



Beth Israel Bulletin

AV-ELUL 5785



Upcoming Events: **AUGUST**

Special Events

- 09/05-09/06 TBI Shabbaton: Mark your calendars

Shabbat and Other Services

- 08/01: 7:00 pm: Shabbat T'filah
- 08/08: 5:30 pm: Shabbat T'filah **BBQ to follow**
- 08/16: 10:00am: Shabbat T'filah
- 08/22: 7:00 pm: Shabbat T'filah
- 08/29: 7:00 pm: Shabbat T'filah

AUGUST SHAMUS: Michael Lack



[View Full Calendar](#)

[Join Via Zoom](#)

Temple Beth Israel Shabbaton



Friday, September 5

7:00 p.m. Services led by Rabbi Mira Rivera and Rabbi David Joslin
Music accompaniment by Jerome Korman.

8:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Temple Beth Israel's Board

Saturday, September 6

10:00 a.m. Services led by Rabbi Mira Rivera and Rabbi David Joslin
Music accompaniment by Jerome Korman
D'var Torah by Rabbi Mira Rivera

Wine and challah kiddush following services

4:30 p.m. "Exploring Our Different Jewish Identities"
Discussion led by Rabbi Mira Rivera and Rabbi David Joslin

6:00 p.m. Shabbaton Mazon
Festive dinner prepared by our talented in-house chefs
Menu: Appetizers, Poached Salmon, Savory Galettes, Summer
Salads, Baklava, Red and White Wine



Reservations for dinner are required

7:15 p.m. Havdalah followed by a brief piano performance by Jerome Korman
and a fun community singing workshop



Shabbaton Mazon Dinner Registration

Come and enjoy a fabulous meal on 6 September at 6:00 pm as part of our September Shabbaton. The incredible menu appears on the Shabbaton poster above.

Only \$18 per person

Deadline for registration is 25 August 2025

But why wait?? [Register here NOW?](#)



FROM THE RABBI

Happy August/ Chodesh Tov,

As we enter the dog days of summer, my mind is racing at a million miles an hour. It has already been a rather eventful summer. In the month of July, many of us from TBI visited Beth Joseph in Tupper Lake to celebrate the community's 120th anniversary. While the weather was hot and humid, spirits remained high. As a first-time visitor to the synagogue, I learned so much about the history of the Jewish community in Tupper Lake and throughout the Adirondacks. At the end of the month, our community gathered to hear Audrey Albert brilliantly chant her Bat Mitzvah Torah portion during parshat Masei. We were all so proud of her.

When I wrote in last month's bulletin, Israel was very much in the throes of war. Iranian missiles were raining down all over the countryside, as life was upended during the two-week war. Now, a month after a cease-fire has been reached, there is a quiet, unease that has settled over the region. The IDF has won the war against Hezbollah and Iran, and Israel has outlasted the Assad regime in Syria, yet none of these achievements have brought an end to the war in Gaza. Yes, Hamas as a military unit has resoundingly been defeated on the battle field months ago, but as a political entity and as an ideology, it somehow continues to survive mostly because nothing better has been allowed to replace it. Predictably, famine and disease have spread throughout the Gaza Strip. A humanitarian disaster is being allowed to unfold and once again, Israel is being blamed for what happens in Gaza.

In the middle of this month, I will visit Israel with 20 young strangers from the United States on a Birthright group. As I tour the damage left from this summer's war with Iran as well as the battle sites and massacre memorials from October 7th, I will be left asking, when will the Palestinians be in control of their own fate? When will they embrace peace? When will Gaza and its leaders act more like Egypt, Jordan, and the West? When will a defeated Palestinian leadership in Gaza accept the terms of surrender, like all defeated armies, and release the kidnapped hostages?? When will the Palestinians in Gaza choose to embrace life over the status of victimhood pawns? Sure, Israel and the IDF bear some responsibility in the deterioration of humanitarian conditions. Israel must find a safe way to deliver food and humanitarian supplies to Gazans, but where does that leave the democratically elected Hamas? Where are the Arab countries? There is a famine occurring, also largely due to war, in Sudan that nobody knows about. We might hear more about it, if only the international world could blame Israel for the starving Sudanese. Nobody is responsible for Jewish safety and security but Israel, yet somehow when Arabs sacrifice their own, despite everything that we in western philosophy and civilization hold to be holy and true, we turn ourselves into pretzels to accept blame. Yes, Jews rush to life in Israel, but in Gaza, death and martyrdom seem to be prioritized and commodified. The more Palestinian babies that starve to death, the worse Israel looks, and Hamas throws their hands up in the air, as if nothing can be done to avoid this scenario. Hamas was quick to start wars, but they're not very good at winning them. If saving their people meant accepting surrender, Hamas would prefer to martyr every last Palestinian living in Gaza before accepting defeat.

