

When a “Worthless” Penny Still Matters



ORI AKRISH
Executive Director

“A penny for your thoughts” used to mean something. Back when the phrase first appeared in the 1500s, a penny actually had real value. These days, most of us can’t remember the last time we actually paid for anything with one. Pennies have spent the past few years lingering in junk drawers, getting rejected by vending machines, and generally testing our patience. Even the little trays at convenience stores, “give a penny, take a penny,” admit what we all know: nobody wants them anymore. In fact, we created campaigns and systems to avoid pennies: “keep the change,” “round it up,” donation jars at cash registers filled mostly with people trying to get rid of that extra cent.

Somewhere along the way, the penny stopped being money and became more of an inconvenience. So when the U.S. Mint struck its final penny in November 2025, ending more than 230 years of production, plenty of people thought, “It’s about time.” But the retirement of that tiny copper coin also offers a moment to pause. For all its recent annoyances, the penny has always carried an important reminder: small things matter. Small contributions matter. And when they gather together, they turn into something meaningful. I’d bet that more than a few pennies were used to scratch instant lottery tickets that ended up paying off in big ways. Whether in luck or in everyday life, even the smallest things can have a surprising impact.

This idea isn’t new in Jewish life. For generations, the tzedakah box, also known as a pushke, charity box, or kupa tzedakah, has been a fixture in Jewish homes, classrooms, and synagogues. With the exception of really special ones, it is rarely fancy; usually it is a simple tin or box, a bit dented from years of use. But its purpose is profound. The tzedakah box is one of the earliest tools we use to teach children about giving, responsibility, and community. In Judaism, tzedakah isn’t optional generosity; it is an essential practice, a regular reminder that caring for others is central to Jewish life and education.

When I was a kid in Hebrew school, we would start every class with our teacher walking around the room holding the tzedakah box, pausing at each desk so every child could put something in. It was simply how the day began. We even had a tzedakah song we sang when we were very young. Once we got older, of course, nobody dared sing it out loud, but the rhythm of the practice stuck. One teacher

kept a whole bag full of pennies in her desk drawer, and if someone forgot their tzedakah that day, she would reach in and hand over a few so everyone could participate. No one was left out. And honestly, hearing those pennies clink-clink into the metal tzedakah tin felt just as important as anything larger- what mattered wasn’t the amount, but the act.

Money changes over time, but the act of giving does not. Abraham Lincoln has looked out from the penny for more than a century because his life and legacy embody values we still admire: honesty, humility, unity, and service to others. Did you know Lincoln was the first American president to appear on a U.S. coin? He was chosen in 1909 to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth and honor his role in preserving the nation. It’s funny to think that someone so larger-than-life is on such a tiny coin, but that’s the lesson: even small things can carry big meaning. Every gift, whether modest or generous, adds up and makes a difference. That lesson—that small acts can carry big meaning—lives on in every tzedakah box.

Our 2026 Jewish Welfare Campaign has been a living example of this truth. Our longtime supporters continue to give with the steady generosity that sustains our programs year after year. Their gifts, whether consistent and/or significant, combine to create a lasting impact. Each contribution helps support social services, education, and programs that touch countless lives. Their ongoing commitment allows our community to thrive, and we are deeply grateful for their dedication and the example they set for others.

And this year, new voices joined in. We made a point to reach out to young adults who grew up in Canton, many of whom now live elsewhere, but still carry the values and memories of their childhood here. Seeing these individuals step forward to support the community that raised them has been deeply moving. Families who had never been asked before are stepping forward to give. New members eager to connect are joining in. Many of these first-time gifts were modest, but they weren’t just symbolic; they were heartfelt and intentional. Each one said, “I am (still) part of this community. Count me in.” Their generosity reminds us that the bonds we form here last a lifetime, and that even from afar, people can make a real difference.

The penny may be gone, but the lesson it leaves behind isn’t. Small acts of giving still add up, and they still matter. Maybe we won’t hear the clink of copper coins in our pockets anymore, but we’ll hear it in every tzedakah box and every moment someone chooses to help another. Generosity isn’t measured in cents or dollars, it’s measured in the people it touches. And that kind of sound never wears out.



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The Best Advice I Ever Received

(Was from My Husband)



LAURA GOLDMAN
CJCF President

Growing up, our parents, grandparents, and teachers instilled in us the foundations of kindness, ethics, and morality. We lived by their beliefs, and they hoped we would carry those lessons into adulthood. As an educator, I often reflect on the teachers who helped shape my own professional path. However, it wasn't until recently that I realized who truly has helped form the adult and community leader that I have grown to be: my husband, Adam.

My story started in Cleveland, where I grew up. Before moving to Canton, my life was a whirlwind: I taught in Beachwood City Schools, served as a music director at a temple, taught private music lessons, worked at a furniture store, and attended graduate school. I was very busy, but I was also invisible to the larger Jewish community; no one ever reached out to me to get involved.

All that changed when I moved to Canton. Within six months, I was contacted to join ORT and invited to serve on their board. When I mentioned this to Adam, he explained the beautiful reality of a smaller Jewish community: to have a strong community, we each must do our part.

Adam, who grew up in Canton, has always been uniquely invested. I saw that even before we were married. My friends complained that their fiances didn't care about wedding planning details, but Adam had opinions and wanted to be involved in all aspects. When I found a wedding band with stones and suggested that many people marry with an inexpensive gold band only to switch it later, he sweetly asked, "Why would someone get married with a band they didn't intend to wear every day?" He cared deeply about the symbols and actions that tied us together.

That same care applied to his view of Jewish Canton. He taught me that we must be present, we must participate, and we must support our local Jewish entities with our time, our hearts, and our checkbooks. In a large city like Cleveland, I never felt that sense of personal responsibility. In Canton, Adam showed me that we must support each other in every way possible to thrive as a community.

Today, as President of your Canton Jewish Community Federation, I think about those early conversations often. As our community continues to grow smaller in numbers, more than ever it is up to all of us who remain to build on the strengths we have and to focus on building us.

