



Tu B'shevat

This beautiful stained glass panel depicts the holiday, customs, and traditions associated with the holiday of Tu B'shvat.

There are a total of twelve panels in our Temple's social hall—each representing holidays that are celebrated throughout the year.

Each panel was donated and dedicated in honor/memory of a loved one

Tu Bi-Shevat







IN LOVING MEMORY OF
**HARRY LEO WEINER
& SHERMAN SAMUELS**

February
2025

Temple Talk

3 Shevat—30 Shevat
5785

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 <i>Bo</i>
2 	3	4	5	6 Adult Education 7:30 pm Zoom	7 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm	8 <i>Beshalach</i>
9	10	11 TBI Board Meeting—Zoom 7:30 pm	12	13  Tu Bishvat	14 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm	15 <i>Yitro</i>
16	17 	18	19	20 Adult Education 7:30 pm Zoom	21	22 Shabbat Service 10:00 am <i>Mishpatim</i>
23	24	25	26	27	28 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm	1 <i>Terumah Shekalim</i>



**Thank you for your February
Chai Fund Donations**



Margie and Al Adelman, in memory of Margie's mother, *Bette Goodman*
Ruth and Scott Apter, in memory of Scott's father, *Nathaniel*; Scott's grandfather, *David Scott*
Mary and Anthony Arnovitz, in memory of Anthony's grandfather, *Max Arnovitz*; Anthony's parents *Erwin and Mary Jane*
Eve and John Cohn, in memory of Eve's grandmother, *Jennie Kalstone Farkas*
JoAnn Dempler, in memory of her father, *David Feinberg*
Elizabeth and Alan Finegold, in memory of Elizabeth's father, *Nathaniel Apter*
Janice Greenwald, in memory of her parents, *David and Dorothy Caplan*; in memory of her friend, *Conni Pressman*
Susan and Mark Johnson, in memory of Susan's uncle, *Merrill Brodsky*
Marsha and Dick Leffel, in memory of Marsha's mother, *Bette Goodman*; Marsha's friend, *Conni Pressman*
Roberta Levy, in memory of her sister, *Marcy Pitts*
Karen Mann, in memory of her husband, *Richard*; father-in-law, *Solomon*
Sondra and Joe Mendlowitz, in memory of Joe's wife, *Phyllis*
Susan Sabin, in memory of her aunt, *Sabina Sabin*; her friend, *Conni Pressman*
Nancy and Gary Tuckfelt, in memory of Gary's mother, *Freda*
Gail and Harvey Wine, in memory of Gail's mother, *Rose Kimmelman*
Judy and Marshall Wolf, in memory of Judy's father, *David Shermer*

Refuah Shlema—רפואה שלמה

*A Prayer of Healing and
Return to Good Health*



Murray Siegel * Sondra Mendlowitz

Please contact the Temple office if you wish to have a named added or removed from our Refuah Shlema list.



**February Birthdays and Anniversaries
will be acknowledged during our Shabbat service
on Friday, February 14**

Birthdays

Esther Newberg, Mark Simon,
Pat Hirsch-Simon,

Anniversaries

Linda & Sanford Ehrenreich



**Temple mourns the passing
of long-time member and
former Board member,
Richard Rubinstein**

**Loving husband of Judith
and father of
Michael, Robert, and Jill**

May his memory be a blessing



**SUPPORTING PEOPLE THROUGH
LIFE'S CHANGES & CHALLENGES**

“ We are grateful to Temple B'nai Israel's extremely generous donation of 55 lbs. of food through the High Holiday Food Drive to the JFCS Squirrel Hill Food Pantry. ...This generosity is a wonderful indication of a community that cares.” **Jordan Golin, Psy.D.**
JFCS President & CEO

The February 2025
Temple Talk
 is sponsored by
Elyse Wander
 in loving memory
 of her father
Harvey Wander

February 2025 Shabbat Services

Friday	February	7	7:30 pm
Friday	February	14	7:30 pm
Saturday	February	22	10:00 am
Friday	February	28	7:30 pm

Please Note: Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services during the upcoming winter months will be on Zoom only. A Saturday morning Shabbat service will be on the third Saturday of each month.

