



Beth Israel Bulletin

SHEVAT 5785

Upcoming Events: **FEBRUARY**

Special Events

- **02/08:** 10:00am: Bella Seigler's Bat Mitzvah
- **02/09:** 10:00am: Tu B'Shevat Celebration
- **02/09:** 11:30am: Chess Club
- **02/12, 02/19, 02/26:** 7:00 pm Movie Night

Shabbat Services

- **02/08: 10:00 am:** Shabbat T'filah
 - Oneg by TBI Community
- **02/14: 7:00 pm:** Shabbat T'filah
 -
- **02/22: 10:00 am:** Shabbat T'filah
 -
- **02/28: 7:00 pm:** Shabbat T'filah

[View Full Calendar](#)

[Join Via Zoom](#)

FROM THE RABBI

Shalom Temple Beth Israel and Happy February,

While we find ourselves in the darkest, coldest hour of the winter, sometimes we need to create our own light. In the upcoming month, we will host a series of exciting events designed to appeal to a wide audience within the Temple Beth Israel community. I encourage you to attend at least one of the following events:

On Saturday, February 8th at 10am, we are excited to support and celebrate Bella Seigler as she is called to the Torah for her Bat Mitzvah.

Later in the month, in an effort to provide opportunities that bring folks out during the week, I am excited to begin a Wednesday Movie Loft at the synagogue. Starting on Wednesday, February 12th, 19th, and 26th, we will host a series of upbeat, perhaps obscure, and mostly forgotten Jewish movies from the past. We will gather at 7pm in the sanctuary. All movies will finish within 90 minutes and light refreshments will be provided.

Also, upon popular demand, TBI will host its first Chess Club gathering. Over the last few months, several members of the community have expressed an interest in playing chess, talking chess, and learning new chess strategies. Well, we will meet on Sunday, February 9th at 11:30am, directly after our community Tu B'Shevat Seder, which coincidentally starts at 10am and everyone is also welcome to attend! Please, bring any chess sets, clocks, scoring paper, and an appetite to learn!

Lastly, I wanted to take this opportunity and encourage folks to donate to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (RDF). While we have many notable and worthy funds within our synagogue's charitable portfolio, the RDF allows me to give anonymously to any local causes such as the Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf, the Elmore SPCA, school fundraisers, caring meals, or to individuals in need of specific help. In the new year, please consider making a financial contribution to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. Thank you

Chodesh Tov/Happy New Month,

Rabbi David Joslin
rabbi@plattsburghtbi.org



From the President

Sometimes it's good to let people know how things get done. Before you get too excited in this case I am talking about how my crazy mind works in preparing these articles that I write every month. Now to be honest, today is 10 days past the deadline that my article was due. Thank you to Maria and Cerise for not only holding a place in the bulletin for me but for also pushing me on this. You see, when I don't have anything to bring you in my message about what is happening at TBI I fall back to using an upcoming Jewish Holiday and tying that into a message. I was at a loss this month. Purim isn't until March and Passover not until April. And then...Rabbi reminded me about Tu B'Shevat.

Let us remember what Tu B'Shevat is...some call it Jewish Arbor Day and others call it, quite literally New Years of the trees. Now I am not going to get into the history of Tu B'Shevat, however, I do encourage those who don't know about the holiday to look it up, it is interesting. So why use Tu B'Shevat? Trees are important to our religion. In our lobby we have a beautiful Tree of Life (near Pearlie's door). Our congregation has served our community since 1861 on Oak Street. Since then, we have moved to our current location and we are still here for you. By choosing to be a member you have put your roots down with your temple family. Please remember that we are always there for you.

Judaism teaches us the importance of finding joy in everyday life, even as we know things in our lives and world are so difficult right now. We continue to lift our kiddush cups filled with the sweet juice or wine of Shabbat and pray for continued goodness for the Jewish community and the entire world. We can strive to balance responsibilities with moments of celebration and happiness. This is a great time to identify what brings you joy and make time for it in your life and do more of it in the year ahead!