The sad truth is that Hamas lives to fight another day because they're never held accountable

either by the international community or by Palestinians for waging wars that destroy their fragile infrastructure and sacrifice their own civilian population. Hamas will never agree to a cease-fire that forces it to relinquish power. They have never been interested in peace or even statehood. They don't play by the same rules as we in the West have embraced; high standards for the quality of life would mean rejecting Jihadism and a culture of death. Gazans would have to prioritize their own welfare over the destruction of the Jewish state and maybe Hamas would lose influence? Peace means an end to the resistance. Heaven forbid Hamas invests in hospitals, schools, roads, and water treatment facilities over tunnels, rockets, and suicide vests! For Hamas, the suffering of Palestinians IS THE POINT. They live to suffer because it's easier to wage war in a fruitless endeavor, holding on to the hopeless notion that the Jewish state can be delegitimized into disappearing. Israel and the international community have offered a Palestinian state multiple times over the last 80 years, and fair offers were always rejected by a delusional Palestinian Authority holding out for a better deal. When political negotiations broke-down, Hamas and other Palestinian leaders resorted to waves of terrorism campaigns against Israel. Well, Israel isn't going anywhere, but sadly Palestinian children, pregnant mothers, and elderly men are vanishing at an alarming rate. Israel doesn't want or wish unnecessary suffering upon the innocent Palestinians in Gaza. Jews don't believe in blood thirsty revenge. Everyday Israelis call on their own leadership to take responsibility for the failures of October 7th, but when will Palestinians in Gaza be allowed to do the same??? Yes, there is a famine occurring in Gaza, crimes against humanity have occurred, and a genocide may well be under way, but let's be clear about who is truly to blame.

Rabbi David Joslin



WELCOME TO OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT SANDRA GHELMAN



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The summer months afford me a little extra time to reflect and dream about possible new directions that we may want to consider. Today, I am sharing some of these daydreams with you. I am presenting them as possible stand-alone or ad hoc committees, but they could also take on different forms. If any of these ideas resonant with you, please reach out to me.

□ What if we had a committee that focused on Jewish Food; perhaps we could call it **The Traditional Kitchen**? Members could spearhead programs focused on learning about traditional Jewish food from all over the world. We could gather together to cook and, then, of course, to eat!

□ In a recent management course I took, I was introduced to the concept of the Four Pillars of Engagement: Noticed, Named, Known, and Needed. It seems, to me, that these Four Pillars are clearly applicable to welcoming and integrating new members (and even existing members) into TBI. When members feel noticed, named, known, and needed, they aren't just part of a team (or Temple)—they are integral to its success. Research shows that members benefit from thoughtful, structured onboarding processes that guide them through accessing key resources, meeting their peers, and building connections in the Temple. These welcoming efforts predict positive outcomes for new members, including greater involvement. Perhaps we should consider a committee to develop a blueprint: **Together at TBI**?

□ On a more mundane level, there is a need to identify all existing TBI policies. Having a **Policy Review Committee** charged with gathering our policies together (hopefully, into one searchable computer file), dispose of outdated policies, identify policies that require updating, and perhaps, even identify policies that need to be created would streamline the administrative work of the temple.

I'm done day dreaming at the moment...but do welcome your comments!

Cheryl Kabeli, President

tbipresident1@gmail.com



EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT BETH ISRAEL CEMETERY

Where is Beth Israel Cemetery located?

Main Mill Street in Plattsburgh, New York

When was it established?

It was established in 1861 and incorporated in 1878. In 1926 the Beth Israel Cemetery Association, Inc. was established pursuant to the Membership Corporation Law of the State of New York. Members of the Congregation established the Cemetery Association as an entity independent of Temple Beth Israel with its own governing board.

Who can purchase a plot?

All members in good standing of Temple Beth Israel for three years are eligible to purchase a burial plot, including couples where one partner is not Jewish. In specific circumstances, the Temple President has the authority, in consultation with the Cemetery President, to determine the eligibility of anyone who does not meet the eligibility requirement.

What does it mean to purchase a plot?

The purchase of a plot entitles you to be buried in the cemetery; the Cemetery Association, however, remains the owner of the land. You may select your burial plot from available space.

Are cremation burials allowed?

Yes

What other policies govern burial?

- Only Jewish clergy are permitted to officiate at the burial site
- Only Jewish symbols may be placed on gravestones
- Mausoleums are not allowed
- All plantings must be approved.

Whom can I contact about purchasing a plot or discussing burial practices?

