



Beth Israel Bulletin

AV - ELUL 5784

 **Upcoming Events: SEPTEMBER**

09/08/24, 9:00 am **Mitzvah Day** - TBI Cemetery

High Holidays Form

Please return your form via email or mail by
September 25th

09/27/24, 7:00 pm **Board Installation**

Shabbat Services

- **09/06, 7pm:** Shabbat T'filah
- **09/13, 7pm:** Shabbat T'filah
Oneg Sponsored by Stephen Cahill
- **09/21, 10:00am:** Shabbat T'filah
Oneg sponsored by the Mah Jong Group
- **09/27, 7pm:** Shabbat T'filah
Oneg sponsored by the TBI Board

[View Full Calendar](#)

[Join Via Zoom](#)

FROM THE RABBI

Shalom Temple Beth Israel and Happy September/Chodesh Elul tov,

As we return from our vacations and clean out all the sand from our beach bags, I feel rejuvenated after a fun and relaxing summer. I think it's important to spend time in the sun, soaking up the positive rays, running around with kids and dogs, picnics and BBQs, early morning lake swims and late-night campfires; these activities are fun. They connect us to our loved ones, but these memories often revolve around a special place. Usually, it's our backyard but sometimes it's a lake, campground, exotic beach, or if you're lucky a villa in Tuscany. For me that special place, at least during the summer, is nearly always Israel. During this summer, I have spoken and written extensively about my recent travels throughout the Land. In June's TBI bulletin, I detailed the amazing opportunity, in which I participated as a Birthright Israel staffer, helping to lead 30 young adult Jews around the Holy Land in the effort to instill a sense of Jewish history and pride. In July's bulletin, I examined the time I spent after the Birthright Trip, when I visited the Southern Gaza border region, and the sites and memorials associated with October 7th. In this month's column, I examine my last week in Israel, which was spent divided between the Holocaust Educators' Conference at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and Shabbat in Tel-Aviv.

Over the years, I have spent countless tours at Yad Vashem-Israel's Holocaust Memorial, Museum, and the world's premier institute on Holocaust studies and archives. By far the greatest take-away from my time spent rubbing shoulders with Holocaust educators from all over the world was the undying obligation to learn and teach the Holocaust by non-Jewish educators to a non-Jewish audience. Frankly, I was ignorantly astonished at just how fascinated non-Jews could be to learn and teach about the Holocaust. Some were Judeophiles, non-Jews academically interested in learning about Jewish history. Others were the grandchildren or great-grandchildren of righteous gentiles, a term designated for the rare few gentiles who risked their own lives during WWII to save or rescue Jews. But many fell into another group, the direct descendants of former Nazis and Nazi-Collaborators. In my conversations, especially after-hours, members of the conference would open-up about what drew them to not only attend the conference, but to pursue a life dedicated to educating their native non-Jewish communities about the perils and lessons of genocide against their own historical Jewish.

While I learned new techniques on how to better educate or engage folks on Holocaust themed material, I gained a far deeper insight by talking to fellow educators. As a post WWII cultured and educated generation, these descendants of Nazis and Nazi collaborators have bothered to ask themselves some tough questions; what was their family's role in the Holocaust? Why did their grandparents or great grandparents harbor antisemitic opinions and attitudes? Just how prevalent was Nazi ideology in their local European town?

After the conference ended, I returned to Tel-Aviv to celebrate Shabbat near the beach before I returned to the States. I walked to the International Synagogue, where ironically the Rabbi is from Long Island. In honor of July 4th, we sang Adon Olam in the tune of Yankee Doodle Dandy and made Kiddush over champagne in front of a beautiful array of American, French, and Russian Jews. Later in the evening, as I walked along the coast, I came to a few realizations: Visiting Israel is critical for Jews and non-Jews to understand the Jewish spirit and condition as it formed, evolved, and as it lives and breathes today. We must do everything we can to bring more folks to Israel. If we teach our story on

our turf, then the logical conclusion will follow, a natural love affair with the Jewish people and our historical saga. Visitors will tour the Golan Heights, Gaza Envelope, and the Hills of Jerusalem, and they will better understand the Biblical and modern perils that affected the land but also the magical beauty of a special people inextricably tied to a specific land, promised by God as a haven for the world's Jews. Guests will gain a better understanding as to why Israelis think, feel, and experience life as they do.

Lastly, if folks are to understand and actively engage in the effort to combat antisemitism, then they must wrestle with their own antisemitic past. The Holocaust educators whose grandfathers and grandmothers spewed antisemitic rhetoric feel compelled to inform and educate against the modern ills of antisemitism. I am optimistic that we can in fact learn from the sins of our forefathers. Perhaps, the descendants of today's Jew haters and killers may one day teach tolerance, acceptance, and understanding. As we enter the Hebrew month of Elul, let us begin the hard task of working on personal and public teshuvah. I am also looking towards the healing that occurs not just externally between humans, but rather internally, within us. My time in Israel this summer has been instrumental in helping heal many of the past year's wounds. Speaking with descendants of Nazis offers me a sharp ray of hope that eventually we do accept responsibility and accountability. We can learn, evolve, and strive to be better individuals, if not in this generation, then in the generation that follows. Moreover, if we don't hold ourselves accountable for our transgressions in this lifetime, then we risk burdening the next generation with our own failures.