We will always find ourselves in a position to seek out and welcome new involvement by anyone and everyone at TBI. In addition to all of the committees and organized efforts, you can contribute to the TBI family through your participation in such things as Ritual, Rabin Religious School, Men's Club and Social Action. These are very important groups within our community that do fabulous work, while fostering the feeling of family, community, and involvement within our congregation.

Please keep an eye out for more information!!!! TBI can only grow, prosper and reach these milestones with the continued engagement of our Congregation. Please help keep us moving forward on our path. Whether you have been side by side with us so far, or you are ready to take your first step, please join hands so that we can move

forward together.

Cheryl Kabeli, President

WE HEARD YOU A NEW WINTER SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Many of you have asked... and your TBI Ritual Committee has listened. We are going to experiment with our Shabbat service schedule this winter and we hope the changes will make it easier for you to join us for services in person.

What have we heard? Many members don't feel comfortable driving to and from services in the dark and getting home so late on Friday nights. You also may have seen frequent requests for volunteers to host upcoming onegs from Steve Cahill, our oneg Shabbat and Kiddush Coordinator. Steve has noticed that during the winter, members are happy to host a Kiddush following our Saturday morning services but seem to be reluctant to host onegs that require us to stay even later on a Friday night.

What have we done in response? Starting in January and running through March, we are going to switch one additional Friday night service to Saturday morning.

Here is our updated Saturday morning Shabbat service schedule, all beginning at **10am**:

- **February 8th** (celebrating the Bat Mitzvah of Bella Seigler) and **February 22nd**
- **March 8th and March 22nd**

Note: There will be no Friday services before these Saturday dates. The remaining regular Friday night services will still begin at 7pm, with event and holiday-based Family services centered around a meal such as Hanukkah, Souper Shabbat and our Passover Seder beginning at 5:30pm as in the past.

Please check the February and March calendars in the appropriate bulletin and be on the lookout for the upcoming invitation from Steve Cahill seeking Oneg Shabbat volunteers.

We hope these changes will enable more of our members and friends to celebrate Shabbats together during the coming winter months. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rabbi Joslin or Andy Kaplan.

TBI Avodah (Ritual) Committee



G-D GAVE US SHABBAT TO BE MADE A SWEET DELIGHT,
 Perform a Mitzvah - Sponsor an Oneg
 Add some delight sweetness to Shabbat

Sponsor an Oneg in honor of an anniversary, engagement, birthday, birth of child or grandchild or a yearzeit. Ask a friend to co-sponsor with you: many hands make light work.

Contact Stephen Cahill at 518-570-0927 or at wscahill99@yahoo.com. Place "Oneg" in the subject line

February 08: Saturday 10 am - Bella Siegler's Bat Mitzvah

February 14: Friday 7 pm

February 22: Saturday 22 10am

February 28: Friday 7 pm

March 08: Saturday 10 am - Celebration of Stephen Cahill's 65th birthday and Medicare enrollment

March 14: Friday 7 pm

March 22: Saturday 10 am

March 28: Friday 7 pm

Social Action Report January 2025

In December, the volunteers have been remarkably busy with the Interfaith Food Pantry and the 1st United Methodist Church.

On Christmas Eve, four (4) TBI volunteers (Deb Moldovan, her 2 grandsons, Robert Jewel, Carol Staves) relieved their Christian counterparts so that they could finish last minutes preparations for their holiday. Our volunteers stated they would do it again.

Christmas morning, three (3) TBI volunteers, Bette Brohel, Suzi Kier Merrihew and Carol Staves assisted in the 1st Christmas Brunch at the 1st United Methodist Church. It was a wonderful event and already our volunteers want to do it again.

FYI TBI volunteers logged in 200 hours, with one volunteer earning over 100 hrs.

In December, the Interfaith Pantry (aka Plattsburgh Food Shelf) served 1114 total persons. 291 children, 567 adults, 256 seniors. There are 27 new families.

In 2024: 4213 children, 7665 adults, 2971 seniors = 14,848 persons served.

December food donations totaled 5292 lbs., from 19 donors, of which TBI was one.

Fundraising: Golf Tournament at Harmony scheduled for September 12, 2025.

