



Beth Israel Bulletin

TAMMUZ - AV 5785



Upcoming Events: **JULY**

Special Events

- 07/13 1:30-3:30 pm Temple Beth Joseph 120th Anniversary in Tupper Lake
- 07/26 10:00 am Audrey Albert Bat Mitzvah
- Mark your calendars for the TBI Shabbaton, 09/05-09/06

Shabbat and Other Services

- 07/04: 5:30 pm: Shabbat T'filah
- 07/11: 7:00 pm: Shabbat T'filah
Pre-Shabbat Reception at 6:00 pm
- 07/18: 7:00 pm: Shabbat T'filah
- 07/25: 7:00 pm: Shabbat T'filah

JULY SHAMUS: Carol Staves

[View Full Calendar](#)

[Join Via Zoom](#)



FROM THE RABBI

Shalom Folks and Happy July,

As we gather at pools, parks, and cookouts to celebrate our nation's birthday this July 4th, my heart wants to enjoy in all the natural beauty that summers in the North Country offer, but my head is distracted. Usually, I try to keep the rabbi's monthly update light and easy, especially during the summer, but it would be a disservice to deny the angst and uncertainty I currently feel.

As I write this bulletin in late June, Israel is in the midst of the fight for her life, as she wages a pre-emptive war to dismantle Iran's nuclear weapons program. With Iranian missiles raining down all over the Israeli country side, time will only tell how effective the operation will be, but this bold Israeli attempt looks to once-again reshape the Middle East more than twenty months after the October 7th terror attacks. I am thinking about the citizens of Israel spending sleepless nights in safe rooms, the death, destruction, and lives upended. In particular, my thoughts are with the most vulnerable communities; those without access to shelters or sufficient protection. Like most, I hope and pray for a long-lasting peace that leaves Israelis, Iranians, and all those in the region with the prospect of a safe and secure future. However, I must also hold ample space in my heart for those suffering in our region.

In looking back at our synagogue's discussion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in June, I recall those in our community whose real fear reflects the dramatically frightening increase in antisemitism across the United States. Acts of senseless violence have been waged against the Jewish communities in Washington D.C. and in Boulder, Colorado. In April, the Governor of Pennsylvania, Josh Shapiro's Passover Seder was fire-bombed hours after Dayenu was sung. Despite this anxious and chaotic time, folks within our community are determined to not only celebrate Jewish life, but they're committed to address the problem of antisemitism directly.

In May, I attended a Zionist Rabbi's Conference in Washington, D.C, where we discussed the current American political response to antisemitism; focusing on the crack down at colleges and universities, as well as the deportation of foreign-born supporters of Hamas and Palestinian causes. During our discussion, there was a clear division between rabbis who supported the tactics this current administration uses, versus rabbis who wondered if other, less punitive measures could be more effective, if not humane.

I pose the same question to our congregation: Do the ends justify the means; can we support and defend Jewish communities against antisemitism, in all forms from all sides, with the least destructive response as possible? Or more clearly, is there a way where we can clean-up and clean-out the antisemitism and antisemites without using it to justify deportations and strong-armed anti-immigration policies, or are we okay with this administration's efforts to punish individuals, under the guise of combatting antisemitism, even when other forms of antisemitism from American born individuals, such as the far-right, seem to be given a pass without such a response?

I strongly recommend that we the Jewish community not only do a better job in deciding what is and what is not antisemitic, but let us also take the time to

discuss how antisemitism should be fought, especially when it is being done in our name. Do we wish to turn our fear into a tool used to educate or scare others? How we decide and how we respond will matter.

Chodesh tov,
Rabbi David Joslin



 From the President**TBI'S STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Strategic Planning Committee is intended to guide the focus of Temple Beth Israel over the next three years. As the nature of participation in religion and religious organizations is changing, and as the demographics and diversity of our community expand the range of Jewish experience, synagogues must examine what it means to be relevant and provide meaning.

Rather than being a road map of what we do to get from Point A to Point B over the next one, two and three years, this Plan is a guide to the why and the how. By not prescribing specific implementation steps, this plan encourages us to experiment, adjust, and adapt so that we can be ready to meet the future.

Over the past decades, synagogues have often made “membership” synonymous with “community,” and thus come to focus on sustaining the institution, rather than investing in the community for its own sake. While it may seem like a subtle difference, congregations that are thriving today make a clear distinction between the two. At each step along the way of implementing this Plan, we will ask ourselves, “is this in service of the community or the institution?” And while organizational sustainability is a major focus of this Plan, it also recognizes that the beating heart of our community is the people who make up our congregation. Seen in that light, the purpose of sustainability is not to perpetuate the institution for its own sake, but to continue to meet the needs and priorities of our congregants.