Chodesh tov,
Rabbi David Joslin

 **From the President****WELCOME BACK!**

As I write this, I am looking forward to our Welcome Back Shabbat for the Rabin Religious School and the SUNY Plattsburgh Hillel. I am very excited to embark on the amazing opportunities we have before us in the coming year. One of those amazing opportunities is building a stronger Jewish community, within our own Sinai congregation, as well as with other Jewish organizations in Clinton, Essex and Franklin counties.

Of course, managing the balance between the demands of an individual's self and that of the community is a defining element of every culture. Our country was founded on the principle that societies are created to provide individuals with the inalienable rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" in order for individuals to conduct their own independent lives. However, Judaism teaches us that humans were created to tend to the needs of the community, and one of the great blessings of Judaism is that it, and not in a burdensome manner, requires our being a part of a community. And generally, we prefer the experience of community to that of individual isolation. Hillel said, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

So as American Jews, we straddle these two cultures, the secular culture that emphasizes the individual, and the Jewish culture that reveres community. Indeed, throughout our lives, we participate in Jewish relationships without which we could not survive. Our tradition is emphatic: From our first moments to our last, we Jews value life among other human beings, life made richer by irreplaceable relationships and our belonging to a community.

Cheryl Kabeli, President
Tbipresident1@gmail.com

Rabin Religious School is Back!

Religious School outline for 2024-2025. Please fill out registration forms and return to the office.

Primary: Grades K to 3: Sundays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. (in person)

Introduction to our rich heritage through music and art, primary students get a taste of holidays, prayers, Biblical stories, Israel and Hebrew letter recognition.

3rd grade students are offered the opportunity to sing in Junior Choir

Prayers are explained and said every week over challah and juice

Intermediate: Grades 4 to 7: Sundays (in person) from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Students continue to build on previous subjects and begin to develop a faith system.

Jewish values, life cycle events and Israel are examined and explored.

Students learn how to think and behave in an ethical Jewish way.

Strengthen students' ability to decode and read Hebrew prayers.

Participation in short services that allow reinforcement of prayers and where students can volunteer to lead as junior Rabbis.

On Sundays, 7th grade students participate in "Adventures in Judaism," an informal, highly experiential way of examining and exploring the big questions in Judaism. These include our core values, our Community, and our responsibility to ourselves and others.

Our Remedial Department offers strategies and support to students who need extra help in order to be successful.

B'nei Mitzvah Preparation: Grades 6 & 7

Students begin preparing to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah through private lessons with the Rabbi.

□ Students learn to chant their prayers, Iorah and Hattarah portions.

□ Explore and choose a way to fulfill the Jewish obligation of helping others as a mitzvah project.

□ Use their creative ability to share a creative project.

[Enroll Now](#)



SAVE THE DATE
MITZVAH DAY!
Sunday, September 8th
9AM
TBI Cemetery
for Cemetery cleanup and
burying holy articles

2024-2025 TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL MEMBERSHIP

Wow!! Our membership renewal is on a hot streak!

Please keep it going.

Mail your Community Commitment back or hop online

www.plattsburghtbi.org/membership

to renew your membership.

Let's Make 100% Renewal by Rosh Hashanah!

To date: 56% of members have renewed



SPONSOR A SHABBAT ONEG

FALL INTO THE SEASON
SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

THE NOSH IS UP TO YOU
Cookies, Bagels, Lox, Cream Cheese, Fruit
SAVORY OR SWEET

Sponsor an Oneg in honor of a wedding anniversary, engagement, birthday, birth of child
or grandchild or in memory of a yahrzeit

SEPTEMBER 6 7:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 13 7:00 PM Stephen Cahill

SEPTEMBER 21 10:00 AM Mahjong Groupies

SEPTEMBER 27 7:00 PM Board Members

OCTOBER 4 7:00 PM

To reserve your Oneg date, act now!

