



Beth Israel Bulletin

TISHREI - CHESHVAN 5785

 **Upcoming Events: NOVEMBER**

Special Events

11/24: 2:00 pm Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Shabbat Services

- **11/02: 10:00am:** Shabbat T'filah
 - B'nei Mitzvah of Nicky and Aaron Seigler
- **11/08: 7:00pm:** Shabbat T'filah
- **11/15: 7:00pm:** Shabbat T'filah
- **11/22: 7:00pm:** Shabbat T'filah
- **11/29: 7:00pm:** Shabbat T'filah ZOOM only

[View Full Calendar](#)

[Join Via Zoom](#)

FROM THE RABBI

Happy November/Chodesh Tov Temple Beth Israel,

Now that we have finally entered the Hebrew month of Cheshvan, a melancholy month due to the lack of holidays, we begin to settle into the familiarity of Fall. At the end of October, we turned the Torah scrolls back once again, returning to the beginning of creation found in Genesis. Many of us relish the old-timey tales from our youth: Adam and Eve's rendezvous with the serpent, the Tower of Babel, and Abraham's negotiation with God at Sodom and Gomorrah. Even for me, sometimes the stories can seem stale with little new meaning found, and then I encounter the text from a new light.

While the stories found in our Torah never change, the circumstances surrounding our understanding inevitably do change. When I was studying Noah's Ark with a B'nai Mitzvah student recently, he balked at the notion that Noah could have possibly been 600 years of age at the start of the flood. He was convinced that there was a typo in the Torah. Moses, or whoever wrote the Torah, simply added an extra zero accidentally or perhaps on purpose to make Noah seem older and wiser for listening to God. Clearly, Noah must have been 60 years old. Clerical errors set aside; I was impressed with the student's reasoning. The Talmud reminds us that anyone and everyone has the ability to teach us.

As a tree of life, the Torah provides us with a fountain of youth. When we reintroduce the weekly parsha into our lives, not only are we teleported back to our childhood where we first encountered the Bible's stories, but when we re-read the Torah with younger folks, the exercise forces us to see the world through a fresh, unadulterated pair of eyes. This year, rather than falling back into the comfortable, age-old tropes of spousal jealousy or sibling rivalry, I invite us to approach Torah from a radically different lens. If we push ourselves to think differently about how we interact with the written text, then we push ourselves to grow in our understanding of Torah and the world around us. Moreover, if we read or even discuss the weekly Torah portion with our children, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren, then we are creating a family tradition and reinforcing Jewish values. Sometimes we need a younger approach to the old stories, not only as a means to bond our shared history but as a way to keep our minds, hearts, and the relevancy of Torah young and new. Let us continue to re-invent Torah in completely new, refreshing ways with family, friends, strangers, and students; you never know what wonderful Torah they have to teach.

Chodesh Tov,
Rabbi David Joslin



Come Celebrate a Double Simcha!

Saturday, November 2nd, 10:00 am

Parshat Noah

Please join the Seigler Family as they celebrate the B'nei Mitzvah of two of their sons, Nick and Aaron. Aviva and Nicholas Seigler and their family are relatively new arrivals to Plattsburgh and new members of Temple Beth Israel. Please join with them in making this day special. Oneg will follow.



😊 From the President

This summer we went to Washington D.C. and I went to the National Archives (Saby and Sophie groaned) and the Hall of Presidents to delve into some historical papers on the Presidents. I found some great information on the making Thanksgiving a public holiday. On October 3, 1789 George Washington issued his Thanksgiving proclamation, designating for “the people of the United States a day of public thanks-giving” to be held on Thursday the 26th day of November,” 1789, marking the first national celebration of a holiday that has become commonplace throughout the United States. Many subsequent presidents failed to maintain the tradition of Thanksgiving. But it was Washington’s original proclamation that inspired Abraham Lincoln’s Thanksgiving Proclamation. In fact, Lincoln issued his proclamation on the same day, October 3, and marked the same Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26.

While the early presidents did not embrace Thanksgiving, it has become a quintessential American holiday (and my personal favorite). Thanksgiving is about football, turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, family gatherings, crowded airports, lots of traffic and God. It is a holiday that in many ways requires some sense that there is a God. I know we always speak about America as a place where church and state are separated, and yet the proclamation for the first Thanksgiving assumes a certain kind of faith. Washington believed that God had blessed the American Republic. Washington’s mixing of church and state, of belief and practice is undeniable. When I first read Washington’s proclamation, I was taken by the tone, Washington’s humility, and his extraordinary perspective. I couldn’t help but notice that Washington reading this proclamation was refreshing. It reminded me that while our Founders had many sins, they were at the same time driven to seek the good, the true, and the beautiful. They were deeply rooted in Western civilization and understood the connection between belief and practice. Here we have the first president, a man who served his country in humility, helped steer her course, and intimately understood the type of government they were creating, assigning a day through government proclamation to be one “devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be...” President Washington even gives thanks to the Almighty for the Constitution!

