



Beth Israel Bulletin

CHESHVAN - KISLEV 5785

 **Upcoming Events: DECEMBER**

Special Events

12/27: 5:30 pm Hanukkah Celebration and Potluck

Shabbat Services

- **12/06: 7:00 pm:** Shabbat T'filah
- **12/13: 7:00 pm:** Shabbat T'filah
- **12/21: 10:00 am:** Shabbat T'filah
- **12/27: 7:00 pm:** Shabbat T'filah

[View Full Calendar](#)

[Join Via Zoom](#)

FROM THE RABBI

Happy December everyone,

After returning from the JNF International Conference in Dallas, I feel energized to have met and celebrated Shabbat with so many proud Zionists. In rubbing shoulders with rabbis from all over the country and religious spectrum, we shared stories from the last year. JNF has evolved well beyond a tree-planting organization. We learned about the Jewish National Fund's pledge to help rebuild Israel's devastated North, as well as the Southern Kibbutzim along the Gaza Border Region. I was pleased to see that some of my favorite programs were still going strong. In particular, one organization in which I happened to visit during my JNF Future's Mission to Israel in 2021, Soldiers in Uniform, was highlighted as an organization dedicated to the integration of special-needs soldiers into the IDF. Throughout the week, I was immensely impressed with the passion, knowledge, and conviction that folks demonstrated. In my travels, I met many exciting and emerging leaders, both male and female, Jewish and even gentile, but one demographic seemed to be lacking; younger non-Orthodox Jewish men.

In my conversations with both fellow rabbis as well as lay-leaders, many were still trying to make heads and tails of the post-election analysis. In the kvetching and celebrating around the losses and victories, we all seemed to agree that while women had been encouraged to find their philanthropic voice, their charitable projects, and help innovate Jewish ritual and communal life from the bimah to the board room, younger men have noticeably either been left behind or have actively left Jewish circles. Now, many men and women exist in higher positions of Jewish leadership, but there are a lot less men involved on the ground level in Jewish institutions. If young men aren't interested in summer camps, bar mitzvahs, Hillel, Israel, and synagogue life, then it doesn't bode well for the future of progressive American Jewish life. We seem to be at a tipping point where young men just aren't interested in Jewish life or Jewish causes, and maybe we need to figure out why?

The current trend of men disinterest in Judaism is in line with larger more general cultural, societal, and universal trends for men aged 18-45; dissatisfied with their lives, many in this group have opted out of organized communities. Some men view the rise of women on the socio-economic ladder as coming at the expense of men's happiness and fulfillment in life. Sadly, rather than search outward for answers, resources, and a support network, many men aimlessly look inward to drugs, alcohol, and all too often, social media and the internet, which can be a dangerous echo-chamber of unregulated grievance and pity. Social clubs, organizations, and dare I say houses of worship used to be fabulous places to meet, learn, socialize, find references and resources to help solve problems, and build community; experiencing a living, breathing conversation in real time. Young men had institutions like the VFM, Lion's Club, Rotary, Elks, Masons, Kiwanis, etc. Now men flock to Redditt, Qanon, UFC, and Draft Kings.

Yes, Judaism requires one to think, feel, have an opinion, take a moral stance, and live by it. If for some reason, Judaism, Jewish institutions, and synagogue life are perceived as too emotional, psychological, feminine, or simply demanding by asking too much of young men, then perhaps we need to reach out and appeal to younger men. Judaism has been a vital source of life and answers to life's most challenging questions. Jewish institutions are a fantastic place to grow one's perspective, feed one's belly & soul, and even meet a loving-partner, or life-long friend, but they require investing in

something greater than one's self. If we're entering a new era of quid-pro quo bro morality, let us be blunt about what it takes to build a mutually beneficial community; BUY-IN.

So, in the next few months, I am going to make an extra effort to reach out to the younger men in our community and on the periphery of our Jewish community. I want to hear from you; what are you interested in, how do you feel about Judaism, Jewish life, and what is your relationship with our community? As we enter the Chanukkah festival, this is a critical time of the year and a wonderful opportunity to invite folks back into our community. Nobody should be alone during this season, and let us strive to make sure nobody amongst us feels alone.

