

# **2021 VIRTUAL SPRING BENEFIT** Be a Part of Something Special







### A MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI

Our Virtual Spring Benefit took place between Passover and Shavuot. In addition to Counting the Omer, reciting a blessing for each of 49 evenings between the two holidays, the other custom of this season is to study Pirkei Avot, Ethics of the Fathers.



One of the teachings in Ethics of the Fathers is known to us in a popular Hebrew song: "Lo Alecha HaMelacha Ligmor." "You are not obliged to finish the task, but neither are you free to ignore or desist from the task." (2:21)

In a synagogue with a historic tradition of strong lay leadership, we have many outstanding volunteers. Sometimes our volunteers have the opportunity to envision a new program or goal and see it through. At other times, our leaders plant seeds and ideas that will continue to flourish under the next generation of leaders.

We are fortunate to have honored five individuals and families that understand this message of The Ethics of the Fathers. We may not always be able to complete a task, but we have an obligation to initiate new ideas and programs. Our honorees represent the best example of fulfilling many tasks in the life of the synagogue: administrative, ritual, community service, and executive leadership.

Joe Bloomfield and Phil Stein received our Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of their day-today service to our congregation in a variety of roles.

Jessica Suckerman represents a new generation of synagogue leadership that seeks to provide for the spiritual, educational, and cultural needs of our younger families.

Bruce Solomon was honored for serving as a President of TBEMC and devoting countless hours to fulfilling the diverse needs of our members.

And Linda Ershow-Levenberg and David Levenberg represent TBEMC's commitment to community responsibility and *tikkun olam*, bringing our congregation and its members closer to the fulfillment of our tradition's deep commands for justice, *tzedakah*, and community service.

Mazal Tov! Thanks to our honorees and our synagogue membership, we will end this challenging and difficult COVID-19 year with a very successful fundraising effort that will serve as an example of our resilience and sustainability.

My deepest thanks to our President Mark Kaplan, event co-chairs John Harris and Shari Kopla, our Communications Team lead by Andrew Feldman and Becca Reissman, our Administrator, Susan King, Devorah Wolf and Debbie Kaplan for designing the ad journal, Mindy Kipness for managing our finances and donations, and our Development Advisor and Consultant, Melissa Kerbel.

It is my hope that this event will be the beginning of a new era in our congregation bringing us to new levels of engagement and participation in our beloved synagogue.

Rabbi Paul David Kerbel

### FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We are a unique community – a community of volunteers. We are fortunate to have Rabbi Kerbel as our spiritual leader and Susan King as our Temple administrator, but our army of volunteers is the driving force behind so much that we do.



It is hard to imagine singling out an individual (or a few individuals) when our volunteers respond as a unit.

When TBEMC celebrated its 99th anniversary, Allen Barkin and I co-chaired the celebration. We decided to celebrate "99 Years of Volunteers" to emphasize that all of us, as volunteers, deserve to be honored. It was then that I first realized how daunting a task it is to recognize only a few as honorees. The same is true today.

However, I cannot think of a better group of honorees for our 2021 Virtual Spring Benefit than the individuals we recently honored. They are not only dedicated to our community, but also represent our diversity – diversity of how our members serve, and diversity in TBEMC's meaning to them. Whether it is working behind the

scenes to maintain ritual observance, keeping our office administration running, starting a social program for young families and organizing fundraisers, taking on the responsibility of being our president, or giving service not just to TBEMC but to the greater Jewish community, our honorees have all demonstrated leadership and passion, and have helped us go from strength to strength. I would like to express my deepest thanks to our honorees, who represent the best of TBEMC.

The Benefit was also about sustaining our Temple community so that we can serve our membership. To that end, I am grateful for everyone's generosity in making this event a success, and raising funds that are critical for us to be able to sustain ourselves. A special thanks goes to our Host Committee and to our Sponsors.

Last but not least, the Benefit was made possible by a small army of volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure its success. Thank you to event co-chairs John Harris and Shari Kopla. Thank you to Becca Reissman, Andrew Feldman, Debbie Kaplan, Devorah Wolf, Mindy Kipness, Susan King, and Rabbi Kerbel. A very special thanks to Melissa Kerbel for her vast experience as a Development professional, working behind the scenes to keep all of us organized and on track.

