

TEVET / SHEVAT

JANUARY 2026

Congregation Beth Israel

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Lebanon, PA 17042

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From the Cantor's Desk . . .

Every day for the last week, I have been served up various lists of things wrapping up 2025. For me, and maybe for some of you, this year has been a mixed bag, and as a Jew, I am really hoping that 2026 will be better.

The number of anti-Jewish hate crimes in the United States outpaces any other hate crimes except those against blacks or African Americans and far outpaces hate crimes against any other religion, including against Muslims, or group. The rise in incidents since October 7, 2023 was particularly hurtful to many as was the generational divide that emerged over support for Israel. 2023-24 saw a huge spike in the number of Jewish victims of violence and 2025 had us witness continued targeting of Jewish students on college campuses, the attack on the PA Governor's mansion, horrific shootings in Colorado and Washington DC, and increasing normalization of antisemitism and Nazi rhetoric on social media and even official "mainstream" channels such as the Young Republicans.

While continuing to worry about the future of Israeli/Palestinian relations in the Middle East, I was starting to feel a sense of relief that I have not been bombarded with anti-Israel and anti-Jewish reports on the daily news. And then we got Bondi Beach. As the spiritual leader of the congregation, I am always at somewhat of a loss as to how to connect people with our heritage, tradition and community. This is especially hard when it feels like society in general is buying into old tropes and conspiracy theories, demonizing Jews and acting on those thoughts.

What I can do is while taking precautions (we at the synagogue are paying for private security during Shabbat services and for our parties) continue to be who I am. I am Jewish and I am American. I support America even as I disagree with various government actions and I support Israel even as I disagree with some government policies. I find deep meaning in Jewish philosophy, teachings and practice and continue to read, study, serve my Jewish community and be a good member of society at large. It pains me when I hear people who feel they have to hide their Jewish heritage because of fear or go looking for meaning in other traditions without even knowing their own.

As we start this new secular year, I encourage you to commit to doing something "Jewish" every week. Read something. Learn something. Light candles. Let's not let the haters in "free" societies do what has not been accomplished by antisemites for the past three millennia. In the words of Peter, Paul and Mary – Don't Let the Lights Go Out!

Wishing you a safe and healthy 2026 and hope to continuing exploring our rich cultural, intellectual and spiritual Jewish heritage together!

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Next Book Club: Wed. Jan 21st at 7PM— *It's The Secret of Secrets* by Dan Brown
Joey Clark reviewing.

ISRAEL'S MOST ADVANCED REHABILITATION CENTER – HADASSAH'S GANDEL REHABILITATION CENTER INAUGURATED

More than 2,000 soldiers and civilians have already regained their physical and emotional health because of the center's sophisticated facilities, cutting-edge therapies and compassionate and highly trained staff. Many of the center's patients came to the center after receiving life-saving care at one of Hadassah's two hospitals, Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus, on whose campus the Gandel center is located, and Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, both in Jerusalem. Recognizing Israel's acute shortage of rehabilitation beds, the Hadassah Medical Organization began construction of the Gandel.

The Gandel center's many state-of-the-art facilities include therapeutic swimming pools, each with a modular floor that can be adapted to a patient's needs; advanced lifts for moving patients not yet able to get around on their own; computerized systems that track range of motion; and a sophisticated gait laboratory.

The large and compassionate staff of doctors; nurses; occupational, physical and speech therapists; psychologists; social workers; and nutritionists uses traditional and futuristic-looking equipment, like anti-gravity machines and robotic technologies, to bring patients back to health. Unveiled at the launch was the *Boulevard of Revival*, located in the Gandel center's lobby. The "boulevard" features imprints of the footprints of IDF officers and soldiers, amplifying the idea central to the center's ethos that no one walks alone and that progress is made step by step. In his remarks at the opening event, **President Herzog** described the Gandel Rehabilitation Center as "granting an essential gift to every human being it helps: hope – hope for the healing of the soul and the strengthening of the body, hope for independence, hope to dream again."

