



Beth Israel Bulletin

SHEVAT-ADAR I 5784/FEBRUARY 2024



Upcoming Events: FEBRUARY

Special Event

SOUPER SHABBAT

02/09/24 at 5:30 pm

Shabbat Services

- **02/02, 7PM:** Shabbat T'filah
- **02/09, 5:30PM:** Souper Shabbat
- **02/17, 10AM:** Shabbat T'filah
- **02/23, 7PM:** Shabbat T'filah

[View Full Calendar](#)

[Join Via Zoom](#)

From the Rabbi

Shalom Temple Beth Israel and Happy February,

The beginning of February is a beautiful time in our Torah's journey. We often read about the Passover saga, the parting of the Red Sea, and the wonders of receiving the Torah at Sinai. While we read these events in late January or early February, they feel more like Spring holidays- an odd misplaced distortion of time and celebrations. As we have arrived at a point in the Jewish calendar, in-between Tu B'Shevat and Purim, where the peak of winter has reached its darkest, coldest period, the quiet allows us to pause and reflect on what the last 100 days of war between Israel and Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis has brought us.

In my many conversations and journeys with congregants at TBI, I have heard the pain, anguish, sorrow, and fearful uncertainty, following the savage, barbaric attacks on October 7th . Folks within our congregation often ask about the day-to-day war updates and what if any threats exist against our local community. Luckily, the pride and strength of the Plattsburgh community continue to shine not in few but through and through. In particular, I am overwhelmed by the public outcry against the pro-Hamas anonymous student editorial in the SUNY Plattsburgh Cardinal Newspaper. Whether supporting us by coming out to demonstrate solidarity during our communal Chanukkah lighting party or participating in our interfaith council's Thanksgiving prayer service, there is a true desire for the public to understand the conflict and to support the local Jewish population. Sadly, much of the United States does not seem as united as Plattsburgh.

In terms of Israel, the war has consumed the entire national psyche. The hope that Israel could contain the conflict indefinitely ended on October 7th . If Israelis are utterly exhausted, I can only imagine how the poor Palestinian Gazans must feel. The end to this war and the return of all the Israeli hostages does not yet seem possible, let alone a final peace resolution to this internal conflict, culminating in two tranquil states for two people. However, if both sides ever grow tired of war, luckily we have many great roadmaps to this pipedream. In fact, Israel has painstakingly worked for such a reality in their past. The Palestinians were offered a state in 1947 under the U.N. Resolution to partition the British Mandate, before the second Intifada in 2000, and most recently in 2008. The last two attempts offered between 93%-97% of the West Bank territory, agreements on water, security, and financial incentives to help build the West Bank Palestinian civil society, with modern western infrastructure. Somehow when push comes to shove, the Palestinian leadership has never been able to sell peace to their own population. Violence and terrorism reign inevitably whenever the prospect of peace appears, leaving one to wonder if the Palestinian authority would ever accept any terms other than the maximalist position

of all the land without any Jews.

We, American Jews, shouldn't be naïve either. Israel has taken advantage of the disfunction within the Palestinian leadership for years, as she has justified many of her questionable tactics and illegal land seizures as a legitimate response to the Palestinian authority's warm embrace of terrorism. A majority of Israelis vote for right wing governments because voting for a leftist or even moderate government is not received in the Arab world as a compassionate, moderate approach to a peaceful final two-state solution, but rather it's viewed as a weakness to exploit. Such an Israeli government has historically only emboldened terrorism; for some reason, the Palestinian authority has never been able to duplicate the same moderate desire to negotiate for peace and land. On her pathetic part, Israel seems incapable of making the difficult decisions and committing the painful concessions she needs to extricate herself from this conflict, which would be to dismantle the West Bank settlements. After October 7th many Israelis don't believe doing so would really lead to a long-lasting peace if the other side was never really interested in renouncing violence as a perquisite to peace and land. For many Israelis, it's not about the West Bank settlements if much of the world thinks Tel Aviv is an illegal settlement, and many in-fact do, even though there is no historical truth to such a ridiculous claim. How does Israel dispel these radical beliefs, when she has already offered to leave up to 97% of the West Bank? It seems like a lose-lose proposition. If the international community is only interested in demilitarizing the Israeli occupation of the West Bank without addressing the need to demilitarize and deradicalize Gaza and the West Bank, then it appears as though Israel will continue to dictate how these terms are met.