L'Shalom, Mark Kaplan, President

### TBEMC 2021 VIRTUAL SPRING GALA LEADERSHIP TEAM

Event Co-Chairs John Harris and Shari Kopla

### HOST COMMITTEE

Julie and Allen Barkin Laura and Aaron Cohen Lauren and Andrew Feldman Joanie Finkelstein Abbie and Howard Halperin Debbie and Mark Kaplan Linda and Jonas Leifer Jessica and Chris Mallo Becca and Adam Reissman Gail and David Salomon Nancy Lubarsky and Donald Shapiro Sandra and David Springer

### PLANNING

Andrew Feldman, Website and Social Media John Harris, Co-Chair Debbie Kaplan, Ad Journal Mark Kaplan Melissa Kerbel, Development Advisor and Consultant Rabbi Paul Kerbel Susan King, Office Administrator Mindy Kipness, Finance and Donations Shari Kopla, Co-Chair Becca Reissman, Marketing and Communications Devorah Wolf, Ad Journal

### 2020-2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Mark Kaplan Ist Vice President: Tammy Merman 2nd Vice President: Phyllis Kandl 3rd Vice President: John Harris Secretary: Becca Reissman Treasurer: Mindy Kipness Financial Secretary: Alan Schwartz Immediate Past President: Jackie Baranoff

**2020-2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES** \*Elliot Ballen, Marc Bromberg, Ken Davidson, Heidi Farber, Andrew Feldman, Joanie Finkelstein, Shira Goldberg, \*Abbie Halperin, Jessica Handsman, \*\*Lance Kandl, Shari Kopla, Marty Metzger, \*Harold Oslick (z''l), Larry Posner, \*\*Gail Salomon, \*\*Craig Schwartz, Martin Schwartz, \*Bruce Solomon, \*\*Sidney Solomon, \*David Springer, \*\*Sandy Springer, Sharon Taub.

\*Past President \*\*Men's Club/Sisterhood Co-Presidents We congratulate all of TBEMC's 2021 Spring Gala honorees.

PILLAR

You are all well deserving of this honor because:

You serve as role models for our Temple family! You each lead by example! You make a difference every day! You care about the shul! You are our friends!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! You mean everything to the future of our community! Mazel Tov

