of life that we reveal our sensitivity—and earn the right to call ourselves civilized.

A Happy Passover to all. *Pesach Kasher veSameach*. May the ideals of this Festival of Freedom bring renewed hope here and in Israel, and inspire fresh strength within the Jewish community. May the dream of freedom be realized for families everywhere as we celebrate the event that gave birth to liberty for our ancestors.

From my family to yours,
May you have a meaningful *Sedarim* and
a *Pesach Kasher veSameach*.

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran

You are invited to join us for

RABBI BITRAN'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION WEEKEND

MAY 29–31, 2026

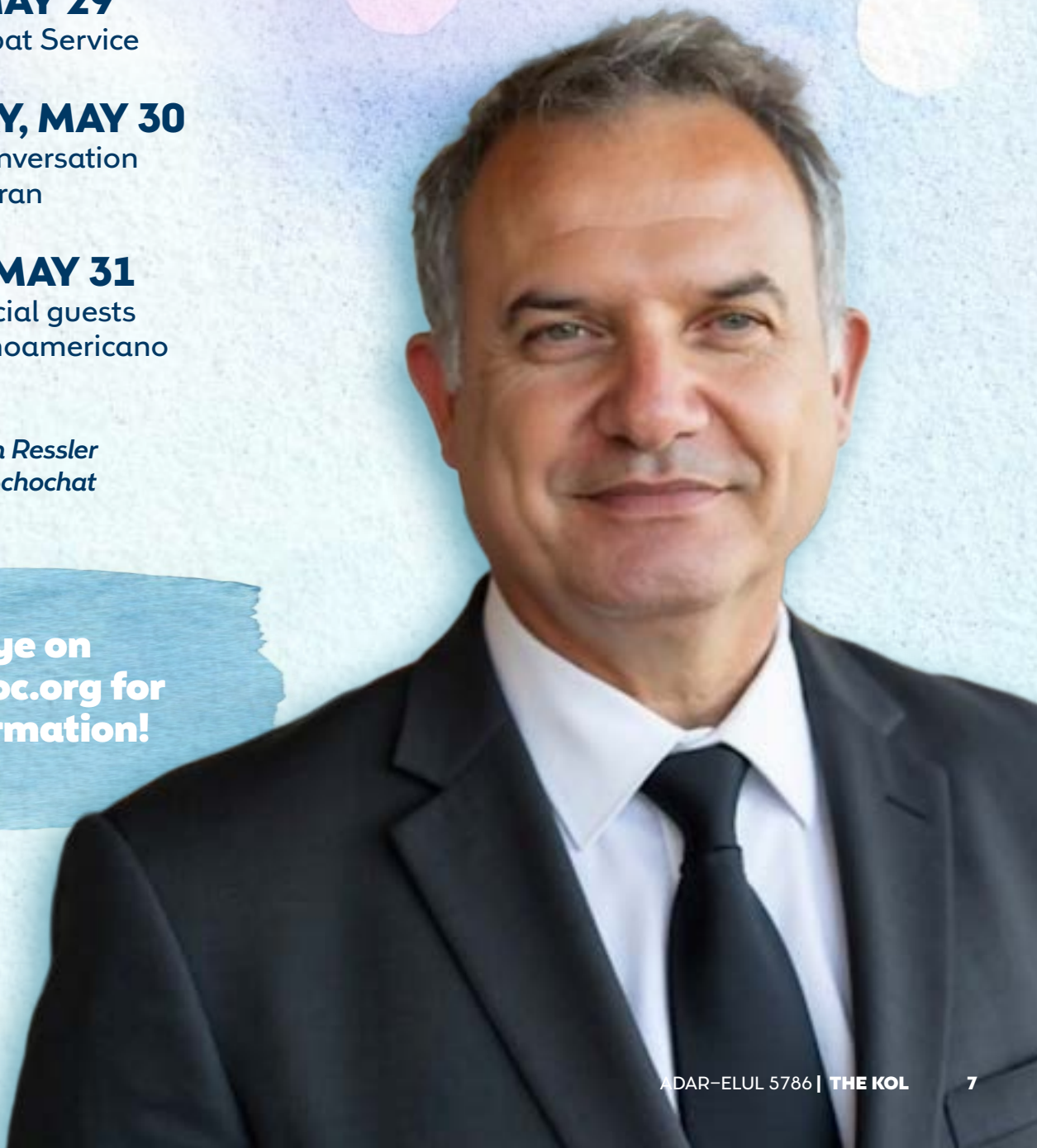
FRIDAY, MAY 29
Special Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MAY 30
Kiddush & Conversation
with Rabbi Bitran

SUNDAY, MAY 31
Gala with special guests
Cuarteto Latinoamericano

Event chairs:
Sara and Darren Ressler
Aviva and Arie Schochat

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My daughter likes to poke fun at me by saying that all I do for a living is look at emails. Strangely there is an element of truth to her assertion. Email is the delivery system for much of what I do, whether it is responding to inquiries from any number of sources, or syncing with my work database, my eyeballs are glued to a screen for more hours than I would like to admit. Like everybody else connected to the digital world, my daily existence is linked to technology be it via cell phone, pc, or iPad. Seemingly nobody is spared. And those few who choose to unplug and disconnect we somewhat sarcastically refer to as being off the grid.

Growing up in the 70's and 80's, life was very different. But not just the absence of digital connectivity. Human connectivity was actually—well—human. We talked to each other. We lived in a society that was both accessible and open. I mean really open. Take our very own Temple Beth El. Doors were unlocked. There was no hired security. Hebrew School was in session three times a week, and when we were let out of class, we waited outside for our parents to come pick us up with little or no adult supervision. I held the distinction of being one of the last kids to get their ride. My dad's office was downtown, and he was tasked with pickup duty. He would lose track of time, or take that one last phone call, and—I kid you not—got around to picking me up sometimes over an hour after classes ended. Don't mean to throw you under the bus dad—love you!

