



Beth Israel Bulletin

Cheshvan—Kislev 5779 / November 2018

Issue 5779 - 03

TEMPLE BETH
ISRAEL
NOVEMBER
EVENTS

CHANUKAH BAZAAR
NOV. 4TH

ISAAC NIZEL
BAR MITZVAH
NOV. 17TH

UPCOMING
EVENTS

CHANUKAH DINNER
FRIDAY, DEC. 7TH

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FROM THE RABBI

This month we will continue to read through the book of Genesis, a project we started on Simchat Torah. Genesis contains the stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, as well as the stories of Adam and Eve, Noah and the flood, the Tower of Babel, Joseph and his brothers (and the amazing technicolor dreamcoat). Reading Genesis, we tend to see it as the story of our family, the story of our ancestors (whether historically or mythically). I want to suggest a different interpretation.

I think it is possible to read Genesis as a story not about the ancestry of the Jewish people, but rather about how God became ready to be God. That the central character in this story is not the string of patriarchs (and matriarchs) mentioned so often in our prayers, but rather the deity who is learning how to be God.

We begin in the Garden of Eden, where God creates human beings, and then creates two special trees in the middle of the garden. God then instructs Adam and Eve that they may eat from any tree in the garden, except those two in the center. Anyone who has had any extended interaction with children knows where this is going next: the eat the fruit from one of those trees. The forbidden fruit is desirable precisely because it is forbidden. Rookie God mistake.

A little bit later, God accepts Abel's offering but not Cain's, with somewhat predictable results in terms of sibling relations.

Around the time of Noah, God notices that people are acting in ways they shouldn't. Finally deciding that this whole humans thing isn't working out, God selects the best of the lot, Noah, and destroys the rest with a flood.

By the time Abraham comes around, God has learned some restraint. When there is evil in Sodom and Gomorrah, God only destroys those cities, and Abraham is able to convince God that if there were even ten righteous men in the city God shouldn't destroy the city.

As the Book of Genesis continues, God withdraws from the action, bit by bit. God becomes more likely to give instructions in dreams, to take a less active role in the day to day running of the world. God is no longer destroying worlds or cities, but sending hints and messages to Joseph through dreams that require interpretation.

For me, this is the process of God becoming ready to God (using "to God" as a verb). Because, some four-hundred years later, when God brings the people out of Egypt, it was, "in order to be your God." Genesis is the training necessary for God to be ready to be the God of the Israelites, bringing them from Egypt and installing them in Promised Land.

So if even God requires time to learn a role, how much the more so for each of us.

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Schedule of Shabbat Services



November Shamus: Suzi Kier-Merrihew

Nov. 2, Friday, 5:30pm Shabbat Evening Service
Chayei Sara (Gen. 23:1 - 25:18)

Nov. 9, Friday, 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service
Toldot (Gen. 25:19 - 28:9)

Nov. 16, Friday, 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service, led by Isaac Nizel

Nov. 17, Saturday, 10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Nizel
Vayetzei (Gen. 28:10 - 32:3)

Nov. 23, Friday, 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service
Vayishlach (Gen. 32:4 - 36:43)

Nov. 30, Friday, 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service
Vayeshev (Gen. 37:1 - 40:23)

Onegs:

Nov. 2: Mona Goldenberg
Nov. 9: Sara and Harvey Hurwitz
Nov. 16: in honor of Isaac Nizel Bar Mitzvah
Nov. 23: Diane Fine
Nov. 30: Marcy Weisburg

YAH RZEITS

November 2, 2018

Elizabeth Cohen
Morris Furman
Alice Ratner
Joyce Fievisohn
Rosa Scheier Mendelsohn
Monty Miller
Milton Gross
Hyman H. Harrison
Tamar Farrington
Mitchell Lewis

November 9, 2018

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

November 16, 2018

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

November 23, 2018

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

November 30, 2018

Lillian B, Garrell
Henry Schapiro
Scott Norman Woolman
Miriam Balkan
Ann Dworski Flynn
Bertha Schneyer
Ethel Cohen
Lulu Schapiro
George E. Kier
Phillip Zerkowitz



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS TO THE VARIOUS TEMPLE TRUST FUNDS

September 16, 2018 - October 15, 2018

GENERAL FUND

Marla & Joel Marmelstein:

- in appreciation of Rosh Hashanah services.



RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Elle Berger and Mike DiNunzio (and Bisquit):

- To thank the Rabbi for his inspiring High Holiday sermons;
- To thank Susan Patnode for her encouragement, support, advice & optimism.

Rabbi David Kominsky

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE



The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at
 2:00pm on Sunday 18 November 2018
 at St. Peter's Church located at 114 Cornelia Street in Plattsburgh.

This service is sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Plattsburgh & Clinton County and is inclusive of all faith communities. Donations of non-perishable healthy foods, as well as monetary, for the Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf will be collected at the service.
 All are welcome to attend.

