



Beth Israel Bulletin

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL JANUARY EVENTS

ON-LINE SERVICES AT
7:00 PM

TU B'SHVAT SERVICE
JAN. 29TH ON ZOOM



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FROM THE RABBI

This is a liminal moment, a time of transition.

As a world, we are moving from 2020 to 2021. I know I am not alone in hoping that the new year will bring peace, stability and health.

As a country, we are approaching a presidential transition. This transition we call "inauguration", marking it with rituals built up over centuries. This year will be different, both because of pandemic concerns and because of who the outgoing president is. As such, this transition may itself mark a transition in American politics - a move away from a respectful display of national unity towards a ritual in which partisan divides remain on display (admittedly, I am writing this from the perspective of mid-December, and who knows what this ritual may actually look like more than a month from now). Many of us are hoping that this national transition of power will also mark a transition to greater civility and normalcy in the practice of American politics.

As a congregation, we also face a transition with Beth Brumfield stepping up to president as Debra Good moves away (speaking of which, don't forget to join us for Shabbat services on January 8th as we honor Debra and Doug). In my years working with congregations, I've found that changing presidents more often changes how things get done more than what gets done. Each president brings their own tone and style. In many ways, this diversity of style is good for congregations, keeping us from becoming stale or set in our ways. I, in particular, am looking forward to that special brand of energy that Beth brings to life.

And on a personal note, this month I will transition from my first half-century of life to my second. As my mother pointed out, 50 is the roundest of round birthdays, at least after 10 (and before 100). While certainly not qualifying as "old" (despite the assertion of one local restaurant that offers its senior special to those fifty and older), it does remind one that old age is not infinitely far off any more. As such, it definitely pushes me to engage in some self-reflection, looking at where I've been and where I'm going.

And that, to a large degree, is what marking transitions is about. From New Year's Eve parties (this year, hopefully entirely within our own households), to inaugurations, to birthdays, these are moments for looking back and looking forward. For taking stock of and charting a course.

In Judaism, the havdalah ceremony marks the separation of one week from the next. I find myself wondering how large a havdalah candle one uses to separate one half-century from another.

May all these transitions be for the good, and may we be able to celebrate together once more during 2021.

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Schedule of Shabbat Services

Jan. 1, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service on-line (Zoom)
Vayechi (Gen. 47:28 - 50:26)

Jan. 8, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service on-line (Zoom) (In honor of Debra Good and Doug Chavez)
Shemot (Ex. 1:1 - 6:1)

Jan. 15, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service on-line (Zoom)
Vaera (Ex. 6:2 - 9:35)

Jan. 22, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service on-line (Zoom)
Bo (Ex. 10:1 - 13:16)

Jan. 29, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat/Tu B'shvat Service on-line (Zoom)
Beshalach (Ex. 13:17 - 17:16)



Y A H R Z E I T S

January 1, 2021

Gerald Baden
Moe Balkan
Ruth N. Hecht
Jessie Taylor
Morris E. White
Ben Barish
Audrey Soroka
Nita Roberts
Rae Barish
Dora Copland Rosenzweig
Kurt Emil Hirschfeld
Julius Balkan
Irving Weisman

January 8, 2021

Hyman Simonowitz
Samuel Bronstein
Mel Lichtig
Henry Mendelsohn
Julius Mendelsohn
Rose Rednor
Adele Lessner
Sarita Tisser
Abraham Nizel

January 15, 2021

Muriel Gotlieb
Herman Bornstein
Beatrice Moldovan
Ida Dorothy Morris Furman
Gussie Jaffe
Samuel Ruzow
Ben Gabor
Sarah Miller Morris
Robert Julian Feinberg
William Levy

January 22, 2021

Hanka Meldung
Maurice Kabeli
Rebecca Merkel Scheier
Meyer Schwartz
Isidore Bookman
Baruch Feldman
Avrum Shainmark
Erwin L. "Joe" Bornstein
Annie Myerson
Harry Schlesinger
Martin Helfgott
Roger P. Kennedy
Doris Burde
Rene Gluck

January 29, 2021

Matthew Feldman
Esther Rozel Smolar
Julius M. Evans
Samuel Rabin
Clara Goldman
Simi Mamane
Rose Skloff
Meyer S. Lichtig
Marylin Rose Fine



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shalom Chaverim,

Composing this year's end-of-year holiday letter to friends and family was difficult. I was at a loss to write about positive and upbeat news. And I wondered how I could send you positive messages of hope when I'm honestly feeling the drain of this extraordinary year. So many things are in an upheaval. Our normal routines have been replaced by masks, disinfecting and social distancing. Our country has been battered by fires, floods, tornadoes, political unrest, economic uncertainty, national division and a global pandemic that is killing thousands. The world and our lives have been turned upside down.

As my personal life changed so did Temple life. Temple Beth Israel went virtual as of March 14th. Services are on Zoom, holidays are marked by smaller gatherings and pick-up holiday bags. Absent was the warmth of gathering, the unity of prayer, the connection of touch and the schmoozing at onegs. And the Temple has a new president. That's me. The office of president became

vacant when Debra and Doug left the area to be with family. We will miss them and wish them all the best. But oy vey, what big shoes I have to fill! Luckily, several seasoned past presidents have offered to assist.