There is a point to all this reminiscing. Those of us old enough to remember a different world in which we lived mourn the loss of that open society. That human interaction. The absence of technology running our lives. There are certainly very tangible benefits to the truly amazing pace of technological advancement. But the decline of human contact and spiritual connectivity is just so palpable.

One of the great things about this community is that we connect. Sure, we use technology like everybody else. But the very purpose of our temple community is just that—community. And there are a lot of people—staff, teachers, clergy and temple members—that make sure that is so.

Last year at this time, my president's message detailed what we expected to accomplish for our temple community in 2025. First and foremost, we have welcomed our new Senior Rabbi Benjamin Goldstein. The NYS Office of Children and Family Services has licensed our Keshet program. Strides have been made to build upon the success of our BeWise program. And infrastructural improvements have been completed to ensure our Synagogue will be our spiritual home for many more years to come. Time has brought many changes to the world in which we live. But our Temple community continues to flourish as a source of Jewish community and connectivity.

Evan Spindelman
TBE Board President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the past year at Temple Beth El, I am filled with gratitude for the strength, generosity, and commitment of this community. Synagogue life is built not only on moments of prayer, but on shared experiences, collective effort, and the relationships that sustain us through times of celebration and transition. This year reminded us just how powerful those connections can be.

One of the most exciting milestones of the year was our first-ever crowdfunding campaign in the fall of 2025. Through the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteer ambassadors, we raised more than $155,000 in support of Temple Beth El. This effort was about more than fundraising—it was a testament to how deeply our congregants believe in this community and in ensuring a strong future for our synagogue. I am deeply thankful to everyone who participated, donated, and helped spread the word.

This year also marked a profound moment of leadership transition. We joyfully celebrated the installation of Rabbi Ben Goldstein as Temple Beth El's 12th Senior Rabbi, welcoming him into a role that carries both tradition and vision. Rabbi Goldstein's installation was a meaningful communal moment, reflecting our optimism and excitement for the path ahead.

At the same time, we began to honor the legacy of Rabbi Bitran, who will retire in May 2026 after 13 years of dedicated service as our Senior Rabbi. Rabbi Bitran's impact on Temple Beth El is immeasurable. He has guided our congregation with wisdom, compassion, and care through moments of joy and challenge, and his leadership has helped shape the vibrant community we are today. We will be celebrating his retirement at the end of May. Please save the dates of May 29–31!

None of these accomplishments happen in isolation. They are made possible by the generosity of our donors, the commitment of our volunteers, and the ongoing engagement of our congregants. Together, you create a community that is resilient, welcoming, and deeply rooted in shared values.

Thank you for being part of Temple Beth El's story. It is a privilege to reflect on what we have accomplished together, and I am hopeful and inspired as we look toward the future we are building side by side.

Deborah Zeger
TBE Executive Director

FROM THE YOUTH & FAMILY DIRECTOR

Shalom,

As we start the second half of the school year, I can't help but look back at all of our successes from the first half of the year that will carry us through.

Our school year started out very smoothly, and we were able to quickly adapt to being newly licensed by New York State. The professional development that has been made available has been highly utilized to benefit the quality of care, instruction, classroom management, and communication amongst our teachers. We have a very active Parent Council of four parents that have been helping to plan events, make recommendations based on experience and feedback from other parents, and serve as room parents for each of the classes.

From an Early Childhood Department standpoint, we have had several successful family programs that partnered with BE WISE Jr. that included apple picking before Rosh Hashanah, bringing Seneca Park Zoo to Temple Beth El to teach about Parsha Noach, and prepping for Hanukkah by making menorahs, dreidels, and latke plates. All of our programs attracted large crowds, including close to 100 for apple picking. We have also brought back monthly Tot Shabbat, rotating between Friday night services and Saturday morning. We have even combined with BE WISE for a meaningful morning.

After all of the successes from the first half of the year, we are looking forward to springing forward with some exciting new events and offerings for our youngest congregants.

We are looking forward to our first ever Chametz Scavenger hunt for Early Childhood families in March to prepare for Passover on March 15, which will take place at Wegmans. The goal behind this is to give children and their families a list of foods, have them find them in the store, and determine if they are Passover-friendly or not. We also have an Israel Family Program to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut on April 19, and we will conclude this school year with a Shavuot Cooking Class on May 17.

Camp Keshet will begin on July 6, and we will debut our new extension program. Registration is out, and we have some new and exciting themes including Camp Keshet Campout, Around the World, and Fairytale Forest, as well as returning fan favorite, Messy Art! We will also bring back Watermelon Wednesday which will feature some new guests, as well as fan favorites like the City of Rochester Fire Department! We typically get campers from all over the world including Israel, Germany, and even Ukraine! You will not want your little one to miss the Camp Keshet experience!

Both Camp Keshet and Keshet registration is out, and with our extension until 4, spaces are filling up quickly! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or even just to chat about opportunities for your little one! I have coffee and tea in my office and am always open to a

L'Shalom,

Mandi Warner

Mandi Warner
TBE Youth & Family Director

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DIRECTOR

Shalom,

Here at Temple Beth El, we are proud of the varied opportunities to engage in Jewish living and learning that we provide Jewish Rochesterians of all ages. Beginning with early childhood, we guide our students on a track in our BE.WISE Religious School, through the process of becoming a B'nei Mitzvah and onward to youth groups, weekly learning with peers, and into adulthood.

Our synagogue's BE.WISE Religious School is named after the core values of our educational program: Beth El Wisdom, Identity, Spirit and Education. We begin welcoming 4 year old students into our PreK program BE.WISE Junior, which consists of one monthly early childhood program for the whole family and one day per month of class at our Sunday school. Our BE.WISE Junior program gives students a fantastic and fun jumpstart to their Alef Bet, Torah story and Jewish holiday learning!