Check the Temple Talk calendar and weekly e-mail messages to confirm dates and times. Service dates and time can also be found online at: www.tbioffice.org



**Shabbat Candle Lighting Times
February 2025**

Friday	February	7	5:27 pm
Friday	February	14	5:36 pm
Friday	February	21	5:44 pm
Friday	February	28	5:52 pm

Executive Committee Message



“*F*or everything, there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” This particular passage in the Bible reminds us of the state of religion both in the Jewish world and the non-Jewish world.

Many synagogues and churches are accepting that it’s time to sell their properties. Across America, 1000 parishes have been closed since the early 2000’s. The same holds true for synagogues. People just aren’t going as much as they used to.

In the late 1940’s, nearly 80% of Americans belonged to a church, synagogue, mosque or temple. Today just 45% say the same and only 32% say that they worship G-d in a house of prayer once a week.

Some former churches and synagogues are being converted for business or residential use. The former B’nai Israel Synagogue in Pittsburgh is a good example. Located at 327 North Negley Avenue, the building where I joined my aunt, uncle and cousins for many events, is now an apartment building. Developers are changing houses of worship into condos. Some of the oldest churches in the world have been turned into bars and nightclubs.

Many of the aging churches have had the same issues that we at TBI are experiencing. These include an aging population with no young people to do the work, and the sad fact that so many members are dying.

For so many of us, our synagogue has been a major part of our lives. We really are a big family, able to count on one another. Different congregations are trying different ways to face these realities. A congregation in New Jersey is closing its doors but is being reborn on Zoom. They are trying to sell their building but happy that it will become a Zoom Jewish community with a reach that is all over the world.

It is a sad moment for us and for so many other small congregations. If it was only a money issue, that could be fixed, but the need is for people, and there are fewer people. While many people do like Zoom, there is something about praying in person with a group of people that you just can’t get on Zoom.

In the past 20 years or so, more than one-third of Conservative synagogues and more than one out of five Reform synagogues closed. While nearly 25 percent of American Jews consider Jewishness important, only one in five Jews attend synagogue monthly. One of the reasons for this is the membership dues, ranging from \$1500 to \$5000 annually.

Why is all of this happening? What spooked all of the Jews away from the synagogue? What happens next? What can reverse the trend?

There are no easy answers to these questions. For us, let’s think about the wonderful memories that we have created over so many years, the friendships we have made and the spiritual awareness that has grown within us. Our legacy is long and distinguished.

Yes, it is a heartbreaking and sad time for so many of us. Based on the declining membership, the lack of young lay leadership and the aging congregation, there was no choice but to close Temple B’nai Israel. We are doing this with our heads high, and plan to celebrate over a full weekend with services, and Oneg, a kiddush lunch, an evening party and more. There will be an informal tour of the former Temple on Shaw Avenue. We will hear from past and current rabbis. There will be an opportunity to bid for items that you may want to purchase. We hope to see you, your family and friends at this meaningful event.

Like Moses, called to learn a new mode of worship, namely the sacrificial system, Jews and all people of faith have been called to find new ways to make G-d present in situations that the Bible could not have imagined. Sacrifice was very limited- in what could be offered, by whom and in what location. Prayer on the other hand can be offered by any person in any place.

May we all continue to find a path of prayer and spirituality in the years beyond our beloved Temple B’nai Israel.

Janice

Rabbi's Message



Is There Really Always Hope?