Taking our cue from our first president, as Thanksgiving approaches, I hope we will all give thanks to God and take the time to refresh both our hearts, souls and minds.

By the President of the United States of America: A Proclamation. Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor— and whereas

both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness." Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks—for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation—for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war—for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed—for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted—for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us. and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions—to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually—to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord— To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New-York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789. - George Washington

Cheryl Kabeli, President

Rabin Religious School is Back!

Religious School outline for 2024-2025. Please complete your registration form by clicking the Enroll Now button below.

Primary: Grades K to 3: Sundays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. (in person)

- Introduction to our rich heritage through music and art, primary students get a taste of holidays, prayers, Biblical stories, Israel and Hebrew letter recognition.
- Prayers are explained and said every week over challah and juice

Intermediate: Grades 4 to 7: Sundays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. (in person)

Students continue to build on previous subjects and begin to develop a faith system.

- Jewish values, life cycle events and Israel are examined and explored.
- Students learn how to think and behave in an ethical Jewish way.
- Strengthen students' ability to decode and read Hebrew prayers.
- Participation in short services that allow reinforcement of prayers and where students can volunteer to lead as junior Rabbis.
- On Sundays, 7th grade students participate in "Adventures in Judaism," an informal, highly experiential way of examining and exploring the big questions in Judaism. These include our core values, our Community, and our responsibility to ourselves and others.
- Our Remedial Department offers strategies and support to students who need extra help in order to be successful.

B'nei Mitzvah Preparation: Grades 6 & 7

- Students begin preparing to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah through private lessons with the Rabbi.
- Students learn to chant their prayers, Torah and Haftarah portions.
- Explore and choose a way to fulfill the Jewish obligation of helping others as a mitzvah project.
- Use their creative ability to share a creative project.

[Enroll Now](#)

**2024-2025 TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL MEMBERSHIP
SO CLOSE!!!**

We came really, really close to meeting our goal of having all our renewed memberships completed by the Jewish New Year!

A BIG thank you to all.

But...we are still waiting for the last 18% of our members!

Not sure if you renewed or not?? No worries. Just email ceriseoberman@gmail.com and she will be delighted to let you know!



SPONSOR A SHABBAT ONEG**FALL INTO THE SEASON
NOVEMBER****THE NOSH IS UP TO YOU
Cookies, Bagels, Lox, Cream Cheese, Fruit
SAVORY OR SWEET**

Sponsor an Oneg in honor of a wedding anniversary, engagement, birthday, birth of child
or grandchild or in memory of a yahrzeit

**NOVEMBER 8
NOVEMBER 15
NOVEMBER 22**

To reserve your Oneg date, act now!

Contact Stephen Cahill at 518-570-0927 or email wscahill99@yahoo.com

Put "Oneg" in the subject line.

 Yahrzeits

It is customary to honor the anniversary of the death of a loved one by lighting a memorial candle, reciting Kaddish at a congregational service and making a donation. We hope you will do all. A donation can be made to the [Temple Beth Israel Fund of your choice.](#)

NOVEMBER 2, 2024

Frances Leibowitz Goodrich
Minnie Steiner Schiff
Joseph W. Feldman
Rachel Feldman
Gregory F. Merrihew
Harry Joseph Sklut
Joan K. Weinstein
Elizabeth Cohen
Morris Furman
Alice Ratner

NOVEMBER 8, 2024

Robert Willins
Joyce Fievisohn
Rosa Scheier Mendelsohn
Monty Miller
Milton Gross
Hyman H. Harrison
Tamar Farrington
Arlene Amith
Mitchell Lewis

NOVEMBER 15, 2024

Martha Jayne Clark
Chaya Lifshitz
Leah Lifshitz
Aaron Fox
Harriet Berkowitzx
Henry Braunstein
Fannie Dora Kobel
Abraham Alpert
Morris Gitlin
Irving Krinovitz
Lena Fox
Ann Goldman Rednor
Joseph Aaron Schiff

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

Thelma Kaplan
Samuel Morris Schantz
William Levy
Samuel N. Newman
Judith Helfgott
Violetta Brumfield
Bill Brumfield
Martin M. Goldman
Walter Kasnowiz
Morton M. Markstone
Morris Cohen
Hattie G. Kaifetz
Ida Shapiro
Louis Winkler
Bertram Anderson

NOVEMBER 29, 2024

Lillian Newman
Margarate Nolland
Saul Nolland
Florence Davis
Louis Freedman
Bessie Goldsmith
Abraham Ghelman
Bessie Hurwitz
Abraham Moldovan
Regina L. Slatkin
Ray Miller Groetzinger
Morris Isaacson
Abraham Moses Krinovitz
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Lillian Newman
Loretta Oppenheim
Jeanette Kahner Merkel
Terry Ford
George J. L. Taylor



