

SHEVAT / ADAR

FEBRUARY 2026

Congregation Beth Israel

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From the Cantor's Desk . . .

Have you ever had the experience where you say something, and the word just comes out wrong? I remember once my sister asked me what DVR means, and I said Vigital Dideo Recorder. I knew that wasn't right and kept trying to correct it, but I just kept repeating Vigital Dideo Recorder until I was laughing so hard tears were streaming. Everyone else was also in hysterics, since of course Vigital Dideo is meaningless and they didn't know what it was supposed to be (Digital Video Recorder – or TIVO for a brand name). This was hilarious, but I wonder sometimes if we might find meaning in our spoonerisms.

There is a gentleman in our minyan who when we get to passage leading into the Song of the Sea and the same words prior to the *Shacharit Amidah*,) על שִׁפְתַי הַיָּם (*al s'fat hayam*) meaning “on the banks or edge of the sea,” pronounces this *al s'fat hayom*. This is most likely a holdover from Ashkenaz pronunciation, but when I hear it, I hear – על שִׁפְתַי הַיּוֹם at the edge of the day.

It catches my attention every time I hear it. In the prose before the Amidah, the entire sentence is " , שִׁירָה חֲדָשָׁה שִׁבְחוּ גְּאוּלָּיִם לְשִׁמְךָ עַל שִׁפְתַי הַיָּם," “Those who were liberated [from slavery] praised your name with a new song at the edge of the sea.” With the alternate pronunciation, I hear, “praise your name with a new song at the edges of the day.” What a great practice and thought. Traditional Jewish prayer practice mandates statements of gratitude for what we have been provided or earned upon waking and upon going to sleep. Whether using the traditional liturgy or more contemporary and individualized language, singing a new song in gratitude and praise at the edges of each day is a mind reset that I believe can benefit us all.

HADASSAH

FROM A MINI NEWSLETTER SENT DURING CHANUKAH

As the scenes and stories of the horrific massacre at the Bondi Beach Hanukkah celebration began appearing on the news on December 16, Ben Ari was already counseling Australian community leaders and medical experts to deal with the mass trauma.

Elier, as the once strongly pro Israel's continent began to experience escalating anti-Semitism, Hadassah International brought Hadassah Chief Psychologist Dr. Shiri Ben David to Australia to meet with practitioners and Jewish leaders. She shared pragmatic advice, and became acquainted with the nuances of the growing crisis in Australia. Thus,, she could quickly judge what would be the most effective help in the crisis.

Ben Ari directs the Hadassah Institute for Addictions and Dual Diagnosis and has also treated victims of two cataclysmic earthquakes in Turkey. It is part of Hadassah's mission statement that to be "a volunteer organization that inspires a passion for Israel and enhances the health and lives of people in Israel, the U.S., and worldwide, through education, advocacy, and support for the [Hadassah Medical Organization](#). Hadassah's focus is on empowering women, strengthening Jewish identity, promoting Zionist values, and advancing healthcare and social justice.

OFFICE NOTES

- **A Thank you letter was sent to CBI for our generous donation of \$500 to Power Packs during Hanukkah!**
- **MAZAL TOV to Robert Magdule for this publication of his book:**
"Carnival Life Memories and Current Business Stories."
His book is available on Amazon!

PERSONAL

*May you find comfort among the mourners of Zion & Jerusalem.
May their memory be a blessing.*

- Donald Clark— January 19, 2026

Events In February

INTRO TO JUDAISM

**SUNDAYS
AT 10AM**

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT JUDAISM?

Every Sunday!

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Coffee with the Cantor

Thursdays at 11AM

Ancestor Coffehouse & Creperie
119 Springwood Dr Suite 500
Lebanon, PA 17042

Every Thursday!

2026 HIGH HOLIDAY
CHOIR
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Cantor Okoshi is welcoming all members to help beautify our High Holiday services as part of the choir. Registration for interested parties is open now, and rehearsal to begin 1st week of March.

Interested parties, please contact Sammi, or register on our website:
<https://www.congregation-beth-israel.org/events/choir-program/>

ADULT EDUCATION

FEB 11 **HYBRID**
7- 8:30 PM

JEWISH IDENTITY + LEGACY

FEBRUARY 11

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.

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

Rescheduled from January!

- **‘Women Unchained’ Film— Join us at 1PM. The subject AGUNOT =Women whose husbands refuse to grant a Jewish divorce. This documentary exposes "get-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**

THE JOSEPH & GERTRUDE BOWMAN

JEWISH
Film Study
PRESENTS.....