This is why Israel needs to take the bold step to eventually extricate herself from the West Bank while inextricably linking the final UN supported peace deal to the other conflicts that continue to plague the world. Why can't this be an opportunity to end war and to rally for peace everywhere? Russia and Ukraine have been at war since 2022. Remember Cyprus? Yes, the Greeks and Turks have been at war over the island since 1974. This speaks nothing to Turkey's refusal to acknowledge their role in the genocide of 2 million Greek and Armenians. No doubt the UN must care about all claims of genocide equally? Perhaps these far off distinct conflicts don't match the same regional intensity of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Well, we don't need to look any further than to Israel's neighbors: Syria, Iraq, Iran, and once again Turkey; four countries which have all declared the Kurdish people and their desire for an independent state as non-sense terrorism. Where is the outcry for an independent Kurdistan or for end to the Syrian Civil War? North and South Korea seem to be closer to war today than at any point since the Korean War ended. I can continue to wax poetic about China's treatment of the Uighurs, but first let me know whatever happened to the Free Tibet movement. Really, where did it go? Was it successful? If this appeal sounds like whataboutism, keep in mind, I am not absolving

Israel of her responsibility to do everything within her power to seek peace among the Palestinian people. I'm just curious why the international community mostly focuses on this conflict, and the U.N. never seems to apply enough pressure to resolve any of these other long-standing disputes. It must be a blessing that the United Nations exists to help the world not solve the Israeli Palestinian problem; only to fail in resolving so few other disputes. The worldwide condemnation of the Israeli treatment of the Palestinians, in particular but not isolated to the occupation of the West Bank, cannot truly just be about this conflict when so many other conflicts, wars, disputes, and terrorist campaigns continue to rage without any actual concrete investment to end those disagreements. And, therein lies the frustrating, hypocritical, dirty, double, impossible, no-good standard facing Israel.

The Palestinian societal embrace of terrorism, which has killed countless Israelis, needs to be addressed as no more or less legitimate than the deaths of innocent Palestinians. Where is the accountability from the Palestinian leadership? It seems to always be placed on the feet of Israel. If we're playing international moral referees, then let's call penalties on both sides and not just when it's convenient. I'm talking about cherry-picking what conflicts receive condemnation, or worse, what drives those who ONLY seem to care so profoundly about this conflict to an odd, self-righteous fury; and all the more so if you're not Jewish, Israeli or Palestinian. Within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, outsiders seem to take the hostilities uniquely personally, and I don't think it has anything to do with their connection to the Holy Land. What else could it be? What is one's personal connection to this sole conflict or rather their soul's conflict? Why can't the worst versions of ourselves admit to what's really going on here? If guilt rather than justice is the new currency in which the world uses to pay for progress, then isn't there enough guilt to go around? There's just something special about the Jews' Wars, and it has less to do with human rights or justice for all, and a lot more to do with good old fashion Jew hatred.

Often, individuals and nations are so blindly anti-Israeli that it alters their perception of reality; they hold the Jewish state to a different, higher, or more critical standard than they would judge any other country. Legitimate criticism of the Israeli government set-aside, if we hold Israel to a higher standard than any other country, then that is text book antisemitism. The sooner the world comes to terms with their latent, subconscious antisemitism, the better off we will all be. Many of Israel's haters and the useful ignorant tools of the haters don't understand or care about Israel's impossible moral and security dilemmas which exist not 6,000 miles away from her borders but rather 6 miles away. If intersectionalism addresses the suffering of all marginalized people, where do the Jewish people fall on the victimhood spectrum? Surly 2,000 years of exile, Roman induced slavery, Catholic Church sponsored Crusades, Inquisitions, & Pogroms, followed by a European genocide, an Arab-forced exile of 900,000 Sephardic & Mizrachi Jews, several Arab army invasions, and waves of Palestinian terrorism campaigns must account

for something in terms of sympathy? Do the same ethical platforms in which BLM, Me Too, and Times Up exist not apply to the Israelis raped on October 7th? In the wake of the attacks, some folks could not even allow themselves to sympathize for Israelis, let alone console Jews who have never stepped foot in Israel. These liberal, progressive human right's organizations short-circuit when their narrative around Palestinian suffering meets the Jewish peoples' historical experience with blood-thirsty antisemitism.