Take a Moment and Make a Difference

It is easy to honor or remember friends and family with a contribution to any of the Temple Funds—no donation is too small. Simply tear/cut off this sheet, list the Fund that interests you, write a check, and drop in the mail to:

Temple Beth Israel, Att: Treasurer, 1 Bowman Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901.

Temple Fund _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Write your own _____

Signed _____

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Family- it's an important part of our lives. Jerry and I are thrilled to welcome a grandson, Thomas, into our family. He's 7 1/2 yrs old and, by the time you read this, we will have met him on our recent visit to Toronto. Maddie loves having him as her older brother and Aaron and Lisa are thrilled to have him as their son. Our family, all 22 of us, will all be gathering in Plattsburgh for Thanksgiving. Everyone will get to meet their newest nephew and cousin. Lots of love, noise and excitement.

As you know, I have made the Temple community my family here in Plattsburgh. We celebrate, grieve and support each other in many different ways. As a Jew, I've attended burials of ARC clients, a baby naming for those I barely knew and numerous other occasions of celebration and sorrow - just because it mattered for another Jew. That's why I was so disappointed and embarrassed at the lack of support shown at the recent death of a member. A couple that has been a member for a number of years, attending when able during their summers spent here, away from Florida. We need to try harder to be a minyan for fellow Jews. On our annual cemetery visits, few show to honor the dead with saying kaddish by their graves along with our Rabbi. The Ritual

Committee now tries to include the 3 annual yiskor services in a regularly scheduled service so that there will be people attending. To me, I find this situation very troubling, disturbing and sad- it makes my heartache.

Now onto happier topics- please join us for our annual Hanukkah Bazaar on Sunday, November 4th. Bring your family and friends. Mona and her crew work so hard to have a variety of craft vendors, sisterhood Judaica and, I heard, maybe even a bake sale. It will be held from 10 am -2 pm - come one, come all.

The Rabin Religious School is underway. This year we are planning to celebrate holidays in conjunction with the congregation, instead of as a separate entity. The Ritual Committee is fostering this and I appreciate their effort. Please check out our new website at plattsburghbti.org. A big thank you to Jeff for his time and hard work.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, issues or concerns.

L'Shalom, Janet

561 4791 or jmdavis1952@gmail.com

November 4, 2018

Chanukah Bazaar 10:00 am -2:00 pm



Please join us for the annual
Chanukah Bazaar at Temple.

We will have many unique Judaica items in addition to all of our favorites including dreidels, gelt, candies and gift wrap. We will have Scholastic books from preschool to High School. We will also have local artists with items to purchase for family and friends.

There will be books, jewelry, ceramics, cards, quilts, knitted items, hats, weaved items, photography, scarfs, soaps, handmade bags and more.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Temple and please pass the word about the bazaar to family and friends.

Women of Reform Judaism



The Women of Reform Judaism of Temple Beth Israel continues to provide support for the Temple's cultural programs; providing refreshments for the Yeganyahu Avishai Mekonen presentation; providing baked goods for sale by the Youth Group at the Chanukah Bazaar, sponsoring Mah Jong lessons, and Books and Bagels. If you would like to talk with any of us about ideas you have for programs or activities please give us a yell!

Debra Good, President

Marcia Wolosz, Past-President

Linda Leighton, Shelley Lack, Lucy Burrell Taylor, Vice-Presidents

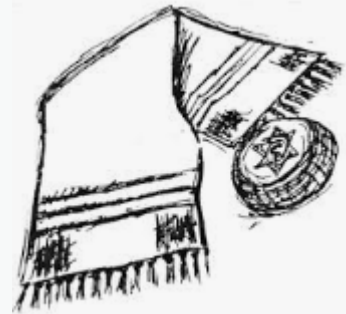
Beth Brumfield, Treasurer

Lynn Schlesinger and family

invite the congregation

to join us when

Isaac Jeremias Nizel



is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah

Saturday November 17, 10:00 A.M.

There will also be a service

Friday evening, 11/16/18, 7:30 p.m.

that Isaac will help lead

YENTA

So much activity at TBI, wonderful SUKKOT and SIMCHAT TORAH celebrations now behind us, bellies full to bursting from “Pizza in the Hut” and TBI MEN’S CLUB brunch!... emotionally heartfelt presentation by YEGANYAHU AVISHAI MEKONEN about his life as an Ethiopian-Israeli Jew, thanks to DIANE FINE & FAMILY in memory of her father, CHARLES FINE, and to TBI WRJ for a fantastic dessert reception following, so nice to see so many friends from the North Country community...don’t sit down just yet, next up on November 4th is the CHANUKAH BAZAAR, come shop, schmooze, *shmeykhlen*¹, no *opgekrochen schoireh*² here, lots of crafty vendors including our own SHELLEY LACK & MARILYN SMITH, Yenta heard there will be DARK CHOCOLATE GELT for sale this year, due to popular demand, thank you MONA GOLDENBERG & MIRIAM WORTHINGTON!...the DAVIS FAMILY has some exciting news, JANET & JERRY GRANDPARENTS AGAIN, with AARON, LISA & MADELINE welcoming 7-1/2 year old son THOMAS into their family, grandma & grandpa will meet him before Thanksgiving...MICHELLE DAVIS has picked up some violin “gigs” in the Newport OR area, some nice “me time” weekends away for this busy