Students continue together as a learning cohort throughout the BE.WISE program into Kindergarten and through the Seventh Grade. The BE.WISE program strives to integrate joy and fun into Jewish learning, and to make Judaism more meaningful and accessible through the development of the foundational skills for engaging in Jewish life. BE.WISE students learn from The Beverly Goldstick z"l Curriculum for 21st Century Learning, focusing on Hebrew literacy, prayer skills, Jewish peoplehood and a strong relationship with Eretz Yisrael. We invite families of our students several times a year to join us for holiday programming, BE.WISE Shabbat experiences, and celebrations. As students approach their B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies, they are invited to participate in a year-long cohort of fun and learning together as they and their families prepare and study to become full-fledged members of the Jewish community.

After graduating from the BE.WISE program as 7th graders, students have an array of choices for their continued involvement in Jewish life and learning at Temple Beth El. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade have the opportunity to split their time earning volunteer hours by assisting in classrooms and taking higher learning classes in our BE.WISE Madrichim program. Older Madrichim have the opportunity to become paid tutors in lieu of volunteer credit. Students in Eighth through Twelfth grade also have the opportunity to join our USY community, which provides teens with fun Jewish programming throughout the year. Additionally, we are proud to offer our new weekly teen learning series, which will have students engage in Jewish learning and discussion with Rabbi Goldstein and myself while enjoying a weekly dinner together.

As lifelong learners, there are great educational opportunities for our congregants at Temple Beth El as well! Participants can choose from a variety of opportunities such as Introduction to Judaism, a monthly Java & Jeans discussion and learning series from distinguished institutions such as Hadar and The Hartman Institute. Adult congregants are also invited to join Torah On Tap, our monthly Jewish discussion program where we learn while enjoying cold drinks.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions about Jewish education here at Temple Beth El!

Stephen Papkin,
TBE Congregational Learning Director

TBE EDUCATION

Keshet
קשת
Temple Beth El's Early Childhood Program

Keshet Preschool, a Jewish early childhood program, is dedicated to serving the entire Rochester community. In a warm loving environment, through play, your child will gain a love of Jewish and secular learning as well as develop their social-emotional skills.

For more information, contact Mandi Warner at mwarner@tberochester.org

BE.WISE:
JEWISH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

BE.WISE, (Beth El wisdom, identity, spirit, education) offers quality supplementary Jewish education for students in grades Kindergarten through seventh grade, and offers Madrichim programs for students in eighth grade and high school. New this year, we also offer BE.WISE Junior for Pre-K students. Core courses focus on building Hebrew literacy while building connections to Hebrew language, Jewish peoplehood, Israel, Jewish history, Tanakh, Tefillah and the chagim. Elective classes change frequently with offerings including Judaism through Art, Jewish Music and Cafe Ivrit.

For more information, contact Stephen Papkin at spapkin@tberochester.org

Early Childhood Calendar

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt

MARCH 30
Professional Development

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

WATERMELON WEDNESDAY

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29
AUGUST 5, 12

1 PM | TBE PLAYGROUND

Join other families with young children every Wednesday this summer, featuring special guests like the Rochester Fire Department, Butterfly Kids Yoga, and more!

Temple Beth El **CAMP KESHET 2026** Keshet קשת

JULY 6–AUGUST 14 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Find more information and sign up at www.tberoc.org/camp

JULY 6–10
Sensing Summer

JULY 13–17
Messy Art

July 20–24
Camp Keshet Campout

JULY 27–31
Fairytale Forest

AUGUST 3–7
Around the World

AUGUST 10–14
Camp Keshet Maccabiah Games

ONLINE RESOURCES

YAHRZEITS You should have received an email or letter stating when the Yahrzeit of your loved one will be observed according to the Jewish calendar. Names will be read on the Shabbat dates prior to the actual Yahrzeit. See link below. Kaddish is also recited at Ma'ariv (evening service) on the night on which the Yahrzeit begins and at Shacharit (morning service) and Mincha (afternoon service) on the day of the Yahrzeit. Actual dates can be found on your Shulcloud account or by calling the office at (585) 473-1700.
The monthly list of daily Yahrzeit dates can be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/yahrzeits

DONATIONS

Temple Beth El is very grateful for every donation we receive. Your support enables us to provide ongoing services and programs to the congregation and community.
Give now to Temple Beth El at www.tberoc.org/support

VOLUNTEER

Give your time and talents to help at Temple Beth El throughout the year.
Find opportunities and initiatives at www.tberoc.org/meet/volunteer

MAZEL TOV

We are happy to pass along news about our congregants and community. Share yours by calling the office at (585) 473-1770 or by emailing communications@tberochester.org. **Mazel Tovs can now be found at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/mazel-tovs**

COMMUNITY EVENTS & CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Temple Beth El programs and candle lighting times for Holy Days and Shabbat can be found by month and date **starting on page 30 and at www.tberoc.org/calendar**

20s & 30s

This is a welcoming place for Jews in their 20/30s. Jewish and non Jewish partners are always welcome to join! Parents may bring children under the age of 2.

Join the 20s & 30s on Facebook for information on all upcoming events at www.facebook.com/TBE2030. All times are subject to change.

MARCH 27
Shabbat Services

MARCH 28
Torah on Tap

APRIL 15 | 7 PM
Yoga

APRIL 24
Shabbat Services

MAY 16
Torah On Tap

MAY 29
Shabbat Services

JUNE 7 | 4 PM
Eric Weiner Memorial Event

JUNE 26
Shabbat Services

JULY 31
Shabbat Services

AUGUST (TBD)
TBE at the Red Wings

AUGUST 28
Shabbat Services

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club of Temple Beth El
Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life

MARCH 7
Men's Club Shabbat

MARCH 28
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Keith Freedman

MAY 16
Members Stories: Getting to Know us with Jeff Levinson

JUNE 14
Men's Club Annual Meeting

JUNE 20
Members Stories: Getting to Know us speaker TBD

MEN'S CLUB OF TEMPLE BETH EL
2025–2026 JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I'm interested in: _____

_____

Send completed form with $40 check payable to Men's Club of Temple Beth El to:
Temple Beth El – Men's Club,
139 S. Winton Road South,
Rochester, NY 14610

Or, pay via PayPal at https://www.tberochester.org/meet/mens-club/

SISTERHOOD

When women support each other, incredible things happen.