This Plan envisions a congregation that embraces connection, and that works explicitly to build a strong, meaningful, and engaged Jewish community. We will prioritize relationships and shared Jewish values as our foundation. We strive to be a congregation where everyone feels a sense of ownership and responsibility for each other and our community, and will feel empowered to contribute their ideas, energy, and resources to achieve our collective vision. With this plan, some things will stay the same and some things will change.

There is risk in change, but we also know that given the changing demographics and nature of the community in which we live, there is risk in not changing. Over the course of implementing this Plan, we will learn to take appropriate risks - when to be bold and when to be more restrained.

Once the board adopts this plan, the board, staff, and other lay leaders will create

implementation plans with timelines, measures, and specific actions tied to specific people to achieve the priorities. We will use the next three years as a time to reflect on what we are doing now and to practice new ways of working; we will test new approaches to learn what works and supports TBI.

The vision, mission and values of an organization form the foundation of a strategic plan. All other elements of the plan are derived from this foundation.

The vision is an aspirational statement of what we hope will be accomplished because of our work; its focus is on the future.

The mission is the reason the organization exists; in an effective organization, every action and decision that the organization makes is in service of its mission. For a nonprofit organization, which has no “owner” in the traditional sense, it can be said that the mission “owns” the organization.

The values are deeply held beliefs that guide our behavior, or how we do our work. Unlike the vision, they are not aspirational. They may, however, change over time as our community evolves. Our founding principles define the historical foundation of Temple Beth Israel; they are the link from our past to our future, l’dor v’dor - from generation to generation.

Members of the Strategic Planning Committee are Cheryl Kabeli, Chair; Diane Fine, Lynn Schlesinger, Marcia Wolosz, Jeff Weisburgh, Ronnie Marx, Stephen Cahill

If you have any questions, please reach out at tbipresident1@gmail.com.





Please join us when our daughter
Audrey Joan Albert
is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah
Saturday, July 26, 2025 at 10am

Audrey will also be
participating in the
Shabbat Evening service
Friday, July 25, 2025 at 7pm

We look forward to having you with us
to share in the celebration.

Marty & Sue Ellen Albert
and Audrey's proud grandparents
Susan & Steve Albert





SPRING INTO SPONSORING A SUMMER ONEG

For Friday Kiddush keep it simple: some fruit or pastries or cookies

For Saturday Kiddush Luncheon: keep it a Jewish favorite like bagels and cream cheese

Sponsor an Oneg in honor of an anniversary, engagement, birthday, birth of a child or grandchild or a yahrzeit. Ask a friend to co-sponsor with you: many hands make light work. Reserve your Oneg date - act now!

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

JULY 04: Friday 5:30 pm

JULY 11: Friday 7:00 pm Pre-Shabbat Reception 6:00 pm Join us for a variety of cold cuts, breads and salads.

JULY 18: Friday 7:00 pm

JULY 25: Friday 7:00 pm Oneg in honor of Audrey Albert's Bat Mitzvah

AUGUST 01: Friday 7:00 pm

AUGUST 08: Friday 5:30 pm Barbecue to follow

AUGUST 16: Saturday 10:00 am

AUGUST 22: Friday 7:00 pm

AUGUST 29: Friday 7:00 pm



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.](#)

JULY 04, 2025

Robert L. Berger
Israel Cohen
Harry Kleinberg
Jeannette Nizel
Saul H. Rubin
James Bergman
Clara Achouche
Katherine Wood
Jennie Rovins
Helen Evans Wolfe
Mollie Cohen
David Sterns
Aaron Watermeier
Kate Wolfe

JULY 11, 2025

Jerome Levine
Harold Weisburgh
Dorohea Ann Merkel
Milton Rubin
Violet Rovins Caplan
Dr. Israel Winkler
Celia Bookman
Ruth Smith
Louis Kalofsky
Harry Lippert
Blanche Mendelsohn
Ruth Ship
Harry Skloff
Ben Spielberg
Hector Escudero
Delores Escudero

JULY 18, 2025

Harvey E. Duchin
Barney A. Kobel
Louise Treistman
Barbara Gordon Nolland
Noel Merrihew
Aldrich M. Benson
Melvin Cohen
Rose Furman
Ollie McNulty Paul

JULY 25, 2025

Charles E. Slatkin
Samuel Cohen
Yetta Juskowitz
Samuel Gordon
Irene Hartoch Marx
Harold Rome
Mary Hurwitz
Morris M. Shubert
Doris Bornstein Edelman





Congratulations to **Sophie Kabeli** on being the salutatorian of her 2025 graduating class at Seton Catholic. We're all so proud of you!

