



# Beth Israel Bulletin

TEVET - SHEVAT 5785

## Upcoming Events: **JANUARY**

### Special Events

- **01/31: 5:30 pm:** Souper Shabbat

### Shabbat Services

- **01/04: 10:00 am:** Shabbat T'filah
- **01/10: 7:00 pm:** Shabbat T'filah
  - Cerise Oberman and Larry Soroka in honor of their new granddaughter.
- **01/18: 10:00 am:** Shabbat T'filah
  - Marcia Bookman Wolosz in honor of my mother's & father's yahrzeits
- **01/24: 7:00 pm:** Shabbat T'filah
- **01/31: 7:00 pm:** Shabbat T'filah

[View Full Calendar](#)

[Join Via Zoom](#)

## FROM THE RABBI

Chodesh tov and Happy New Year,

It was amazing to see so many of you at our Chanukkah holiday party in December. The shul still smells of latkes! Thank you to everyone who cooked, cleaned, and helped in the festivities. And if we're still in the winter holiday spirit, let it be known that in Judaism we celebrate four different New Years. We honor the 1st of Nissan, which was seen as the New Year of Kings; the date for beginning the count of a king's rule. It was also closely associated with the season of Spring and the Passover holiday. Furthermore, the 1st of Elul was the due date to give tithes for any livestock. The 1st of Tishrei -Rosh Hashana is seen traditionally as the date when the world was created. In ancient times, it was also used for calculating certain vegetable tithes. Lastly, the 15th of Shevat-Tu B'Shevat is the birthday and tithe associated with new trees.

As we turn the page on another secular year, I invite us to take a look back at the year that was and to think about how we can all strengthen our community in the year to come.

Starting in January and going through March, our ritual committee has added an additional Saturday Shabbat service to address the increased interest to sponsor, attend, and enjoy our Shabbat Kiddush onegs.

As a reminder to those who are looking for a real opportunity to volunteer within our local community, on the first Monday of every month, Temple Beth Israel, led by a core group of die-hards, offer their time and resources to the Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf. These efforts make a difference! We are able to help feed dozens and dozens of folks, mostly families from our area.

So, whatever New Year you celebrate or however many New Years you honor on the calendar, please consider participating in a synagogue event and volunteering your time to enhance our greater community, during this crucial time of year.

May 2025 continue to shine bright for all your loves ones.

With warm regards,  
Rabbi David Joslin



## From the President

During my High Holy Day address, I shared with you the challenges we are facing as a 21st century rural reform congregation. To recap, the Board has looked at demographics, our decline in membership and revenue over the past 10 years, the rising costs of maintaining our large and aging facility, and the long list of wants. We have concluded that we can no longer — by ourselves — afford to keep doing things “the way it has always been.” We are prepared to embrace bold and transformative change, because without transitioning to a new model, without radical change, we will drain our endowment and exhaust our resources to run this building within the next 7 to 10 years.

Determined and eager to find creative solutions, we will be initiating a new committee looking at strategic planning of TBI. One of our goals is to help our aging congregation (no offense) to find new ways to be true to the mission of TBI while stabilizing the costs of property stewardship. This is accomplished by developing “Asset Mapping.”

In November, we launched a guided process of evaluating our assets and determining ways to enhance our role in the larger community of Plattsburgh — as a valuable community asset. This 6-month process which will involve meetings, site visits, and strategic visioning, is described below:

“For Temple Beth Israel to strengthen its network of partners and increase its capacity for space-sharing with community groups, the synagogue must also raise its public profile and cultivate local relationships with civic and community leaders. Inviting our community’s input into the visioning process for a congregation’s space will uncover potential programs, partnerships, and initiatives and to assist the congregation in strengthening their presence and establishing new relationships. Participants will engage in facilitated exercises to identify — and connect — the assets and strengths of TBI and the surrounding community.

- Identify new partners and collaborators in the community
- Uncover new uses for TBIs physical plant and surrounding acreage
- Provide important insight for Beth Israel about how to connect their assets with the gifts and talents of the neighborhood around them in order to realize their vision for their facilities
- Articulate community and congregational priorities for the facilities and property’s use for mutual benefit

- Lay the groundwork for strong partnerships now and into the future.”

To fully focus on leading this essential and time-sensitive initiative, I will begin soliciting volunteers by the end of December/beginning of January. As this process unfolds, I will be sharing our progress and inviting your feedback – your ideas, your connections, your impressions and your feelings.

We are excited to begin this journey because we have so much to preserve, staying true to our mission to be an inclusive and welcoming Reform synagogue, dedicated to inspiring learning, practicing mitzvot, and supporting all ages in their diverse Jewish journeys. We are hopeful because we love TBI and because we believe that the more honest and transparent we are, the more proactive we can be about securing our future.

