

SHMOOZE LETTER

Please be aware that during the Coronavirus epidemic, normal office hours may be disrupted. Check the temple website for details.



All Classes and Events will be ONLINE
at the following
ZOOM Room Number:
589-198-4173
<https://zoom.us/j/5891984173>

Theology Class: Wednesdays: 10 am
Torah Study: Saturday 10 am
Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday 7:30

4/8 First Seder - 6:30 PM

Everyone is welcome to every online
event and class. Feel free to join us.



Rabbi Cy Stanway

When the Sages taught us the best way to pray, they said to make sure we pray with kavannah - intention. Do not pray merely by reciting the words, they tell us, but linger on each word or even each letter to glean its meaning and its deeper meaning.

If you think about it, when someone has something to focus on and ponder, they can come up with wonderful insights. Over the years people have told me that at a particular point in their life, a certain prayer held even deeper meaning and resonance for them than at another point. I think we all read 'Shalom Rav' - the prayer for peace - a little differently after 9/11.

As we enter into the last couple of weeks before Pesach, we will be reading about the story of the Exodus. How relevant are the symbols and the foundations of the story to our predicament today?

We are bound to our homes. We are not permitted to go anywhere and even if we could, everything is closed to all but the most necessary items.

We will read about the plagues with a new appreciation. No longer is the pestilence something that we simply read about that happened 'back then.' Being homebound and social distancing is our way of keeping the Angel of Death far, far away. We are all in this Egypt together. Our Rabbis said, 'Kol Yisrael erivim zeh l'zeh' - Every Jew is responsible for one another. In these days of Coronavirus, every person is responsible for one another. There is simply no other way. (continued on next page)

TBM is an egalitarian community where traditional families, LGBTQ people, interfaith families and partners, Jews-by-Choice and anyone interested in finding a sanctuary will be welcome. You will always be embraced regardless of your background, previous affiliation, or Jewish knowledge. We believe that you are a vital part of the Jewish future and present and we are a place in which to nurture and protect your Jewish self.

Just before the last of the plagues, the Torah tells us this:

“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Hold out your arm toward the sky that there may be darkness upon the land of Egypt, a darkness that can be touched.” Moses held out his arm toward the sky and thick darkness descended upon all the land of Egypt for three days. People could not see one another, and for three days no one could get up from where he was; but all the Israelites enjoyed light in their dwellings.” Ex 10:21–23

Our Sages teach in a midrash that the darkness was so thick, that someone would have to cut it with a knife to make their way through it. This was a darkness that had never been experienced before.

We are about to enter Pesach like the Israelites. Our darkness is the darkness of unknowing when this thing will end and when we can resume our normal lives. Ours is the darkness of fear. Who among us will get sick? Who among us will lose a neighbor or a friend or a loved one? Are our leaders up to the task?

These were the same questions our ancestors asked.

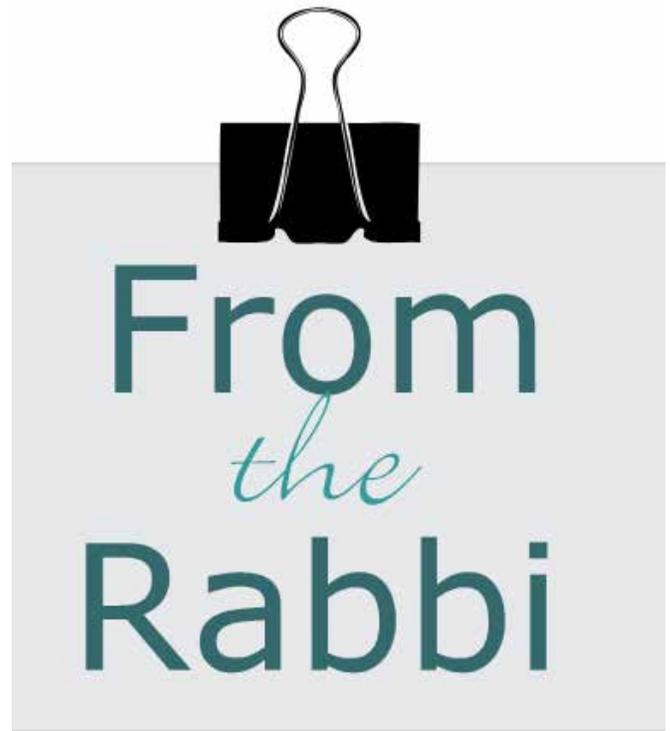
But they emerged from their homes the night after that first Pesach out of the darkness with the misery of the plagues behind them. The darkness lifted, their homes were open and the community came together in celebration leaving Egypt behind.