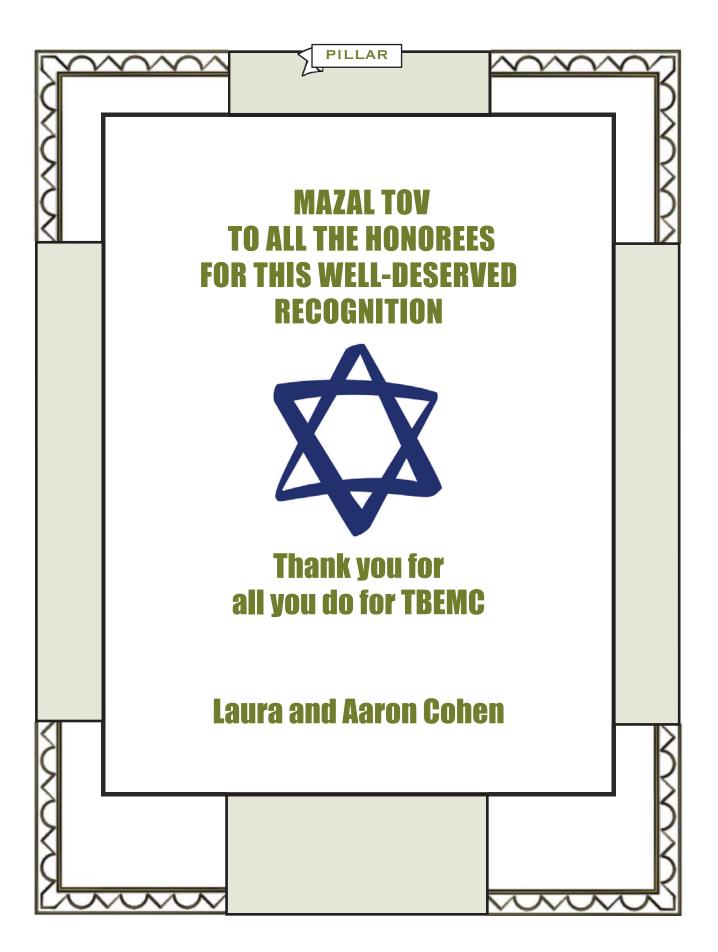
Sandy and David Springer

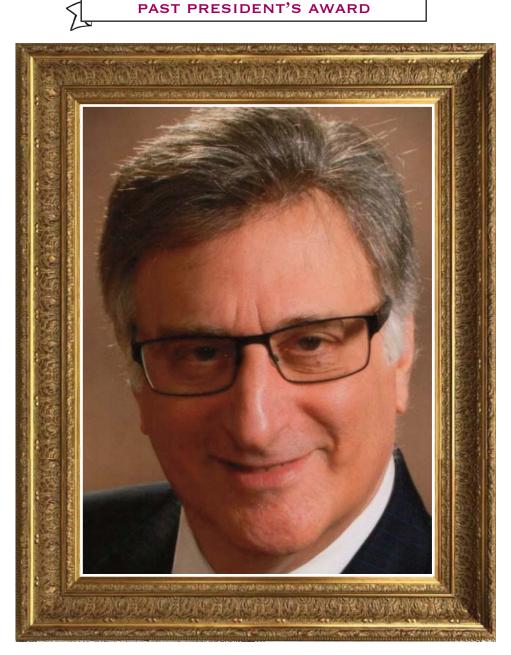


### LINDA ERSHOW-LEVENBERG AND DAVID LEVENBERG

Linda Ershow-Levenberg and David Levenberg are natives of New Jersey and have been members of TBEMC for 35 years. Both Linda and David have served the synagogue and the community as volunteers in various capacities. In 2008 Linda and David were recognized by Jewish Family Service of Central NJ with the Ruth Bilenker Award for Community Service; and in 2013 they were recognized by the YM-YWHA of Union County with the Community Leadership award.

Linda is an accomplished and well-recognized Elder Law Attorney at Fink Rosner Ershow-Levenberg, LLC in Clark. David is retired from a career as an internationally recognized expert in Anti-Money Laundering.





### BRUCE SOLOMON

Bruce Solomon is a Jersey boy, born and raised in Jersey City. He has worked as an all-night disc jockey, co-authored 7 books, and worked as the General Counsel of the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Moving to Cranford in 1986 with his bride, Rhondi, they joined TBEMC, sent their children to the TBEMC Nursery School, and became very active in Temple life. Bruce has been a volunteer extraordinaire at TBEMC, becoming Temple President in 2005. He is known for his wit and puns, coining the slogan "Warm Place, Cool Shul". Through more than a quarter century of laughter and tears, triumphs and losses, Bruce and Rhondi appreciate more than ever that the members of the Temple are more than their friends, they are their family, and that TBEMC is far more than bricks and mortar, it is our community and their second home.

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### JESSICA SUCKERMAN

Jessica Suckerman lives in Cranford with her husband, Dan, children, Eli (9) and Ruby (4 1/2), and dogs, Sophy and Maisy. She led our successful Bagels and Babies program for two years, and she co-chaired Trivia Night 2020 — our top fundraiser of the year. Jessica is currently the chairperson of our membership committee, which has needed a complete reimagining in a primarily-remote environment over the past year. She has served and continues to serve on various other ad hoc committees at TBEMC.