Contact Stephen Cahill at 518-570-0927 or email wscahill99@yahoo.com

Put "Oneg" in the 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.](#)

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

Ada Brown
Rachel Dunn
Sarah Feldman
Golda Malke Feinberg
Rhea Jacobs
Elizabeth S. Caplan

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

George Aibel
John K. Benson
Jenny Kassel
Nochem Myerson
Laura T. Schiff
Dr. Henry Freedman
Hilda Lewis
Norman H. Meyer
Samuel Rashkin
Tillie Rashkin
Dorothy Weiss
Hortense B. Sterns
Rachel Woolman
Stuart Harrison

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

Zahava Harrison
Jeanette Bigold
Aaron Cohen
Zelda Lowe
Albert H. Rabin
Esther Freedman Werner
Eli Hurwitz
Lillian Katzper
Florence Scheier
Sarah Gretz
Yetta Schiff
Fannie Isaccson
Mary F. Silverman
Morry Winternitz
Rose Winternitz
Rem A. Christopher
Ethel Caplan
Dora Evans
Edward Hauschor
Louis Marcus

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

Lillian Lippert
Selma B. Dunn
Louis Miller
Joseph Silverman
Helena Bibliowicz
Tsilla Trunk
Sydney Smith
Barnett Cohen
Leah M. Feinberg
Simon Meyer
Jules Treistman

MITZVAHS AND BLESSINGS

Please remember those in need with donations to the Interfaith Food Shelf. Non-perishable food items can be brought to Temple or monetary donations can be made to the [Interfaith Food Shelf](#).

Winter is coming. Please check to see if you have unused, gently used, clean winter items such as coats, hats, mittens, scarves or boots to donate. Others in need will greatly appreciate them. Bring them to the Temple or call Carol Staves, 352-584-2827 and she will pick them up.



We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts to Our Temple Funds

🌟 YAHRZEIT FUND

- Linda and Steven Leighton in memory of our beloved Father and Poppy, Irving Fishman.
- Susan Meyerson, Alan and Mark Goldman and families in memory of Nana, Rhea Jacobs; and in memory of Aunt Edith Goldman Shipley.
- Judith Weisman in memory of my Mother Dorothy Gross.

🌟 MENSCH FUND

- Phyllis H. Freedman in memory of Yetta Shainmark.

🌟 GENERAL FUND

- Gail Abrams-Young to the Sunday Mahjong ladies - Mahalo for all the fun and friendship; Mazel Tov to Caroline and Troy Hassinger on their recent beautiful wedding; and Congratulations to Isaac Nizel on his graduation and good luck in college. We will miss you at Mahjong.

 **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: SEPTEMBER, and OCTOBER**

SEPTEMBER

1 Jen Shutts
 7 Joel Shutts
 8 Debra Good & Doug
 Chaves
 13 Marcy & Jeff
 Weisburgh
 16 Sharon & John
 Schenkel
 18 Rabbi David Joslin
 21 Susan Gottlieb
 21 Carol Klepper
 25 Cheryl & Sabi Kabeli
 25 Alice & Ronnie Marx
 27 Mike Lack
 28 Sandra Ghelman &
 Cody Sanders

OCTOBER

1 Lea Brumfield
 12 Keith Taylor
 13 Ann and David Holland
 15 Ellen and Leo Grafstein
 19 Suzi Kier Merrihew
 23 Bunny and Bob Adler
 31 Talia Sanders

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.

[Make a Donation](#)

☞ YENTA

Lynn Schlesinger has had a busy summer. Caroline & Troy had a beautiful wedding in VT. The view of the east side of Mt Mansfield, as a backdrop, was spectacular. The bride was stunning and the groom was besotted. It was a pleasure to see former members Mona & Henry Goldenberg, as well as Bev Reuter & Arthur Horowitz there.

Isaac and his Mom had a summer trip to Guatemala. Unfortunately, Lynn came home ill. Max Grafstein is off to Tulane and Isaac Nizel to SUNY Oswego for their freshman year. Warmest wishes to both for success.

Tova Soroka was home for a visit. It's always such joy having our young adults back with us.

The Kabeli's did a number of campus tours recently. They were up and down the East coast. Sophie has decided that the draw to the Boston area is just too irresistible.

MAZEL TOV to James Jolley on his choosing Judaism. Welcome to the "tribe/community".

Jenna Marx, husband Daniel and Dalia have moved back to Plattsburgh. She's learning the ropes at Cedar Knoll. Grandma Alice couldn't be happier.

Sarah Davis, wife Kori, Henry & Albert spent time with Janet & Jerry. They enjoyed Ausable Point beach and rafted Ausable Chasm.

It's nice to see the Leighton's enjoying the lake with daughter Amanda. What could be better!

Sharon & John Schenkel braved Hurricane Ernesto. We're thankful all's ok.

Andy Kaplan is very busy with his livery service. If you are planning a trip, book him early!

Well, the Patnode's & Caoba's are moving to Queensbury this fall. We wish them well as they move closer to daughter Ilana & husband Scott. Don't worry, they'll be back and forth to Tails of the ADK's and hopefully to activities at TBI. They've been members too long to leave us for good.

Bette Brohel is back in the drivers seat after her hip surgery. Great recovery!

We all wish Beth Brumfield improved health as she faces a cardiac issue.

Please send your news to Yenta!



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