

# **B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom & The Neshama Center for Lifelong Learning February 2025 Shevat 5785**



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# First Candle with Fireworks!

Photos courtesy of Larry Rosenberg



## Shabbat Lunch and Learn

### A Crisis of Empathy: Refugees at the Borders

Saturday, February 22nd at 11:30 am

(Immediately following services, which begin at 10:00 am)

BTS has long been part of the "Welcome Refugees Campaign" sponsored by HIAS (the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.) For many years, we proudly displayed the banner "Our People Were Refugees Too" (until vandals took it down.) Now, refugees and immigrants face a frightening new reality in this country. In honor of HIAS Refugee Shabbat, we will explore the moral and ethical challenges surrounding the global refugee crisis, with a focus on the struggles faced by those at our borders. Through the lens of Jewish teachings and values, we will address the growing need for compassion in the face of suffering. This timely discussion invites us to reflect on our collective responsibility, and consider how we might develop a more nuanced approach to immigration, rooted in justice and human dignity. All are welcome!



This event is free to BTS members. The charge for non-members is \$10, payable to the Katten Fund, which helps to make Lunch and Learn events possible. To pay, go to <https://www.btsonline.org/give> or make your check out to B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom, write Katten Fund on the memo line and mail it to B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom, 180 Still Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

Please register in advance by February 20th.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/O9ehHmZ/BTSLunchandLearn0225>

Also, please note that while our services are offered in-person and on Zoom, the Lunch & Learn will be in-person only.





# GOD IS HERE

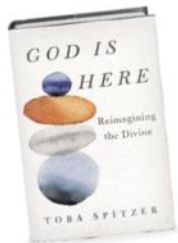
## Exploring Metaphors for the Divine

Thursdays in February and March 2025  
6-7:30pm

Location will vary between  
Beth El Temple and B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom  
(2626 Albany Avenue) (180 Still Rd, Bloomfield)

**Rabbis Debra Cantor and Rachel Zerlin** lead a hands-on exploration of different metaphors for the Divine.

These metaphors are all deeply rooted in Jewish tradition, while broadening the ways we think about, talk about, and relate to God and the idea of the Holy. Inspired by Rabbi Toba Spitzer's book God is Here: Reimagining the Divine, we will use text study, discussion, writing, art, ritual, and more to think about how language and metaphor shape our experiences - and how language and metaphor can either limit or expand how we experience holiness in our lives.



**Series Cost: \$36**

*If the fee is a barrier for you, please reach out to Rabbi Zerlin or Rabbi Cantor for assistance.*

Register at <https://www.bethelwesthartford.org/event/god-is-here-exploring-metaphors-for-the-divine.html>.



## Tangling with Talmud—Now on Tuesdays!

**Tuesday, February 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th at 10:30 am on Zoom**

Our theme this year is “Rereading the Women of the Talmud.” We’ll be exploring Talmudic stories about famous female figures and then re-examining them through a variety of lenses. Our discussions will be inspired and guided by Gila Fine’s amazing new book, *The Madwoman in the Rabbi’s Attic*. Come join us anytime—no experience is needed!

You only need to register once for Tangling With Talmud online. [https://bit.ly/BTS\\_Tangling\\_With\\_Talmud](https://bit.ly/BTS_Tangling_With_Talmud)



## Friends of Yiddish

**Sunday, February 9th at 10:30 am on Zoom**

Friends of Yiddish is an informal, mostly English bilingual drop-in social group which meets to hear a guest speaker or discussion & maybe absorb a Yiddish word or two. For more information, contact Barbara Katzman at 860-666-6751 or [barbaralenore@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaralenore@yahoo.com).

You only need to register once for Friends of Yiddish online. <https://bit.ly/BTS-Friends-of-Yiddish>

## God Is Here

**Thursdays, February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th, March 6th, 20th, and 27th from 6:00-7:30 pm**

Join Rabbis Debra Cantor and Rachel Zerlin for a hands-on exploration of different metaphors for the Divine. These metaphors are all deeply rooted in Jewish tradition, while broadening the ways we think about, talk about, and relate to God and the idea of the Holy. Inspired by Rabbi Toba Spitzer's book "God is Here: Reimagining the Divine," we will use text study, discussion, writing, art, ritual, and more to think about how language and metaphor shape our experiences - and how language and metaphor can either limit or expand how we experience holiness in our lives. Registration for this class series is \$36 and can be found online at <https://www.bethelwesthartford.org/event/god-is-here-exploring-metaphors-for-the-divine.html>. See the top of this page for location information. If the cost is a barrier to enrollment, please reach out to Rabbi Cantor or Rabbi Zerlin.)