The year I studied in Israel, there was a scrawny, nondescript tree in our yard. We gave it no thought from when we moved into our apartment in July until late winter. But then, when the chill of winter and the accompanying rains had saturated the air and ground, that all changed. That scrawny tree was transformed, blossoming with the most beautiful, fragrant flowers that unmistakably identify the almond tree. Although small in size and too young to produce fruit, those blooms completely changed how I looked at that tree. The celebration of Tu B'Shevat (the 15th of the Jewish month of Shevat) can seem incongruous here, where January and February are still winter and most of nature is still dormant. But in Israel, with its Mediterranean climate, the rains that begin after Sukkot lead to rebirth in mid to late winter. While there is the halachic significance of the date as when the age of trees is accounted for purposes of tithing and being permitted to use the fruit, the observance does resonate with the idea of rebirth in between the fall harvest and the spring planting.

Consider the book of Ruth. Elimelech and Naomi move to Moab with their sons Mahlon and Chilion to escape a famine in the land of Israel. The sons take Moabite wives (specifically proscribed in the Torah), but then Elimelech and the sons die. Ruth is left with her daughters-in-law Orpah and Naomi. Ruth says to the women:

Return my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I would say, 'I have hope' and have a husband this night, and also have sons; Would you wait until they were grown? Would you refrain from taking husbands? No, my daughters, I am greatly embittered for your sakes that the hand of ADONAI has gone out against me. (Ruth 1:12-13)

Orpah returns to her family, but Ruth stays with Naomi with her famous call, "Entreat me not to abandon you or return from following you, for where you go I shall go, where you lodge I shall lodge, your people shall be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16)

We know the rest of the story. The two women return to the land of Israel, Ruth marries Elimelech's kinsman Boaz and becomes the great-grandmother of King David. In her statement to Orpah and Ruth, Naomi is answering the wrong question. Ruth is not concerned with her mother-in-law providing a new husband for her; rather, she is concerned with nurturing the familial connection that the two women have. She wants to take care of Naomi, recognizing the great suffering she is enduring. Naomi is understandably embittered by the loss of her husband and her two sons, and that affects her outlook on the world. Ruth, while grieving the loss of her husband, is able to focus on her present without allowing the past to affect her ability to move forward.

I choose to follow Ruth's example. It is certainly important to celebrate and grieve when appropriate, and to recognize how those emotional events can impact our lives. We need to learn lessons from our history, both personal and collective, that can productively inform our future conduct. Ultimately, though, the future derives from how we respond to the present, not from what has happened in the past. There is always hope that the kindness and justice we pursue now will lead to a brighter future. We need only take that first step.

Rabbi Howie Stein

To connect with Rabbi Stein you may call or email him directly at:
513-600-5535 | rabbi.howie.stein@gmail.com



Temple B'nai Israel gratefully acknowledges
the following donations



MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Rabbi Howie Stein and Debbie Swartz, *in memory of Rabbi's father, Robert; Debbie's grandfather, Arthur Horshman*

Ruth Lefkowitz and family: Howard, Harriett, and Laura Lefkowitz and Charlene, Ken, Justin, Sherri, John and Noah Sanz, *in memory of their husband, father and grandfather, Stanford*

Susan Israel, *in memory of her mother, Audrey; her grandfather, Nathan; her uncle, Sylvan*

Roberta Levy, *in memory of her mother, Sylvia Pitts; sister Marcy Pitts*

Sue and Richard Linzer, *in memory of Richard's father, Sidney*

Susan and Mark Johnson, *in memory of Susan's grandmother, Irma Brodsky*

Jack and Bridget Wintner, Mort and Lisa Wintner, and Amy Pollack, *in memory of their grandmother and great grandmother, Jennie Silberman,*

Jack and Bridget Wintner, Mort and Lisa Wintner, and Amy Pollack, *in memory of their mother and grandmother, Gladys*