The helping factor so prevalent at TBI has persisted through the upheaval of 2020. Our congregants continue to reach out to feed the hungry, comfort the sorrowing, cheer the sick, keep traditions alive, teach our children, honor our rituals and hook up technology for non-techies. I am so proud and happy to be part of this congregation.

As your incoming president, I plan to foster that spirit of giving and caring. I will build on the wisdom of those before me, explore different and flexible ways to do business, extend outreach to the invisible Jews in our community, honor our distinguished past and forge our future with your help.

My "door" is always open to you. I'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

Shalom Charverim, ElizaBeth Brumfield
lcdrbeth@gmail.com 518-944-0610

The Ritual Committee needs you for Souper Shabbat!

And we've extended the deadline to FRIDAY, JAN. 8

In years past, we gathered at Temple on the Friday night before Super Bowl and shared bowls of soup and bread; this was not just an opportunity to warm up in the dead of winter but a way to raise money for those in need. This year, the need is greater than ever, and although we cannot enjoy the delicious soups and breads prepared by diverse members of the congregation in person, all of us certainly can contribute and support the Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf.

We could just ask you to send a check, but what's the fun in that? So we are asking you to send us your soups, chilis, stews and bread recipes; we will collect and gather them in a nice little booklet and send it to you. This will be our way of all participating in the TBI Souper Shabbat; of course, instead of dropping cash in the little basket on the side table, you will be able to make your donation by mail.

Please, help us with this fun project and send us your favorite soup, stew, chili or bread recipe(s). Let us know if you would like to have your name included with the recipe or would like to remain anonymous, maybe add a little story about the background of the recipe (totally optional).

If your recipe is online, you can just send the link, or you can write your recipe out in a Word Doc and email it to worthington.miriam@gmail.com

or even send it by snail mail to:

Miriam Worthington 122, Glen Rd Jay, NY 12941.

Please participate, send your recipe and we'll do the rest!



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS TO THE VARIOUS TEMPLE TRUST FUNDS

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21st CENTURY FUND

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- in honor of Debra & Doug. Thanks for everything; you will be missed.

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- In memory of Sarah Gordon.

MENSCH FUND

Phyllis Freedman:

- In memory of Morris Werner.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jeff Eherlich, Ona Belser & family:

- In memory of Zahava Harrison.

Sharon Ratner:

- Donation in honor of Ritual Committee.

Andrew & Barbara Katz:

- Wishing all the TBI community a Happy & Healthy Chanuka.

Judith Weisman:

- In honor of her two grandsons, Max and Aaron.

Yahrzeit Fund

Jerry & Janet Davis & family:

- In loving memory of my mom Marie Hiller;
- In loving memory of our dear friend Flo Kaufman.

Phyllis Gitlin & family:

- In memory of Morris Gitlin.

Esther Ehrlich:

- In memory of Abraham M. Ehrlich.

Mark & Peter Judge:

- in memory of our Grandparents - Anna Bohem Davis and Alex J. Davis.

*Thank
You*

YENTA

Yenta wishing everyone a Healthy, Happy, Giving New Year!

Please, drop Yenta a line.



Your Donation Makes a Difference!

*Simply fill out the form below, write a check payable to Temple Beth Israel and mail it to
1 Bowman Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901, Attention: Treasurer*

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General Fund: Everyday Temple operations.

Yahrzeit Fund: Traditionally made for the yahrzeit observance of a loved one. This is part of the General Fund.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: This fund is used by the Rabbi as needed to assist needy individuals, contribute to tzedakah and support other activities that further the mission of TBI. These funds are not used for the personal benefit of the Rabbi.

The Joyce Cohen Building Fund: The interest from this fund is used to make any capital improvement on both the Temple and Rabbinate. Contributions to this fund will continue to insure our ability to keep up on repairs and maintenance of our congregation's properties.

21st Century Fund: Ensures that funds are available to retain a Rabbi.

Woolman Rabbinical Trust Fund: Supports a Rabbi as spiritual leader for our community.

Education Funds

Rabin Religious School Trust Fund: Supports the Religious School.

Merkel-London Library Fund: Supports the purchase of books, periodicals and films that support the needs of the congregation and Religious School.

Fanny S. Schiff Trust Fund for Youth Activities: Supports youth programs and activities.

Judge Robert J. Feinberg Memorial Educational Fund: For acquiring books, periodicals, audio-visual equipment, software and the like to aid in the education of the members of the congregation.

Rachel Harrison Camp Fund: Provides scholarship money for children and teens to attend Jewish camps.

The Israel Student Scholarship Fund: Provides supplemental funding for current and former students of RRS to travel to Israel.

Cultural Funds

The Charles E. and Regina L. Slatkin Lecture Fund: Supports programs with Jewish content in the areas of art, literature or music.

Mensch Fund: To be used for programs and purchases that might not be accommodated within the regular Temple budget.

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.

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Membership: Mona Goldenberg, 518-563-0758, goldenberg48@charter.net; Cerise Oberman, 518-570-9158, ceriseoberman@gmail.com

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

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