mom!...SARA DAVIS was home to take part in a lecture with friend EMILY BAXTER at SUNY’s “We Are All Criminals” forum, an educational, inspiring lecture, but it wasn’t all serious stuff, as grandma & grandpa got to play with “Little” HENRY, as well...ALICE & RONNIE MARX traveled to San Diego, CA to help granddaughter DALIA & FAMILY move into their new 3-bedroom home, now grandma & grandpa have a comfy place to stay, was RONNIE put to work on the home improvement front, I wonder?...JESSE MARX is now the head of maintenance at Lake Forest Community, is leather the new dress code for keeping the place neat and clean?!...MARCY & JEFF WEISBURGH headed to Mt. Tremblant in Quebec to brush up on their French, I’m sure!...did you catch PJ MILLER being interviewed on North Country Public Radio on what politics means to him, very thoughtful and informative

answers, as you would expect, also please give a HUGE SHOUTOUT to PJ for supplying the weekly Oneg challahs, straight from the North Country Food Co-Op, they are DELICIOUS, reason enough to come to services and enjoy an Oneg, in Yenta’s humble opinion...ZAHAVA HARRISON doing well, did you know granddaughter ABBY is a HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR?!...NATALIE MERCALDI also mending nicely... condolences to BARBARA ROTHSTEIN on the loss of her dear husband BUTCH MYERS, “z’l”... spotted at services recently while taking a break from column widths and content layout, “TBI Bulletin *Redaktor*³ Extraordinaire”, MARY FIEVISOHN, looking good!...CAROL LIPSZYC now an American citizen as well as a Canadian citizen, so now she gets to celebrate 2 Thanksgivings?!...Submitted by *Molly the Yenta*, send news to tbioffice@verizon.net with Yenta as the subject by the 9th of each month when the bulletin is published.

¹smile

²no shoddy merchandise here!

³editor

SAVE THE DATE

Friday December 7th
Temple Beth Israel Hanukah Celebration
Get out your best recipes for the
Great Lakta Fry-Off for everyone



Take a Moment and Make a Difference

It is easy to honor or remember friends and family with a contribution to any of the following Temple Funds—no donation is too small. Simply tear off this sheet, check the Fund that interests you, write a check, and drop in the mail to:

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- General Fund**: This fund is used for the everyday operations of the Temple.
- Yahrzeit Fund**: Part of the general fund, this is for the yahrzeit observance of loved ones.
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**: As it's name implies, this fund is to be used by the Rabbi as needed. Donations will increase the Rabbi's ability to assist needy individuals, contribute to tzedakah, and support other activities that further the mission of the synagogue. Pursuant to relevant tax laws and professional ethics, these funds are not used for the personal benefit of the Rabbi.
- The Joyce Cohen Building Trust Fund**: This fund originated from the funds remaining after our present Temple and Religious School were completed. The interest from this fund is used to make any capital improvement on both the Temple and Rabbinate. It is hoped that contributions to this fund will continue to be made to insure our ability to keep up proper repairs and maintenance of our congregational properties.
- 21st Century Fund**: ensures that funds are available to retain a Rabbi.
- Merkel-London Library Fund**: supports purchase of books, periodicals, and films that support the needs of the congregation and Religious School.
- Rabin Religious School Trust Fund**: supports the Religious School.
- The Charles E. and Regina L. Slatkin Lecture Fund**: supports programs of Judaism as depicted through art, literature, or music.
- Fanny S. Schiff Trust Fund for Youth Activities**: supports youth programs and activities
- Woolman Rabbinical Trust Fund**: supports a Rabbi as a spiritual leader for our Jewish community.
- Mensch Fund**: to be used for programs and purchases that might not be accommodated within the regular Temple budget.
- Judge Robert J. Feinberg Memorial Educational Fund**: for acquiring books, periodicals, audio-visual equipment, videotapes, CD's, software and the like to aid in the education and instruction of the children and adult members of the congregation.
- Martin M. Goldman and Family Fund**: to provide for the enhancement of Jewish life and worship in Plattsburgh.
- Harvey Duchin Jewish Cultural Fund**: Cultural programs and/or activities, including music, art, lectures, etc., for the benefit of the congregation.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Write your own _____

Signed _____

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