## BTS Windsor Cemetery Plot Price Increase

Effective May 1st, the fees for purchasing a plot in Congregation B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom, Inc. cemetery in Windsor, will increase as follows:

Members in good standing at the time a plot is bought:

Currently: \$1,800      New rate as of May 1, 2025: \$2,500

Non Members or members not in good standing:

Currently: \$2,500      New Rate as of May 1, 2025: \$4,500



If you wish to avoid the increases, contact Bob Berman before May 1st to purchase a plot or plots.

Robert Berman, 8 Hiram Lane, Bloomfield, CT 06002    860-930-7544    Pberman2@gmail.com

## Phyllis Hoffman Hartford Jewish Film Festival

To learn more about the films, see trailers and buy tickets, go to:

<https://www.mandelljcc.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=Film%20Festival&category=ArtCulture>

All these films will be shown at the Mandell JCC.

Saturday, Feb. 8th  
7:30 pm

Sunday, Feb. 9th  
1:00 pm

Sunday, Feb. 9th  
3:00 pm

Sunday, Feb. 16th  
1:00 pm

Sunday, Feb. 16th  
3:00 pm

Thursday, Feb. 27th  
7:00 pm



## Weeknight Minyan

**Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm on Zoom**

Join us for a brief service to *daven* and say *Kaddish*. Register for Weekly Minyan online. [https://bit.ly/BTS\\_WednesdayMinyan](https://bit.ly/BTS_WednesdayMinyan)

## Welcome Shabbat

**Fridays at 7:00 pm at BTS**

Join us as we make the transition from the work week into Shabbat. We'll sing some Shabbat melodies, share words of Torah, recite a prayer for healing and Mourner's *Kaddish*, and then make *kiddush*. Register for Welcome Shabbat Services online.

[https://bit.ly/BTS\\_Welcome\\_Shabbat](https://bit.ly/BTS_Welcome_Shabbat)

## Shabbat Morning Services and Deep Dive

**Saturdays at 10:00 am at BTS**

We'll celebrate Shabbat with services, Torah reading and a deep dive into the text. Register for Shabbat Morning Services online.

[https://bit.ly/BTS\\_ShabbatDeepDive](https://bit.ly/BTS_ShabbatDeepDive)



The cover photo of conifers in the snow, along with the photo on page 11 of bare trees, are courtesy of Shari J. Cantor.



**Sisterhood 'Out to Lunch' at the Rocklege Grill on January 13th**

Top Photo: (l to r) Bonnie Eisenberg, Shirley Gerrol, and Karen Freilich.

Bottom Photo: (l to r) Karen Freilich, Janna Gross and Dale Osborn. Not Shown: Shari J. Cantor and Barbara Katzman.

## Sisterhood Book Discussion

### **When We Flew Away: A Novel of Anne Frank Before The Diary** by Alice Hoffman

**Sunday, March 23rd at 3:00 pm on Zoom**

With the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, the Frank family's life is turned inside out, blow by blow, and by restriction. prejudice, loss, and terror run rampant, and Anne is forced to bear witness as ordinary people become monsters, and children and families are caught up in the inescapable tide of violence.

In the midst of impossible danger, Anne, audacious and creative and fearless, discovers who she truly is. With a wisdom far beyond her years, she will become a writer who will go on to change the world as we know it.

Critically acclaimed author Alice Hoffman weaves a lyrical and heart-wrenching story of the way the world closes in on the Frank family from the moment the Nazis invade the Netherlands until they are forced into hiding, bringing Anne to bold, vivid life. Based on extensive research and published in cooperation with the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, *When We Flew Away* is an extraordinary and moving tour de force.

Join Shari J. Cantor to discuss this "spellbinding portrait of what it means to be human in an inhuman world."

You only need to register once for Sisterhood book discussions online. [https://bit.ly/BTS\\_Sisterhood\\_Book\\_Group](https://bit.ly/BTS_Sisterhood_Book_Group)

#### **Also scheduled for 2025:**

*Rashi's Daughters Book 1: Joheved* by Maggie Anton

*Deadly Scrolls: The Jerusalem Mysteries, Book One* by Ellen Frankel

*Becoming Janet: Finding Myself in the Holocaust* by Janet Singer Applefield

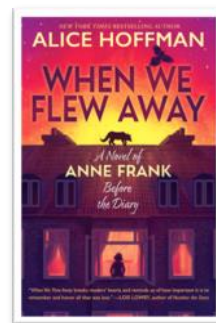
*By Fire, By Water: A Novel* by Mitchell James Kaplan

May 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm

July 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm



## Special Congregational Meeting for Members in Good Standing

A congregational meeting will take place at BTS on Sunday, February 16th, at 10:00 am, to discuss and vote on a motion concerning an offer to purchase the synagogue. Members in good standing can attend in person or on Zoom. Each adult member in good standing will have a separate vote.