Therefore, the burden is clearly on Israel to once again carry the mantle and lead the world as a beacon to all the nations. No doubt, Israel should commit to a fair peace deal with the Palestinians; one in which a decent leader of the Jewish state would want if the shoe was on the other foot. It would also be expected for Hamas to return our hostages, demilitarize, deradicalize, and renounce any claim to any other territories, as well as the Palestinian right of return within any other Israeli territories. The Torah teaches that the quest for peace is ultimately what should unite all of humanity, but only a strong nation can make the painful concessions necessary to forge that peace. Let Israel honestly tell the world, if you want peace here, you must commit to peace everywhere. If we're going to culturally appropriate Passover liberation for all people, to which the Jews have gladly given permission for centuries, we can't turn the Jews into Fuhrers and Pharaohs by falsifying, villainizing, and demonizing the very same people for whom the Nazis tried to wipe off the map with true genocide. Can we please apply the same honest and fair standards in which we judge and resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to each side in all of the world's conflicts in order that the same sweet tasting lessons of Passover freedom can be applied to and benefited by all people? If the answer is no, then what makes the Israeli-Palestinian conflict so special, other than it involves the Jews, and more importantly, should Israel continue to participate in a disingenuous peace process? The Jewish people must summon their own inner Nachshon, by taking the courageous and dangerous leap towards peace and by showing the world how to end war. Let us pray that the next 100 days, shortly after this year's Passover, all sides, everywhere will be much further along in the peace process.

Chodesh Tov,
Rabbi David Joslin

Notes from the President

As we stand at this crucial juncture in our journey, the words of Bob Dylan ring truer than ever. His timeless anthem, "**The Times They are A-Changin**" from 1963 encapsulated an era of seismic shifts - the struggle for Civil Rights, the profound loss of JFK, and the shadows cast by the impending Vietnam War.

Take a moment to reconnect with its essence on your mobile phone via a YouTube search if it's been a while. In our context, it serves as a poignant backdrop to recent events, both within and beyond our sacred walls.

"Come gather 'round people, wherever you roam" - We were deeply moved by the warmth and resonance of our recent holiday observances. The echoes of unity and devotion were felt in the spirit of our congregation. Whether present in person or through Zoom, each participant contributed to the tapestry of our shared experience.

The dedicated efforts of our Social Justice Committee were truly exceptional, exemplified by the resounding success of our recent food/cash drive, which significantly bolstered the resources of both the Interfaith Food Council. The combined dedication shown through both active participation and in contributions has illuminated the path of uplifting our community, serving as a beacon of hope for those in need.

"The Times, They are a Changin"- In the face of adversity, I am heartened by the resilience and unwavering determination of our congregants and Jews around the world. We remain steadfast in our solidarity with Israel, united in our pursuit of life and light. Together, as we navigate the currents of change, let us remain anchored in our shared values and our unyielding faith.

Cheryl Kabeli
President
tbipresident1@gmail.com

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, February 9
Temple Beth Israel
5:30 PM



This is a non-dairy meal
*All **MEAT** and **VEGETARIAN** soups will be prepared*
by Ritual Committee members.

Please, consider bringing a dessert for the Oneg following services.

For TBI members and invited guests



FUN FACTS

Valentine is the patron saint of lovers (and beekeepers and epileptics). However, although he is very much still a saint, his feast day is no longer part of the official calendar of the Catholic Church. That means that, as far as the church is concerned, there is no longer a religious holiday known as St. Valentine's Day.

Today what we have is the purely secular Valentine's Day, beloved of Hallmark, florists, and chocolatiers. Just in case you were concerned, this means that, although it is not mentioned in the Torah, asking someone to be your valentine is perfectly kosher.



Movie Maven

Join us for a movie afternoon at TBI

Sunday March 10th at 1pm in the social hall

We will be screening and discussing **Avalon**, a 1990 American drama film written and directed by Barry Levinson.

