

14 Shevat-11 Adar 5786

February 2026

Temple Beth Or

THE VINE

FEBRUARY



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Mazel Tov

February - Happy Birthday!

- 14 Spencer Hoffman**
- 22 Marlene Vogel**
- 23 Larry Kalb**



If you would like a simcha to be listed in the Vine, please email or call the TBO office

Temple Beth Or
(Hebrew for “House of Light”)

Temple Beth Or is an egalitarian inclusive Conservative congregation, modern yet reverent to the Jewish tradition. The congregation is made up of singles, couples and families. We welcome all members of our community, including interfaith families, and feel that a congregation should be a friendly welcoming place and the anchor of a caring community. It reaches out to its members relating to their needs and interests and to the larger Jewish and general community as well. Temple Beth Or is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

SPIRITUAL LEADER Rabbi Chaim Respes

SERVICES In-Person and/or on Zoom

Weekly Minyan

Monday-Thursday - 4:15 PM - Zoom only

Shabbat Services

Friday—7:15 p.m.

Saturday—9:30 a.m. (beginning with Shocheyn Ad, Preliminary Services on your own) and after Shabbat with Havdalah.

TBO Services are available on Zoom. Join us 15 minutes before the service to schmooze.

Watch for the Spark email for Zoom access.

Phone: (732) 458-4700

Address:
109 Pier Ave
Brick, NJ 08723

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Secretary: Cindy

Email:

templebethorbrick@gmail.com

Website:

www.templebethorbrick.org



Follow us on [Facebook](#)

In case of Emergency:

Rabbi Chaim Respes

(609) 868-1744

ravchaim18@gmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we move through this season together, we are reminded that our temple is more than a building - it's a place of connection, tradition and shared joy. One of the most meaningful ways we come together is through our Shabbat and holiday celebrations where community and spirituality meet.

Our Shabbat services continue to be a cornerstone of our temple life. Shabbat offers us a pause from the business of the week - a chance to reflect, reconnect and find meaning in community. Whether Shabbat is a regular part of your routine or something you haven't experienced in a while, we invite you to come as you are and share in this sacred time.

Participating in services and programs strengthens, not only our individual Jewish journeys, but our congregation as a whole. Your presence helps create the spirit that makes our temple such a special place.

I hope you'll join us for our upcoming services and programs, bring a friend, and help us continue building a vibrant, welcoming community together. We look forward to celebrating, learning and sharing these meaningful moments with you.

Warmly,

Sharon I. Monter
President - Temple Beth Or

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI RESPES



Rooted & Renewed: Reflections on Israel, Tu BiSh'vat, and Purim

by Rav Chaim Respes

This past winter, I was blessed to return to Eretz Yisrael. Walking the ancient stones of Yerushalayim and visiting communities across the land stirred deep reflection. Israel is not merely a place: it is a living tapestry of halachah, history, and the Jewish soul. And as I stood beneath olive trees whose roots reach deep into our collective memory, I began to see an unexpected thread connecting the land itself to **Tu BiSh'vat** and the upcoming festival of **Purim**.

Tu BiSh'vat, our Rosh HaShanah La'ilanot—the New Year of the Trees—invites us to reconnect with the cycles of life and growth. The Mishnah teaches that trees are obligated with bikkurim (first fruits) after a full cycle of years, underscoring how time and nature merge in Jewish law and life (Rosh Hashanah 2:9). Modern halachic authorities such as Rav Moshe Feinstein and Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach have emphasized tza'ar ba'alei chayim and ecological sensitivity as inherent Jewish values, connecting Tu BiSh'vat's agricultural observance with a broader ethic of care. Tu BiSh'vat is more than a date on the calendar—it is a moment to appreciate our interdependence with the land, with the fruits it bears, and with each other.

In Israel, that lesson is vivid. From the orchards of the Galil to the vineyards of the Shfela, the land responds resiliently to rain and sun. I felt the words of Rav Kook, who taught that the physical landscape of Eretz Yisrael reflects and nurtures spiritual renewal. Rav Kook saw Tu BiSh'vat as a metaphor for the blossoming of Jewish identity itself—a reminder that even after long seasons of exile, we are called to bloom again.

Yet, just as the almond buds push through winter's chill, so too does the Jewish calendar quickly turn toward **Purim**—a festival of hidden miracles and public joy. The *Megillah* tells us that Haman “plotted to destroy” but that Adar “increased joy” (Esther 9:22). Modern commentators like Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z”l have pointed out that Purim uniquely celebrates human partnership with the Divine: Hashem is nowhere named in the *Megillah*, yet His presence is found in every twist of fate.