More information and a Zoom link will be forthcoming.  
Watch both your mail and your email.



## Donations as of January 15th

### GENERAL FUND

Marian Adler, in honor of the yahrzeit of Clara Adler  
Marian Adler, in honor of the yahrzeit of Daniel Adler  
Marian Adler, in honor of the yahrzeit of Abraham C. Sadick  
Bob & Phyllis Berman, for the Hanukkah program  
Judith Hauth, in honor of the yahrzeit of Harry M. Krantzman  
Janis Homar, in memory of Ruth Brainin  
Jacqueline Isaacson  
Allan & Sherry Lehrer  
Sheldon & Rona Rothbart, to thank BTS for all it's done  
David & Hilary Silver, in appreciation for the BTS Hanukkah event  
John & Andrea Tannenbaum  
Dan & Nancy Weissmann

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Gerald & Lenore Kerachsky, to thank Rabbi Cantor for all she does

### KIDDUSH FUND

Dale Osborn, in memory of Ruth Brainin

### MEIER AND RAHEL KATTEN MEMORIAL FUND

Bob & Phyllis Berman, to help fund Lunch & Learn program

## Refu'ah Sheleymah to:

Bob Berman, Bob Gerrol, Lynn Kaplan-Goldberg, Judith Goldsmith, Leon Goldsmith, Barbara Katzman, Ethel Kramer, Marsha Lowry, Greg Matthaey, Esther Multer, Rabbi Marshal Press, Elayne Ringler, Marty Shinder, Marion Warner

## Condolences to:

Ursula Marx, on the death of her brother-in-law, BTS member,  
Dr. Herbert Felsenfeld, on January 19th,

## Good News

Got good news to share? We want to hear it. To share good news with your at BTS, contact Rabbi Debra Cantor at [cantordebra@gmail.com](mailto:cantordebra@gmail.com) or 860-463-0986 or Dale Osborn at [daleoz@att.net](mailto:daleoz@att.net) or 860-508-7261.



# Caring Conversations

## About End of Life

### Lunch & Learn Discussion

February 10, 12:30pm-1:45pm | The Emanuel Synagogue

Co-sponsored by Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Community Foundation

Join **Rabbi Melanie Levav, Executive Director of Shomer Collective**, to explore the value that end-of-life planning can bring to you and your loved ones. Through a person-centered approach, Melanie will:

- Help individuals and families identify and express their values, goals, and wishes around healthcare decision-making
- Explore these issues in light of Jewish wisdom and practice
- Answer your pressing questions

The program is free and open to the public and will include lunch and educational materials. Shomer Collective is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving end-of-life experiences for individuals and their families — inspired by Jewish wisdom, values, and practices.