Contact the President of the Cemetery Association,
Jeanot Cao-Ba, 518-578-6627

What coordination is required between a funeral home and the Cemetery Association?

Details for burial arrangements require consultation between the funeral home and the Cemetery Association.

Who are the members of the Beth Israel Cemetery Association?

President, Jeanot Cao-Ba; Vice President, Janet Davis; Secretary, Carole Cao-Ba; Treasurer, Susan Patnode; Director, Andrew Kaplan; Director, Randy Patnode.



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](#) and place "Oneg" in the subject line.

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

✨ Temple Beth Israel's 2025-2026 Membership Year is HERE! ✨

We're thrilled to announce that our new membership year is launching with incredible momentum!

 **DON'T MISS OUT - Renew TODAY!** 

Haven't renewed yet? No worries - but let's get you connected RIGHT NOW!

--[CLICK HERE to renew your membership in just minutes!](#)

✨ **While you're there, take 30 seconds to**

- Update your contact details (address, phone, email)
- Add important Yahrzeit dates
- Choose your Community Commitment level

Why This Matters MORE Than Ever!

Your membership isn't just a renewal - it's your ticket to being part of something truly special! Every single membership strengthens the heart and soul of our vibrant Jewish community.

Questions? We're here to help!

Reach out to ceriseoberman@gmail.com

Together, let's make 2025-2026 our most connected and meaningful year yet!



TBI Receives \$10,000 Addition to the Woolman Rabbinical Trust Fund

A few months ago, Temple Beth Israel received an unexpected letter from the William A. Meyer Jewish Community Foundation. This Foundation, located in Florida, oversees the Evelyn & Bernard Woolman Family Foundation. The letter indicated that the Foundation was interested in making a donation to Temple Beth Israel's Evelyn & Bernard Woolman Rabbinical Trust Fund. Established by the Woolmans, long standing members of our synagogue, the fund's purpose was to enable our congregation to sustain a full-time rabbi.

The Temple responded to the request for information with the current standing of the Woolman Trust Fund, the size of our congregation, the status of our rabbi, and the critical role that Temple Beth Israel plays in the North Country Jewish community.

Last week, we were notified that the Meyer Jewish Community Foundation awarded TBI an additional \$10,000 for the Evelyn and Bernard Woolman Rabbinical Trust Fund!

This is exciting news and speaks directly to the long term (and sometimes unexpected) impact that an endowment at Temple Beth Israel can have. We were delighted to accept this generous gift and will continue to use it as its original funders, Evelyn and Bernard Woolman, intended.

We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts to Our Temple Funds

🌟 RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Elle Berger and Mike DiNunzio in memory of Ralph Grafstein

🌟 YAHRZEIT FUND

- Linda and Steven Leighton in memory of Elsie Leighton, Ronald Bruce Korman, Herman Leighton, and Irving Fishman

🌟 MENSCH FUND

- Sharon Ratner in honor of Diane Fine's Retirement

🌟 MICHAEL RATNER COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- Gayle Ratner in memory of her Grandfather, Louis Kalofsky



📺 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](#)



🕯️ 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.](#)

AUGUST 01, 2025

Hannah Bornstein
Betty Goldner Lipshultz
Gertrude Kriff
Lillian Shubert
Michael Kaufman
Sally D. Hirsch

AUGUST 08, 2025

Abraham Levine
Jack Siegel
Irwin Stevens
David Aibel
Mae Resnick
Stanley D. Weinstein
Clara Schwartz
Irving Fishman
Isidore Goldstein
Lillian Sarnow
Pearl Goldenberg
Sharmaine Haas

AUGUST 16, 2025

Bertram Lieberman
Yetta Shainmark
Louis Evans Wolfe
Julius Bernstein
Harry S. Roth
Dr. Dorothy W. Gross
Bella Selig London
Mary Elaine Marcus
Moishe H. Myerson
Ray Schweizer Wallace
Harold B. Schubert

AUGUST 22, 2025

Fanny Rosenak
Rae Selbst
Sylvia Berger
Harry Dunn
Maude Doernbach
Myron J. Godon, Sr.
Harry Alpert
Minnie Cohen
Louis Ratner
Edith Goldman Shipley

AUGUST 29, 2025

David Burde
Ruth A. Kobel
Harry Levites
Jennie Feldman
Moses Katzper
Phyllis Spector
Ada Brown
Rachel Dunn
Myrna Lighterman
Sarah Feldman
Golda Malke Feinberg
Rhea Jacobs

 **Templegrams: AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

AUGUST

14 Sarah Reif
16 Ian Ratner
16 Jeff Weisburgh

SEPTEMBER

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



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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(518) 563-3343

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