

## Why Temple Israel?

We are a warm and welcoming community of more than 300 families.

Our clergy and staff are dedicated professionals.

We have a vibrant Hebrew school.

There are many programs waiting for your involvement:

- Adult Bat Mitzvah
- Adult Choir
- Adult Education
- Book Club
- Family Shabbat & Holiday Dinners
- Hava Nashir
- Lunch & Learn
- Basic Judaism Classes for people considering conversion

We have Special Theme Shabbats including:

- Hebrew School Shabbat
- New Member Shabbat
- Sisterhood Shabbat
- Family Service
- Ruach Shabbat
- Health Care Shabbat
- Law Day Shabbat
- Veteran's Shabbat

## Why YOU?

We are a fifth generation Temple that welcomes new members and fresh ideas. We are always searching for future leaders. We want you to feel welcome in your new Jewish community.

Our future success depends on attracting and retaining members just like YOU!

# Temple Israel



**236 South River Street • Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702**  
**(570) 824-8927 • [www.templewb.org](http://www.templewb.org)**  
**[office@templewb.org](mailto:office@templewb.org)**

## ***This Is Temple Israel***

### ***Temple Israel Mission Statement***

*Temple Israel, an egalitarian Conservative synagogue rooted in a rich heritage of traditional Jewish values, is committed to enhancing the religious, spiritual, educational and cultural life of its members and the larger Jewish community through a commitment to Torah, our community, and continuity and growth amid change.*

Temple Israel was founded in 1922. It is the largest Conservative synagogue in Eastern Pennsylvania. Our membership is proud to include multi-generation families, as well as newcomers to our community, and many interfaith couples, thus providing us with an opportunity to combine tradition with innovation in all areas of Temple life.

We are fortunate to have dedicated and committed lay leadership who serve on our Board of Trustees, Religious School Board, Sisterhood, and Program Committees. Thanks to the foresight of previous religious and lay leaders, Temple Israel has special Endowment funds that assist in sponsoring outstanding lectures, concerts, and scholar-in-residence week-ends.

From the mid 1990s to the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a major capital campaign provided funds to renovate our School Building and restore the magnificence of our Temple Building. In 2001, we received an award from the Wyoming Valley Historical Society for the exterior work.

Throughout the history of Temple Israel we have been blessed to have Rabbis who have been luminaries in the Conservative movement. Since 2002, our Religious School has had the designation of a "School of Excellence" by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

We treasure the continuity of our founding families and warmly welcome new families to Temple Israel.

## **FACTS IN BRIEF**

Morning services - Monday and Thursday at 7:15 a.m., Sundays at 8:00 a.m. (other mornings by special arrangement with the Cantor)

Evening services daily at 5:15 p.m.

Shabbat morning services at 9:30 a.m.

Hebrew School – Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact our Administrator, Debbie Schonfeld at (570) 824-8927 or email [debbie@templewb.org](mailto:debbie@templewb.org)

## **Temple Israel Cemetery**

### ***Three local locations***

Sacred burial grounds have been an important aspect of Jewish communal life.

Temple Israel provides burial plot availability at the Dennison Street Cemetery location in Swoyersville as well as in West Pittston and Berwick.

The Temple Israel Board of Trustees has established an irrevocable trust for maintenance and perpetual care of the cemeteries. The Cemetery Committee has established regulations for the protection of the interests of our plot holders, as well as the preservation of the beauty and dignity of the cemetery.

Visiting hours are daily, except on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays, when visitation is not customary.

## Sisterhood at Temple Israel

Email: [sisterhood@templewb.org](mailto:sisterhood@templewb.org)



With more than 150 members, Temple Israel Sisterhood provides a fluctuating calendar of religious, educational, social, community service, and fund-raising events. As an affiliate of The Women's League of Conservative Judaism, the Sisterhood supports world Jewry through scholarships and projects in Israel. But our first love, and chief responsibility, is to Temple Israel.

Through the dedicated efforts of our members, we continually support our temple in many capacities. We show this support by donations for the betterment of the temple and by providing programs which reach out to all segments of the Temple Israel community.

Sisterhood efforts include:

- Coordinating the Challah and Honey Bag Sale
- Managing the Chanukah Raffle
- Participating in the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League
- Sponsoring annual events such as Sisterhood Shabbat and the Card Party Fundraiser
- Sponsoring other events as

determined by the membership that reflect Sisterhood's religious, educational, social, community service and fundraising focus



The Sisterhood always welcomes new members and would encourage you to consider joining us!



## Meet the Rabbi

*Rabbi Larry Kaplan*

Email: [rabbi@templewb.org](mailto:rabbi@templewb.org)

Rabbi Kaplan has been rabbi of Temple Israel, Wilkes-Barre since 1998. He has served congregations in Hartford, Connecticut and Miami, Florida. Aside from being the Spiritual Leader of Temple Israel, he is an adjunct faculty member of Kings College and Misericordia University. He serves as the Jewish Chaplain at our local VA Medical Center, and serves on the boards of Children and Youth Services, Step by Step, Wyoming Valley Interfaith Council, and the Jewish Federation. Raised in Philadelphia, Rabbi Kaplan received his BA from Brandeis University, and his Masters and Rabbinic Ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He came to the Wyoming Valley with his wife Gerri and their five children. They became a foster family and have adopted two children and have fostered over sixty others.

## Meet the Cantor

Cantor Ahron Abraham

Email: [cantor@templewb.org](mailto:cantor@templewb.org)

Ahron Abraham has been our cantor at Temple Israel since 1987. He has a Bachelor and Master's degree in music from the University of Maryland and did post-graduate studies at the University of Texas. Cantor Abraham studied Hazzanut with Cantor Jacob Friedman, Cantor Jack Schneider, and composer Herman Berlinski. He is a member of the Cantors Assembly, from which he received his Commission in 1993. Firmly rooted in traditional nusach, Cantor Abraham also enjoys conducting creative services along with the Rabbi, and working with adult and youth choirs. He is a dedicated teacher, preparing our B'nai Mitzvah students and teaching prayer skills in our Hebrew School. Cantor is also on the faculty of Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School, where he teaches Bible and Jewish History. Cantor and Carole Abraham have four children, Daniel, Matthew, Jonathan, and Elizabeth.





# Temple Israel Hebrew School

*Gerri Kaplan, Principal*

Email: [gerri@templewb.org](mailto:gerri@templewb.org)

A United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism “School of Excellence” Temple Israel Hebrew School was founded in 1930 in order to facilitate the study of Conservative Judaism to children attending public or private schools. Since the beginning, it has enjoyed an excellent reputation by building a loving, nurturing environment. Today, its dedicated principal and faculty have led the school into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by qualifying for the United Synagogue’s highest designation for Religious Schools, that is, the “School of Excellence” award.

The class schedule is as follows:

Preschool - Thursday

Kindergarten – Tuesday & special weekends

1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Tuesday & Thursday & special weekends

The curriculum consists of Hebrew, Bible, Holocaust, Basic Judaism, Ethics, Israel, Holidays, History, Ritual, and Life Cycle. Bus transportation is available from local area schools.

**Temple Israel Faculty**



# Temple Israel Hebrew School in Action

