



Beth Israel Bulletin

TEVET-SHEVAT 5784/JANUARY 2024



Upcoming Events: **JANUARY**

Special Event

TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

01/21/2024 at 10:00 am

Shabbat Services

- **01/05, 6PM:** Shabbat T'filah
- **01/13, 10AM:** Shabbat T'filah
- **01/19, 7PM:** Shabbat T'filah
- **01/26, 7PM:** Shabbat T'filah

[View Full Calendar](#)

[Join Via Zoom](#)

From the Rabbi

Happy January Temple Beth Israel,

In what is generally understood to be a quiet time on the Jewish calendar, the dead of winter allows us a chance to catch our collective Jewish breaths in between the joyful chaos associated with our Jewish holidays. It was an absolute joy to celebrate Chanukkah together with so many of you; both in our community wide lighting in Trinity Park as well as the Chanukkah party held at Temple Beth Israel. It warmed my heart to see new and familiar faces; especially so many families.

While we have a free moment, I would like to shine some of that beautiful Chanukkah light onto an amazing couple within our community. I am overjoyed to extend my deep and personal appreciation to Lenny and Michelle Zelkowitz for their overwhelming gesture of charitable kindness. The Zelkowitz pledge was a gracious idea designed to raise and match synagogue donations, up to \$10,000. With folks from the Temple Beth Israel community generously meeting the \$10,000 mark by December 1st, the Zelkowitz family will now match that amount, totaling \$20,000. Thank you to all who gave. In the *menschlekeit* spirit of the Zelkowitz's Challenge, I encourage us to continue thinking about how we would like to give *tzedakah*/charity in the new year.

As the war in Israel continues to rage on, we have highlighted *Friends of the IDF*, an organization that provides resources for Israeli soldiers and *Magen David Adom*, the Israeli ambulatory service. In February, we spoke at length about the critical work that *The Syrian American Medical Society*, *The Center for Disaster Philanthropy*, and the organization *Direct Relief* were doing to alleviate the suffering of Syrian and Turkish Earthquake victims, as well as providing aid to Ukrainian citizens who have been brutalized by war with Russia.

We would be remiss if we thought globally but failed to act locally. *The Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf*: <https://www.plattsburghfoodshelf.org/> feverishly strives to keep our greater community fed Monday thru Friday, no questions asked. I cannot speak highly enough about the crucial service that the food shelf provides to folks who experience food insecurity. During the winter holidays, there is an increase demand for charitable gifts and food donations. Additionally, *Plattsburgh Cares*: <https://plattsburghcares.org/> provides food and housing resources to the transient migrant community. This organization has also appealed to the Interfaith Council for more sturdy vinyl shopping bags, which allow folks to transport their belongings with dignity. Please consider giving to each of our local charities.

How we give, how much we give, and where we give depend entirely on what causes or organizations matter to us, but we all have an obligation to give responsibly. Sadly, there are many organizations that claim to operate as relief agencies or fundraisers for medical research, but not without siphoning a healthy percentage of donations to salaries and overhead. I strongly recommend reviewing your favorite charities and non-profits through the non-profit watchdog *Charity Navigator*: <https://www.charitynavigator.org/>. As we all begrudgingly begin to gather receipts or try to convince ourselves that April 15th seems forever in the distant future, let us take advantage of the new year and subsequent tax season as an opportunity to reevaluate our giving priorities. There is no shortage of needy causes, worthy organizations, and do-gooders who are making a difference whether in our global community or in the North Country.

Chodesh tov and Happy New Year/Chag Silvester
Rabbi David Joslin

Notes from the President

As we say goodbye to 2023 and look forward to the year ahead, I want to take this opportunity to invite you to prioritize Temple Beth Israel and all of our amazing opportunities to connect in 2024, and to simply say thank you. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this incredible year at Temple Beth Israel. To those who have worshipped with us, learned with us, cried with us, laughed with us, mourned with us, and celebrated with us, thank you! To all of those who have contributed to TBI via your time, energy, love, and financial support, thank you! Temple Beth Israel is extraordinary because of you.

As the calendar once again marches on to another secular new year, I invite you to spend a little more time with us in 2024. Take the time each week or month to look at the Temple calendar and find something of interest to you. As we continue to explore what belonging means to each of us, come be a part of our thriving community and make TBI your home as well. Wishing you all the best in 2024 and always!

Cheryl Kabeli
President
tbipresident1@gmail.com

Come to Temple Beth Israel
Sunday, January 21st at 10am
to celebrate Tu B'Shevat at our Community Seder!



Tu-B'Shevat, the 15th day of the Hebrew month Shevat, marks the beginning of a new year for trees. This is the season when the earliest blossoms in Israel emerge from their winter slumber and begin a new fruit bearing cycle. We mark the day of Tu-B'Shevat by eating fruit, particularly from the "seven kinds" that are singled out in the Torah.

ATTENTION: SOCIAL ACTION

The TBI Social Action Committee is sharing the following letter received from the Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf. If you are able, please consider a gift: checks can be sent to the Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf, PO Box 1317, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 or an online donation (one-time or monthly) can be made at www.plattsburghfoodshelf.org.

Please note: The Rabin Religious School is currently asking for loose change (or dollars) to fill our water jug to give to the Interfaith Food Shelf. Our jug is decorated with artwork from the students. Please help Talia, Noa, Lucy and Adiana reach their goal of a full jug!