My goal is to strengthen the connections between our Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, and unaffiliated community members through the Federation. I want us to continue to be a vibrant community, gathering at Beit Ha'am to join together to celebrate and commemorate, to learn and to pray, to support and care, and to gather as a community with a shared love of our Jewish heritage. As Adam taught me: we may be small, but we are a family. So, to my husband, Adam, I say: "See? I do listen, and I hear you. Thank you for helping me become the person I am today, for teaching me to love, appreciate and devote myself to the Jewish community where I live; I love you and our Canton Jewish Community."

Edward Jones

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RABBI KUSHNER

Shas-a-thon: Showing Up Again

We all take on challenges in different ways – things that require consistency, focus, and the willingness to keep going even when it’s hard. Often, those are the experiences that shape us the most.

This year, with Hashem’s help, I’m participating in a Shas-a-thon for the second time. A Shas-a-thon is an intensive Torah-learning initiative centered around the Talmud. Anyone who has learned Gemara knows that each “daf” (page) demands real effort – concentration, patience, and perseverance. It’s not just

about getting through the pages, but about committing to the process.

On Sunday, February 8th, participants from across the US will join together in Pennsylvania, to collectively complete all of Shas, with each person learning a portion. I’ll be learning ten “daphim” in “Maseches” (Tractate) “Zevachim,” joining hundreds of others in this shared effort of Torah learning.

What makes this experience especially meaningful to me is its connection to A.T.I.M.E., an organization that supports Jewish couples facing infertility and reproductive challenges. These struggles are often carried quietly, and A.T.I.M.E. provides guidance, support, and a sense that no one has to navigate this journey alone. Their work reflects deep sensitivity to both the emotional and “halachic” complexities involved.

There’s something powerful about pairing Torah learning with a cause rooted in compassion and responsibility for one another. The discipline required to learn

consistently mirrors the strength and perseverance demanded of families facing uncertainty – and it reminds us of the role community plays in sustaining both.

For me, returning to the Shas-a-thon this year is about recommitting to that idea: showing up, learning seriously, and supporting efforts that quietly change lives.

In the Talmud (Sanhedrin 37a), our Sages say, “Kol hamekayem nefesh achas

Cont’d / See **SHAS-A-THON** Page 6



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We are creating programs for you that provide education, entertainment and overall bring our community together. If you have any suggestions or would like to present a topic, please let us know. We look forward to having you join us! All are welcomed. Email Leanne at llehn@jewishcanton.org or call (330) 445-2850.



HEATHER HERSHEY-TOMPKINS
JFS Director

Positivity in the New Year

As the new year starts, Jewish Family Services is looking at the calendar and planning for the upcoming year. JFS has many services that anyone in the community can utilize. Beside services we also have fun and interesting programs such as baking in the Kosher kitchen, movies with Ori, breakfast and education with the Rabbi and many others. Make sure you check out the Stark Jewish News for upcoming events.

JFS also knows how important it is to choose positivity. The world seems to be in a constant state of tension and change. Many people are struggling with pressures, mental health challenges, sense of disconnection, but you do not have to face these challenges alone. JFS would like to help you with your struggles,

but also help create positive change in your life.

The arrival of a new year is more than a change on the calendar—it's an invitation. An invitation to pause, reflect, and decide how we want to move forward. While we can't control everything that happens to us, the new year reminds us that we can choose how we think, respond, and grow. At the heart of that choice lies our mindset.

Letting Go of What No Longer Serves Us

The past year likely held a mix of victories and challenges. Holding onto regrets, disappointments, or self-doubt can quietly shape how we approach the future. A positive mindset doesn't mean ignoring difficulties; it means learning from them without letting them define us. As the new year begins, it's the perfect time to release what weighs us down and make room for hope and clarity.

Positivity Is a Practice, Not a Personality

Many people believe positivity is something you either have or you don't—but it's actually a skill. It's built

Cont'd / See **POSITIVITY** Page 11

ADULT PROGRAMS

RSVP to Leanne at llehn@jewishcanton.org, 330-445-2850,
or online at jewishcanton.org/community-calendar

FEBRUARY

3RD ANNUAL MAKE AND TAKE HAMANTASCHEN
Wednesday, February 25 | 9:30 A.M. - Noon at Beit Ha'am

\$10 per person

RSVP by February 23

MARCH

BREAKFAST WITH RABBI KOMEROFSKY
"FOUR CHILDREN, ONE COMMUNITY"
Wednesday, March 11 | 9:30-11:30 A.M. at Beit Ha'Ham

As Passover approaches, we will look at the Haggadah's tale of the Four Children. Often read as a lesson for families, this passage is also a model for Jewish community itself. Each child asks differently, engages differently, and belongs differently and yet all remain at the table. We will explore the Four Children as a lens on Jewish pluralism, belonging, and responsibility. What does it mean to make room for insiders and skeptics, the curious and the silent? How do Jewish communities remain strong when engagement takes many forms?

RSVP by March 9

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Third Annual Women’s Seder Coming to Beit Ha’am in March

Temple Israel Sisterhood will host their third annual Women’s Seder on March 22, 2026, from Noon to 2:00 p.m. at Beit Ha’am. The event provides a unique opportunity for women in the community to come together to observe Passover and honor women – past and present - whose strength, courage, and determination have had a positive and lasting impact in our homes, communities, and around the world.

“The Women’s Seder is a celebration of women in history and themes of rebirth and growth that align with the spirit of springtime,” said Eileen Saltarelli, who co-chairs the Women’s Seder committee. “All women in the Jewish community, their friends and family, and women in the greater community of any denomination are invited to attend.”

The event will feature select readings, music, a candle-lighting ceremony, along with a vegetarian Passover seder, dessert, coffee and tea.

“We are very excited to grow this program,” Saltarelli said, noting that more than 100 women attended the Women’s Seder last spring.

According to Temple Israel Sisterhood President Leanne Lehn, the Women’s Seder is the volunteer organization’s largest event of the year.