In time, we too will leave our homes and begin the process of rebuilding our lives with normalcy. But we will all be changed, I think. We have shared a moment in history that we will never forget because it has had such an impact on us. The stories we will tell of this time will be our Hagaddah - our retelling of the moment.

The Hagaddah of Passover that we will use in our homes are going to take on new meaning this year. This is the story of our ancestors' exodus from their darkness and pestilence. And in our people's Hagaddah, we will find plenty of relevance and meaning. But we will find something else, as well. Maybe for the first time in our lives we will find in the Hagaddah something we never saw, even though it was there all the time. We will find hope. Our people made it through slavery, pogroms, expulsions, autos-de-fe, a Shoah and so much more. But they emerged and survived both as a people and as individuals. There is great hope in that because we, too, will survive this as a congregation, as individuals, as families, communities, countries, and a planet. Together we will march forward toward a promised land of normalcy as we are surely going to do. But our normalcy may be changed for the better for we have struggled to keep one another buoyant with hope, encouraged one another and, although socially distant we have been spiritually close in this trying time.

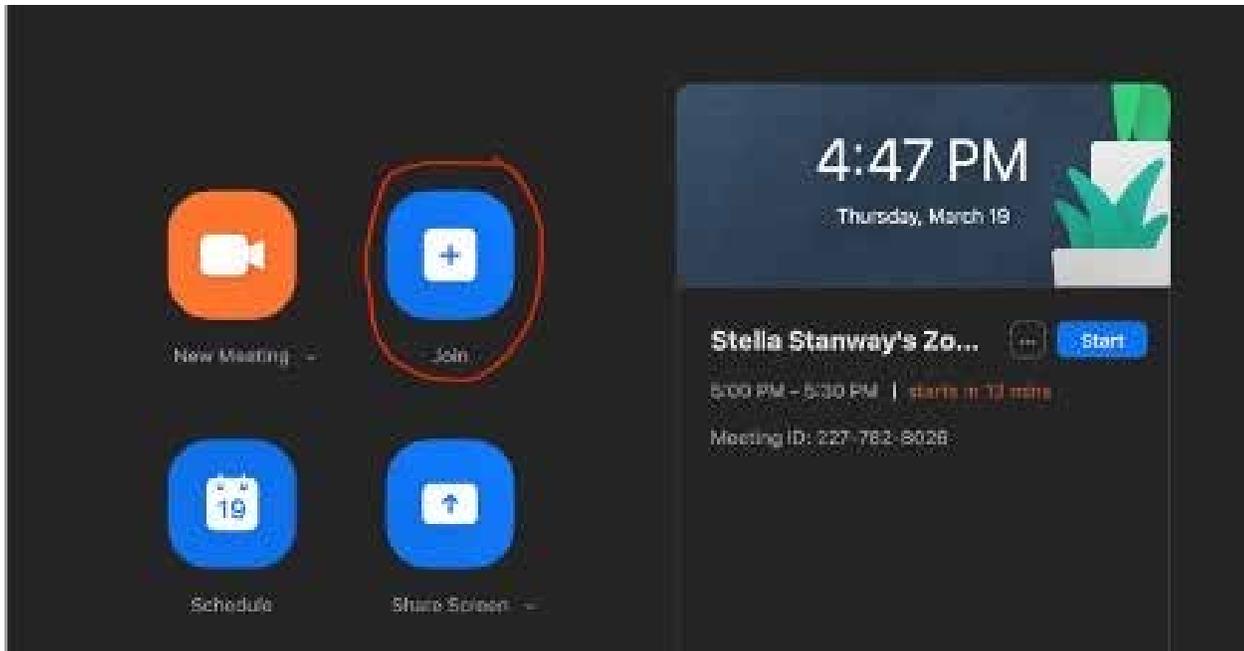
So when you read your Hagaddah this year, take time to ponder the words and the meanings. Draw hope from the story because the story of our people then is the story of each of us today.