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.](#)

FEBRUARY 8, 2025

Clara Goldman
Simi Mamane
Rose Skloff
Jon Alan Sperling
Meyer S. Lichtig
Henry Scheier
Benjamin Feinberg
Carla H. Hyatt
Norman Koslofsky
Ruth Levy
Bernard Cohen
Joshua Egelson
Sylvia Simonowitz
Ethel. R. Goldman
Maxine L. Elbaum
Glenn Drane Freehling
Carey Liss
Bertha Mendelsohn Gordon
Aladar Haas
Tillie Reuter
Rose Goldstein

FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Brooke Ann Freehling
Harry J. Furman
Donald Levine
Caleb Caplan
Myron Mike Matzkin
Rose Cohen
Beatrice Waldman
Jonathan Nizel
Betsy London
Edna Horner
Henry "Honey" Lewin
Laura Julietta Hirschfels
Samuel Baker
Monique Sarnow
Fanny Levites

FEBRUARY 14, 2025

Marylln Rose Find
Myron M. Caplan
Mark J. Davis
Samuel Gottlob
Mabel A. Markstone
Sydney Oberman
Albert Sarnow
Julius Garrell
Susan M. Furnbert
Al J. Kaiser
Albert Greenfield
Reuben Caplan

FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Sidney Gordon
Samuel Sbinowitz
Sydney B. Resnick
Theodore Ruzow
Benjamin Harrison
Miriam Rubin-Sousa
Stanley Briefer
Bernice L. Good
Louise Lawrence Garrell
Bernard Cohen

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information



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We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts to Our Temple Funds

🌟 GENERAL FUND

- Cerise Oberman & Larry Soroka Mazel tov to Susan & Randy Patnode, the new grandparents, and Carol and Jeannot Cao-ba, the new great grandparents on the birth of Talia Nelson.
- Cerise Oberman & Larry Soroka in memory of our beloved parents: Audrey & Milton Soroka and Frances & Sydney Oberman
- Miriam and Tom Worthington to congratulate Cerise Oberman and Larry Soroka on joining the Grandparents Club!
- Amy Knapp
- Miriam and Tom Worthington Mazel Tov to the Nelson/Patnode/Cao-ba families as they welcome Baby Talia

🌟 RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Elle Berger and Mike DiNunzio to send best wishes to Gayle Ratner in her new home; Mazel Tov to the Oberman/Soroka/Novak family as they welcome Netta Fae; in memory of our dear friend, Joe Bornstein; and in memory of my father Louis L. Garrell

Please Mark Your Calendars

On Monday, March 3 at 5:00 p.m., Dr. Karen Blough will be giving a presentation at SUNY Plattsburgh in Yokum Hall, Room 205. The talk is entitled:

Imaging Jewish Persecution and Celebrating the Hebrew Community in the Fifteenth Century: The Evidence of the First Darmstadt Haggadah

This is part of Dr. Blough's ongoing research into Jewish art history, which she began when she received a Rabin Fellowship in Judaic Perspectives (funded by our own Pearlie and Mark Rabin) at the college more than fifteen years ago.

For more information visit <https://www.plattsburgh.edu/plattslife/arts/visual-artist-series.html> and scroll down to the listing for this lecture.

 **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: FEBRUARY AND MARCH**
FEBRUARY

1 Sophie Kabeli
10 Eva Schweber
12 Susan Cao-Ba Patnode
12 Jonathan Merrihew
17 Sarah Brown
17 Ronnie Marx
21 Aaron Davis
21 Hal Rubin
23 Miriam Worthington
25 Mona Goldenberg
26 Jeff Gretz
26 Justin Portugal
26 Samantha Worthington

MARCH

3 Janet & Jerry Davis
3 Shari Stern
5 Camden Sperlingo
6 Elle Berger
7 Tom Dufore
12 Sabi Kabeli
13 Joey Reif III
13 Miriam & Tom Worthington
14 Rachel Sanders
16 Henry Goldenberg
16 Cody Sanders
17 Julia Levy
17 Jeff Resnick
17 Dana Malseptic
19 Jerry Davis
29 Steve Leighton
30 Linda Leighton

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.



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