“Bringing Jewish women together and celebrating women in our community. That is the theme of Sisterhood,” she said. “We have fundraisers and monthly meetings throughout the year, but this event truly brings all of the Sisterhood women together.”

The Women’s Seder will be held at Beit Ha’am, located at 432 30th St., N.W., Canton, Ohio. Cost is \$18 per person, and reservations are required.

Lehn noted that the annual Seder involves a great deal of planning and preparation, which would not be possible without the help of dedicated volunteers.

“We are always looking for people to help us ensure the success and sustainability of this event,” she said. “There is always a need for our community members to help with meal prepping as well as day-of-event assistance.”

Volunteering opportunities and sign-up forms are available on the registration website.



Third Annual
Women’s Seder

Presented by the Temple Israel Sisterhood
 March 22, 2026 | Noon to 2:00 p.m. | Beit Ha’am
 (doors open at 11:30 a.m.)
 Cost is \$18/person. RSVP by visiting the Community Calendar
jewishcanton.org or scan the QR code.
Reservations are required.



HANUKKAH RAFFLE THANK YOU!

Shaaray Torah Synagogue would like to thank everyone who supported us by purchasing a ticket in our Annual Hanukkah Raffle for 2025. That support, along with the following individuals, helped make this Raffle a success: Richard Altman, Hazzan Braun, Mike Magill, David Sklar and Patti Green. Todah Rabbah, Everyone!

2025 Hanukkah Raffle Winners

- 1st Night = Katie & Howard Wernow
- 2nd Night = Ingrid Cohn
- 3rd Night = Rebekkah Rubin
- 4th Night = Linda & Howard Smuckler
- 5th Night = Kathy Arkow
- 6th Night = Elaine Garfinkle
- 7th Night = Dianne & Hazzan Braun
- 8th Night = Leslie & David Nelson

Congratulations to all the winners! We sincerely thank all those who donated any portion of their winnings back to the Synagogue, as well as to those who purchased more than one ticket. It is deeply appreciated.

SHAS-A-THON continued from Page 3

m'Yisrael, ke'ilu kiyem olam malei" – whoever sustains one life is considered as if they sustained an entire world. Supporting A T.I.M.E. is exactly that: helping create worlds filled with hope, continuity, and future generations. For those who wish, there is an opportunity to partner in this learning and support A T.I.M.E. through my Shas-a-thon page.

May our learning be a zechus for those who need strength, hope, and good news.



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Jewish American Icons: The Beautiful Mind of Hedwig Kiesler

CHRIS LANGE

THE PRODIGY

Born in 1914, Hedwig Eva Marie Kiesler was the adored and only child of Emil and Gertrud Kiesler, members of the “Jewish haute bourgeoisie” who lived in an affluent district in Vienna, Austria.

An exceptionally bright and inquisitive girl, Hedwig shared her father's deep curiosity about the world. The two could be found on any given Sunday trekking hand in hand through Vienna's Wienerwald, deep in conversation beneath a canopy of majestic firs. A banker by trade, Emil used these occasions to indulge in his passion for mechanical engineering, expounding on the inner workings of modern machinery like streetcars and printing presses. In Hedwig, he found a rapt audience and quick study. Emil delighted in boasting to friends and colleagues that he once found his daughter carefully reassembling a music box that she had taken apart to determine how the object functioned.



She was just five years old at the time.

Recognizing Hedwig's intellectual exceptionalism, Emil spared no expense when it came to providing for her education. He engaged private tutors and sent her to Vienna's most prestigious learning academies as well as a finishing school in Switzerland.

While Emil nurtured Hedwig's curiosity and intellect, Gertrud, an acclaimed concert pianist, oversaw her instruction in culture and the arts. There were dance and music lessons, weekly trips to Vienna's bustling arts district, and acting classes in with renowned film and theatre director Max Reinhardt.

By the time she was 10 years old, Hedwig was proficient in piano and ballet and could speak four languages.

For all of her accomplishments, it was the child's striking beauty that garnered the most attention. She won the first of several beauty contests at the age of 12.

THE TROPHY WIFE

As a teen, Hedwig attracted a number of hopeful suitors, including wealthy industrialist and arms dealer Fritz Mandl, chairman of Hirttenberger Patronen-Fabrik, a leading Austrian armaments firm founded by his father. Determined to win the young beauty over, Fritz – one of the richest men in Europe at the time – showered her with extravagant gifts, took her to the most exclusive restaurants, and introduced her to Vienna's haute monde of powerful politicians, diplomats, and artists.

Emil and Gertrud were unhappy with the budding romance and endeavored to persuade their daughter to find a more suitable match. They disapproved of Fritz's illegitimate birth – the product of an illicit affair between his Jewish father and the Mandl's Catholic family maid – and was 13 years Hedwig's senior. It was Fritz's rumored ties to the growing National Fascist Party and its founder, Benito Mussolini, however, that caused them the most disquiet.

Despite her parents' misgivings, the headstrong Hedwig married Fritz Mandl in

1933 at the age of 19 – a decision she would come to bitterly regret.

Fritz had insisted that Hedwig convert to Catholicism before the marriage, likely a calculated endeavor to conceal their Jewish origins from his fascist business partners and associates who attended lavish dinner parties at the couple's home. Mussolini was a frequent guest.

The men spoke freely in Hedwig's presence, little knowing that her practiced smile and bored affect concealed an eager interest in their discussions about arms manufacturing, weaponry, and rising tensions in Europe.

Apart from these momentary diversions, Hedwig grew increasingly disillusioned with her marriage. Fritz was, by all accounts, a boor and a bully who controlled every aspect of her life. Hedwig also developed a strong distaste for the company he kept.

“He was the absolute monarch in his marriage,” she would write years later. “I was like a doll. I was like a thing, some object of art which had to be guarded—and imprisoned—having no mind, no life of its own.”

In another account, she said of Fritz: “He didn't marry me, he collected me, just like a business success.”

THE ESCAPE ARTIST

She fell further into despair with the death of her beloved father in February of 1935.