Chodesh tov, Chag Chanukkah Samaech, & Season's Greetings,

Rabbi David Joslin



 **From the President**

What does it mean to be a part of a community? I was interested in the background of the word, both in English and in Hebrew (kehilla). According to the New World Encyclopedia, the word community “is derived from the Latin *communitas* (meaning the same), which is in turn derived from *communis*, which means “common, public, shared by all or many.” *Communis* comes from a combination of the Latin prefix *con-* (which means “together”) and the word *munis* (which has to do with performing services).”

To me, the Hebrew *Kehillah* seems to imply an action: gather. Whereas the English is about shared norms, or we can infer, experiences. Put together, the origins seem to inspire: Come together! There are even “rules” around needing community in order to fulfill certain mitzvot. For instance, there are some prayers that “require” a minyan, a group of 10 people, to be recited (Note: I said people and not men, because in the Reform movement all adults are counted). The idea comes from the Talmud and Hebrew word minyan comes from the word *maneh* meaning to count or to number.

We need one another! On our first day of Religious School this year, we discussed what we need to make a Jewish community. And our students rightly stated: we need the people. Jewish community can happen anytime, anywhere, with a Torah or without, but it can’t happen without the people, the community, the act of individuals coming together to be a collective ONE.

I would like this coming year’s theme is exploring ONE: one Temple Beth Israel, one Jewish country, one Jewish language, one God. During this time of year filled with holidays and a lot of opportunities for togetherness, I hope we can find our commonalities and shared experiences inspiring rather than divisive. That we can feel our personal link in the chain of tradition and that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. Our TBI community is stronger because of each one of our individuals, learning and growing together! Wishing you a Happy Hanukkah!

Cheryl Kabeli, President

Come Celebrate
HANUKKAH

With your TBI Family!



Friday, December 27 at 5:30

**Bring your Hanukkiah from home
so we can light them together.**

**Bring homemade latkes for your table (or to share)
And a salad to share on our potluck table.**

Thank You!

**The Temple will provide sour cream, apple sauce,
Sufganyiot and hot chocolate.**



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

**BETH ISRAEL JUDAICA SHOP
SALE**

20% of your Holiday Items
Menorah, Dreidels, gift items & more



Wrapping paper for \$0.25 cents!!



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.

December 6, 7:00 PM

December 13, 7:00 PM

December 21, Saturday 10:00 AM In honor of Wendi and Stephen Cahill's 35th wedding anniversary

December 27, 5:30 PM Hannukkah Pot Luck with Latkes

January 4, Saturday 10:00 AM

January 11, 7:00 PM

January 18, Saturday 10:00AM Marcia Bookman Wolosz

January 25, 7:00 PM

February 8, 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 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 6, 2024

Lillian B. Garrell
 Henry Schapiro
 Helene (Lee) Lieberman
 Scott Norman Woolman
 Miriam Balkan
 Ann Dworski Flynn
 Bertha Schneyer
 Ethel Cohen
 Lulu Schapiro
 George E. Kier
 Phillip Zelkowitz
 Lena Feldman Dweck
 Abraham Wolfe
 Steven D. Weinstein
 Carter Thompson
 Mary Adler
 Jonathan Matzkin
 Minnie Cohen
 Alex J. Davis
 Albert Dunn
 Muriel Ginsberg

DECEMBER 13, 2024

Robert C. Angley
 Zysla Krongold
 Samuel Lavine
 Harry Lipshutz
 Melvin Lowe
 Anna Spielberg
 Charles B. Good
 Max Hopengarten
 Sanford Newman
 Max Lichtig
 Aaron Joseph Schiff
 George Goldstein
 Sarah Gordon
 Sophia B. Dweck

DECEMBER 21, 2024

Jane Godfrey
 Morris Goldstein
 Isaac Goodrich
 Marcus Miller
 Jane Godfrey
 M. Jay Gordon, Jr.
 Florence Kaufman
 Estelle Gordon Gross
 Sarah Steinberg
 Marie D. Hiller
 Sarah Kemper Markstone
 Sylvia B. Anderson
 Ralph Kriff
 Henrietta Fishman
 Elizabeth Caplan Klepper
 Morris Werner

DECEMBER 27, 2024

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



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There are many funds that help us keep the
Temple running, bring social and spiritual
programing and education
to our community
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Your generosity benefits us all!