Chag Sameach



ZOOM on One Foot

Because all temple events are online, we have created a way to stay connected to the community and the congregations. To join any class or service, joining Zoom is simple. Go to Zoom.us and download the app. Click the button on the top right and, when prompted, join the room number. The rabbi's room number (think of it as an address) is 589-198-4173. If you have any questions, call the rabbi at 732-768-7773 for instant technical support.



Join a Meeting

Join a meeting from an H.323/SIP room system

FROM THE CANTOR



MARNIE CAMHI

Usually, for my April articles, I write about Passover and upcoming events at the Temple. This year, life is quite different for everyone due to the Corona Virus. We all have concerns about day-to-day life, how we will celebrate Passover this year and when the kids will go back to school and our lives back to normal.

Here at TBM, we are doing our best to come together and create our community online so we can still support one another, learn together and pray together. Technology has proven to be a blessing for us, as we are able to communicate in large groups via Zoom and Facebook Live. We are able to hold weekly Shabbat Services, religious school, board meetings, adult ed classes and more online.

We will be holding an online Passover Seder this year, since we are not able to physically be all together for the annual Community Seder at TBM. I created a video of the Four Questions on Youtube if you would like your children to practice at home for your seders. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbw1Z3DTw8>. If you want to host your own seders, but are concerned about having a large gathering, technology will allow you to virtually be with one another. Setting up a Zoom account is easy and free. You can use the app on your smart phone, tablet or computer. While, I have not personally used other web conferencing programs/apps, I have heard good things about 8x8 and dacast.

There is a Hebrew saying, “Gam zeh ya-a-vor,” which means “this too shall pass.” It is my hope that this situation will be over soon and we can all be together in person once again. Please feel free to send me an email even just to say “hi.”

Shalom,

Cantor Marnie cantor@bethmiriam.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT



DR. BARRY EDISON

“I am writing this article from my home, as everyone hopefully is at their own homes, staying safe and strong.

The Coronavirus crisis is unprecedented, uncertain, and scary on so many levels. As a physician I will reiterate the need for social distancing and handwashing, which we all have heard at length can flatten the curve and help our fellow human beings.

With all the medical, economic, and educational ramifications this virus has caused it is important to have time to reflect and to have normalcy.

Temple Beth Miriam also had to close our doors, but we are not closed for spirituality. Much to the contrary. We have created a new normal of worship, as we have been live-streaming services on Zoom (Room Number: 589-198-4173 <https://zoom.us/j/5891984173>). This past Sunday my daughter was in her bed, laptop in hand, enjoying Rabbi Cy’s Teen Academy, which was also on Zoom. At the same time, Todd, my 5th grader, was on his Chrome Book being taught Hebrew with Sharon Silverman, which followed his Religious lesson with Karen Pingitore.

Two obvious thoughts. First, what would this disaster look like without our technology? And second, what would our families do without Temple Beth Miriam.

Continue to stay safe and strong and reflect on what our synagogue family is all about.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



STELLA JERUZALMI STANWAY

What a long year this week has been!

It seems like last year when we had our Purim celebrations. It was so heartening to see our community pull together to create a wonderful and magical Purim experience for our kids. The carnival was so fun, run by our middle school

and high school students. Al Goldman and his team from the Men's Club provided delicious snacks and munchies and donated 100% of their proceeds, absorbing the costs and we are very grateful-Thanks Al!

Many thanks to Karen Pingitore who was our biggest "go getter" for donations to the gift auction. Others who gave or acquired donations include Al & Amy Goldman, Dr Barry & Joanne Edison, David Nussbaum, Michelle Kutsak, Heather Foster, Morgan family, Rubin family, Wendy Slotter, Sharon Silverman, Wellner family, Danielle Wiesslitz, Brandl family, and a few anonymous donors (please forgive me if I forgot you and let me know).

The donations were generous and we hope that as soon as we are able to go out again you will consider supporting the businesses as they have supported us. They are:

Ocean Athletic, Invision Eye Care, Angelicas's, El Salon, Morgan Dermatology, Ocean Salon, Shore Music Academy, Township of Ocean (pool & golf) The Max Challenge, Eze Fit, Rafia Salon, My Treat Truck and Eat Clean Bro.