A photo of Hedwig taken at the January 1937 Vienna Opera Ball was included in a two-page spread in the cultural and lifestyle magazine *Die Bühne*. The photographer had caught her unaware as she gazed at some unseen object in the distance. There was something haunting and forlorn in her countenance that was markedly incongruous with the gaiety of the crowd that surrounded her.

That summer, Hedwig would manage to slip away unnoticed during a dinner party. According to her own account, she disguised herself as a maid and caught a late train to Paris. Hedwig convinced Fritz to allow her to wear her most expensive jewelry that night, which supplied her with the funds she needed to facilitate what was her third – and final – attempt to escape his clutches.

“It was his game to hold me captive. It was my game to escape,” she said. “He lost.”

THE INVENTOR

From Paris Hedwig traveled to London, eventually making her way to the U.S. and settling in California. It is unclear whether the couple divorced or had the marriage annulled, but Hedwig eventually gained her freedom from Fritz. She would go on to marry and divorce five more times, saying once that “no man could match” her father's equal.

With her newfound freedom, Hedwig could now dedicate her time and resources to her passion for invention, creating a lab of sorts in her home where she could test various theories and experiment with technology. Putting her theatre training to good use, she supported herself with various acting jobs.

One of Hedwig's earliest innovations was a new traffic light designed to reduce accidents caused by unreliable signal changes. She also developed a fizzing cube that instantly turned water into soda when dissolved.

A chance encounter with famed and eccentric aviator Howard Hughes resulted in a brief romantic relationship and a new fascination with aeronautics. Hedwig took to sketching blueprints for airplane wings. She sent one of her designs to Hughes with her compliments. He called her “a genius.”

“Inventions are easy for me to do,” Hedwig once said in an interview. “I don't have to work on ideas; they come naturally.”

Through The Years

Looking back at the years 1921 and 1927

**35 YEARS AGO -- THEY GATHERED BEFORE
THE AGUDAS ACHIM SYNAGOGUE --REPRINTED
IN 1958**

About 35 years ago (1923) a group of stalwarts gathered in front of Agudas Achim Synagogue to have a picture taken in conjunction with a dedication program that was in full swing. The event attracted a few youngsters--which aided us in setting the date of the picture. A close scrutiny of this picture reveals the fact that about one-half in as of 1958 have since passed on, and in 1996, when this Canton Jewish history was compiled that possibly only a very few children would be left. All were European born (except for the few youngsters) and were hard-working and pious men. The children of many of these "old timers" are now active figures in local synagogal and temple affairs.

How many do can you recognize? Archie Slesnick named most of them, but only a few were mentioned such as in the back row Ancie recognized the late Barney Slesnick (his father) and the late Nathan Kline.

When this picture was reprinted in 1958, Archie Slesnick was indebted to Harry Shifman for the loan of the picture. He stands a little to the left in the middle of the picture and stands between the late Joseph Neff and the late David Cohen.

35 Years Ago - They Gathered Before the Synagogue
1923



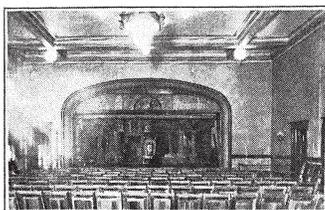
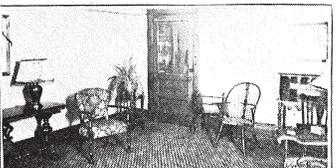
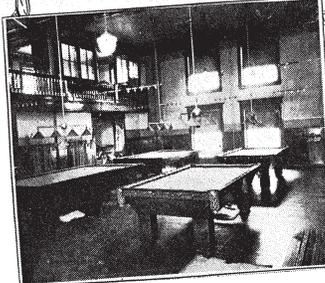
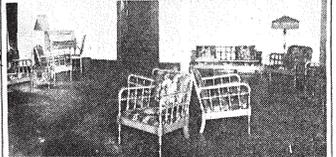
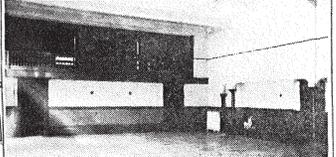
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1927

JEWISH NEWS SUPPLEMENT

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THE CENTER'S COMMODIOUS QUARTERS

Opening of the Jewish Center, 1927

JEWISH AMERICAN ICONS continued from Page 7

THE PIONEERING PATRIOT

Hedwig's newfound happiness was tempered by increasing alarm over events unfolding in Europe. On March 12, 1938, she turned on her radio to discover that Germany invaded Austria. Met with little resistance by Austrian Chancellor Schuschnigg, who resigned under pressure, Nazi troops entered Hedwig's beloved homeland unopposed. The following day, Austria was officially annexed into "the Greater German Reich."

Hedwig quickly turned her attention to helping her mother escape, using her contacts and influence to arrange for Gertrud's safe passage to America.

When the U.S. entered the war, Hedwig felt compelled to do her part to help stop the Nazi war machine. Armed with her knowledge of weapons manufacturing, she began to focus her attention on the German U-boats that dominated the Eastern Seaboard of North America, blowing cargo, merchant, and passenger ships out of the waters with impunity.

Hedwig understood that radio communications were vital to torpedo control. She collaborated with avant garde composer and amateur inventor George Antheil, whom she met at a dinner party, to develop a "secure spread-spectrum communications technology" radio frequency hopping system to help the U.S. Navy to guide torpedoes and prevent signal jamming by the enemy. The two were granted U.S. Patent No. 2,292,387, titled "Secret Communication System," for this invention in 1942, which they donated to the Navy.

Wi-Fi," was largely ignored. The American public knew her only as Hedy Lamarr, whose captivating beauty and powerful screen presence catapulted her to stardom during Hollywood's glamorous golden era of the 1940s.

Hedwig made her film debut while still living in Europe, starting in the 1933 Czech film "Ecstase." The highly controversial movie included a scene in which Hedwig – who called herself "Hedy Kiesler" at the time – was filmed swimming in the nude.