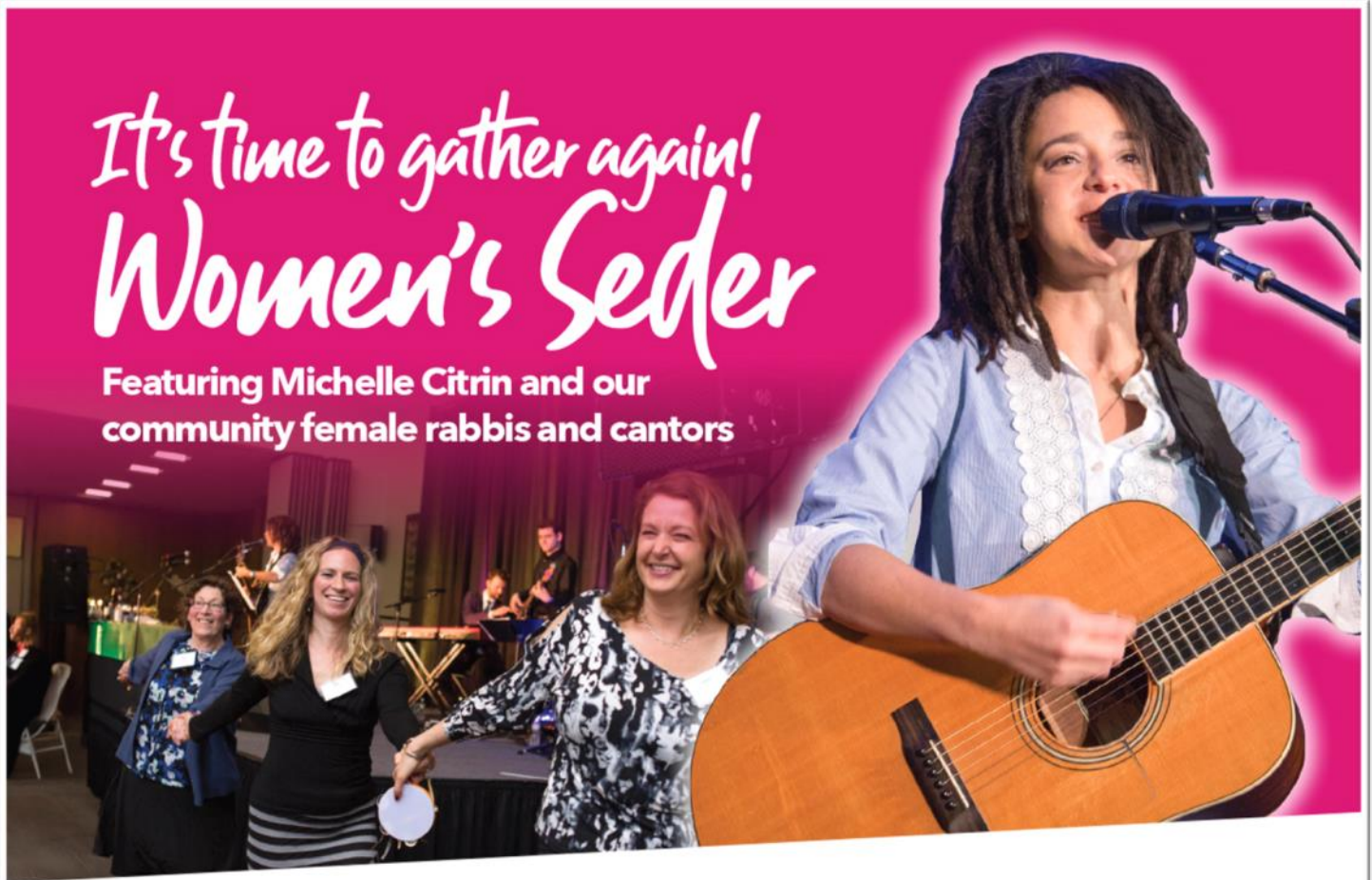
#### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Rabbi Melanie Levav, BCC, LMSW:** Melanie is a second career rabbi who pivoted her career to focus on end-of-life care and conversations, bringing more than two decades of non-profit management, social work, Jewish education, and fundraising experience to her work. Earlier in her career, Melanie founded a center for end of life care serving the Russian-speaking emigre community, focused on advance care planning for Holocaust survivors and their adult children.



# It's time to gather again! Women's Seder

Featuring Michelle Citrin and our  
community female rabbis and cantors



**Thursday, March 27, 2025 | 6:00pm**

The Emanuel Synagogue | 160 Mohegan Dr, West Hartford

\$72/person, \$36 Bat Mitzvah through college  
\$180 Patron

\$1800 Miriam Sponsor (table of 10)

**Sponsorships and Donations:**

Elana MacGilpin, 860-231-6317, emacgilpin@mandelljcc.org  
David Jacobs, 860-231-6313, djacobs@mandelljcc.org

**Tickets & Questions:**

Leslie Sax, 860-231-6455, lsax@mandelljcc.org

[www.mandelljcc.org/tix](http://www.mandelljcc.org/tix)

Celebrate Passover together in a meaningful and empowering atmosphere.

- Singing, dancing and storytelling
- Festive Passover rituals
- Take-aways to enhance your own Seders
- Fun with friends, sisters, mothers and grandmothers

Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect and uplift our community!