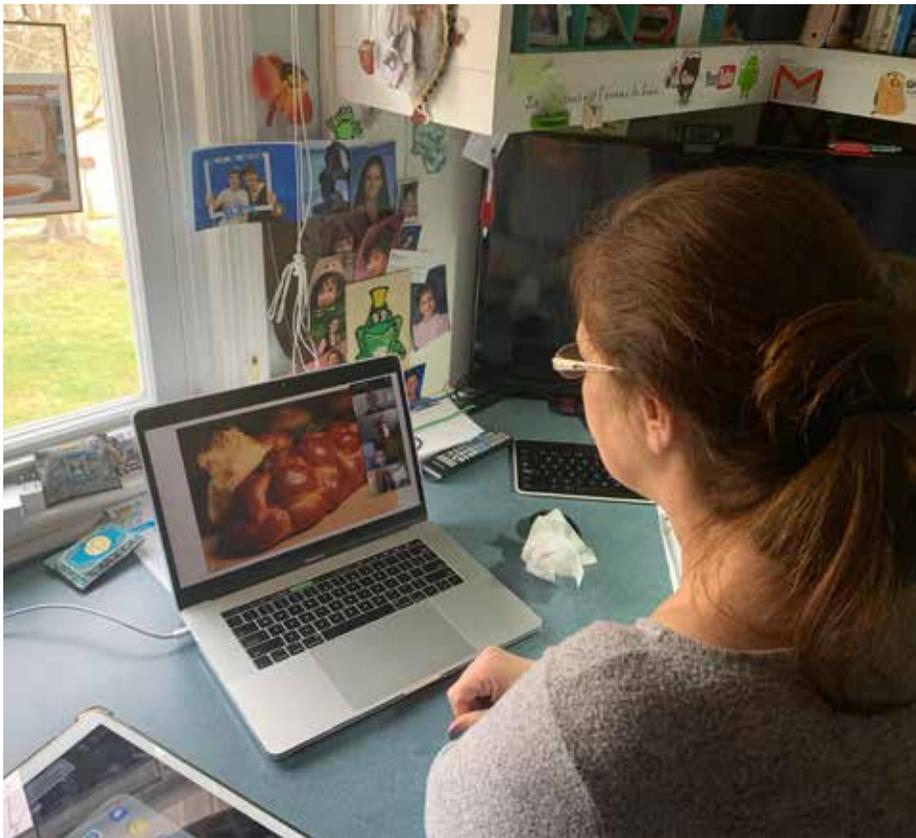
And now for the elephant in the room - our collective isolation: Like all the teachers, we really had the rug pulled out from under us as the COVID-19 virus made its unwelcome appearance. Suddenly we cancelled pretty much everything and we had to reimagine a new way to deliver instruction. Everyone knows what a love for technology I have, but this is not true or everyone. I spent the first week researching and playing around with various platforms and finally settling on Zoom. Then I spent hours experimenting and teaching the faculty how to use it. We practiced using each others' personal zoom numbers, sharing our desk tops, muting everyone (!) and figuring out how to distill our curriculum even more, since our free Zoom accounts limit us to 40 minutes per session. This along with unknown attention spans on the part of the students made it quite a challenge, but off we went.

I was committed to staying within our 9-12 on Sundays timeline, and I was looking forward to 100% participation since we knew everyone was home and not at soccer or cheerleading.

And everyone did step up. It was wonderful. After a short snafu (I gave out one wrong ID number) all the classes showed up at their correct times and it was really great to see it work. The kids showed up and seemed to really be happy to “be together” again.

We did discuss, as a faculty, that managing expectations was super important. The first session was for reuniting and checking in and Torah. This week, kinks, make some few more risks try-in this very mod-way, all the while, close to their own ties. We ask that tion and become make this as suc-

On the other hand, stand that every-own kind of pres-the kids are. I read all the homes-meltdowns (both and a very import-made. The fact is, over, progress will will have to go back, Because of this, ev-do their best. And down, LET IT GO. important that we back with a healthy to be ready to be promoted to the next grade.



maybe a little we'll iron out some tweaks and take a ing to teach Torah ern and distant keeping everyone class communi-parents pay atten-our co-teachers to cessful as can be.

we also under-one is under their sure, and certainly an article about chooling and the kids and parents!) ant point was that when this is be lost. Teachers a lot, and review. erylone should just if it causes a melt-It's much more get our students mental state than

There are so many unintended pluses happening during our confinement. I am now a 'stay at home mom' since one of our daughters decided to quarantine with us. We get to be with our families, we are truly appreciating our blessings, our homes, our pantries and I hope, our good health. People are walking outside and cooking more, and the earth is sort of healing while we are on pause.