FEBRUARY 15TH
"WOMEN UNCHAINED" **1PM**

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

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Next Book Club: Wed. Feb 18th at 7PM— *It's The Hired Girl* by Laura Amy Schlitz

February 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

• **EVERY SUNDAY**— Intro to Judaism following services around 10AM

• **EVERY THURSDAY**—Coffee with the Cantor 11AM

Ancestor Coffeehouse & Creperie 119 Springwood Drive Lebanon, PA 17042

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID Intro to Judaism & Moment Magazine	2 <i>Tu B'Shevat</i>	3	4	5 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID 11AM—Coffee w/ the Cantor	6 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID	7 60-Min Shabbat 9-10AM Service/ HYBRID
8 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID 10AM Intro to Judaism <i>Cantor Okoshi b-day</i>	9 <i>Ritual Committee Meeting 7PM</i>	10	11 Adult Ed 7PM	12 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID 11AM—Coffee w/ the Cantor	13 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID	14 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID Valentine's Day
15 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID 10AM Intro to Judaism Film 1PM	16 BULLETIN DEADLINE <i>Presidents Day</i>	17	18 Book Club 7PM zoom only	19 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID 11AM—Coffee w/ the Cantor	20 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID	21 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID
22 9AM Minyan/ HYBRID 10AM Intro to Judaism	23 BOARD MEETING 7PM ZOOM ONLY	24	25	26 7:30AM Minyan Service/HYBRID 11AM—Coffee w/ the Cantor	27 7:30PM Service/ HYBRID	28 9:30AM Service/ HYBRID

Let's Celebrate our Members with FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries!

Wynne Kantor

Joanne Bennetch

Debby Abel

Louise Perlmutter

Cantor Okoshi

Scott & Carolyn Frankhauser

Steven Breit

Tom & Linda Siegel

Pamela Kaplan

Francine Fleisher

Josiah Lisman

Linda Siegel

Y A H R Z E I T S



Shevat Feb

14	1	Carol B. Kaplan	— Mother of Pamela Kaplan, Bryan Kaplan & Stephen Kaplan
15	2	Karl Greiner	— Father of Linda Siegel and Grandfather of David Siegel & Daniel Siegel
15	2	Beatrice Zivic	— Mother of Rabbi Louis Zivic
16	3	Esther Clark	— Mother of Joseph Clark
16	3	Jerry Collins	— Father of Stacey Knarr
18	5	James S. Klein	— Father of Harold Klein
18	5	Harry Wexler	— Father of Barry Wexler
19	6	Esther Levinson	— Mother of Philip Levinson
20	7	Florence Gorenefsky	— Mother of Mollie Bronstein
20	7	Norman S. Magdule	— Brother of Robert Magdule
22	9	Michael E. Selby	— Father of Cantor Marilyn Okoshi
23	10	Hertha Julia Freund	— Mother of Vera Freed
25	12	Julius Shattls	— Grandfather of Frederick Shattls & Trudy Shattls
25	12	George Shattls	— Uncle of Trudy Shattls & Frederick Shattls
27	14	Robert Axelrod	— Father of Carol Prouse
27	14	Sadie Ostrow	— Grandmother of Carolyn Frankhauser
30	17	Lester Etter	— Father of Robert Etter

Adar Feb

2	19	Kenneth A. Haller	— Father of David Haller
2	19	Bruce Howard	— Husband of Sandra Howard
4	21	Pauline Portnoff	— Mother of Janet Katz
5	22	Jerome "Jack" Shattls	— Father of Trudy Shattls & Frederick Shattls
5	22	Joseph Shankroff	— Father of Stanley J Shankroff & Benjamin Shankroff
6	23	Leon Grosky	— Father of Aaron Grosky
8	25	Howard Lokyitch	— Father of Robin Haller
9	26	Isadore Berliner	— Grandfather of Iris Alster
9	26	David Pleet	— Father of Alec Pleet, Jesse Pleet & Tracy (Pleet) Troain and Grandfather of Lindsay Royal
10	27	Samuel Fleisher	— Husband of Francine Fleisher and Father of Mindy Bickel
11	28	Lester J. Kantor, MD	— Father of Judith Clark

Our thanks for Remembering
Beth Israel in January

Y A H R Z E I T S:

Janet Sligh
Joseph Clark

Stacey Knarr
Jesse Pleet

Alec Pleet
Bev Magdule

Richard Backer

Congregation Beth Israel would like to have an additional contact or two in case of emergency for each member. We would appreciate this returned to us as soon as possible:

Your Name: _____

Contact _____

Relation _____

Their Phone # _____



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

MAILING SECTION ONLY

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