Congratulations TO ALL OF THE

PATRON

.0

# HONOREES.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS TBEMC AND OUR COMMUNITY.

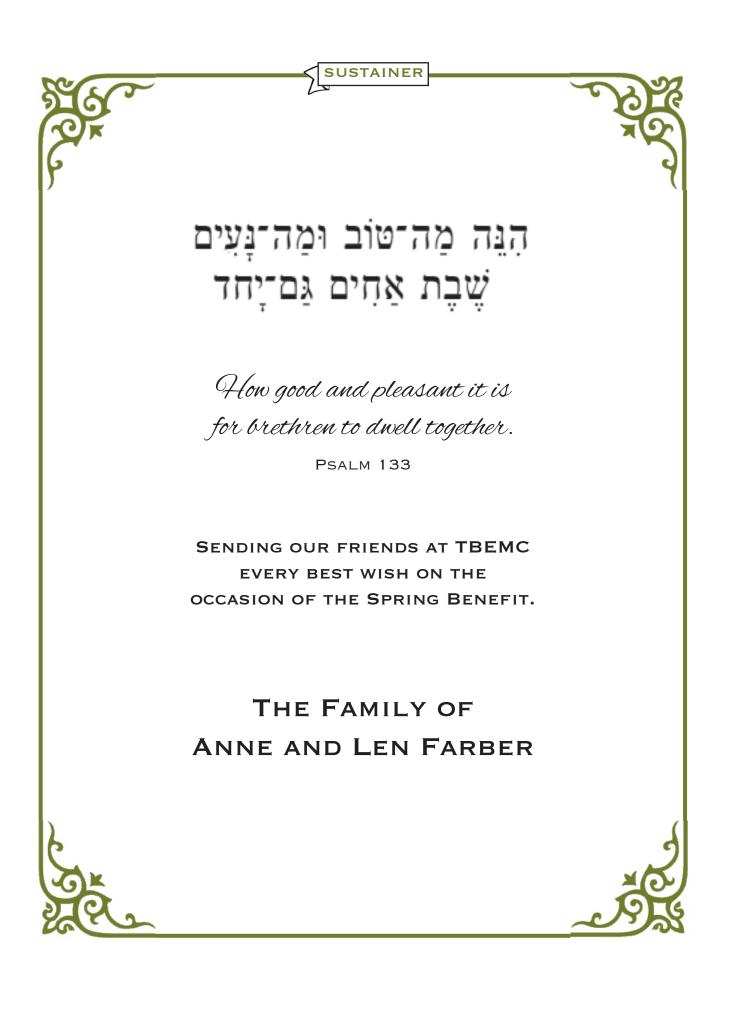
LINDA AND DAVID

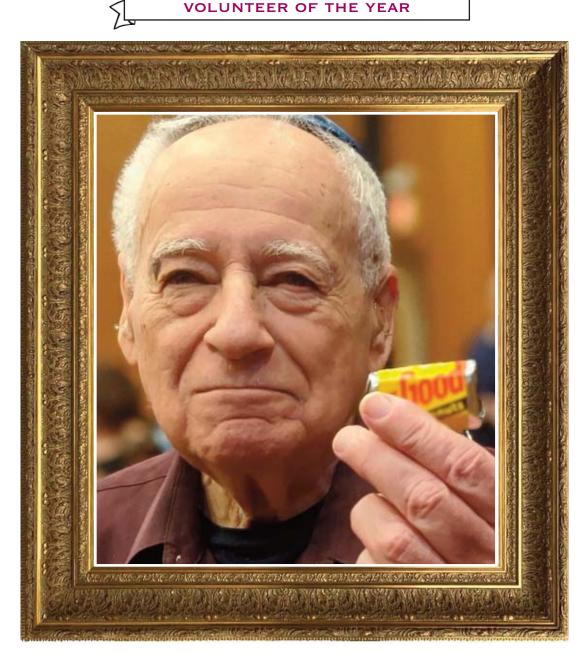
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### PHIL STEIN

Phil Stein has been a member of TBEMC for almost 40 years. He is TBEMC's "Ritual volunteer" extraordinaire, tending to our Torahs with loving care. He also ensures the Siddurim are ready for Shabbat and holidays. After 34 years of working for the IRS, Phil retired and decided to devote his time to TBEMC. "The people at TBEMC are warm, and they open up their hearts to you and make you feel like you're important. I get a lot of satisfaction from taking care of the Yahrzeit lights Friday morning as well. I like doing my thing for the temple."