All Sisterhood meetings and programs are open to the entire Temple Beth El family.

Celebrating our 105TH Year!

We Are Sisterhood!

We are a community of Conservative Jewish women. From the beginning of our movement's history, our women have sought out the company of likeminded women—recognizing and appreciating the mission of our founders.

- We come together for camaraderie, for support, inspiration and comfort.
- We look to one another for wisdom, practical knowledge and spiritual guidance.
- We look to one another for support and guidance about how to maintain that delicate balance between tradition and change.
- We are the evolved version of Mathilde Schechter's Sisterhood vision, now more than one hundred years old, of education and learning for Jewish women.
- Conservative Jewish women have been at the forefront of religious progress and change. We celebrate our community.

Join us in strengthening our Sisterhood. We've grown stronger together and now it's your turn to dive in. Community workshops that spark lively chats, conferences and conventions that touch hearts and spiritual retreats that recharge your soul. Come to an event, stay for the connection, stay for the inspiration—let's build lasting bonds. Sign up today and Temple Beth El your home. Join us as we grow!

Lynda and Wendy, Co-Presidents

Just Judaica
The Gift Shop at Temple Beth El

The largest retail Judaica Gift Shop in western and central New York

Regular Shopping Hours
Sunday mornings: 9:30 AM–noon
(when school is in session)
Wednesday afternoons: 4–6 PM

Can't make regular hours?
Call for an appointment: Lynda (585-314-8288) or Iris (585-739-2428)

Sisterhood Mission Statement

Our mission is to strengthen and unite the women of Sisterhood and support them to understand and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism in the home, synagogue and community and reinforce their bonds with Israel and Jews worldwide.

RICHARD W. BRISKIN CANTOR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

MAY 1–3, 2026

Featuring Toby Banks

2026 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

With Special Guest Cantor Noah Rachels

2022 Richard W. Briskin Cantor-in-Residence Award Recipient

Keep an eye on www.tberoc.org for more information!

Toby Banks is a fourth-year cantorial student who was born and raised in New York City. After completing a BA in psychology from Cornell University, she went on to have a 20+ year career as both a professional classical singer and a development professional.

Toby has performed as a featured soloist with opera companies and symphony orchestras in major concert halls across the United States. In addition to the classical opera and concert repertoire, she made a name for herself in the world of avant-garde and contemporary classical music and has been a featured soloist in countless premieres and recordings. She also sang for nearly 20 years in the professional choir of Park Avenue Synagogue, where she is now a member.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, Toby is serving as the cantorial intern at Ansche Chesed in New York City and served as the High Holiday Cantor at Congregation Agudat Achim in Schenectady, NY. As a cantorial student, she is excited to bring together her passion for music, Judaism, and pastoral care in order to serve the Jewish community through leadership, healing, prayer, and song.

Cantor Noah Rachels was born and raised in the "Borscht Belt". He currently serves as the Hazzan of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto, Canada, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He previously held a pulpit at Mosaic Law Congregation in Sacramento, California, from 2023 to 2025. A graduate of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Cantor Rachels was the recipient of the 2022 Richard W. Briskin Award. He is particularly passionate about music, prayer, and fostering spiritual growth and meaning, and is delighted to return to Temple Beth El.

Temple Beth El
בית אל

Passover 5786

Temple Beth El בית אל

5786 Passover SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, MARCH 31
7 AM .....Morning Minyan
followed by Siyum Bechorim & breakfast
6 PM .....Mincha & Ma'ariv
8 PM .....Bedikat Hametz at Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
(EREV PESACH) - FIRST SEDER
7 AM .....Morning Minyan, followed by
Siyum Bechorim and breakfast
12 PM .....Burn the Hametz (Biyur Hametz)
6 PM ..... Mincha
7:18 PM..... Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
SECOND SEDER
9 AM .....Morning services for First Day of Passover
8:21 PM.....Candle lighting

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
9 AM .....Morning services for Second Day of Passover
6 PM .....Kabbalat Shabbat
7:21 PM.....Candle lighting (from a pre-existing flame)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
9 AM .....Morning services for Third Day of Passover,
followed by Kiddush lunch
7:08 PM ....Mincha
8:20 PM ....Ma'ariv
8:23 PM ....Shabbat ends

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
FOURTH DAY OF PASSOVER
8:30 AM....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

MONDAY, APRIL 6
FIFTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv

TUESDAY, APRIL 7
SIXTH DAY OF PASSOVER
7:15 AM.....Morning Minyan
6 PM .....Mincha and Ma'ariv
7:25 PM.....Candle lighting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Seventh Day of Passover
12 PM .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:28 PM ....Candle lighting

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
EIGHTH DAY OF PASSOVER
9 AM .....Morning services for Eighth Day of Passover
11 AM .....Yizkor
12 pm .....Kiddush lunch
6 PM .....Mincha
8:30 PM ....Passover ends

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR ANNUAL

Second Seder

APRIL 2, 2026
6:00 PM | MINCHA
6:30 PM | SEDER

Our menu will include matzah ball soup, turkey breast, brisket, kugels, fresh vegetables, and dessert.

Vegetarian and vegan options available!

Adults (13 years and older): $75 per person
Children (12 and younger): $25 per person

Sign up at www.tberoc.org to reserve your meal today!

Prices increase March 18.
Adults $80 | Child $30

Passover INFORMATION

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: ***rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.***

EREV PESACH SIYUM

The sunrise to sunset *ta'anit* (fast) *bekhorim* (of the firstborn), which occurs on the day before Passover, is the only fast that applies to just a segment of the community: all males who are the firstborn children in their families (if the firstborn child is female, the first son born after her is not obligated).