In the U.S., MGM's Louis B. Mayer took notice of the movie and quickly signed her to a contract with his Beverly Hills studio. Hedy's American film credits include "Algiers," (1938) "Boom Town" (1940) "Crossroads," (1942) "Experiment Perilous," (1944); "The Strange Woman," (1946); "Dishonored Lady," (1947); "Samson and Delilah," (1949); and "A Lady Without Passport" (1950).

THE CURSE

Hedwig once said, without conceit, that her beauty was a "curse." She felt that it impeded her desire to be taken seriously as an inventor. Indeed, she was 83 years old when she first received public recognition for her spread-spectrum technology, along with Antheil. Both were presented with the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Pioneer Award in 1997.

The following year, Austria awarded Hedwig with the Viktor Kaplan Medal of the Austrian Association of Patent Holders and Inventors.

It was only after her death in 2000 that the American public became aware of her groundbreaking inventions, which were enumerated in her obituary. Lamarr was posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014.



Although the technology was not used during WWII, it was further developed in the 1950s for remote-controlled sonar buoys used for submarine detection. The invention would be developed on a significant scale during the Cuban Missile Crisis and would eventually serve as a building block for modern wireless technology like Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and GPS.

Today, spread-spectrum technology is widely used in cellular and Wi-Fi wireless connections.

THE DOUBLE LIFE

Throughout her life, the brilliant mind of Hedwig Kiesler, "the mother of



Growing Roots Together



BOBI BERRINGER
Temple Israel
Chadash Coordinator

Tu B'Shevat, the "New Year of the Trees," reminds us that even when growth is not yet visible, something meaningful is happening beneath the surface. In Jewish tradition, this holiday began as an agricultural marker, but it has become a powerful spiritual reminder of our responsibility to care for the earth and for one another.

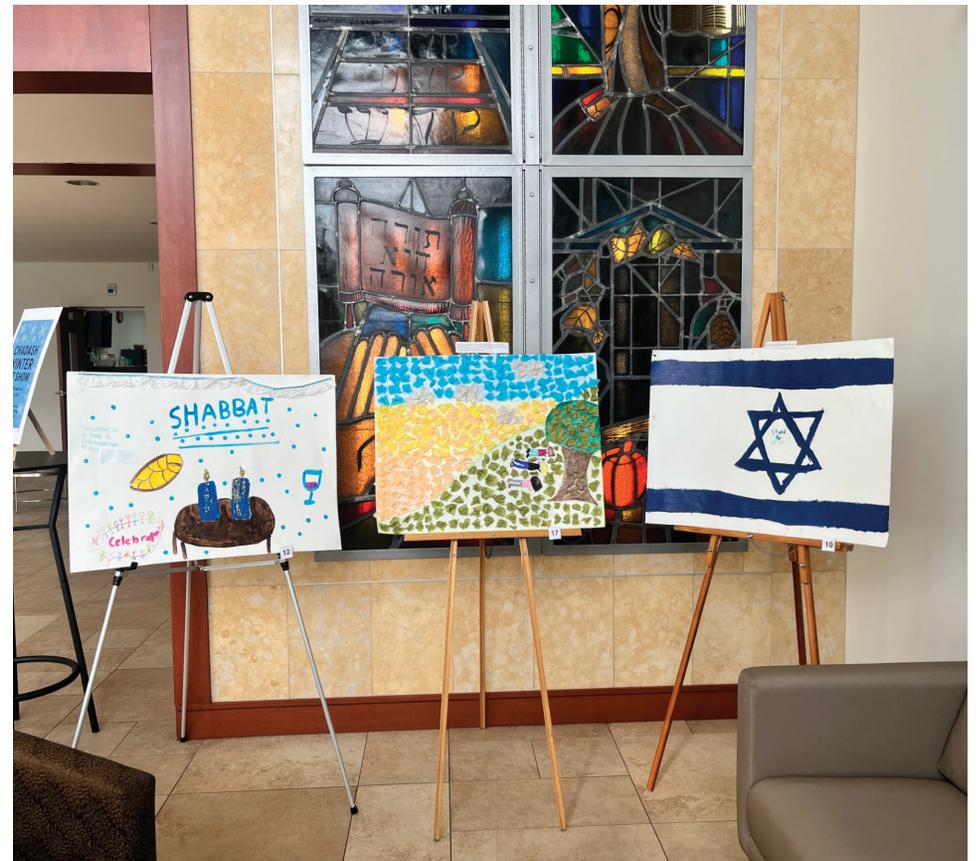
Through the lens of Chadash, I see Tu B'Shevat as a beautiful metaphor for how children and communities grow. Trees need time, patience, and careful tending, just as our students need nurturing from families, teachers, and the wider Jewish

community. Each act of learning and connection adds another ring to who they are becoming.

Tu B'Shevat also teaches us that we grow best together. Like the trees in a forest, our roots are connected and when we support one another, we all thrive. This holiday invites us to plant not only trees, but also hope, generosity, and care for the future.

May this Tu B'Shevat inspire us to keep nurturing what truly matters, so our Jewish community can continue to grow strong and vibrant.

Thank you to all of our Community members that joined us for our Chanukah Celebration and those who visited our Chadash Winter Art Show.



POSITIVITY continued from Page 4

through small, daily choices: reframing negative thoughts, practicing gratitude, and being kinder to yourself. Choosing positivity doesn't mean every day will feel good. It means believing that even hard days can teach us something valuable.

Rewriting the Inner Dialogue

Our thoughts shape our reality. When we tell ourselves "I can't," "I'm not enough," or "It's too late," we limit what's possible. The new year is a chance to rewrite that inner dialogue. Replace self-criticism with encouragement. Replace fear with curiosity. A positive mindset begins with the words we speak to ourselves when no one else is listening.

Focusing on Progress, Not Perfection

New year goals often fail because they're built on perfection. Positivity grows when we focus on progress instead. Small steps forward matter. Every effort counts. When we celebrate growth—no matter how small—we build confidence and motivation that lasts far beyond January.