When seen through this lens, Purim and Tu BiSh'vat form a shared spiritual arc. Tu BiSh'vat roots us in gratitude for life's hidden processes—the quiet growth beneath snow, the unseen work of roots preparing for spring. Purim then invites us to recognize the hidden hand of God in our communal and personal narratives. Just as the almond tree blossoms before leaves appear, so too do the hidden salvations in our lives often precede our awareness of them.

(continued on page 6)

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI RESPES



Rooted & Renewed: Reflections on Israel, Tu BiSh'vat, and Purim (continued from page 5)

by Rav Chaim Respes

During my recent trip, I had the profound responsibility of chaperoning a group of Jewish teenagers who spent meaningful time with Israeli teens still living in the shadow of October 7th. Over the course of several days, they spoke honestly and painfully about how the atrocities of that day continue to shape their sense of safety, identity, and future—nearly two years later. And yet, what emerged again and again was not despair, but hope. Our teens listened as their Israeli peers articulated a determination to live fully, to love deeply, and to believe stubbornly in tomorrow. American teens visited Hostage Square, where Israelis of all ages gathered—parents, grandparents, soldiers, and students—each carrying stories of loss, fear, and unyielding faith. Standing there, our teens heard how hope does not erase pain, but grows from it. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks taught that Jewish hope is not optimism that things will turn out well, but the courage to believe that our actions still matter. In those conversations, and in that sacred space, our teenagers witnessed hope taking root in real time—fragile, honest, and resilient, like a tree that continues to grow even after being scorched.

*What binds these moments—the blossoming tree, the joyful reading of the *Megillah*, the shared meal and *mishloach manot*—is the affirmation that Jewish life is a cycle of resilience. We plant, we wait, we hope, and we celebrate. As we approach Tu BiSh'vat and prepare for Purim, may we open our hearts to the hidden growth within us and around us, giving thanks for every small blossom of blessing.*

Chagim sameach, and may this season renew strength, joy, and a deepened love for our land and our people.

—
Rav Chaim Respes



Temple Beth Or The Vine

SISTERHOOD

President: Marlene



Sisterhood Cakeless Cake Sale is now going on:
Please plan to donate to Sisterhood's Annual Cakeless
Cake Sale and help support Temple Beth Or.
Flier page 7

- Socialize and have *Fun* at monthly meetings
- Fundraise for TBO
- 2025/26 Annual Dues: \$25

SAVE THE DATE:

March 10, 2026, Tuesday @ 7:30 PM – General Meeting - Hamantaschen preparation.

March 22, 2026, Sunday @ 3:00PM - Sisterhood Women's Seder - More information to follow.

Golden Books \$5 each, effective January 1, 2026.

Any suggestions for future meeting topics or guest speakers, please contact Marlene.





It's time for our
CAKELESS CAKE SALE

A bit of news today!

Our CAKELESS CAKE SALE is under way!
In these chilly, busy, car-pooling days
Who would bake? Pies? Cookies? Or even a Cake?
You'd be surprised if you counted the cost of ingredients,
heat and the time you have lost.

Baking for a sale is extra work, yet no one really wants to shirk!

So we've thought of a plan that's truly grand
and feel quite sure you'll understand. In your envelope
please put the price of a cake or a pie or great dessert.

Without fuss or bother, you've done your part,
we trust you'll give with a willing heart.

This is the end of our little tale as we wish success with our
CAKELESS CAKE SALE!

Thank you for your interest and cooperation in this important fundraiser.

Please make your check payable to:
Temple Beth Or Sisterhood
Kindly mail your donation in an envelope to:

Temple Beth Or Sisterhood
109 Pier Ave.
Brick, New Jersey 08723

SIMCHA SHABBAT



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SIMCHA SHABBAT EACH MONTH ON THE THIRD FRIDAY NIGHT AT 6:30 PM.

WINE, CHEESE AND FRUIT WILL BE SERVED,
FOLLOWED BY SERVICES.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A PRO-NEG,
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR
MORE INFORMATION.

We look forward to seeing you!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sisterhood Cakeless Cake Sale is now going on:

Please plan to donate to Sisterhood's Annual Cakeless Cake Sale and help support Temple Beth Or.

Flier page 7

February 2, 2026, Monday—Tu BiShvat—Jewish New Year of the Trees

February 8, 2026, Sunday - World Wide Wrap

February 14, 2025, Saturday - Valentine's Day - Let someone know they are loved and appreciated.

February 20, 2026, Friday, Simcha Shabbat and Pro-neg - Join us @ 6:30 PM before Shabbat services on the third Friday of each month to celebrate and share monthly simchas with TBO members. Wine, cheese and fruit will be served.

If you are interested in sponsoring this or an upcoming Pro-neg, please contact the office. Flyer on page 8

SAVE THE DATE

March 2 sunset-3, 2026, Monday @ sunset-Tuesday - Purim

March 2, 2026, Monday night - Megillah Reading - More information to follow.