OFFICE NOTES

- Directory update address for the Weintraub's secondary address:
2766 Old Forest Drive Seabrook Island, SC 29455

SPECIAL THANKS

Judith Clark thanks everyone who donated to the Rescue Mission and to the Power Pack Project at our Hanukkah party. They dropped off three boxes the next day to the Rescue & they were very grateful! We also received over \$400 in donations towards Power Packs!

TORAH SPARKS

Open your inbox every Tuesday to commentaries, videos, poems, and more from Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center scholars. Torah Sparks are available by e-mail only. For anyone interested, please contact the office

Join us at the home of Elizabeth Feller-Ballot!

HAVDALAH

Saturday, January 10th at 7PM

400 Boyd Street
Lebanon, PA 17042

Sign up available on our website
PAREVE or DAIRY only



JANUARY 10

Havdalah with Liz!— Join us at 7PM with Elizabeth Feller-Ballot at her home! Pareve/Dairy dishes should be brought.

Register on our website or call the office

JANUARY 14

Adult Education Classes are back!!— Join us these next couple of months at 7PM as we explore what it means to be Jewish guided by essays from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z"l in A Letter in the Scroll. Each month we will explore one part of the book with different class members taking the lead.

ADULT EDUCATION

JAN 14
FEB 11
MARCH 11
APRIL 16

HYBRID
7- 8:30
PM

JEWISH IDENTITY + LEGACY



—This is a hybrid event, so in person & zoom attendance is available! —

JANUARY 18 (2 EVENTS)

- **Moment Magazine— Join us following services with Fred Horowitz as we discuss the latest edition of Moment Magazine. If you are interested in a copy, please stop by the office to pick one up!**
- **‘Women Unchained’ Film— Join us at 1PM. The subject AGUNOT =Women whose husbands refuse to grant a Jewish divorce. This documentary exposes "get-o-nomics" schemes, get abuse, and impact of families. Rabbis, women advocates, writers, and experts discuss this problem in a very thought provoking way. This film is narrated by Mayim Bialik**

Moment Magazine Discussion
with Fred Horowitz
Sunday, Jan 18th following services

moment
THE DANGEROUS ANTISEMITISM LURKING IN THE CHRISTIAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENT AND IN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

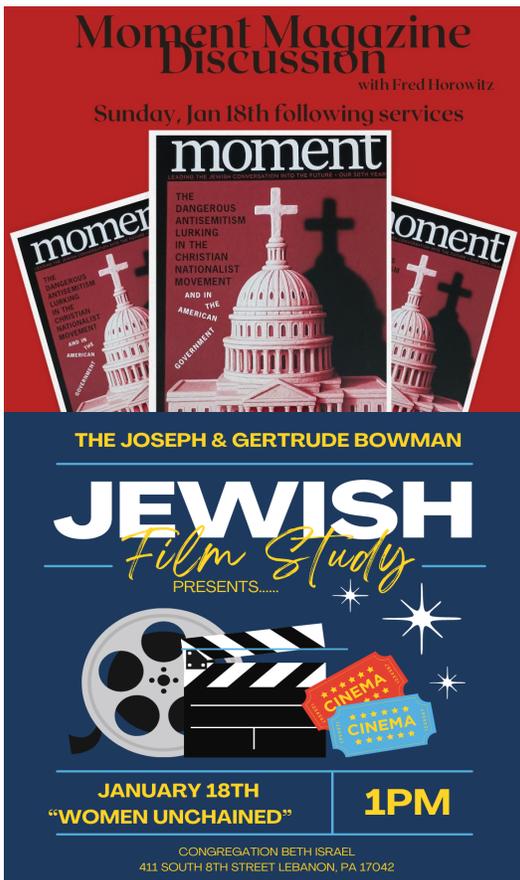
THE JOSEPH & GERTRUDE BOWMAN

JEWISH
Film Study
PRESENTS.....