# February 2025

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						<b>1 3 Shevat</b> Bo 10:00 Shabbat Morning Services & Deep Dive
<b>2 4 Shevat</b>	<b>3 5 Shevat</b>	<b>4 6 Shevat</b> 10:30 Tangling With Talmud on Zoom	<b>5 7 Shevat</b> 7:00 Minyan on Zoom	<b>6 8 Shevat</b> 6:00 God Is Here	<b>7 9 Shevat</b> 4:56 Candle Lighting 7:00 Welcome Shabbat	<b>8 10 Shevat</b> Shirah 10:00 Shabbat Morning Services & Deep Dive 7:30 “Bad Shabbes” Mandell JCC
<b>9 11 Shevat</b> 10:30 Friends of Yiddish on Zoom 1:00 “Children of Peace” 3:00 “Technion 10 <sup>2</sup> Mandell JCC	<b>10 12 Shevat</b> 12:30 Caring Conversations About the End of Life Lunch & Learn Emanuel Synagogue 6:00 BTS Board Meeting on Zoom	<b>11 13 Shevat</b> 10:30 Tangling With Talmud on Zoom	<b>12 14 Shevat</b> 7:00 Minyan on Zoom	<b>13 15 Shevat</b> <b>Tu B’Shevat</b> 6:00 God Is Here	<b>14 16 Shevat</b> 5:05 Candle Lighting 7:00 Welcome Shabbat/ Birthday Shabbat 	<b>15 17 Shevat</b> Yitro 10:00 Shabbat Morning Services & Deep Dive
<b>16 18 Shevat</b> 10:00 Congregational Meeting 1:00 “Wanted” 3:00 “The Monkey House” Mandell JCC	<b>17 29 Shevat</b>	<b>18 20 Shevat</b> 10:30 Tangling With Talmud on Zoom	<b>19 21 Shevat</b> 7:00 Minyan on Zoom	<b>20 22 Shevat</b> 6:00 God Is Here	<b>21 23 Shevat</b> 5:13 Candle Lighting 7:00 Welcome Shabbat	<b>22 24 Shevat</b> Mishpatim 10:00 Shabbat Morning Services 11:30 Lunch & Learn—A Crisis of Empathy: Refugees At the Border
<b>23 25 Shevat</b>	<b>24 26 Shevat</b>	<b>25 27 Shevat</b> 10:30 Tangling With Talmud on Zoom	<b>26 28 Shevat</b> 7:00 Minyan on Zoom	<b>27 29 Shevat</b> 6:00 God Is Here 7:00 “All About The Levkoviches” Mandell JCC	<b>28 30 Shevat</b> <b>Rosh Chodesh Adar</b> 5:22 Candle Lighting 7:00 Welcome Shabbat	




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# B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom Donation Form

(Revised 11/1/2020)

Donation From: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Donation For: \_\_\_\_\_

Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum Donation for General Fund or Specific Fund is \$10 each or for other—see listed below:

If applicable, acknowledge to: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check other donation you wish to order and attach with specific instructions for:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chumash, Machzor Bookplate \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Bookplate \$25       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Plaque \$300           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanctuary Seat Plaque \$350 |

Foyer Tree of Life:  Gold \$360  Silver \$250  Bronze \$125  Stone \$1,500 Hallway Tree of Life:  Gold \$125

Provide additional information if necessary: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sol Ackerman Fund

To provide support for the Kiddush/Ritual Fund

## Beautification Fund

To further enhance the beauty of the synagogue

## Justin Bernheimer Award

For a Congregational Service Award

## Cantor Wilfred Birnbaum Fund for Religious Enhancement

## Building Fund

To offset the costs of operating the building

## Education Fund

To fund Lifelong Learning

## General Fund

To support the operation of the synagogue

## Bob Guggenheim Memorial Fund

To support the operation of the synagogue

## Meier and Rahel Katten Memorial Fund

To support Lunch and Learn programs

## Kiddush/Ritual Fund

To provide food for Shabbat and Holidays

## Mandell Israel Program Fund

To subsidize teen trips to Israel

## Phyllis Margolin Memorial Music Education

To fund music programs

## Neshama Center For Lifelong Learning Fund

To support the Neshama Center for Lifelong Learning

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

To be used at the Rabbi's discretion

## Alyssa Suzanne Roy Memorial Fund

To provide gifts to *bar* and *bat mitzvah* students

## Ilse & Manfred Stein Memorial Fund

## Malcolm M. Snyder Memorial Fund

To support the operation of the synagogue

## Torah Fund

To maintain integrity of the Torahs

## Youth Fund

To subsidize attendance at youth events

### Rabbi Debra Cantor

[cantordebra@gmail.com](mailto:cantordebra@gmail.com) 860-463-0986

Co-Presidents: Dale Osborn and Barry Goldberg

[daleoz@att.net](mailto:daleoz@att.net) 860-508-7621

[barrygoldberg@msn.com](mailto:barrygoldberg@msn.com) 860-930-5472

Office/Business Manager: Maria daCunha

[mdacunha@btsonline.org](mailto:mdacunha@btsonline.org) 860-243-3576

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[office@btsonline.org](mailto:office@btsonline.org) [www.btsonline.org](http://www.btsonline.org)

Bulletin Editor: Shari J. Cantor

### RABBI'S OFFICE HOURS:

The rabbi is happy to communicate with you via email, text and telephone or in person. Feel free to contact her.

### OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Mail and items placed in the drop box will be picked up.