We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts to Our Temple Funds

✨ YAHRZEIT FUND

Gayle Ratner in memory of Henrietta Greenfield

- Gayle Ratner in memory of Alice Ratner
- Judith Weisman in memory of Milton Gross

✨ MARTIN M. GOLDMAN FUND

- Susan Meyerson, Alan and Mark Goldman and Families in Honor of Phyllis Freedman on her special birthday
- Susan Meyerson, Alan and Mark Goldman and Families in memory of Martin Goldman and Ann Goldman Rednor

✨ RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Sharon Ratner

✨ GENERAL FUND

- Janet and Jerry Davis in memory of George Staves

✨ RABIN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

- Sharon Ratner

✨ 21st CENTURY FUND

- Stacey Mascia

 **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**

DECEMBER

2 Ann Ruzow Holland
11 Doug Chavez
11 Natalie Harrison Mercaldi
14 Alice Marx
18 Beth Nolland
21 Ben Grafstein

JANUARY

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

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.

🕶️ YENTA

One of our longtime Rabbi's- **Carla E. Freedman** passed away in Sun City Center, FL on 9/23/24. Condolences to her partner of 38 yrs, **Jeanne Shanin** and her daughters and their families. May her memory be a blessing.

We are excited to welcome four new families to Temple Beth Israel: **David Frydman** and **Jenny Patterson**, **Aviva Gold** and **Steve Dilger**, **Ilana** and **Lisa Skarling**, and **Jim Jolly** and **Victoria Schulz**. We look forward to getting to know you.

Speedy recovery to **Sara Hurwitz** after her recent surgery. **Harvey** proved to be an excellent caregiver.

Happy Special Birthday to **Sharon Ratner**. A kinder, more thoughtful woman would be hard to find!

Happy Special Birthday to **Lil Resnick**. She keeps up her fitness by walking the Terry Gordon Recreational path daily.

Ronnie Marx spoke at granddaughter **Dalia's** class at Cumberland Head Elementary School in honor of Veteran's Day. **Alice** went with him to make sure he stayed on topic.

To celebrate their 70th anniversary, the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System created "**True North**", an anthology. They included photos and a short story by **Michelle Zelkowitz**. The story "**Bikes, Trains and a Mine**" is an adaptation from a memoir **Michelle** is currently writing. A reception and reading by **True North** authors will take place at the Elizabethtown Social Center on Tuesday Dec. 3 from 1- 3 pm.

Speaking of **Michelle**, she recently had a deer/auto collision and ended up totaling her car. She's fine, just a little achy, but now she's shopping for a new set of wheels. **Lenny Zelkowitz** has been away working for FEMA in St Petersburg, FL. He'll be returning home about 11/19. They're lucky to have him there.

Janet & Jerry Davis won first place in the Lake Forest duplex Fall/Halloween decorating contest!

Sarah Davis, their daughter, recently gave a presentation at the 2024 National Conference on Youth Justice in Washington, DC. The conference brought together people from across the US who are working to transform juvenile justice. Her wife, **Kori Redepenning** ran in the Every Woman's Marathon in Savannah, GA in support of The

Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's in honor of her Dad **Chuck** and her Mother-in-Law **Janet Davis**, both of whom have the disease. Kudos to her as she did it with a recently broken toe!

The **Rodney/Sarah Brown** Family spent time together with their daughters and significant others at a family wedding in Pennsylvania. Time together with our entire families is so precious.

Harvey & Sara Hurwitz' granddaughter, **Chelsea Kaden** loves her new job working at United Talent Agency. She is getting to meet so many famous people. Grandson **Jack Hurwitz** has been accepted into his PhD program for Computer Science with a speciality in AI at the University of Maryland. How did these kids grow up so fast?