JANUARY 18TH
"WOMEN UNCHAINED"

1PM

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
411 SOUTH 8TH STREET LEBANON, PA 17042



January 2026

All services are HYBRID: Thurs. 7:30 AM Minyan, Fri. 7:30 PM,
Sat. 9:30AM & Sun. 9AM Minyan 1st Saturdays are 60 min Shabbat

**Coffee with the Cantor—Select Thursdays in January at 11AM—
Ancestor Coffeehouse & Creperie 119 Springwood Drive Lebanon, PA 17042**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID	2 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID	3 60-Min Shabbat 9-10AM Service/ HYBRID
4 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID	5	6	7	8 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID 11AM—Coffee w/ the Cantor	9 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID	10 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID Havdalah at Liz Feller -Ballots! 7PM
11 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID	12	13	14 Adult Ed 7PM	15 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID 11AM—Coffee w/ the Cantor	16 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID	17 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID
18 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID Moment Magazine following services & 1PM Movie!	19 BULLETIN DEADLINE	20	21 Book Club 7PM zoom only	22 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID 11AM—Coffee w/ the Cantor	23 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID	24 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID
25 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID	26 Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting 7PM	27	28	29 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID 11AM—Coffee w/ the Cantor	30 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID	31 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID

Let's Celebrate our Members with **JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries!**

Diane Griffiths

Ted Cetron

Aviyo Ramos

Zac Weiss

**Ramond & Margi
Wolfson**

Brian Robinson

Judith Clark

Bernie Shattls

Andrew Fidler

Margi Wolfson

YAHREZEITS



Tevet Jan

14	3	Maxwell Feller	— Father of Elizabeth Feller-Ballot
16	5	Alvin Fishman	— Husband of Barbara Fishman
16	5	Robert Reich	— Friend of Neil Schaffer, Thomas Kantor & Rabbi Zivic
17	6	H. Stadiem	— Father of Deborah Kessler
19	8	Rachel Baron	— Mother-in-Law of Lucille Baron
19	8	Tillie Grosky	— Mother of Sandra Smith
19	8	Arlene Smith	— Mother of Brandon Smith
20	9	Mary Boger	— Friend of Trudy Shattls & Frederick Shattls and Aunt of Mr & Mrs Richard Backer
21	10	Marthe Pleet	— Grandmother of Tracy Troain, Jesse Pleet & Alec Pleet
21	10	Jesse Rich	— Father of N. Warren Rich
25	14	Bernadine Hermansky	— Mother of Bernadine Shattls
25	14	Myer Levinson	— Grandfather of Philip Levinson
26	15	Barbara Collins	— Grandmother of Jacob Collins & Mother of Stacey Knarr
26	15	Gregory Levitz	— Nephew of Sara Schneider
27	16	Samuel Clark	— Father of Joseph Clark & Donald Clark
28	17	Richard Caden	— Brother of Margi Wolfson

Shevat Jan

2	20	Abe Smith	— Father of Harold Smith
4	22	Sidney Levitz	— Brother of Sara Schneider
5	23	Regina Kimmel	— Aunt of Thomas Kantor & Wynne Kantor
7	25	Anna David	— Grandmother of Tracy Troain, Jesse Pleet & Alec Pleet
8	26	Joseph David	— Grandfather of Alec Pleet, Tracy Troain & Jesse Pleet
9	27	Sarah Yespy	— Aunt of Sandra Howard
11	29	Lucille Klompus	— Mother of Janet Sligh
12	30	Dorothy Abel	— Mother of Debby Abel & Cousin of Joanne Bennetch
13	31	Ethel Rich	— Mother of N. Warren Rich

O u r t h a n k s f o r R e m e m b e r i n g
B e t h I s r a e l i n D e c e m b e r

YAHREZEITS:

Fred & Bernie Shattls	Stanton Finkelstein	Tom Schaffer	Denny Magdule
Stuart Finkelstein	Joseph & Judith Clark	Ina Hankin	Lucille Baron
Elizabeth Feller-Ballot	Stephen Weiss	Ruth Guyer	Ken Monaco

**Your attendance is needed at the
Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting on
Monday, January 26, 2026 at 7PM**

**Consider participating in this year's events, future plans & all that
comes with continuing the Jewish presence in Lebanon, PA!**

*~~ This is a hybrid event, so in person & zoom attendance is welcome ~~
A zoom link will be sent out by 3:00 PM on Jan 26th*



Check our website for more
www.congregation-beth-israel.org

Text 'PAPER' to 717-200-4170 to receive digital
copies of our monthly Bulletin!

MAILING SECTION ONLY

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