### JOE BLOOMFIELD

Joe Bloomfield, Volunteer of the Year, also known as "Mr. Goodbar" and "Temple bartender," has been a TBEMC member and volunteer for almost 30 years. Joe enjoys coming to minyan and Shabbat morning services. He handles all commemorative plaques for the temple and takes great pride in knowing everyone personally. In his free time, Joe loves to play the guitar and harmonica. He is often heard playing his guitar or serenading the office with his harmonica. "I enjoy coming into the office and the people here. They are all characters. I like working with the Rabbi, Susan, and Phil. If it were not for Covid-19 and my arthritic knees, I'd be out playing golf!" Joe devoted his 34-year career to the railroad.

# HOW GOOD AND PLEASANT IT IS WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE LIVE TOGETHER IN UNITY!

STAINER

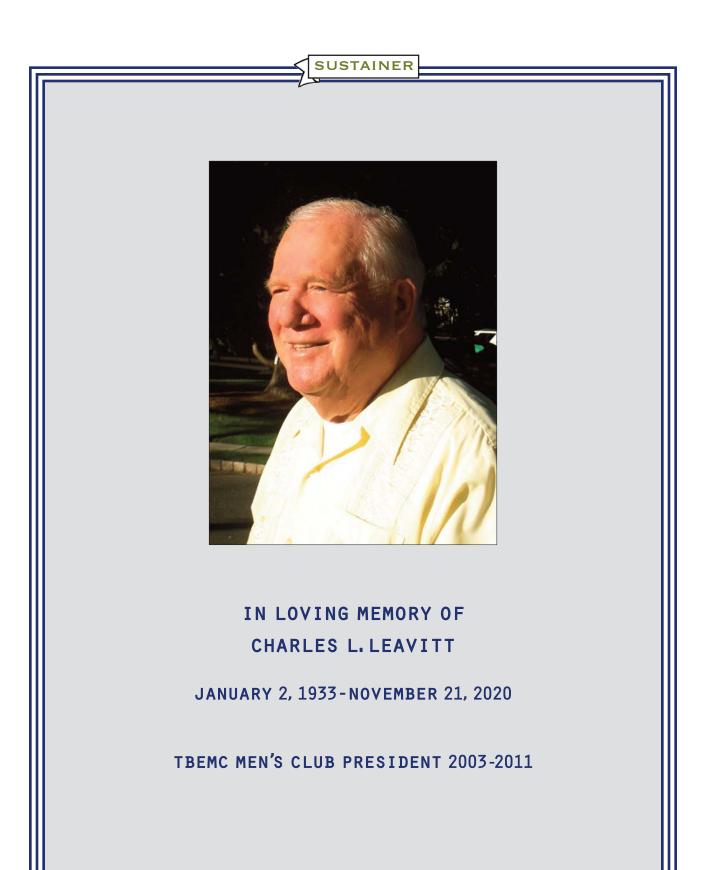
Psalm 133:1

AND HOW FORTUNATE WE ARE TO HAVE SUCH A WARM AND CARING TBEMC COMMUNITY:

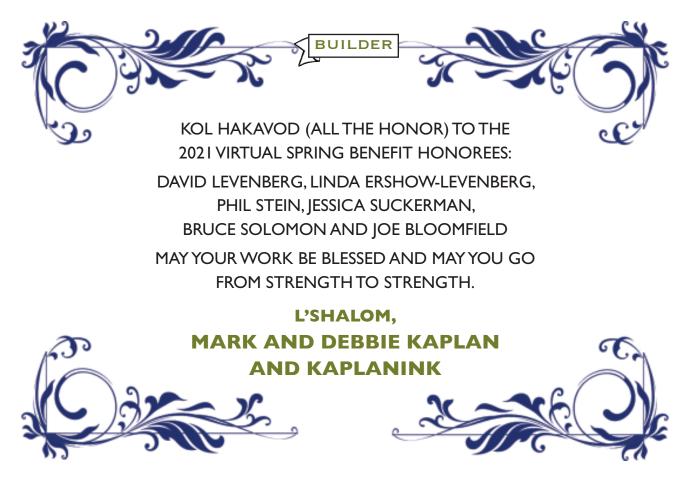
> AN INSPIRING RABBI DEVOTED LEADERSHIP CARING MEMBERS

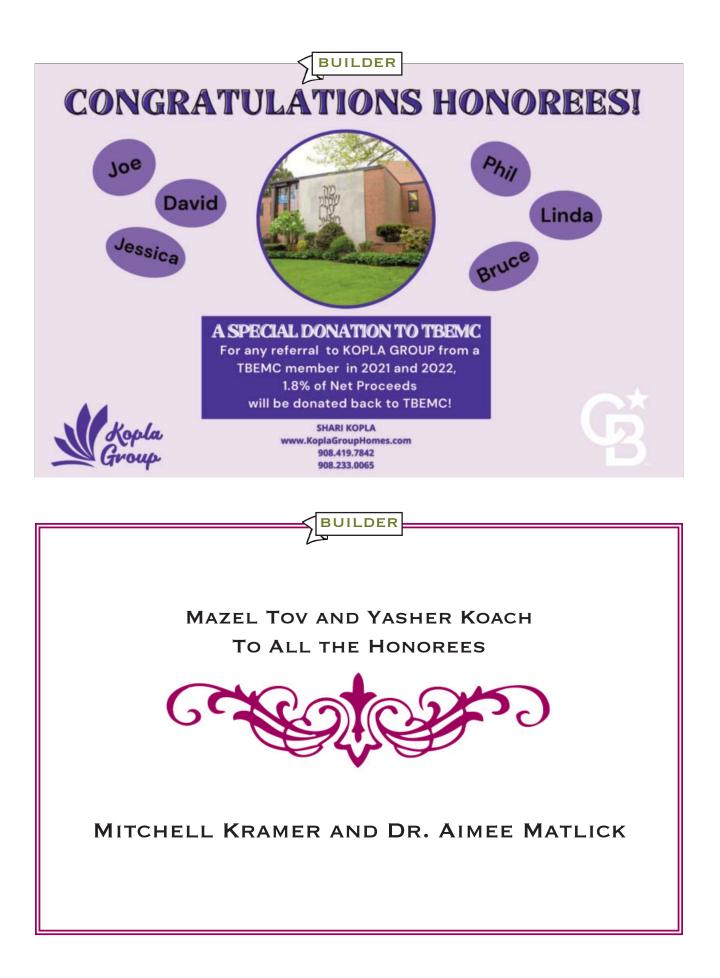
# BEST WISHES TO ALL ALICE GOLDFARB

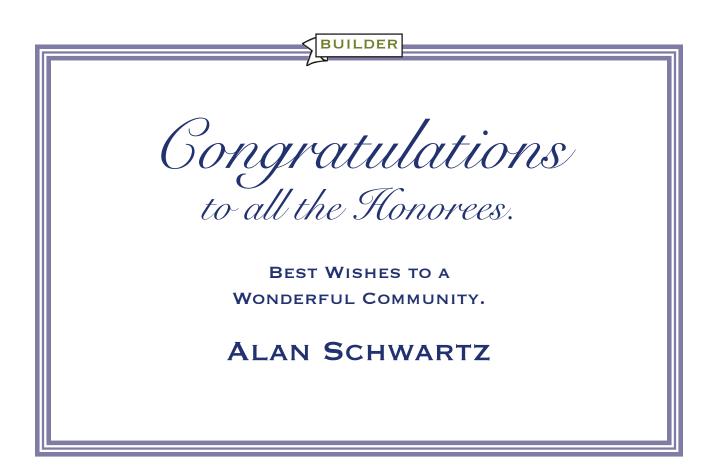






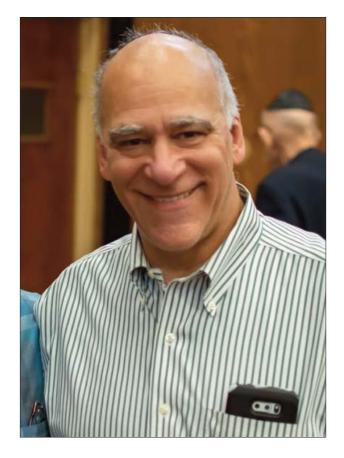






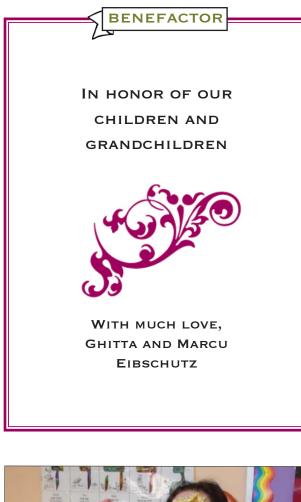










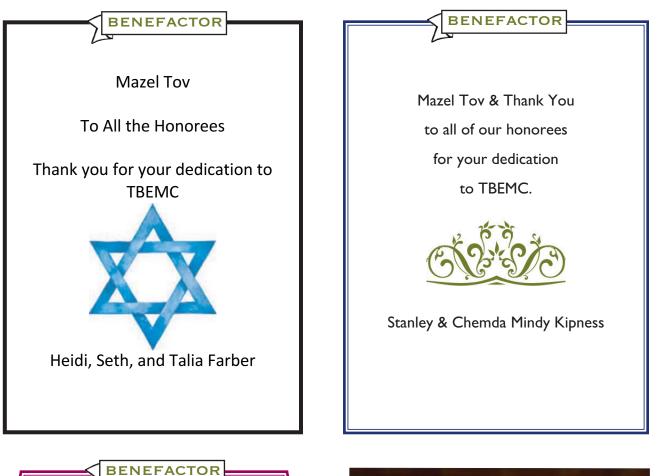












### WISHING MAZAL TOV TO THE HONOREES

We are grateful for all that you do for TBEMC

Heart-felt thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard to make the 2021 Benefit a resounding success!

With deep gratitude, Melissa and Rabbi Paul D. Kerbel











Jamie Oshidar, DMD 908-245-1745

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### Linda and David:

The Chavurah is so proud of you and the good work you do.

BENEFACTOR

The Chavurah: The Barkins, The Grubers, The Lubarsky/Shapiros, The Margolins, The Rosenberg/Hechts

> Yasher Koach to all of the honorees!

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS AND ADVERTISERS

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### MAZEL TOV TO ALL THE HONOREES!

JOE BLOOMFIELD PHIL STEIN JESSICA SUCKERMAN BRUCE SOLOMON LINDA ERSHOW-LEVENBERG DAVID LEVENBERG

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# **Mazal Tov**

### to Linda Ershow-Levenberg and David Levenberg

on their well deserved honor for all that they do for the entire community

The Officers and Staff of Jewish Family Services of Central New Jersey

### Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ

joins

### Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim

in celebrating your Spring Benefit and in congratulating the distinguished honorees.

Mazel tov to you all and toda rabah for your support of TBEMC and the future of our Jewish community.

May you all continue to go from strength to strength.



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### GUARDIAN

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORT OUR CONGREGATION.

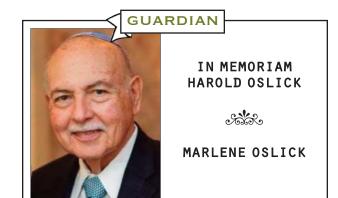
JUDY AND GARY DANIEL

### 

To Our Temple Honorees with our appreciation for jobs well done and for your unlimited devotion to our Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim

-Linda and Jonas Leifer



















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Mazel Tov to all the honorees. JACKIE AND JERRY BARANOFF

Mazel Tov! JUDY BEINSTEIN

In loving memory of Reggi & Mel Bleemer. NANCY AND RUSS BLEEMER

Mazel Tov to all the honorees !! Thank you for all the years of support and dedication to the community. **DELI KING CLARK** 

May all the honorees continue to go from strength to strength. SUSAN AND JOHN HARRIS

Mazel tov to all the honorees on their well deserved recognition! JESSICA HOFF

Mazel Tov Linda and David. TOBI AND CLYDE KAPLAN

Yasher koach to all of the honorees! ROBERTA AND FRED KESSLER

We are very fortunate to have these five honorees in our congregation because of their commitment, dedication, service and the many contributions they have made to our TBEMC family over the years. JUDY AND DAVID KUPFERBERG