Popcorn provided

Watch for future Jewish themed films.



Bring Back the Oneg!

Oneg translates as “delight”...and indeed, when we gather together following a Shabbat service to have a “nosh”...well, it is a delight.

So please consider sponsoring a Shabbat oneg.

It's easy: the “nosh” is up to you. It could be cookies, cheese, nuts, fruit, or even bagels and lox.

Sponsoring an oneg is a perfect way to honor a Yahrzeit, celebrate a special occasion, or simply because...

Contact Stephen Cahill via text 518-570-0927 or email wscahill99@yahoo.com (put Oneg in subject line) to reserve your date for Friday night services for February, March and April or Saturday services (February 17, March 16, April 4)



Mah Jong Sundays, 11:00pm-1:00pm

Play Mah Jong in a friendly, non-competitive (no betting) gathering at Temple Beth Israel on Sundays.

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

Interested contact Suzi Kerr-Merrihew
for your new 2024 card.



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.](#)

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Rose Skloff
Meyer S. Lichtig
Minnie Harrison
Henry Scheier
Benjamin Feinberg
Carla H. Hyatt

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

Benjamin Berger
Ruth Levy
Bernard Cohen
Joshua Egelson
Sylvia Simonowitz
Ethel R. Goldman
Irving Kessler
Maxine L. Elbaum
Marylln Rose Fine
Bertha Gordon Mendelsohn
Aladar Haas
Tillie Reuter
Myron M. Caplan
Kenneth Schweber
Mark J. Davis
Samuel Gottlob
Mabel A. Markstone
Sydney Oberman
Albert Sarnow
Julius Garrell
Corey Liss
Glen Drane Freehling

FEBRUARY 17, 2024

Susan M. Furnberg
Gladys Kalofsky
Sydney B. Resnick
Issac Bibliowicz
Al J. Kaiser
Albert Greenfield
Reuben Caplan
Sidney Pickman
Theodore Ruzow

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

Benjamin Harrison
Miriam Rubin-Sousa
Rabbi Morris Cherkas
Stanley Briefer
Bernice L. Good
Louis Lawrence Garrell
Harry J. Furman
Brooke Ann Freehling

[Make a Donation](#)

We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts to Our Temple Funds

Yahrzeit Fund

- Susan and Howard Meyerson and Alan and Mark Goldman and Families in memory of Clara Goldman
- Mark and Peter Judge in memory of our Grandparents, Anna Bohem Davis and Alex J. Davis
- Gayle Ratner in memory of Rhoda Greenfield
- Laurie C. Turner in memory of Robert J. Feinberg
- Bryan Freehling in memory of my Grandmother, Mary Ann Weber
Phyllis Freedman in memory of Avrum Shainmark

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Eleanor Berger and Mike DiNunzio with sympathy and in memory of Helene Lee Lieberman; and to thank Cheryl Kabeli for the many things she does for all of us
- Marilyn and Roger Lorberbaum in memory of Marcy Weisburgh's Mother, Helene Lee Lieberman

21st Century Fund

- Chana Schulman

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.

🤔 **A little something from the Yenta...**

Sophie Kabeli is now among the licensed drivers in our area. Congratulations young lady!

Sabi Kabeli recently visited with family in England. It seems he took a nice trip to the Cotswold District. How nice!

Noa Sanders recently had a run in with a dog who ended up biting her on the face, Fortunately, she was in Connecticut near a hospital with a Pediatric Plastic Surgeon. Her cheek appears to be healing nicely. They were able to do follow up visits by ZOOM... what a world!

Jack Hurwitz recently graduated from the University of Maryland with his Master's Degree in Computer Science. Grandparents **Sara & Harvey** were able to attend via ZOOM. Parents **Craig & Dina**, as well as **Sara & Harvey**, are beaming with pride.

Happy Birthday **Lily Sarnow**, who is now 11 years old and a 5th grade spelling bee champion! She has also moved up to basic 5 skating level. Very nice- congratulations!

Beth Brumfeld & Tom Dufore had a nice snowfall in their new home state of Virginia. They were surprised but enjoyed it. Be careful- most southerners are not very comfortable driving in the snow!