We just have to hang in there. It could be a while. Let's be patient with each other and especially with our kids. Make the most of being with them. And we'll see you on the next Zoom!

Stella Jeruzalmi Stanway, Principal and TYG Advisor

Purim Pix



Yahrtzeits

May our loved ones' memories be an eternal blessing

April 3

Helen Hirsch
 Gilbert Kart
 Larry Katz
 Samuel Marlin
 Morris Rutenberg
 Maurice H. Stalberg
 Seymour Wenger
 Alexander H. Franklin
 Becky Selbst
 Sidney Erlanger
 Sylvia Flamendorf
 Martin Greenstein
 Eli Bialik
 Sidney Darnell
 Stella Eidelsberg
 Philip Gold
 Sol Goldstein
 Max Kasson
 Sophie Posner Tenzer
 Shirley Rossien
 Michael Brower
 Rachel Gelb
 Millie Goldstein
 Francesca Nelson
 Charles Wiener
 Benjamin Aronsohn
 Gabriel Barnett
 SSally Glogoff
 Virginia Martin
 Marlene Neiderman

April 10

Wilma Aronson
 Judy Glassman
 Kitty Grad
 William L. Greenbaum
 Benjamin Bauman
 Joseph Brower
 Brent Krueger
 Harry Lewis
 Robert Salzberg
 William J. Setrin
 Isidore Bady
 Esther Gorsky
 Mildred Hirsch
 Ennis Maurer
 Vera Phillips
 Sarah Rosenstein
 Morris Ross
 William Epstein
 Peter Iber
 Lily E. Klein
 Joshua E Neimark
 Meyer Friedman
 Antoinette Farella
 Belle Moore
 Muriel Peck
 Larry Zucker
 Margaret Zuckerman
 Joseph Bergman
 Seymour Lapidus
 Howard Lawn
 Henry Leon

April 17

Rose Goldman
 Evelyn Kramer
 Minnie Leffert
 Sarah Schwartz
 Pauline Cinnamon
 Max Eichenbaum
 Adele Feibel
 Nancy Stalberg
 Sarah Kaye
 Martin Kern
 Richard Weinberg
 Eli Berke
 Timothy Gavin
 Irving Kirshbaum
 Walter T. Kohn
 Diane Rich
 Philip Ader
 Julius Schlatner
 Edward Weinstein
 Adolph Bialek
 Herman Holzman
 Jean Jacobson
 Isidor Berger
 Edward Carlin
 Barry Fisher
 Mrs. Ceil Freedman
 Murray Revits

April 24

Savannah Oxfeld
 David R. Pashall
 Benjamin Snyder
 Ida Zlotkin
 Samuel Borinsky
 Jacob Neiderhoffer
 Nancy Turner
 Behrman
 Rose Berg
 Isadore Bey
 Harold E. Dobrin
 Max Singer
 Ciony Bacani
 Abe Cohen
 Alfred S. Feibel
 Amalie Jacobson
 Marjorie Miller
 Edward Rosenthal
 Richard Topper
 John P. Costanzo
 Morris Gelb
 Jennie Goldberg
 Beverly Lerner
 Sidney Coe
 Joan Budner
 Betty Cohen
 Joseph Gasarch
 Paul Romano
 Sadie Rosen
 Rose Seidman
 Nettie Stolzenberg

May 1

Alexander Cohen
 Emanuel Jaffe
 Mitchell Sherwin
 Carl Casriel
 Isidore Horowitz
 Martin Wahl
 HeHacham Isaac
 Jeruzalmi
 Bertha York
 Mildred Levine
 Harvey Miner
 Philip Gordon
 Julius Katchen
 S. Darwin Noll
 Sidney Peckerman
 Lillian Ripner
 Milton Bluth
 Sadye Greenbaum
 Morton Hollander
 Harry Sherman
 Beatrice Bashover
 Tema Feder
 Charles Kerensky
 Irving E. Medoff
 Sarah Einhorn
 Monroe Eisner
 Pauline Herschaft
 Adeline Jensen
 Rae Kasoff
 Irving Konner
 Harry Levin
 Rebecca Singer
 Lewis Sternheimer



Mishloach Manot Purim Basket Updates

Our Purim Mishloach Manot project was a big success, thanks to the congregants who purchased and donated bags and a dedicated group of volunteers who made it all possible. The Jewish residents at The Atria and Seabrook Assisted Living Facilities were so appreciative! They even received creatively decorated cards from our youngest students under the direction of Miss Olivia and Miss Anna! Thanks to Rabbi Cy, Stella, Gerri, and Rosey for their assistance.