March 3, 2026, Tuesday - Purim Daytime service & Megillah Reading - More information to follow.

March 8, 2026, Sunday - Daylight Savings time begins

March 20, 2026, Friday - Spring Begins!

March 20, 2026, Friday, Simcha Shabbat and Pro-neg - Join us @ 6:30 PM before Shabbat services on the third Friday of each month to celebrate and share monthly simchas with TBO members. Wine, cheese and fruit will be served.

If you are interested in sponsoring this or an upcoming Pro-neg, please contact the office.

March 22, 2026, Sunday @ 3 PM - Sisterhood Women's Seder - More information to follow.

Join Sisterhood or Men's Club for 2025/2026 - Get together and interact with other TBO members while helping Temple Beth Or grow and thrive in the community.

**We pray from the depths of our hearts for true peace in Israel
and an end to violence.
We strengthen our faith in Hashem, believing that He watches
over Am Yisrael and hears every prayer (psalms 121:4)**



Donate to help Israelis at this time of crisis through the special Israel Emergency Campaign coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Ocean County.

Visit **www.jewishoceancounty.org**

or mail a check.

Checks payable to: JFOC 1235A Route 70, Lakewood, NJ 08701.

(memo line: Israel Emergency Campaign),

Questions? Call the JFOC Office at 732-363-0530



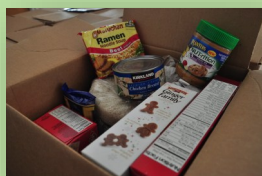
Emergency Campaign to help the Jews of Ukraine during this crisis – You can contribute through the Jewish Federation of Ocean County to help the Joint Distribution Committee and other agencies who are on the ground working in Ukraine. All contributions raised will be sent directly to our partners doing important work in response to this crisis.

Checks payable to JFOC can be mailed to 1235A Highway 70, Lakewood, NJ 08701; memo: Ukraine Emergency Fund.

Giving Back

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - for Friday night Oneg Shabbat & Saturday Kiddush. Volunteers needed to help with the purchase of food, set up and clean up. Contact Rachel for more info.

DONATE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD AND SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED to a Food Pantry – Bring food directly to a food pantry, like the one at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 135 Salmon Street, Brick, 732-477-5533, or one you have by you.



SUPPORT ST. THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH FOOD PANTRY AND TEMPLE BETH OR— Buy a ShopRite gift card (\$25, \$50 or \$100) from Sisterhood and donate it to the food pantry. Let us continue in helping the community during difficult times. Order by contacting Rachel or call TBO office and specify that it is to be given to the food pantry. Buying ShopRite gift cards from Sisterhood will also benefit TBO.



SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS — purchase a gift card from Sisterhood and help support Temple Beth Or. 5% of the purchase prices goes to TBO at no extra cost to you. Cards are available in \$25, \$50, or \$100 amounts. Call or email the office for more information. Please allow 24 hours for pickup. The cards can be mailed if needed.



PLANT A TREE IN ISRAEL in a loved ones name. \$18 per tree. Temple Beth Or is working with the Jewish National Fund for this project and a portion of the donations goes to TBO. For more information contact TBO office. form on page 13

YAHRTZEIT DONATIONS

The human soul is a light from God.
 May it be Your will that the soul of our loved ones
 enjoy eternal life, along with the souls of
 Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca,
 Rachel, and Leah, and the rest of
 the righteous that are in Gan Eden.
Amen.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Edith Zwiebel	Beloved mother of Alan Zwiebel
Samuel Israel Lefton	Beloved father of Susan Zwiebel
Roslyn Kalb	Beloved mother of Larry Kalb
Sanford Kalb	Beloved father of Larry Kalb
1972 Summer Israeli Olympic Team	Remembered by Larry Kalb
Benjamin Sanders	Beloved grandfather of Anne Katz
Harry Wolfe	Beloved grandfather of Anne Katz
Max Katz	Beloved father-in-law of Anne Katz
Eva Katz	Beloved mother-in-law of Anne Katz
Robert Herbst	Beloved husband of Michele Herbst
Bernice Hoffman	Beloved mother of Michele Herbst
Harry Hoffman	Beloved father of Michele Herbst
Philip Goldfarb	Beloved uncle of Adrienne & Marlene Vogel
Judith Vogel	Beloved mother of Adrienne & Marlene Vogel
Louis Raiman	Beloved father of Sonja Erdelyi

Temple Beth Or The Vine

THE MITZVAH GROUP

Temple Beth Or's Mitzvah Group reaches out to all members. If you know of someone who needs or would like a phone call, hospital visit, nursing or rehab center visit, please let us know.

Kindly complete the form below and mail it to the synagogue - Attention: The Mitzvah Group or You can email TBO office at: TempleBethOrBrick@gmail.com.