We salute you on this well deserved honor. Mazel Tov! CAROL & LES

Mazel Tov To The Honorees. TOVAH NAVAH

Mazal Tov to all of the honorees! INGA AND MISHA REIBARKH

Mazel Tov to all the honorees. GAIL AND DAVID SALOMON

In Appreciation of Jessica Suckerman. THE SEGAL FAMILY AND DESHE LANDSCAPING

Mazal Tov to the honorees: Linda and David Ershow Levenberg, Joe Bloomfield, Phil Stein, Jessica Suckerman, and Bruce Solomon. NANCY LUBARSKY AND DONALD SHAPIRO

### Mazel Tov. LOIS RABBINO WALDMAN

Congratulations to all the honorees. May TBEMC continue to go from strength to strength. **SHONA AND BERNIE** 







### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

\*as of April 28, 2021

### PILLAR (\$3,600+)

Laura and Aaron Cohen

Sandra and David Springer

PATRON (\$2,500 - \$3,599)

Linda Ershow-Levenberg and David Levenberg Menorah Chapels

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#### FRIEND (\$180 - \$359)

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\*We apologize in advance if we inadvertently left any names off this listing.

Neil Mayer Roselle Park Dental: Dr. Jamie Oshidar Molly Sperling

Laurie and Stephen Steinbach

Jessica and Daniel Suckerman Patricia and Arthur Werschulz

Becca and Adam Reissman Rhondi and Bruce Solomon State of Israel Bonds **TBEMC** Sisterhood

### MAZAL TOV!

\*as of April 28, 2021

### In Honor of Joe Bloomfield

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### In Honor of Phil Stein

Genie and Dennis Berry Jessica and Mark Bromberg Paula Figman Joan Finkelstein Renee Herz Marilyn Kaback Leah Garber and Andrea Lankin Maple Kosher Meats: Amy and Harold Roy Harriet Mazur Sadie Schoss Rachel and Craig Schwartz Raquel Gemer and Martin Schwartz Charles Sporn Sandra Sussman

### In Honor of Jessica Suckerman

Genie and Dennis Berry Jessica and Mark Bromberg Joan Finkelstein Renee Herz Marilyn Kaback Sarah and Seth Kramer Leah Garber and Andrea Lankin lessica and Chris Mallo Maple Kosher Meats: Amy and Harold Roy Harriet Mazur Sadie Schoss Rachel and Craig Schwartz Raquel Gemer and Martin Schwartz Charles Sporn Sandra Sussman

### In Honor of Bruce Solomon

Genie and Dennis Berry Jessica and Mark Bromberg Joan Finkelstein Renee Herz Marilyn Kaback Leah Garber and Andrea Lankin Maple Kosher Meats: Amy and Harold Roy Harriet Mazur Sadie Schoss Rachel and Craig Schwartz Raquel Gemer and Martin Schwartz Charles Sporn Sandra Sussman

### In Honor of Linda Ershow-Levenberg and David Levenberg

Genie and Dennis Berry Jessica and Mark Bromberg Dorrie and Jeremy Ershow Joan Finkelstein Renee Herz Marilyn Kaback Leah Garber and Andrea Lankin loel Levenberg Maple Kosher Meats: Amy and Harold Roy Harriet Mazur Sadie Schoss Rachel and Craig Schwartz Raquel Gemer and Martin Schwartz Charles Sporn Judith and Mont Stern Sandra Sussman

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### WE LOOK FORWARD TO THESE GREAT EVENTS AT TBEMC SUMMER & FALL OF 2021

Shabbat in the Park–JCC Scotch Plains Religious School and New Member Open House Torah From Jerusalem: High Holy Day Study with Rabbi Matt Berkowitz, Director, JTS's Israel Programs Tashlich at Droeschers Mill Park Sukkot Family and New Member program Senior Monthly Gathering Luncheon Kristallnacht Observance Hanukkah Concert and Program Friday, July 16, 6:00 pm Tuesday, August 17, 5:00-7:00 pm Sunday, August 29, 10:00 am

Tuesday, September 7, 6:00 pm Sunday September 26, 12:00 noon Tuesday, October 12, 11:00 am Monday, November 8, 7:00 pm Sunday, December 5, 11:00 am



338 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016 Telephone (908) 276-9231 tbemc.org