A special thank you goes out to the following congregants who helped by ordering Purim bag items, packing the items, making the cards, distributing bags, delivering bags, inputting and proofing data, and developing routes. This was truly a congregational and therefore a family effort and I thank each and every one of you for your generosity!

Sharon Babitsky

Grace & Roy Dressner

Paige & Todd Edison

Amy Goldman

Stu Lippsett

Steve Silver

Naomi Brodbar

Truly wonderful things are happening at TBM!

Kathy & Mark Cohen

Paul Edelson

Rachel & Aiden Ford

Lori Goldstein

Karen & Don Pingitore

Sharon Silverman

Beth Weston Knotts

Danielle DelCuore

Barry & Joanne Edison

Debbie & Scott Gerbman

Lisa Jacobson

Pat Shapiro

Cindy Singer

Jenn Wolff

Wendy Slotter, Mishloach Manot Chairperson



Purim Cast!

The Purim Pop Palooza was terrific! We say well done to all the participants in this wonderful production that made Purim so much fun!

GET NOTICED

TBM IS ACCEPTING ADS FOR YOUR BUSINESS FOR THE SHMOOZELETTER

Get your business noticed!

Standard business card ad \$250/year
1/4 page ad \$500/year

Call the Temple at 732-222-3754 for details or send your camera-ready ad to 180 Lincoln Ave, Elberon, NJ 07740



HAVE A SIMCHA YOU WANT TO SHARE? LET THE TEMPLE KNOW!

Thank you!

Thank you for your tzedakah!

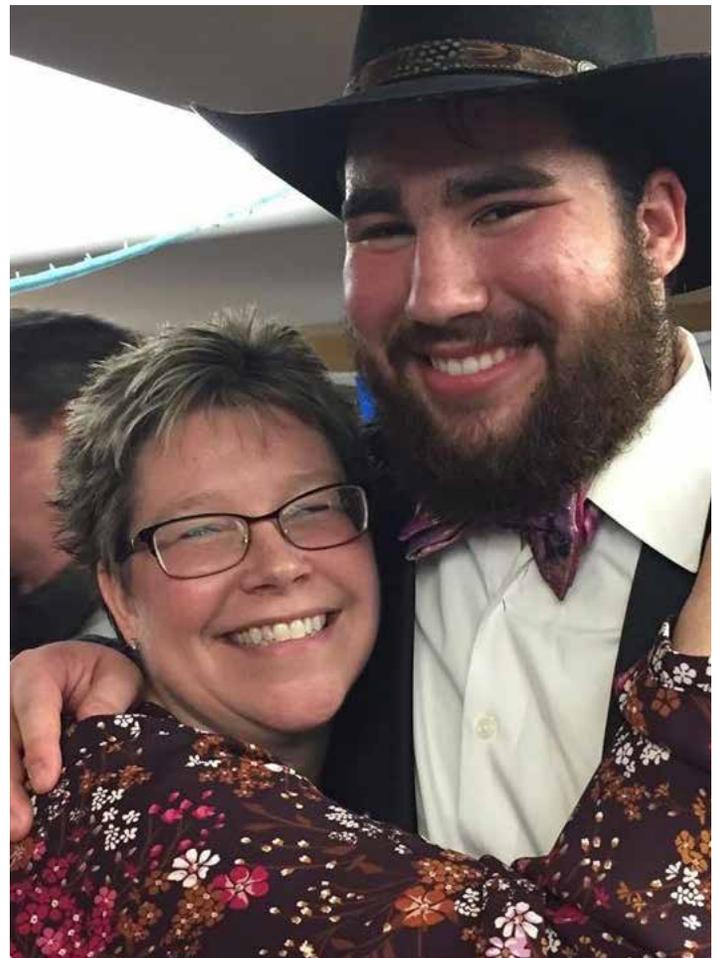
Shawn and Elana Messer Weil
Cantor's Discretionary Fund with thanks

Francine Cohen
General Fund in memory of Ben Maser.