Elyse Wander, *in memory of her father, Harvey; uncle Eli Rudick*

Karen Mann, *in memory of her husband, Richard; father-in-law Solomon*

Judy and Marshall Wolf, *in memory of Judy's father, David Shermer*

Nancy Wintner, *in memory of her mother, Gladys*

Susan and Mark Johnson, *in memory of Susan's uncle, Merrill Brodsky*

In Memory of Richard Rubinstein

Ron Angerman & Family Rosalie & Lou Anstandig

Janice Greenwald Debbie & Alan Iszauk

Dr. Dave Jacobs Marsha & Dick Leffel

Sue and Richard Linzer Steve Mayer

Murial & Stuart Spitz

MUSIC, SIMCHA & GET WELL DONATIONS

Debbie and Alan Iszauk, *wishing a speedy recovery to their aunt, Sondra Mendlowitz*

In Memory of

State Representative
Matt Gergely

"Matt Gergely devoted his life to fighting for children and working families of Allegheny County – especially his beloved hometown of McKeesport."

Yahrzeits from 4 Shevat - 1 Adar 5785: February 2—March 1, 2025

If the name is printed in **Bold**, a Yahrzeit Plaque will be illuminated in the Sanctuary on the date the name is read.

Yahrzeit names observed week of: February 2

Arthur Gerendash : Shevat 4 : 2/2/2025
Ethel Finkelstein : Shevat 4 : 2/2/2025
Joseph Glass : Shevat 4 : 2/2/2025
Minnamay Kaplan : Shevat 4 : 2/2/2025
Morris Escovitz : Shevat 4 : 2/2/2025
Nathan Gelb : Shevat 4 : 2/2/2025
Noah Sunstein : Shevat 4 : 2/2/2025
Richard Mann : Shevat 4 : 2/2/2025
Theodore Feinman : Shevat 4 : 2/2/2025
Carrie Hirshberg : Shevat 5 : 2/3/2025
Dorothy Caplan : Shevat 5 : 2/3/2025
Samuel Gelb : Shevat 5 : 2/3/2025
Bette Goodman : Shevat 6 : 2/4/2025
Eli Rudick : Shevat 6 : 2/4/2025
Phyllis Mendlowitz : Shevat 6 : 2/4/2025
Rose Finkel : Shevat 6 : 2/4/2025
Ruth Halpern Bigman : Shevat 6 : 2/4/2025
Samuel I. Iskowitz : Shevat 6 : 2/4/2025
Sarah Snyder : Shevat 6 : 2/4/2025
Max Arnovitz : Shevat 7 : 2/5/2025
Ralph Kaminsky : Shevat 7 : 2/5/2025
Abraham Kaplan : Shevat 8 : 2/6/2025
Harry Ackerman : Shevat 8 : 2/6/2025
Lucille Goldberg : Shevat 8 : 2/6/2025
Malka Solomon : Shevat 8 : 2/6/2025
Rose Lebowitz Schwartz : Shevat 8 : 2/6/2025
Solomon Mann : Shevat 8 : 2/6/2025
Blema Neuman : Shevat 9 : 2/7/2025
David Caplan : Shevat 9 : 2/7/2025
David S. Shermer : Shevat 9 : 2/7/2025
Sabina Sabin : Shevat 10 : 2/8/2025

Yahrzeit names observed week of: February 9

Bessie Cowan : Shevat 11 : 2/9/2025
Esther Unger : Shevat 11 : 2/9/2025
Joseph B. Feldman : Shevat 11 : 2/9/2025
Marcy Pitts : Shevat 11 : 2/9/2025
Samuel Atran : Shevat 11 : 2/9/2025
Jennie Silberman : Shevat 12 : 2/10/2025
Louis Samuels : Shevat 12 : 2/10/2025
Miril Gisser : Shevat 12 : 2/10/2025
Rose Kimmelman : Shevat 12 : 2/10/2025
Sadye Feldman : Shevat 12 : 2/10/2025
Samuel H. Israel : Shevat 12 : 2/10/2025
Sidney Mendlowitz : Shevat 12 : 2/10/2025
Ben Stern : Shevat 13 : 2/11/2025