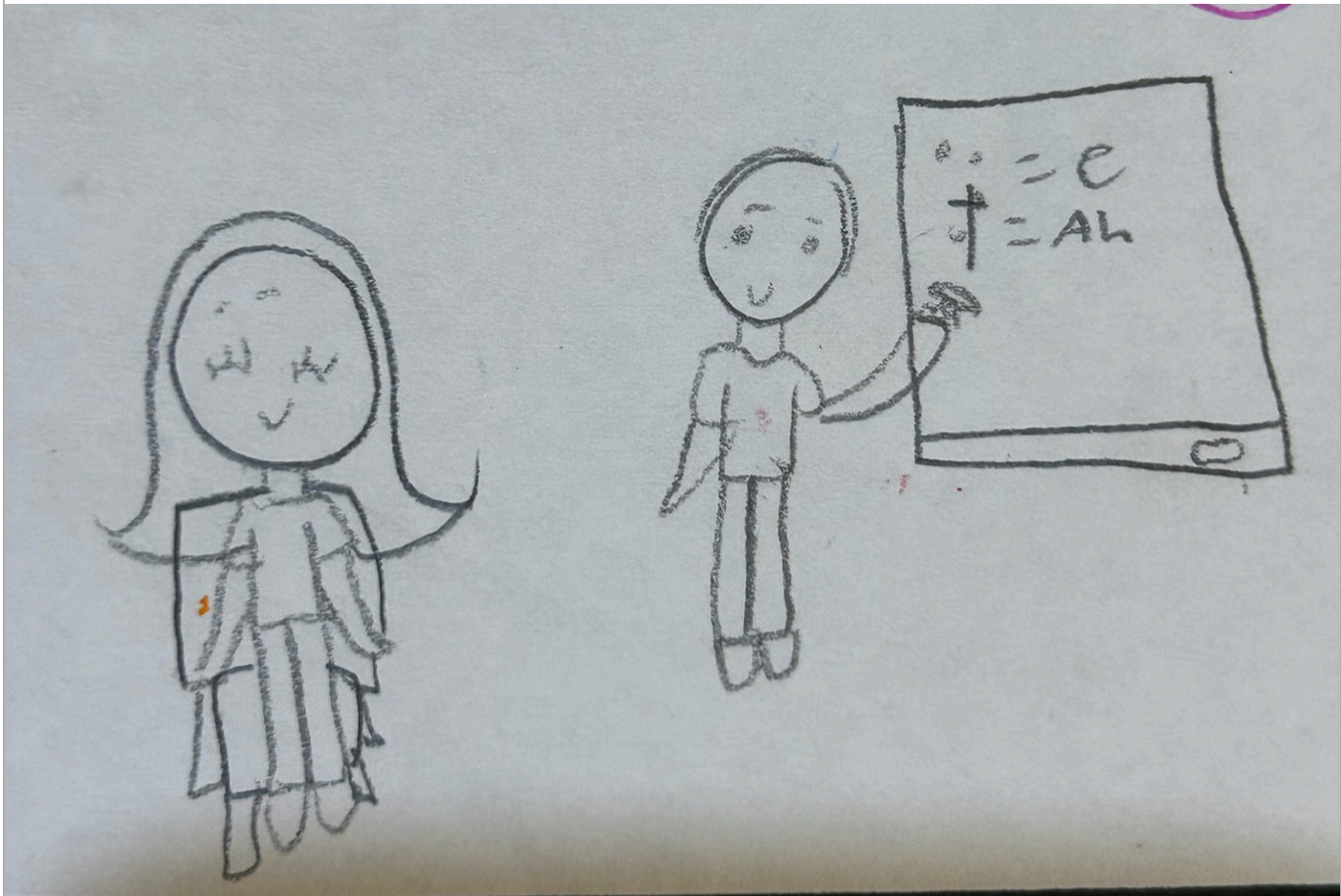
Mona & Henry Goldenberg, Cerise Oberman & Larry Soroka spent a glorious week in the Azores! We want to hear all about it!

Rabbi David went to a conference in Texas, I believe, for the JNF. I'm sure the weather was much warmer there than here!

Please send your news to Yenta in care of plattsburghtbi@gmail.com

END NOTE

Rabbi David teaching Religious School
by Noa Sanders



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