

TEMPLE BETH ZION

Stained Glass

2024-2025 SERIES





Stained Glass

CULTURAL ARTS SERIES 2024-2025

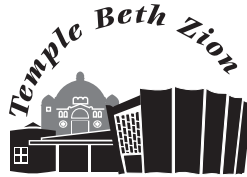
We hope you enjoy our Stained Glass Series program!

At the conclusion, we invite you to join us in our Rabbi Fink Auditorium for a reception and opportunity to meet today's musicians.

These concerts are offered free of charge but if you would like to make a donation, please use the QR code below or go to bit.ly/TBZSTAINEDGLASSDONATION.



THANK YOU!



Temple Beth Zion was founded in 1850 as the first Reform congregation in Buffalo. The original Temple located at 599 Delaware, was built in 1890, but destroyed by fire in 1961. The current main sanctuary of the Temple, built in 1966, was designed by renowned architect Max Abromovitz.

Every facet of the Sanctuary is filled with symbolism. Each side wall consists of ten scalloped panels, representing the Ten Commandments. The oval walls rise skyward like a person's arms in prayer, while the holes in the walls were left from the original forms to indicate that G-d's work was not yet finished. The holes also add to the Sanctuary's acoustic excellence.

Many of the accents within the Sanctuary were designed by internationally known artist Ben Shahn. These pieces include the Menorah, the two stained glass windows, and the thirty feet high Ten Commandments tablets.

The Ten Commandments tablets (the two concrete pillars at the front of the sanctuary) dominate the *Bimah* (platform). Each tablet is inscribed in Hebrew with five of the Ten Commandments. The first Hebrew letter of each commandment is in mosaic, while the rest of the text appears in gold leaf. In between the two pillars is the Ark, containing the six Torah scrolls. It is reminiscent of the original

Ark, in which Moses placed the Ten Commandments he received from G-d on Mount Sinai. Above the Ark hangs the Eternal Light which was designed by Ballini Studios in New York City. The lectern, where the Torah is read, is in the shape of an open book.

The seven-branch Menorah (Shabbat Candelabra) located at the front left of the Sanctuary repeats the design from the lettering on the tablets. Constructed of brass and rose glass, it is reminiscent of the Menorah from the original Temple in Jerusalem, in biblical times. It uses candles and stands on the *Bimah* like the Menorah in Solomon's Temple. The Menorah consists of many Hebrew "*shins*" which look like the letter "w." The Menorah is also the national symbol of the State of Israel.

At the front and rear of the Sanctuary are the stained glass windows designed by Ben Shahn. The stained glass window behind the ark is a depiction of G-d's upturned hand in the act of creation. The lines swirling about the hand represent the voice out of the whirlwind that spoke to the suffering (Job 38:4-7). The stained glass window at the back of the Sanctuary facing Delaware Avenue was inspired by the musical themes of Psalm 150, which calls upon all to praise G-d, and includes a portion of the psalm in Hebrew.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Beth Zion is a Reform congregation that enriches Jewish lives, promotes Jewish values, strengthens Jewish bonds and fosters lifelong learning. Our congregation celebrates the rich diversity of our Jewish community, preserves sacred traditions while encouraging innovation, and affirms our Judaism through words and deeds.

MAZEL TOV

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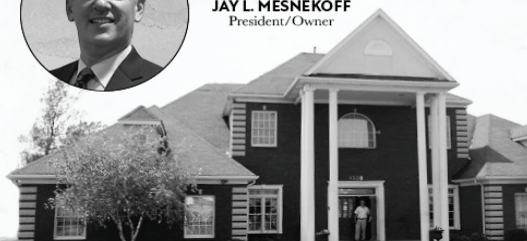
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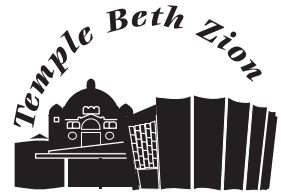
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