Names continued from week of: February 9

Clara Klein : Shevat 13 : 2/11/2025
Faith Golden : Shevat 13 : 2/11/2025
Joseph S. Wingert : Shevat 13 : 2/11/2025
Harvey Wander : Shevat 14 : 2/12/2025
Meyer Keller : Shevat 14 : 2/12/2025
Samuel Lebowitz : Shevat 14 : 2/12/2025
David Bendix : Shevat 15 : 2/13/2025
Florence Siegel : Shevat 15 : 2/13/2025
Freda Tuckfelt : Shevat 15 : 2/13/2025
Lucy Vaxler : Shevat 15 : 2/13/2025
Yetta Samuels : Shevat 15 : 2/13/2025
Nathaniel Apter : Shevat 16 : 2/14/2025
Laura Herskowitz : Shevat 17 : 2/15/2025
Sara Kaufman : Shevat 17 : 2/15/2025

Yahrzeit names observed week of: February 16

Sarah Mervis : Shevat 18 : 2/16/2025
Aaron Lebowitz : Shevat 19 : 2/17/2025
Bruce Benovitz : Shevat 19 : 2/17/2025
Saralee Stein : Shevat 19 : 2/17/2025
Samuel Mendlowitz : Shevat 20 : 2/18/2025
Betty Gerendash : Shevat 21 : 2/19/2025
Charles Sable : Shevat 21 : 2/19/2025
David Feinberg : Shevat 21 : 2/19/2025
Edith Suls : Shevat 21 : 2/19/2025
Louis Lebowitz : Shevat 21 : 2/19/2025
Charles Mendlowitz : Shevat 22 : 2/20/2025
Lotte Schostal : Shevat 22 : 2/20/2025
Merrill Brodsky : Shevat 22 : 2/20/2025
Samuel Simon : Shevat 22 : 2/20/2025
Mary Jane Arnovitz : Shevat 23 : 2/21/2025
Selma Schermer Cohen : Shevat 23 : 2/21/2025
Jennie Kalstone Farkas : Shevat 24 : 2/22/2025
Jerry Neil : Shevat 24 : 2/22/2025
Joseph Krow : Shevat 24 : 2/22/2025
Pearl Izsak : Shevat 24 : 2/22/2025

Yahrzeit names observed week of: February 23

Max Jacobs : Shevat 25 : 2/23/2025
Michael Moses : Shevat 25 : 2/23/2025
Rabbi Joseph Levine : Shevat 25 : 2/23/2025
Bernice Greenfield : Shevat 26 : 2/24/2025
Conni Pressman : Shevat 26 : 2/24/2025
Fannie Nius : Shevat 26 : 2/24/2025
Hannah Lebowitz : Shevat 26 : 2/24/2025
Morse J. Keller : Shevat 26 : 2/24/2025

Continued on page 9

Yahrzeits from 4 Shevat - 1 Adar 5785: February 2—March 1, 2025

- Continued from page 8 -

Rose Schwartz : Shevat 26 : 2/24/2025
Velma Feldman : Shevat 26 : 2/24/2025
Leah Friedman Buckler : Shevat 27 : 2/25/2025
Esther Rubinstein : Shevat 28 : 2/26/2025
Gladys Wintner : Shevat 28 : 2/26/2025
Rose Seigle : Shevat 28 : 2/26/2025
Annabelle Teplitz Newman : Shevat 29 : 2/27/2025
Sara Pearl Weiss : Adar 1 : 3/1/2025

David Scott : Shevat 29 : 2/27/2025
Erwin Arnovitz : Shevat 29 : 2/27/2025
William Rosenzweig : Shevat 29 : 2/27/2025
Alex Serbin : Shevat 30 : 2/28/2025
Rebecca Kline : Adar 1 : 3/1/2025

*May their memories continue to be a blessing
ז"ל*



Celebrating Tu B'Shevat 10 Historic Trees in the Torah

15 Shevat is celebrated as the Jewish New Year for trees. Let's explore 10 wonderful trees (or groves) whose stories are woven into the narrative of the Torah.