Norman Koslofsky was recently placed in hospice in Vermont. He's been a longtime member who lived in Champlain. Our thoughts and prayers are with Norm and his family.

Don't forget to start saving items for our **Temple Rummage Sale** in June. We're looking for usable items, but no clothing, shoes, books or electronics. Please save your bubble wrap (no styrofoam peanuts) and any plastic/paper bags to send items home in. Items may be brought to the TBI classroom marked BET on the door .

Do you have any news? Please send it to the attention of YENTA at office@plattsburghtbi.org .

Stay healthy and safe on the roads!

 **Need a Book to Snuggle Up With This Winter?**

If so, you need not go any further than the Temple Beth Israel Library.

Here are a few new titles that you might find of interest:

The Netanyahus: An Account of A Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family by Joshua Cohen (2021).

Winner of a National Jewish Book Award, selected as a New York Times 100 Notable Books of 2021 and the Winner for Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, 2022. “The Netanyahus is a generational campus novel, an unyielding academic lecture, a rigorous meditation on Jewish identity, an exhaustive meditation on Jewish-American identity, a polemic on Zionism, a history lesson.” (From the New York Times Review). Find it in the library: LIT-F /Coh

Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty by Patrick Radden

Keefe (2021). “Empire of Pain is a staggering, whipping, relentlessly infuriating book that swallows you whole as soon as you step inside. I devoured this story as if my life hung on the balance, even when I deeply, intensely abhorred it.” (From GoodReads review). Find it in the library: AMW/Kee

It Could Happen Here: Why America is Tipping From Hate to the Unthinkable and How We Can Stop It by Jonathan Greenblatt (2022).

“In this impassioned yet uneven account, Anti-Defamation League CEO Greenblatt delivers a troubling compendium of recent incidents of hate and intolerance and offers practical advice on how to counteract such dangers.” (*Publisher’s Weekly Review*). Find it in the library: ANT/Gre

Borrow it, read it, return it, recommend it! Need help? Contact ceriseoberman@gmail.com

 **Templegrams: FEBRUARY**

FEBRUARY

1 Sophie Kabeli
 10 Eva Schweber
 12 Susan Cao-Ba Patnode
 12 Jonathan Merrihew
 17 Sarah Brown
 17 Ravina Seigler
 17 Ronnie Marx
 21 Aaron Davis
 21 Hal Rubin
 23 Miriam Worthington
 26 Jeff Gretz
 26 Justin Portugal
 26 Samantha Worthington

MARCH

3 Janet & Jerry Davis
 5 Camden Sperling
 6 Elle Berger
 7 Tom Dufore
 12 Sabi Kabeli
 13 Miriam & Tom Worthington
 14 Rachel Stander
 16 Henry Goldenberg
 16 Cody Sanders
 19 Jerry Davis
 29 Steve Leighton
 30 Linda & Steve Leighton

You can send a 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.



Spring Rummage Sale
Date TBD for May 2024

There's plenty of notice to sort out and get rid of stuff during the long cold winters up here
in the North Country!

We're looking for the following that sells best and would appreciate:

- **Household items** – most items in and around the home in decent, clean condition:
 - **Housewares** – dishes, knickknacks, blankets, sheets, etc.
 - **Toys and games**
 - **Sporting goods, outdoor items**
 - **Artwork**
 - **Small furniture, flat screen TV, etc.**

What we **cannot** accept the following items (because they don't sell):

- **Major appliances**
- **Old TV's, computers and other electronic equipment**
- **Clothing, mattresses, etc.**
- **Books**

If you have any questions please contact:

Marcy Weisburgh, Chairperson

Email: mjw152152@gmail.com

Text (518) 534-0118



LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

- We are looking for a talented and organized **person(s) to chair the Ritual Committee** starting in June. No experience required and if you are a snowbird, great! Please contact [Cheryl Kabeli](#) with any questions.
- TBI is looking for a **per diem handyman**. Are you that person or know of anyone who can fit the bill. Contact [Andy Kaplan](#) or leave a message at the office 518-563-3343.

Thank you to all our sponsors

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Temple Beth Israel Plattsburgh, NY
(518) 563-3343

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