There is a widely practiced exemption: On the principle that fasting is prohibited on a joyous occasion, Judaism allows for anyone who attends a religious feast to forego fasting. It is customary to hold a celebratory meal on the completion of study of a tractate of rabbinic literature, called a *siyyum* (conclusion). So the sages initiated the practice of studying the end of a tractate after morning services on Erev Pesach followed by a celebratory meal.

This year, Siyum B'khorim is held on Wednesday, April 1, as the day before Passover falls on Shabbat. At 7AM on Wednesday, April 1, the firstborn in each family is invited to the Siyum B'khorim. Following the meal, there is an opportunity to burn your family's remaining hametz in a bonfire in the TBE Garden.

IS IT KOSHER FOR PASSOVER?

Passover has its own special rules of kashrut. On Pesach, Jews are forbidden from owning or consuming hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt).

Most Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (kitniyot) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above kitniyot.

PERMITTED FOODS:

A. The following foods require no kosher l'Pesach label when purchased before or during Passover: fresh fruits and eggs, fresh fish (whole or gutted), fresh or frozen kosher meat other than chopped meat, whole (unground) spices and nuts, including whole or half pecans (not pieces), pure black, green, or white tea leaves or teabags, Nestea regular and decaffeinated unflavored tea, coffee (unflavored regular), baking soda and bicarbonate of soda.

B. The following items may be purchased before Pesach without a Pesach hekhsher but if bought during Pesach require a kosher l'Pesach label: white milk, 100% pure fruit juice, filleted fish, frozen fruit (with no additives), pure white sugar (with no additive), olive oil (extra virgin only), non-iodized salt, quinoa (with no additional ingredients).

C. The following products require reliable ("kosher l"Pesach") certification (regular rabbinic supervision is not sufficient), whether purchased before or during Pesach: all baked goods (matzah, Pesach cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzfel meal, and any other products containing matzoh), herbal teas, canned tuna, wine, vinegar, liquor, decaffeinated coffee and tea, dried fruits, oils, frozen uncooked vegetables and all frozen processed foods, candy, chocolate-flavored milk, ice-cream, yogurt, cheeses, butter, and soda. Any processed food bought during Pesach must have a ("kosher l"Pesach") certification.

D. Any detergents, cleaners, etc. which are not a foodstuff and which are not eaten, may be used for Pesach and do not require a special label. These items include: isopropyl alcohol, aluminum products, ammonia, coffee filters, baby oil, powder and ointment, bleach, charcoal, candles, contact paper, plastic cutlery, laundry and dish detergent, fabric softener, oven cleaner, paper bags, plates, wax paper, plastic wrap, polish, sanitizers, scouring pads, stain remover, and bottled water with no additives.

E. Medicines: Prescription medicines are permitted. Non-prescription pills and capsules are permitted, for liquid medications, check with your rabbi.

For a more complete Passover guide prepared by the Rabbinical Assembly which includes guidelines for koshering a kitchen, please visit: rabbinicalassembly.org/Pesach-guide.

BEDIKAT HAMETZ

One of the required holiday ceremonies is Bedikat Hametz, searching for leaven. On the night before the first seder, Tuesday, March 31, we conduct a candle-lit search through our home to ensure that no hametz is still present. It is a brief ceremony in which the entire family can and should participate.

1. Make sure that all hametz has been removed or locked away with the exception of what will be needed for the morning.

2. Carefully hide some crumbs of bread. This is to ensure that the blessing and the ceremony will not be performed in vain.

3. Take a candle, a feather or brush, and a box or cloth for the crumbs, and recite this blessing:
Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheynu Melekh haolam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu al biur hametz.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has sanctified us with the commandments and commanded us to remove all leaven.

4. Perform the search and gather up all the crumbs. Tie them in a bundle which will be burned the next morning. Feel free to (safely) burn it on your own, or use the bonfire at Temple Beth El following morning minyan.

5. Recite the following: All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have not seen or removed shall be annulled and void of any ownership and considered as the dust of the earth. (The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.).

6. On Wednesday, April 1, at or before 12 PM, burn the leaven and recite the following:
All manner of leaven which is in my possession, that I have seen or not seen, that I have removed or not removed, that I have destroyed or not destroyed shall be annulled and void of my ownership and considered as the dust of the earth.
(The Aramaic for this can be found in the front of your Haggadah.)

TO SELL YOUR HAMETZ

The Torah prohibits the ownership of hametz (flour, food or drink made from the prohibited species of leavened grain: wheat, oats, barley, rye or spelt) during Passover. Ideally, we burn or remove all hametz from our premises which may be done through donations to a local food pantry. In some cases, however, this would cause prohibitive financial loss. In such cases, we arrange for the sale of the hametz to a non-Jew and its repurchase after Passover. You can arrange for this sale of your Hametz by sending the following form to Rabbi Bitran at theTemple office ***no later than Friday, March 27.***

It is customary to include a donation to provide Maot Hittin funds for Passover supplies for the needy. Please make checks payable to Temple Beth El which will be contributed to Maot Hittin on everyone's behalf.

Form is also available on our website at www.tberoc.org/celebrate/passover/

Dear Rabbi Bitran:
Please act as my agent for this sale of any hametz on my premises.

Name _____

Address _____

email _____

PREPARING A FLAME FOR YOM TOV

On Yom Tov, kindling a new fire is not permitted; however, the use of an existing fire for cooking or other purposes is permitted.

To light candles for Day 2 of Yom Tov (Friday night) and Shabbat, ensure you have a fire burning before candle-lighting time for Day 1 (Thursday evening) that will continue to burn until Shabbat candle-lighting time.