Choosing Hope Every Day

The new year doesn't magically change life overnight. But it does offer something powerful: a fresh perspective. Positivity is a daily decision to choose hope over fear, growth over comfort, and belief over doubt. When we change our mindset, we change how we experience life itself.

As the year unfolds, remember this: you don't need a perfect plan or a flawless past to create a meaningful future. All you need is the willingness to think differently—and the courage to believe that better days are possible.

JFS would love to help you create a positive and productive future. Just reach out to us at 330 445-2402 for help, a listening ear or referrals.

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Temple Israel Programming

TEMPLE ISRAEL TO OFFER ONLINE INTRO TO JUDAISM

Temple Israel of Canton will offer An Introduction to Judaism, an eight-session adult education course taught by Rabbi David Komerofsky, beginning Sunday, March 29, 2026.

The class will meet eight consecutive Sundays from 7:00–8:00 p.m. Eastern Time and will be held via Zoom only.

The course is open to all and requires no prior knowledge of Judaism. Participants are encouraged to come with curiosity and a willingness to engage in thoughtful conversation and learning. Designed for interfaith couples, non-Jews considering conversion, and Jews seeking adult-level foundational learning, the course introduces the basics of Jewish thought and practice through a mix of study, discussion, and practical exploration. Topics include Jewish holidays, life-cycle events, theology, prayer, Israel, and Jewish history.

While the course stands on its own as an educational experience, it may also count toward the classwork component of the conversion process at Temple Israel for those pursuing conversion locally.

Registration and additional information are available at templeisraelcanton.org/intro.



TEMPLE ISRAEL BROTHERHOOD TO SCREEN THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

The Brotherhood of Temple Israel invites the community to a special screening of the highly acclaimed 1994 film, The Shawshank Redemption on Sunday afternoon, February 22nd beginning at 2:00 p.m. at Beit Ha'Am. The classic film stars Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman and was filmed at the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, OH. Critically acclaimed, few movies capture the triumph of the human spirit as memorably as The Shawshank Redemption. The film was nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Picture.

Admission to the screening is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken to purchase hygiene products for inmates at the Mansfield Correctional Institution, the successor prison just next door to the historic Ohio State Reformatory. The afternoon program will include a brief video tour of the Ohio State Reformatory, the film, and an explanation of the fundraising project. The film is rated R for "language and prison violence." Plan on joining us for a good movie, a good cause...and of course fresh popcorn!

CHADASH SHABBAT

Temple Israel will welcome the community for Chadash Shabbat on Friday, March 6, 2026. This is a student-led worship experience honoring the Canton Police officers who help keep the community safe each week.

The evening will begin with a 5:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat, followed by Shabbat services at 6:15 p.m. The service will be led by the students of the Chadash religious school program, offering young learners the opportunity to take an active role in Jewish worship and communal gratitude. While Chadash is operated by Temple Israel, it is open to children from all Stark County Jewish congregations.

Chadash Shabbat highlights our commitment to Jewish education, civic responsibility, and appreciation for those who serve the wider Canton community. During the service, students will help express thanks to local law enforcement officers for their dedication and partnership in ensuring safety for Temple Israel and the surrounding neighborhood.

"Shabbat is a time to pause, reflect, and recognize the people who help sustain our community," said Rabbi David Komerofsky. "Having our students lead this service reinforces Jewish values of gratitude, responsibility, and respect."

Families, congregants, and community members are encouraged to attend.

Chadash Shabbat Friday, March 6, 2026

5:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat Refreshments
6:15 p.m. Service

**Honoring the dedicated
Canton Police officers who
keep us safe every week.**



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Endowment donations are a minimum of \$10 for each person or event you wish to recognize.

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In Memory of Doug Blocker's Beloved Mother, Helen Blocker from Jeff & Dale Sklar

In Memory of Bill Blocker's Beloved Aunt, Helen Blocker from Jeff & Dale Sklar

In Memory of Alan Fishberg's Beloved Wife, Eve Fishberg from Jeff & Dale Sklar

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

In Memory of Eileen Saltarelli's Beloved Father, Larry Schwartz from Susan & Sam Wilkof

In Memory of RuthAnn Wilkof's Beloved Husband, Ron Wilkof from Susan & Sam Wilkof

In Honor of the Birthday of Lori Magill from Susan & Sam Wilkof

In Honor of the Birthday of Marilyn Feldman from Susan & Sam Wilkof

In Blessed Memory of Marge Fuerman from Shirley & Joel Arnold

In Blessed Memory of David Fuerman's Beloved Mother, Marge Fuerman from Marilyn & Paul Feldman

In Blessed Memory of David Fuerman's Beloved Mother, Marge Fuerman from Cheryl Gaspar

JANE ALTMAN ZOLDAN COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUND

In Blessed Memory of Eric Nusbaum from Randi & Bill Smuckler

Life Cycle Events

BIRTHS

Liam Andrew Barat, born November 4, 2025. Proud parents are Noah and Katie Barat. Proud Grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. Michael and Terry Barat.

DEATHS

Marjorie Fuerman passed away on November 17, 2025. She is survived by her children David (Caty Gabbe) Fuerman and Ross (Nancy Bein) Fuerman; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Eric Nusbaum passed away on December 3, 2025. He is survived by his sister, Amy Nusbaum, several cousins, and other extended family members.

Barbara Belden passed away on December 7, 2025. She is survived by her husband Henry S. "Chic" Belden IV; children Steve (Susan) of Tequesta, Florida, Henry S. V (Cindy) of Eugene, Oregon, and George W. (Debbie) of Olympia, and sister Kathy (Shelly) Arkow.

Seldon Farnsworth passed away on December 13, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Jodi Farnsworth; daughters Marissa (friend, Brian Somers) Farnsworth and Chelsea (Dave Allis) Farnsworth; and several grandchildren.