1. The Tree of Knowledge: *God* created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, where they were free to enjoy all the produce except for that of the Tree of Knowledge, which they were forbidden to eat lest they “become like *God*” and learn about evil. The serpent convinced Eve to have some of the fruit and share it with Adam. Innocence lost, their eyes were opened to the possibility of sin, and they recognized that they were naked.

2. The Tree of Life: After Adam and Eve gained knowledge of sin, *God* said: “Behold, man has become like one of us, having the ability to know good and evil. And now, lest he stretch forth his hand and take also from the Tree of Life and eat and live forever . . .” *God* expelled Adam and Eve from the garden, and stationed the cherubim and the blade of the revolving sword at its entrance to guard the way to the tree which would apparently have provided Adam and Eve with the everlasting life that they had lost by eating from the Tree of Knowledge.

3. The Post-Flood Olive Tree: Ten generations later, the descendants of Adam and Eve had become so sinful that *God* flooded the world, saving only Noah and his immediate family. Eager to see if the water had receded, Noah sent out a raven, but the bird did not fly far and merely circled the ark. Next, Noah sent out a dove for a total of three missions. The first time the dove left the ark, it returned without any results. The second time it returned with an olive leaf in its beak, indicating that new growth (namely, an olive tree) had begun to sprout. (The third and final time it did not return, having found rest outside the confines of the ark, indicating that the water had receded enough for Noah and his family to leave as well.)

4. The Tree Under Which Abraham Served the Angels: Another 10 generations pass, and we are introduced to Abraham and Sarah, whom *God* selected to be the progenitors of His chosen people. When Abraham and Sarah were 99 and 89 respectively, *God* dispatched three angels (disguised as men) to visit them and inform them that they would be blessed with a son, Isaac. This happened just three days after Abraham had circumcised himself, yet as soon as he saw the men approaching, he ran toward them and offered them hospitality. He gave them water to wash their feet, and then seated them under a tree. For many generations the residents of Hebron kept a tradition regarding the identity of this tree.

Continue on page 10

IMPORTANT UPDATE
Grand Finale Celebration & Reunion Weekend



tbiwhiteoak.org

The excitement is building! By now everyone should have received their invitation to the Temple's Final Weekend Celebration & Reunion.

We are encouraging Temple members—past and present to RSVP as soon as possible. The Planning Committee is working hard to make certain to accommodate as many people as possible, especially for the Saturday Kiddush luncheon at Temple B'nai Israel. The seating capacity in the extend social hall is limited to the first 200 people who make their reservations. Saturday night's dinner at Stratigos Banquet Centre has ample seating for everyone!

Make sure to check the Temple website (use QR code) for additional important information about the Final Weekend.

Ten Trees in the Torah—Celebrating Tu B'Shevat
- continued from page 9 -

5. The Tree Under Which Jacob Buried Shechem's Treasure: Isaac's son, Jacob, was the father of 12 sons and one daughter, Dinah. After Dinah was raped by Shechem the prince, her brothers, Simeon and Levi, exacted revenge against the denizens of the city, who were complicit in her violation. They also helped themselves to the treasures of the city. Jacob commanded his family to remove all idols and their accessories, which he buried under a tree (of a species which bears no fruit) near Shechem. They were then ready to travel to Beth E-l and sacrifice to *God* there.

6. Allon Bachuth: Just a few verses later we read, "Deborah, Rebecca's nurse, died, and she was buried below Beth El, beneath the *allon*; so he named it 'Allon Bachuth.' Now, what is an *allon*? Rashi tells us it is a plain. Others, however, identify it as a tree.

7. The Burning Bush Where G-d Appeared to Moses: Jacob and his family eventually migrated to Egypt, where they were enslaved by Pharaoh, until *God* dispatched Moses to redeem them from their suffering and lead them toward the Holy Land. *God* first appeared to Moses in the form of a bush that was miraculously burning without becoming consumed by the fire.