For example:

- A burning candle that lasts for more than 25 hours
- A pilot light on a gas range (not a gas range with an electronic starter)

Information from Luah Hashanah 5786
by Rabbi Miles B. Cohen and Leslie Rubin

Happy Passover

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran & Silvana Bacman
Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Deborah and Mark Zeger
Scotty Ginett
Stephen Papkin
Mandi & Paul Warner
Evan & Monique Spindelman
Aviva & Arie Schochat
Lina & Martin Spokony
Howard & Rachel Goldberg
Roberta & David Feldman
Gerald Gamm & Charles Towles
Lisa & Dan Tellem

COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH EVENTS

We invite all to join in community Yom HaShoah events organized by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester. Stay tuned for more information, coming soon.

APRIL 20
Yom Hazikaron

APRIL 22
Yom Ha'azmaut, Israel's Independence Day

March
ADAR /NISAN

MARCH 1
BE WISE Purim Carnival

MARCH 2
Temple Beth El Purim Party

MARCH 3
Purim Celebration

MARCH 4
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 6
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Glow In The Dark Shabbat

MARCH 7
Tot Shabbat

MARCH 11
Wisdom Wednesdays
BE WISE Amerks Game

MARCH 14-MARCH 15
Zikaron for 8th and 9th graders

MARCH 15
Chametz Scavenger hunt
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Challah Baking

MARCH 18
Wisdom Wednesdays

MARCH 21
BE WISE Shabbat and Soko Hill
Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Hill

MARCH 28
USY Laser Tag
Torah on Tap

MARCH 30-APRIL 10
Closed for Passover

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

6	5:47 pm
7	6:49 pm
13	6:56 pm
14	7:58 pm
20	7:04 pm
21	8:06 pm
27	7:12 pm
28	8:15 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

April
NISAN/IYAR

APRIL 12
BE WISE Yom HaShoa Ceremony

APRIL 13-24
Parent teacher conferences

APRIL 15
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 18
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Ice Cream and Israel Torah on Tap

APRIL 19
Celebration of Israel Family program
BE WISE Israel Program

APRIL 22
Wisdom Wednesdays

APRIL 24
Kabbalat Shabbat with BE WISE
Tot Shabbat

APRIL 25
USY Volunteering and Overnight at Temple Beth El

APRIL 26
Early Childhood visit BE WISE day

APRIL 29
Wisdom Wednesdays

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

🕯🕯	2	8:21 pm
🕯🕯	3	7:21 pm
🕯	4	8:23 pm
🕯🕯	8	8:28 pm
🕯🕯	10	7:29 pm
🕯	11	8:32 pm
🕯🕯	17	7:37 pm
🕯	18	8:41 pm
🕯🕯	24	7:45 pm
🕯	25	8:51 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

May

IYAR/SIVAN

MAY 4-8
Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY 6
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 10
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Group Volunteer Outing

MAY 13
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 14
Popsicles with the Parents

MAY 16
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Bowling
Torah on Tap

MAY 17
Shavuot cooking class

MAY 20
Wisdom Wednesdays

MAY 22
Closed for Shavuot

MAY 31
USY Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	7:53 pm
2	9:00 pm
8	8:01 pm
9	9:09 pm
15	8:09 pm
16	9:18 pm
21	8:15 pm
22	8:16 pm
23	9:26 pm
29	8:22 pm
30	9:34 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

June
SIVAN/TAMUZ

JUNE 18
Last day of school and end of the year party

JUNE 25
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

5	8:28 pm
6	9:40 pm
12	8:32 pm
13	9:45 pm
19	8:35 pm
20	9:48 pm
26	8:36 pm
27	9:48 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

July

TAMUZ/AV

JULY 6-AUGUST 14
Camp Keshet

JULY 16
Torah on Tap

AUGUST 13
Torah on Tap

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

3	8:35 pm
4	9:46 pm
10	8:32 pm
11	9:42 pm
17	8:28 pm
18	9:37 pm
24	8:22 pm
25	9:29 pm
31	8:14 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

August
AV/ELUL

AUGUST 23
B'nei Mitzvah Cohort Kayaking on Canadice Lake

Candle Lighting & Havdalah Times

1	8:13 pm
8	8:04 pm
9	9:08 pm
15	7:54 pm
16	8:51 pm
22	7:43 pm
23	8:44pm
29	7:31 pm
30	8:32 pm

For Shabbat Mincha times, go to www.tberoc.org

All events and times are subject to change. For more information call 473-1770 or visit www.tberoc.org

WISDOM WEDNESDAYS

Join us for Wisdom Wednesdays where your teen can have dinner and a discussion!

Grades 8-12
Grades 8-9 learn with Stephen Papkin
Grades 10-12 learn with Rabbi Goldstein

Cost is $180 per participant

6–7:30 PM at Temple Beth El

Please note: No refunds will be issued after completing registration.

MARCH 4
MARCH 11
MARCH 18
MARCH 25
APRIL 15
APRIL 22
APRIL 29
MAY 6
MAY 13
MAY 20

scan to register

JAVA & JEANS

WITH RABBI GOLDSTEIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 25
MAY 16
JUNE 20
JULY 11

Do you have questions about Jewish prayer that you have never been able to ask? Are you seeking a deeper meaning behind the prayers? Join us for Java and Jeans, where we explore theology, prayer, mussar, mindfulness, and psychology capped off with lively Torah study discussion over coffee while wearing your favorite pair of jeans.

TORAH ON TAP

WITH STEPHEN PAPKIN

MARCH 28
APRIL 18
MAY 16
JUNE 25
JULY 16
AUGUST 13

A monthly pub crawl featuring Jewish learning and discussions at alternating venues around Rochester. Enjoy a cold one with friends while learning how the Jewish take on different topics.

JOIN US FOR A LAG B'OMER BBQ & BONFIRE

THURSDAY, MAY 4 | 6 PM

We invite all to join us for our annual Lag B'Omer bonfire. Hot dogs and chips will be provided!

Mincha held at 6 PM with food and fun to follow.

This event is free but registration is required.