Helen Blocker passed away on December 22, 2025. She is survived by her children Douglas (Melissa) Blocker and Dianne (Bruce) Braun, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Eve Fishberg passed away on December 26, 2025. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Alan Fishberg; children Kim (Steve) Gilbert and Barbara (Matt) DeVane; stepchildren, Debbie (David) Selengut, Michael (Miriam) Fishberg, and Julie (Ashi) Newman; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bob Charlick passed away on December 27, 2025. He is survived by his son Dan (Dayna) Charlick, and grandchildren.

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 1	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash Tu B'Shevat Program
	10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	ST B'Shevat Speaker and Breakfast Program
Monday, February 2		Tu B'Shevat
Wednesday, February 4	7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Advanced Intro to Judaism
Friday, February 6	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 7	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
	10:00 A.M.	Stollen Moments Torah Study
Sunday, February 8	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
Tuesday, February 10	9:00 A.M.	TI Food Bank Volunteering
	5:30 P.M.	TI Men's Study Group
Wednesday, February 11	7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Advanced Intro to Judaism
Friday, February 13	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 14	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
Tuesday, February 17	7:00 P.M.	TI Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 18	7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Advanced Intro to Judaism
Friday, February 20	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 21	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
	10:00 A.M.	Stollen Moments Torah Study
Sunday, February 22	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
	9:00 A.M.	TI Sisterhood Meeting
	9:30 A.M.	TI Brotherhood Meeting
	2:00 P.M.	TI Brotherhood: Shawshank Redemption
Thursday, February 26	2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.	Yiddish Club
Friday, February 27	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 28	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service

MARCH

Sunday, March 1	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Tuesday, March 3		Purim
Friday, March 6	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
	6:15 P.M. – 7:15 P.M.	Chadash program
Saturday, March 7	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
	10:00 A.M.	Stollen Moments Torah Study
Sunday, March 8	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
Friday, March 13	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 14	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
	10:00 A.M.	Stollen Moments Torah Study
Sunday, March 15	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
	9:00 A.M.	TI Sisterhood Meeting
	9:30 A.M.	TI Brotherhood Meeting
Tuesday, March 17	5:30 P.M.	TI Men's Study Group
	7:00 P.M.	TI Board Meeting
Thursday, March 19	7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.	Federation Board Meeting
Friday, March 20	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 21	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
	10:00 A.M.	Stollen Moments Torah Study
Sunday, March 22	9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Chadash
	Noon	TI Sisterhood Women's Seder
Thursday, March 26	2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.	Yiddish Club
Friday, March 27	5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M.	TI Oneg Shabbat
	6:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.	TI Shabbat Service
Saturday, March 28	10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	ST Shabbat Service
	10:00 A.M.	Stollen Moments Torah Study
Sunday, March 29	7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Intro to Judaism



AGUDAS ACHIM

Orthodox

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Sunday, February 1
Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.

Monday, February 2
TU B'SHEVAT (Jewish Arbor Day)
Mincha & Maariv 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 3
Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.
Shacharis 7:15 a.m.

Thursday, February 5
Torah class (Isaiah) via Zoom 4:30 p.m.

Friday, February 6
Mincha & Kabolos Shabbos 5:30 p.m.
Candle lighting 5:31 p.m.
Sunset 5:49 p.m.

Saturday, February 7
Shabbos Parshas Yisro
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:15 a.m.
Earliest Mincha 1:10 p.m.
Shabbos ends 6:33 p.m.
Maariv 6:45 p.m.
Havdalah (72 minutes) 7:03 p.m.

Sunday, February 8
Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 10
Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.

Thursday, February 12
Torah class (Isaiah) via Zoom 4:30 p.m.

Friday, February 13
Mincha & Kabolos Shabbos 5:35 p.m.
Candle lighting 5:39 p.m.
Sunset 5:57 p.m.

Saturday, February 14
Shabbos Parshas Mishpatim
Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh
Shabbos Shekolim
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:15 a.m.
Molad (new moon) for the month of Adar: Tuesday (February 17) 3:50 a.m. + 12 chalakim
Earliest Mincha 1:10 p.m.
Shabbos ends 6:41 p.m.
Maariv 6:55 p.m.
Havdalah (72 minutes) 7:11 p.m.

Sunday, February 15
Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.

Monday, February 16
President's Day

Tuesday, February 17
Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.
First Day Rosh Chodesh Adar

Wednesday, February 18
Second Day Rosh Chodesh Adar

Thursday, February 19
Torah class (Isaiah) via Zoom 4:30 p.m.

Friday, February 20
Mincha & Kabolos Shabbos 5:45 p.m.
Candle lighting 5:48 p.m.
Sunset 6:06 p.m.

Saturday, February 21
Shabbos Parshas Terumah
Shacharis, Hallel & Mussaf 9:15 a.m.

Earliest Mincha 1:10 p.m.
Shabbos ends 6:49 p.m.
Maariv 7:05 p.m.
Havdalah 7:20 p.m.

Sunday, February 22
Rabbi Scheinbaum's class via Zoom 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 24
Mishnah class via Zoom 4:45 p.m.

Thursday, February 26
Torah class (Isaiah) via Zoom 4:30 p.m.

Friday, February 27
Mincha & Kabolos Shabbos 5:55 p.m.
Candle lighting 5:56 p.m.
Sunset 6:14 p.m.

Saturday, February 28
Shabbos Parshas Tetzavah
Shabbos Parshas Zachor
Shacharis & Mussaf 9:15 a.m.
There is a Mitzvah to remember what Amalek did to Klal Yisrael upon leaving Egypt.
This is performed by reading "Parshas Zachor".
Reading of Parshas Zachor 10:45 a.m.
Earliest Mincha 1:09 p.m.
Shabbos ends 6:57 p.m.
Maariv 7:10 p.m.
Havdalah 7:28 p.m.