8. The Tree that Sweetened Marah: Ten days after Moses led the People of Israel out of Egypt, they ran out of water and had only the bitter waters of Marah (which means "bitter") to drink. The people complained to Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" So he cried out to *God*, and *God* instructed him to cast a piece of wood (the branch of an olive tree) into the water, and the water became sweet.

9. The Seventy Palms: From Marah they came to an oasis named Elim, where there were 12 springs of water, one for each tribe, and 70 date palms, corresponding to the 70 elders, each of whom sat under another tree to praise *God*. Ibn Ezra quotes a tradition that there were actually 70 types of trees.

10. Jacob's Cedars : Although not mentioned directly in Scripture, the story of Jacob's cedars is fascinating. Months after they had left Egypt and were deep into their desert wanderings, the Israelites constructed a magnificent traveling temple (the Tabernacle) of heavy beams, held together with gold and silver fittings, and covered with tapestries and skins. Where did they get the wood? The sages say that on his way down to Egypt, Jacob had his sons plant cedar trees, which grew and flourished until they were needed.



Not only was I born in McKeesport, but I lived there for 71 years. My parents, Jack and Thelma, lived on Grover Street. When I was young, we belonged to Gemilas Chesed, as my grandfather was one of the founders. I graduated from McKeesport High School and Penn State University. After graduation, I served in the Navy and afterwards began my career as the owner of R & J Furniture Company.

One day I met Alan Drexler, who was a Temple member for lunch at Tully's Deli. Alan was friends with Bob Hirshberg, who was married to Harriet. Harriet's sister was a second grade teacher at Grandview Elementary School. Her name was Nancy Hertz, and that is how I met the love of my life.

When Nancy and I got married, we joined the Temple. The Rabbi at the time was Rabbi Sidney Goldstein, who was very kind and welcoming. I have such wonderful memories of the Temple. On the eve of Rosh Hashanah, Nancy and I and the kids would run up the steps to the Temple on Shaw Avenue. Walking in, we would be met by a mob of Temple members everywhere. In the vestibule, people would be talking and laughing, the rows of seats filling as well as the balcony. As I recall, we did have assigned seats, but even if we didn't, I think we would all have sat in the same seats! The wonderful Sisterhood hosted delicious dinners and Oneg Shabbats. It still makes me smile to think about how excited everyone would be when Nancy walked into the social hall with a pan of her chocolate brownies with fudge icing.

My children, Michael and Iris, both had their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and Confirmations at Temple. Rabbi Winograd was the Rabbi at the time and Ida Rae Hersh was the Cantor. She had the most beautiful voice. I served on the Cemetery Committee with Norman Rosenberg for many, many years. When Dr. Harry Wechsler was the President, I served on the Temple Board.

In 2003 I retired, and Nancy and I moved to Shadyside. I now live at Providence Point in Mt. Lebanon. Since 2020, I've enjoyed the Temple services over Zoom, as well as Rabbi Schiff's lectures at Providence Point. Seeing him brings back great memories of when he was our Rabbi.

I'm sad that Temple B'nai Israel is closing its doors, but I'm happy that the memories we formed at Temple will live on in each of us.

I've enjoyed thinking back to the good ole days. Thank you for the opportunity to share a few of my memories.

Wishing every Temple member all the best!
Ron Angerman



Temple B'nai Israel
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White Oak, PA. 15131

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**TEMPLE
 B'NAI ISRAEL**

You Are Invited!

Temple B'nai Israel's

Grand Finale Celebration

🎵

Reunion Weekend

April 25-26

2025



1922-2000



2000-2025

TEMPLE TALK

The Bulletin of
Temple B'nai Israel

February 2025

Rabbi Howard Stein
 President: **Dick Leffel**
 Vice President: **Lou Anstandig**
 Secretary: **Lindi Kendal**
 Treasurer: **Steve Klein**
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