MAZEL TOV to **Mona & Henry Goldenberg** on the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Imagine, they were high school sweethearts and they still are!

Best wishes to **Ilene Leshinsky and George Cummings** on their relocation to the Asheville, NC area from Florida. ENJOY!

Jerry Davis is enjoying his bicycle riding again following his fracture of 2 ribs this past Mother's Day. It's good to see him out and about on the Terry Gordon path and on the side streets of Plattsburgh.

Lenny & Michelle Zelkowitz recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated by renewing their vows, square dancing and enjoying the company of very long time and some newer friends. **Michelle & Lenny** went hiking and stayed in a cabin in the Dolomites for 10 or so days. We're looking forward to hearing about it. Spring and summer have arrived in the North Country.

MAZEL TOV to **Andy Kaplan** on the birth of his second grandchild, Ella Shira Greenberg.

Our snow birds have returned from Virginia, Arizona, Utah and Florida and we're so happy that they're back!

The group meeting / discussion held by **Rabbi David** in June was informative and helpful. There were a good number of participants in person and more on Zoom. People felt safe to share their concerns and opinions. Hopefully we can do this type of gathering again on different topics.



We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts to Our Temple Funds

🌟 21st CENTURY FUND

- Cheryl and Sabieli Kabeli to thank the 2024-2025 Board for all their hard work.
- Cerise Oberman and Larry Soroka in loving memory of Edith Sulzberg

🌟 GENERAL FUND

- Cheryl and Sabieli Kabeli in memory of Leo Grafstein's father.
- Diego Grinberg-Funes in memory of Raquel Funes and Raul Grinberg
- Miriam and Tom Worthington in memory of my mother Clara Achouche and to congratulate Diane Fine on her retirement. Also to thank her for the great programs she brought to TBI through the years.

🌟 RABIN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TRUST FUND

- Sandra Ghelman to thank Cheryl and Ellen for all their hard work this year keeping RRS moving forward!

🌟 YAHRZEIT FUND

- Bryan Freehling in memory of J. Herman Weiss, father of Paul I. Weiss
- Larry & Kate Kriff and Leslie Kriff in memory of Peter Kriff
- Sara and Harvey Hurwitz in memory of Eve Lewin and Henry Lewin

Take a Moment & Make a Difference

In Jewish tradition we make donations or tributes, to acknowledge lifecycle and milestone events including: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Births, Graduations, Weddings and of course Commemorations and Condolences. At TBI, you can direct these tributes towards causes that reflect your or your loved ones interests.

[Make a Donation](#)

Honor and Celebrate With a TBI Plaque

Temple Beth Israel offers several ways to permanently honor a loved one or celebrate a simcha.

Remember a Loved One

Yahrzeit plaques are a Jewish tradition used to commemorate the passing of a relative or loved one. These plaques are inscribed with the English and Hebrew names of the departed, along with the date of death in both the standard and Hebrew calendar. Each year, the plaque is illuminated on the day or week of the deceased's yahrzeit. If you are interested in purchasing a Yahrzeit plaque, please contact Andy at kappy8@charter.net.

Celebrate a Simcha

Commemorate a birth, a b'nai mitzvah, a wedding, a special birthday or anniversary, among other things by purchasing simcha plaque. Every plaque is individually inscribed becoming a permanent part of Temple Beth Israel's history.

If you are interested in purchasing a plaque, \$200, please contact Andy at kappy8@charter.net.

 **Templegrams: JUNE AND JULY**

JULY

1 Sarah & Harvey Hurwitz
1 Shelley & Mike Lack
2 Marilyn Lorberbaum
6 Mike DiNunzio
16 Jim Godfrey
16 Mark Goldman
18 Judy Weisman
22 Carole & Jeanot Cao Ba
23 Mark Sarnow
27 Jesse Marx
31 Marcy Weisburgh

AUGUST

14 Sarah Reif
16 Ian Ratner
16 Jeff Weisburgh

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.

**Seeking....**

Cleaner: We need an experienced cleaner who is interested in cleaning the Temple on a weekly basis. If you are interested or know of anyone that might be, please contact Andy Kaplan (518-569-7151).

Cultural Committee Chair: Do you have ideas for movies, speakers, field trips, concerts that will enhance appreciation of our Jewish culture and heritage? If so, this is the perfect position for you. Please contact tbipresident1@gmail.com if interested.

Sales Agent: We want to add additional sponsors to our Newsletter. If you have a special gift in soliciting companies and businesses to advertise, then this is the perfect position for you. Please contact tbipresident1@gmail.com if interested.

KNOW YOUR TEMPLE BOARD OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<https://www.plattsburghtbi.org/board-of-directors>

You can contact any of these individuals by calling the office at 518-563-3343

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