SHAARAY TORAH

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* = Zoom

Sunday, February 1
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Tu B'shevat Speaker & Breakfast
Marty Shankle will speak about the Mitzvah of Environmental Sustainability Yishiv HaOlam

Monday, February 2
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.*
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Tuesday, February 3
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Wednesday, February 4
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Thursday, February 5
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.*
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Friday, February 6
Candles 5:34 p.m.
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Saturday, February 7
Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 a.m. (In-Person; Live Stream; Zoom)

Monday, February 9
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.*

Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Tuesday, February 10
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Wednesday, February 11
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Thursday, February 12
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.*
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Friday, February 13
Candles 5:42 p.m.
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Saturday, February 14
Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. (In-Person; Live Stream; Zoom)

Monday, February 16
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.*
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Tuesday, February 17
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Wednesday, February 18
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Thursday, February 19
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.*
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

p.m.*

Friday, February 20
Candles 5:51 p.m.
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Saturday, February 21
Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. (In-Person; Live Stream; Zoom)

Monday, February 23
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.*
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Tuesday, February 24
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Wednesday, February 25
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Thursday, February 26
Morning Service 8:00 a.m.*
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Friday, February 27
Candles 5:59 p.m.
Evening Services 5:30 p.m.*

Saturday, February 28
Shabbat Morning Services 10:00 a.m. (In-Person; Live Stream; Zoom)



TEMPLE ISRAEL

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Friday, February 6
5:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat
6:15 p.m. Shabbat Service
Kid-dish Shabbat

Saturday, February 7
10:00 a.m. Stollen
Moments Torah Study

Friday, February 13
5:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat
6:15 p.m. Shabbat Service
Birthday and Anniversary

Blessings

Saturday, February 14
No Stollen Moments Torah Study

Friday, February 20
5:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat
6:15 p.m. Shabbat Service
Torah Reading

Saturday, February 21
10:00 a.m. Stollen
Moments Torah Study

Friday, February 27
5:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat
6:15 p.m. Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 28
No Stollen Moments Torah Study

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MARY DONNA
RUBIN

Memorable Egg White Frittata

Since our last issue, we have celebrated Hanukkah, welcomed in 2026, and shared many meaningful moments as a community.

“Memorable Egg White Frittata” is the title of my contribution to this issue, and I’d like to share why this simple recipe holds such special meaning for me.

For many years, Shaaray Torah had weekly Shabbat Kiddushes, which provided the congregants a wonderful opportunity for friendly conversations. One congregant who was often present was Helen Blocker, z”l. Helen, who passed away this past December, was one of the kindest people I have ever

had the privilege of knowing. May her memory continue to be a blessing to all who knew and loved her.

Helen was warm, outgoing and wise. Like so many others, I cherished my time with her and felt fortunate for her friendship.

When I think of “memorable” people, I think of those whose presence leaves a lasting impression. Helen certainly did that. Somewhat unexpectedly, however, is that one of my fondest memories of Helen was her love for egg white frittatas. I often shared them with her, and during one of our last conversations, I told her that this dish always made me think of her. She laughed, and said that it reminded her of me as well.

That is why I have chosen to share this recipe with you. Each time I see egg white frittatas in the grocery store, or make them at home, I think of Helen and smile. It feels meaningful to pass along this simple, “memorable” recipe in her memory and in her honor.

I hope you enjoy it as much as we did, and that it brings a smile to your face. In loving memory of Helen Blocker, z”l.



EGG WHITE FRITTATAS

Ingredients

- 16 ounces of Kosher egg whites (or 8-12 eggs, separated)
- ½ teaspoon of Kosher salt (optional)
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil
- 1 bell pepper, diced (your choice of red, green, yellow, or orange pepper)
- 1 cup cherry or grape tomatoes, sliced in half
- 1 cup of broccoli florets cut into small pieces
- ½ teaspoon of black pepper
- ½ - ¾ cup scallions
- 1 ½ cups baby spinach (use shredded or slice whole leaves in half)
- 2 Tbs. fresh or jarred basil pesto
- ½ cup of grated cheddar cheese
- ¾ cup finely chopped mushrooms

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 375-400 degrees, depending upon your oven.
2. Toss the peppers, tomatoes, mushrooms, and broccoli on a sheet pan with 1 Tbs. olive oil, the black pepper, and salt (optional). Coat all of the vegetables.
3. Spread them in a single layer, with the tomatoes’ cut-side up.
4. Combine all of the veggies, toppings, etc. in a baking dish.
5. Roast the vegetables until they are lightly browned on the edges (about 20 minutes).
6. In a large bowl, whisk the egg whites, pesto, salt and pepper.
7. Heat the scallions for 1-2 minutes, until translucent (note: they cook quickly).
8. Add the roasted vegetables to the skillet.
9. Gently fold in the spinach and cheese, and gently pour in the egg whites. Let this set for about 2-3 minutes until well blended.
10. Bake the frittata in the oven until the middle is fully set/cooked, about 30 minutes.
11. Remove from oven and slice in pie-shaped pieces. Serve Warm.

Notes:

Instead of baking the frittata in a skillet, you can fold all ingredients in a large mixing bowl and make individual muffins. Scoop the mixture into the cupcake holders placed in a muffin pan until each holder is half full. Bake for about 30 minutes until the middle is set. Keep checking to make sure the mixture is set, and a cake tester comes out clean. Remove from the oven. Serve warm.

This recipe is gluten free, cholesterol free, colorful, and loaded with protein! ***My favorite are the egg white frittata muffins. They are colorful, and the right serving size. Serve with challah, dinner rolls, etc., hash browns, or tater tots, along with a side of fruit.

**SHAARAY TORAH
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**TU B'SHEVAT SPEAKER AND
BREAKFAST**

**The Mitzvah of Environmental Sustainability
Yishiv HaOlam**

Our Guest Speaker Marty Shankle has spent the last decade with Infinity Power Partners, an energy consulting firm. Serving as their Chief Strategy Officer Marty has developed sustainable energy projects across the country for several clients. At the Jewish Federation of Cleveland he founded and is the chair of their Sustainability Committee.

**Date: Sunday, February 1st, 2026
Time: 9:30 - 11:30**

Please RSVP by January 28th, 2026 to the office by phone 330-492-0310 or email Shaaraytorahcanton@gmail.com

**Breakfast sponsored by Bill & Ellen Shankle.
Entire community is welcome.**