We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts to Our Temple Funds

🌟 Yahrzeit Fund

- Estelle White in memory of Irving A. Elias and Michael B. White
- ElizaBeth Brumfield and Tom Dufore in memory of Violetta Brumfield
- Harold Dunn in memory of Selma and Albert Dunn and Stuart Dunn
- Marcia Wolosz in memory of Celia Bookman
- Eleanor Garrell Berger and Michael G. DiNunzio in memory of Minnie Bella Brody, George Staves and Rabbi Carla Freedman
- Shari Stern in memory of Allan Palik
- Carol Staves in memory of Jeanette and Walter Bujold
- Eleanor G. Berger and Mike DiNunzio in memory of a wonderful brother, Martin H. Garrell

🌟 General Fund

- Miriam and Tom Worthington in memory of George Staves and Rabbi Carla Freedman
- Mary Frances Hensel - thank you for sending the Bulletin
- ElizaBeth Brumfield and Tom Dufore for Security
- Carol Staves in loving memory of George L. Staves

🌟 Rabin Religious School Fund

- ElizaBeth Brumfield and Tom Dufore

🌟 Building and Maintenance Fund

- ElizaBeth Brumfield and Tom Dufore

Take a Moment & Make a Difference

It is easy to honor or remember friends and family with a contribution to any Temple Fund.
No donation is too small.

Make a Donation

♥ **Templegrams: NOVEMBER and DECEMBER**

NOVEMBER

5 Sue Rech
5 Lillian Resnick
9 Elizabeth Brumfield
9 Diane Fine
9 John Schenkel
10 Sharon Ratner
25 ElizaBeth Brumfield and Tom Dufore
28 Ellen Grafstein
29 Jim Jolly
30 Phyllis Freedman

DECEMBER

2 Ann Ruzow Holland
11 Doug Chavez
11 Natalie Harrison Mercaldi
14 Alice Marx
18 Beth Nolland
21 Ben Grafstein

You can send greeting to anyone on this list for only \$.50 per name. Send your list of names and a check made out to Temple Beth Israel to Carol Staves, 26 Tom Miller Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

Please be sure to indicate how you would like the card signed.

Our condolences to **Elle Berger** and family on the death of her brother **Martin Garrell**.

Morning services on Yom Kippur ended up being an interesting experience. We started without any power due to a blown transformer next to the Temple. We moved into the social hall and it felt very cozy. It was a bit cool though. Thank you to **Rabbi David** and **Cantor Emily** for their flexibility.

Sarah & Ron Brown went to Hawaii for a wedding and then spent 2 weeks vacationing. It sounds wonderful!

Alice & Ronnie Marx hosted their college friends for a short visit. They all enjoyed the warm accommodations, good food and the beautiful colors of our fall season.

Sukkot was a huge success with many socks, mittens, scarves, outerwear and even a pair of boots donated to the JCEO. Thank you to **Carol Staves** for transporting them to their intended destination. There were so many people & children in attendance decorating the Sukkah and celebrating that we ran out of pizza! A good, friendly time was had by all.

Sophie Kabeli had an amazing night during senior swim in September. She broke her own records. Congratulations **Sophie**. You had a memorable evening!!

Happy 25th Anniversary to her parents **Cheryl & Sabi Kabeli**. There's a beautiful photo on Facebook.

Happy special Birthday to our former congregant and friend, **Phyllis Freedman**.

Happy 45th Anniversary to **Ann Ruzow Holland & David Holland**. There were great photos posted on daughter **Bri's** Facebook page.

It was nice seeing **Isaac Nizel** home from Oswego for the long weekend. He made it sound like all is going well at school.

Mom **Ellen Grafstein** reports that **Max** is adjusting nicely to being at Tulane. Luckily, he had no real issues with Hurricane Helene. In fact, I understand that he was enjoying "mud sliding" in its' aftermath.

Janet & Jerry Davis had a wonderful vacation in Switzerland visiting with longtime friends. Unfortunately, **Jerry** came home with the European strain of Covid!

Please send your news to Yenta in care of office@plattsburghtbi.org

WITH DEEP APPRECIATION

My children and I would like to thank Rabbi David Joslin and Temple Beth Israel's congregation (individually (you know who you are) and collectively) for the kindness, counsel, thoughtfulness, support and prayers before and after the death of my beloved George (his memory is a blessing), father to our children, Christine and Mark, grandfather to Corey, Meg, Tino, Jayson and Braydon, Great grandfather to Olivia & Ava Newstead, Lyra & Kaida Staves.

To the memory of Tampa Police Officer, David Curtis whose donation gave George (and me) 15 more years of LIFE!

We were a pair of birds, separately suddenly, not to be rejoined.

Then came a breeze to lift the lone bird, to support it on its way
alone, adrift, meandering, lost, so it thought.

But the breeze beneath its wings, gently guided, gently upheld the lost.

The bird has drifted downward, only to be once again lifted, gently swaying it
to a safe direction, to a haven, still a part of the flock.

That breeze is Temple Beth Israel

Carol Staves and Family



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