If time is of the essence, please phone the information to Rabbi Chaim Respes 609-868-1744

Let us join together in turning our good intentions into good deeds.

Thank you,
B'Shalom

COMPLETE THIS FORM FOR THE MITZVAH GROUP REQUEST — PLEASE PRINT

Name of person to contact: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____

Please circle type of contact wanted:

Phone Call

In Home Visit

Hospital Visit

Name of Hospital & Town: _____

Nursing & Rehab Center Visit

Name of Center and Town: _____

Your name, if different than above: _____

MISHEBERACH PRAYER

When someone near and dear to us is ill, a spiritual uplift can be very meaningful. This is done in Jewish tradition by reciting a "Misheberach" prayer on the days we take out the Torah.

If you would like a Misheberach said and are not able to attend the service, please call Temple Beth Or's office or email us at

TempleBethOrBrick@gmail.com

We need the person's

Hebrew name and the **mother's Hebrew name**, so that a prayer will be done for you.

MISHEBERACH PRAYER REQUEST

Date: _____

Person Receiving Prayer: _____

Hebrew Name: _____

Mother's Hebrew Name: _____

Reason: _____

From: _____

Temple Beth Or The Vine

JNF
Trees for Israel

**PLEASE PRINT
LEGIBLY**

<p>Donor Information</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>want to include your address on certificate NO ___ YES ___</p> <p>Phone Number: _____</p>	<p># of Trees @ \$18.00 each: _____</p> <p>planted in the name of _____</p> <p>In Honor ___ In Memory ___</p> <p>planted in the name of _____</p> <p>In Honor ___ In Memory ___</p> <p>planted in the name of: _____</p> <p>In Honor ___ In Memory ___</p>	<p>Send Certificate to:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Amount enclosed: \$ _____</p> <p>Mail to Temple Beth Or, 109 Pier Ave., Brick, NJ 08723</p> <p>Make checks payable to Temple Beth Or</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Office use only</p> <p>Date received: _____</p> <p>Check Number: _____ Cash: _____</p>
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Ways To Give

Celebrate a Simcha, commemorate a loss, mark a special occasion, or offer a get well.

Strengthen our synagogue by contributing to the General Fund or any of the specific funds indicated below. You can send your check to the Synagogue office specifying the fund you would like to support. A beautiful card will be sent from TBO informing the honorees of the gift you have made in their honor or in memory of a loved one.

Aliyah Fund	Discretionary
General Fund	Discretionary
High Holiday Prayer Book	\$25.00
Lifetime Seat (when available)	\$500.00
Misheberach Fund	Discretionary
Rabbi Discretionary Fund	Discretionary
Sim Shalom Prayer Book	\$36.00

<u>Sisterhood Fund</u> (checks are payable to: Temple Beth Or, Sisterhood)	
Chai Chair Fund	\$18.00
Flower Fund	Discretionary
Golden Book Cards	\$5.00/each
Kiddish Sponsorship	\$450.00 & up
Oneg Sponsorship	\$100.00 & up

Plaques

Memorial Plaques	\$350.00/member	\$450.00/non-member
Memorial Board (includes 2 plaques):	Inquire about cost	
Wall of Life Plaques		
1" x 3"	\$100.00	
2" x 3"	\$300.00	
3" x 3"	\$750.00	
2" x 6"	\$1000.00	

You may send or bring a check to the synagogue office. Tributes cannot be officially acknowledged until payment is received. Please contact the office for information regarding Legacy Gifts and opportunities to make larger contributions.

Temple Beth Or The Vine



WORD SEARCH

TREES

Find and circle all of the types of Trees that are hidden in the grid.
The words may be hidden in any direction.

J	D	V	T	Z	R	Y	R	R	E	H	C	U
Z	B	S	H	U	Y	T	S	L	N	N	E	M
M	G	D	B	C	N	J	P	P	I	M	I	D
Q	R	B	P	M	A	P	L	E	R	C	Q	P
C	E	M	O	C	A	E	R	P	A	U	K	O
R	E	P	P	S	Y	I	P	Y	T	Q	C	X
O	I	D	L	M	F	N	K	C	C	N	M	E
G	G	W	A	L	N	U	T	T	E	I	W	N
P	N	Q	R	R	X	B	H	Y	N	O	H	J
R	A	E	P	P	I	M	C	X	L	M	P	L
L	Y	J	E	L	V	L	R	L	Q	A	N	T
C	H	H	N	U	E	E	I	R	L	U	C	S
G	Q	T	F	M	F	W	B	M	Z	O	A	K

APPLE
BIRCH
CEDAR
CHERRY
ELM
FIR
MAPLE

NECTARINE
OAK
PALM
PEACH
PEAR
PLUM

PINE
POPLAR
RUBBER
SPRUCE
WALNUT
WILLOW