We hope to see you there!

ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 21

MINCHA | 6 PM
ANNUAL MEETING | 6:30 PM
MA'ARIV | 7:30 PM

DINNER & TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT TO FOLLOW

Join us for the installation of new Officers and Board Members, Dinner, and Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

This event is free but registration is requested at tberoc.org

SHAVUOT

THURSDAY, MAY 21
6 PM: Mincha
6:30 PM: Annual Meeting
7:30 PM: Ma'ariv
Dinner & Tikkun Leil Shavuot to follow

FRIDAY, MAY 22
9 AM: Shavuot Services
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha

SATURDAY, MAY 23
9 AM: Shavuot Services
11 AM: Yizkor
12 PM: Kiddush Lunch
6 PM: Mincha
9:38 PM: Shavuot Ends

Temple Beth El
בית אל
An Inclusive Jewish Community

PRIDE SHABBAT

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 18

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 19

More information to be announced soon—
Watch www.tberoc.org for details!

TISHA B'AV

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 (SHABBAT CHAZON)

8:30 PM: Mincha & Eicha
8:42 PM: Fast Begins

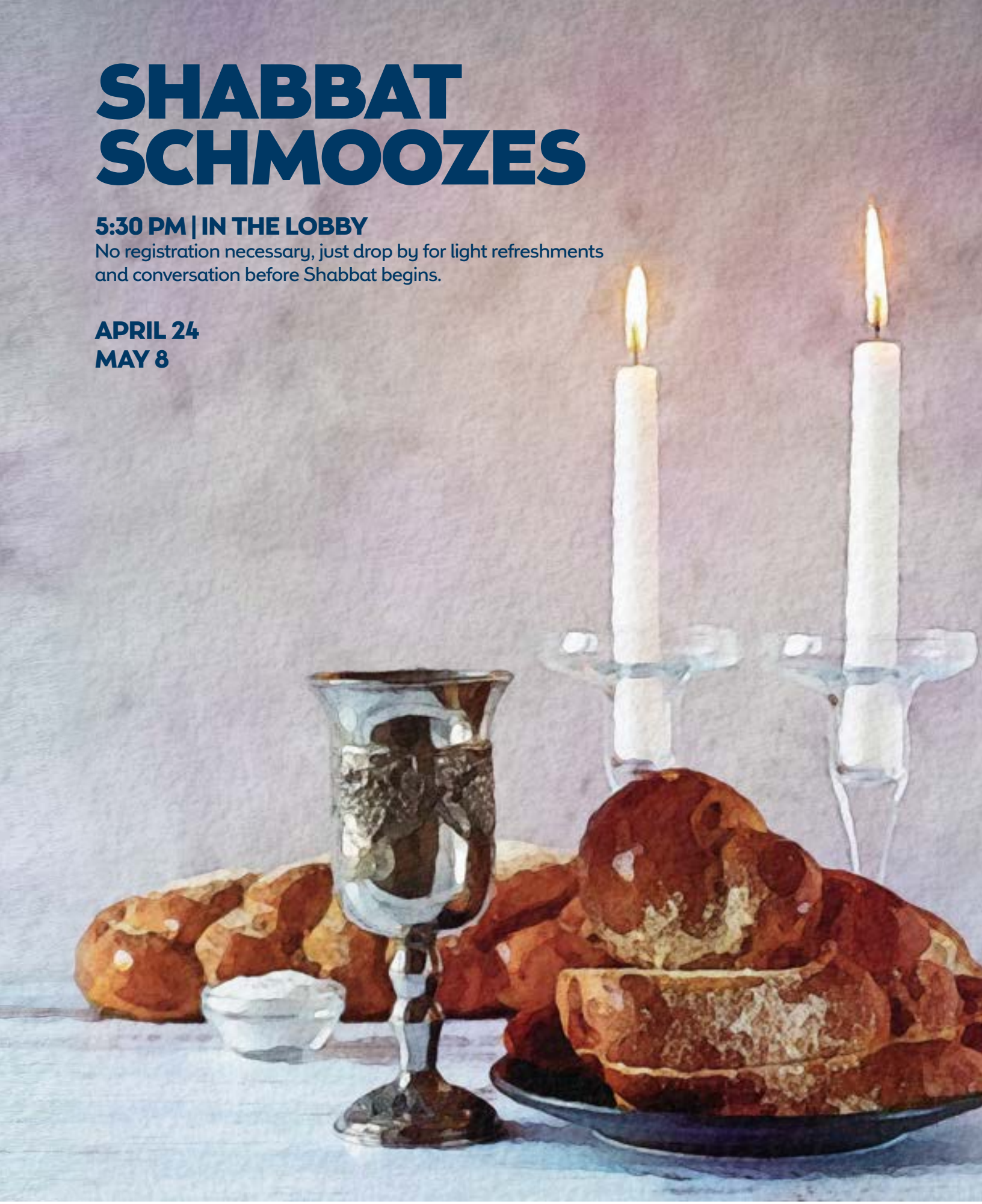
THURSDAY, JULY 23

7:30 AM: Shacharit
2 PM: Mincha
6 PM: Mincha
9:22 PM: Fast Ends

SHABBAT SCHMOOZES

5:30 PM | IN THE LOBBY
No registration necessary, just drop by for light refreshments and conversation before Shabbat begins.