Cheryl Kabeli, President

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# **SOUPER SHABBAT IS BACK!**

Join your TBI Mishpacha and help raise funds for the  
North Country Food Shelf.

**Bring a monetary contribution or non-perishable  
food items to help those who are in need.**



**Friday, January 31st  
Temple Beth Israel  
5:30 PM**



*This is a non-dairy meal*

All **MEAT** and **VEGETARIAN** soups will be prepared  
by Ritual Committee members and TBI Community.

Please consider bringing a dessert to share  
for the Oneg following services.

For TBI members and invited guests

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## 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**:

- January 4th and January 18th**
- 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 January, 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

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Winter is here!

Come warm up with your TBI FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Sponsor a Friday night shabbat oneg

Or a Saturday morning light kiddush/luncheon

THE NOSH IS UP TO YOU

cookies, bagels, lox & cream cheese, fruit

SAVORY OR SWEET

Sponsor an oneg in honor of an anniversary, engagement, birthday, the birth of a child or grandchild, or in memory of the Yahrzeit of a loved.

Ask a friend to co-sponsor! Many hands make light work.

January 04, Saturday 10:00 AM

January 10, Friday 7:00 PM Cerise Oberman & Larry Soroka

January 18, Saturday 10:00AM Marcia Bookman Wolosz

January 25, Saturday 7:00 PM

February 08, Saturday 10:00 AM Bella Seigler Bat Mitzvah

TO RESERVE YOUR ONEG DATE, PLEASE CONTACT STEPHEN CAHILL AT

518-570-0927 or

EMAIL [wscahill99@yahoo.com](mailto:wscahill99@yahoo.com) with Oneg in 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.](#)

**DECEMBER 27, 2024**

Irving Weisman  
 David Hilowitz  
 Birdie Winkler  
 Abraham M. Ehrlich  
 Harry Taylor  
 Sadie Rome Shubert  
 Louis Wolfe  
 Ruth Feinberg Bergman  
 Abraham S. Caplan  
 Jerry Golt  
 Max M. Tisser  
 Lea Frydman  
 Gerald Baden  
 Moe Balkan  
 Ruth N. Hecht  
 Jessie Taylor  
 Morris E. White

**JANUARY 4, 2025**

Ben Barish  
 Audrey Soroka  
 Nita Roberts  
 Rae Barish  
 Dora Copland Rosenzweig  
 Robert C. Angley

**JANUARY 10, 2025**

Kurt Emil Hirschfeld  
 Julius Balkan  
 Rhoda Greenfield  
 Hyman Simonowitz  
 Samuel Bronstein  
 Mel Lichtig  
 Henry Mendelsohn  
 Julius Mendelsohn  
 Rose Rednor

**JANUARY 18, 2025**

Adele Lessner  
 Sarita Tisser  
 Abraham Nizel  
 Muriel Gotlieb  
 Herman Bornstein  
 Beatrice Moldovan  
 Ida Dorothy Morris Furman  
 Gussie Jaffe  
 Samuel Ruzow  
 Harry Block

**JANUARY 24, 2025**

Ben Gabor  
 Sarah Miller Morris  
 Mary Ann Weber  
 Robert Julian Feinberg  
 William Levy  
 Hanka Meldung  
 Maurice Kabeli  
 Rebecca Merkel Scheier  
 Meyer Schwartz  
 Isidore Bookman  
 Martin Helfgott  
 Baruch Feldman  
 Avrum Shainmark

**JANUARY 31, 2025**

Erwin L. "Joe" Bornstein  
 Annie Myerson  
 Harry Schlesinger  
 Roger P. Kennedy  
 Doris Burde  
 Rene Gluck  
 Matthew Feldman  
 Esther Rozel Smolar  
 Julius M. Evans  
 Samuel Rabin





LOOKING FOR TAX DEDUCTIONS  
CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO  
TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL!

There are many funds that help us keep the  
Temple running, bring social and spiritual  
programming and education  
to our community

Make a [donation](#) or mail a  
check to the Temple.

Your generosity benefits us all!



**We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts to Our Temple Funds**

 **Yahrzeit Fund**

- Carol Staves
- Linda Leighton in memory of my beloved Mother, Henrietta Fishman
- Judith Weisman in memory of Irving Weisman

 **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: DECEMBER AND JANUARY**

**JANUARY**

4 Zoey Olesker Nominton  
 5 Liz Newton  
 8 Leah Stafford  
 8 Andrew Kaplan  
 9 Lily Sarnow  
 13 Reb David Kominsky  
 14 Geordi Skarling  
 20 Lucy Goldenberg  
 23 Aviv Olesker - Nominton  
 26 Andrew Lack  
 27 Gabriel Malseptic  
 28 Max Grafstein  
 28 Lucy Shutts

**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

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.

**Thank you to all our sponsors**

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