Please note: There are undoubtedly more donations that need to be listed. During the Coronavirus emergency, these donations are not yet reported by the front office because of the disruption of the routines we are all accustomed to. All donations will be listed as soon as things get back to normal.

Yahrtzeit Plaque Space

In a congregation with as much history as Beth Miriam, it is inevitable that we begin to run out of space on the Yahrtzeit boards. Over the years many families have placed 'Reserved' plaques for themselves. The problem is that no one knows who they are reserved for or even who reserved them. Therefore, we are asking that, if you have a reserved plaque, you let the temple know at 732-222-3754 (if you know where the plaque is) or come in to show us. This way, we can make a record so that, when the time comes, we know exactly where the plaque with a family name should be placed. If we don't hear from the family, we will have to open that space up so that there is space on the board. Please get in touch with the temple before June 1st, 2020. Thank you for your help.



Congratulations to Jacob Gerbman, one of our madrichim and star students, who danced and sang his way into the hearts of the high school production of 'Footloose.'



Mazal Tov Keith Miller!!

Mazal tov to Keith Miller on the birth of a new great-grandson, Andrew Craig Bonney who was born on March 12! Mother and child (and greatgrandfather are doing well). Mazal Tov!!



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DR. BARRY J. EDISON, F.A.O.C.O.



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STRATEGIC DIGITAL MARKETING



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for news and updates at TBM
www.bethmiriam.org



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Geoffrey and Elaina Lippsett
Caren Chesler & Bruce Holmes
Hal and Lori Goldstein
Rocky and Betsy Seckler
Michael and Marian Gross
Gregory and Emilia Rosen
Andrew and Lisa Brosniak
Steve and Cindy Singer



The TBM website now accepts donations through PayPal. Go to the home page, look at the menu bar

at the top of the page and you can make your donation. This is only for donations, not dues payments. Once you click the link, you will be taken to a PayPal page where you can specify the amount and, once you confirm, you will be taken to a Notes page to let us know what you donated for. If you have any questions, call the office at 732-222-3754.



TBM FUNDS

Tree of Life – An engraved leaf on the tree bearing the name of the person honored on occasions such as Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, birth, marriage or any other simcha. Contribution \$180.

The Yahrtzeit Memorials - memorialize your loved one in the sanctuary - \$500

Prayer Book Fund – Bookplates are inserted in recognition of donation. Contribution \$36.

Social and Community Action Fund – Provides support for local community programs.

Family Affair – A committee of caring to any of our temple members in good times as well as challenging times

Heimlich-Aaron Library Fund – In support of the library and its needs

The Endowment Fund – For the preservation of our temple and to enable us to fulfill our spiritual, educational, cultural and social needs.

Tzedakeh Fund – Financial assistance to congregants

Rabbi Joseph Goldman Fund for Jewish Learning – Proceeds support an array of educational programs.

Heimlich Memorial Scholarship Fund – Proceeds of this fund are to be used to underwrite a partial scholarship to a college or school of higher education.

Rabbi Discretionary Fund: utilized by the rabbi for purposes of tzedakah and discreet support.

Berg-Bialek Youth Leadership Retreat Fund – This fund is

used to supplement the cost of youth leadership retreats.

Conn Music Fund – Used to provide special musical programs and/or performances during holiday or special celebration.

The Norty Kern Youth Scholarship Fund – Proceeds of this fund will be used to support Religious School students on class trips.

Arthur and Hazel Harmon Fund – The fund is an annual award for a Temple Beth Miriam student Grades 8-12 who has accomplished an outstanding service project for the benefit of the local community or for the Temple congregation. The award will be \$200.

The Milton Ziment Fund for Scholastic Achievement - An annual prize(s) for students of the Religious School who gain recognition for exceptional academic performance.

The Katz Family Fund – Religious School scholarship fund for families with the need for support

Temple Beth Miriam Wish List – Proceeds are used to help provide needed things not in the budget

Pess Family Youth Group Fund – Established by Lois & Gary Pess & will be used for all Youth Group activities not covered by other existing funds.

Cantor Discretionary Fund – This fund is directed by the Cantor of the congregation toward non-budgeted musical activities in the congregation.



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FIRST CLASS MAIL