APRIL 24
MAY 8



SHABBAT DINNERS AT TEMPLE BETH EL

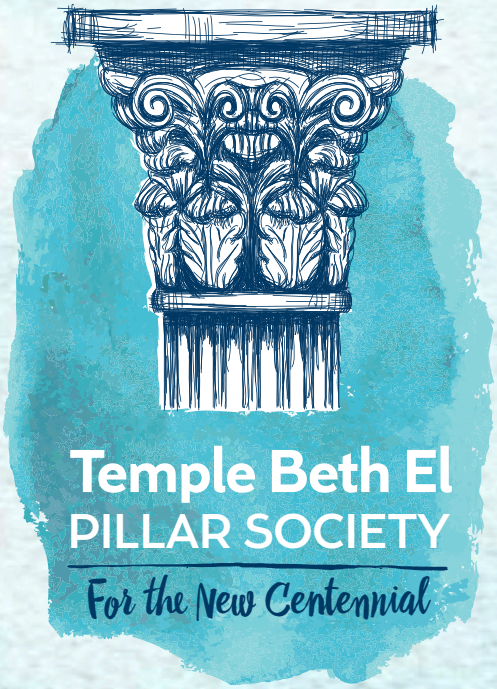
JUNE 19
JULY 17
AUGUST 7

Please register for dinners online at www.tberoc.org
or by calling the office at (585) 473-1770.

MEMORIES WITH RABBI BITRAN

Please send your favorite pictures and memories of Rabbi Bitran to **Communications@tberochester.org.** Your submission may be included in graphics for Rabbi Bitran's Retirement Celebration weekend.

RABBI GOLDSTEIN'S INSTALLATION AS TEMPLE BETH EL'S SENIOR RABBI



"The world stands on three things: on the Torah, on the service to God, and on deeds of loving kindness."

Ethics of the Fathers

Fulfill the Mitzvah of *G'milut Chasadim* (deeds of loving kindness) by supporting our synagogue. Members of the Pillar Society make annual commitments over and above full membership dues to help ensure the well-being of our synagogue. As a member of the Pillar Society you will be instrumental in preserving the future of Temple Beth El for generations to come. In appreciation of your exceptional commitment, which is also recognized as a contribution to the High Holy Day Appeal, you will receive the following additional benefits:

All Pillars Receive:
- Recognition as a Contributor to the High Holy Day Appeal
- Apples and Honey Sponsorship
- Invitation to the Annual Pillar Event
- Honored at Pillar Society Shabbat

YACHAD UNDER 40
($1,000-$1,499)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book

CHAI
($1,500-$2,999)
- ¼ page in Remembrance Book
- 2 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

SHOMER
($3,000-$5,499)
- ½ page in Remembrance Book
- 4 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

KOACH
($5,500-$9,999)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 6 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)

OHR
($10,000+)
- Full page in Remembrance Book
- 8 Tickets for 1 event (ie: Friday Night Live, Hanukkah Party or Purim Celebration)
- Reserved High Holy Day seating

Please join members of the Temple Beth El family who have already made the additional commitment to our congregation by becoming members of the Pillar Society.

For more information contact Deborah Zeger at the Temple Beth El office at 473-1770 or by email to dzeger@tberochester.org.

Yes, I would like to support Temple Beth El by making a 3 year commitment to the Pillar Society for the New Centennial, in the amount of: $_____ a year.

Name_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ YACHAD ☐ CHAI ☐ SHOMER ☐ KOACH ☐ OHR

__ My check for $_____ is enclosed

__ Please bill me: ___Annually ___Quarterly ___Monthly

__ Please charge for my first installment of $_____ ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ DISCOVER

Card #_____ Expires _____ Signature_____

L'Dor V'Dor
לדר ודר
Temple Beth El's Giving Society

from one generation to the next... for our future.

For Over a Century Temple Beth El has continued to play a unique role in the Rochester community providing a place where Jewish tradition and Innovation combine and where we share the most meaningful events in our lives. TBE is the place that offers anyone the opportunity to find their own spirituality and meaning.

Our legacy donors are individuals and families who wish to ensure that TBE remains an enriching community for generations to come. We continue to seek meaning together. Please consider making a legacy gift today.

For more information about supporting Temple Beth El's future please contact Debbie Zeger at dzeger@tberochester.org or 473-1770.

LIFE & LEGACY

EachOne ReachOne
Magnifying Your Impact

The Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester

If you have made provisions for Temple Beth El in your estate plans, or would like more information about doing so, please let us know by providing the information requested here. We would be honored to include you as a member of the L'Dor V'Dor Society and recognize your commitment.

- ☐ *I/We would like more information on becoming part of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We wish to receive more information about how to make a planned gift*
- ☐ *I/ We have provided for a gift to Temple Beth El in my/our will or estate plan*
- ☐ *I/We wish to be listed as member(s) of the L'Dor V'Dor society*
- ☐ *I/We accept membership in the L'Dor V'Dor society but wish to remain anonymous at this time*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Temple Beth El
בית אל

139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHESTER, NY
PERMIT NO. 407

1*1*******SCH 3-DIGIT 144
6
Mr. John Q. Sample
Suite 100
123 Main Street
Anytown, NY 12345-6789

Happy Passover

SENIOR STAFF

Rabbi Ben Goldstein
Senior Rabbi
bgoldstein@tberochester.org

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran
Senior Rabbi
lbitran@tberochester.org

Hazzan Martin Leubitz
Hazzan Emeritus, z"l

Deborah Zeger
Executive Director
dzeger@tberochester.org

Scotty Ginett
Director of Communications and Development
sginett@tberochester.org

Stephen Papkin
Director of Congregational Learning
spapkin@tberochester.org

Mandi Warner
Youth & Family Director
mwarner@tberochester.org

OFFICERS 2025–26

Evan Spindelman
President

Lina Spokony
Vice President

Aviva Schochat
Vice President

Howard Goldberg
Treasurer

Roberta Feldman
Secretary

Lisa Tellem
Officer-at-Large

Gerald Gamm
Officer-at-Large

Matt Ryen
Immediate Past President

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM–6:00 PM
Friday 8:30 AM–3:00 PM

Phone 585.473.1770

Carol Konuksever
Reception/Admin. Asst.
ckonuksever@tberochester.org

Willow Knight
Communications Assistant
wknight@tberochester.org

Suzie Syracuse
Finance & Facility Supervisor
ssyracuse@tberochester.org

EDUCATION OFFICE

Phone 585.473.1190