Dear Friend of the Food Shelf,

Thank you for your past support of the Interfaith Food Shelf as a donor, volunteer or both. We are writing to you because now more than ever, we need your help to serve our struggling neighbors with a safety-net of food. While food donations are always appreciated, monetary donations are critical to help us purchase over 20,000 pounds of food per month from the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. The Interfaith Food Shelf is currently grappling with an increased demand for emergency food in the face of rising costs.

So far this year, we fed 12,764 people from 4,708 households - a 20% increase since 2022. Our clients are people like the "Smiths" whose daughter-in-law just died and find themselves suddenly supporting their three grandchildren, "Ted" who is temporarily disabled and unemployed due to a back injury from his roofing job, and "Susan" who is alone and escaping domestic violence with her young daughter. While we help many households with children, about 60% have only 1-2 people including senior citizens often with serious health issues.

Our cost of working with the Regional Food Bank to have a stable supply of emergency food has doubled during the past two years. Our expenses now exceed our income. We want to continue serving all residents, so we are trying to both cut costs and increase our funding.

Historically 70% of our revenue has come from local donations. That's where you come in. Please consider helping us feed families in our community by making a year-end gift to the Food Shelf. We are a completely volunteer mission of the Interfaith Council and all donations are tax deductible. More than 90% of our income goes directly to purchasing food.

You can mail us a check, visit our website (for one-time and monthly gifts), or stop by the Food Shelf at 127 Beekman Street in Plattsburgh (Monday-Friday 9:00-12:00 and Friday 4:00-6:00).

MANY thanks for considering this request. Happy holidays to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Andrea Enyedi
Volunteer, Interfaith Food Shelf

Dorothy Latta
Coordinator, Interfaith Food Shelf



COMING SOON! HANNUKAH 2024! ACT NOW!

20% all Hannukah merchandise at our Judaica Shop!

Stock up for next year!

Please make an appointment for your purchases at

tbipresident1@gmail.com



The Michelle and Lenny Zerkowitz Challenge

A huge shoutout to everyone who donated to this Challenge. Thank you to all for your support. A heartfelt THANK YOU to MICHELLE AND LENNY ZELKOWITZ for this great opportunity!!

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.](#)

JANUARY 5, 2024

Kurt Emil Hirschfeld
 Julius Balkan
 Rhoda Greenfield
 Hyman Simonowitz
 Samuel Bronstein
 Mel Lichtig
 Henry Mendelsohn
 Julius Mendelsohn
 Rose Rednor
 Adele Lessner
 Sarita Tisser

JANUARY 13, 2024

Abraham Nizel
 Muriel Gotlieb
 Herman Bornstein
 Beatrice Moldovan
 Ida Dorothy Furman
 Morris Furman
 Gussie Jaffe
 Samuel Ruzow

JANUARY 19, 2024

Ben Gabor
 Sarah Miller Morris
 Robert Julian Feinberg
 William Levy
 Hanka Meldung
 Maurice Kabeli
 Rebecca Merkel Scheier
 Meyer Schwartz
 Isidore Bookman
 Martin Helfgott
 Baruch Feldman
 Avrum Shainmark
 Erwin L. "Joe" Bornstein
 Annie Myerson
 Harry Schlesinger
 Mary Ann Weber

JANUARY 26

Roger P. Kennedy
 Doris Burde
 Rene Gluck
 Matthew Feldman
 Esther Rozel Smolar
 Sidney Gordon
 Julius M. Evans
 Samuel Rabin
 Clara Goldman
 Simi Mamane

**LOOKING FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS FOR YOUR INCOME TAX
 LOOK NO FURTHER**

Your generosity allows the Temple to continue to meet our mission of inspiring lives and transforming our world. We all continue to navigate the challenges of difficult times, and despite these, we have experienced continued and even increased generosity from our members to support our beloved synagogue community. Thank you so much! The Temple is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, your gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. You should consult your financial planner or tax adviser to determine the exact tax advantages of any gift you are considering. We provide an annual donation statement for all tax-deductible donations. This year your letter will arrive to you before January 31, 2024.

[Make a Donation](#)

We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts to Our Temple Funds

GENERAL FUND

- Aran Gretz for the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Mona and Henry Goldenberg for the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Linda and Steven Leighton for the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Ellen and Leo Grafstein for the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Joel and Marla Wolkowicz for the Zelkowitz Challenge
- Cheryl and Sabieli Kabeli to honor Keith Taylor's Conversion
- Shelley and Michael Lack in Memory of Lee Lieberman, beloved Mother of Marcy Weisburgh
- Marla and Joel Wolkowicz to thank Michelle and Lenny
- Susan and Randy Patnode, and Carole and Jeanot and Yoram Caoba in Memory of Helene Lieberman
- Susan Rech and Marc Sarnow for the Zelkowitz Challenge

YAHRZEIT FUND

- Sharon Ratner in Memory of Lee Lieberman, Marcy's Mom
- Irene and Jeffrey Gretz in Memory of Mary Adler
- Linda and Steven Leighton in Memory of my beloved Mother, Henrietta Fishman
- Linda and Steven Leighton in Memory of Marcy Weisburgh's Mom, Lee
- Cerise Oberman and Laurence Soroka in Memory of Audrey Soroka; Sydney Oberman and Marcy Weisburgh's Mother, Lee

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.

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: JANUARY-FEBRUARY**

JANUARY

2 Irving Weisman
5 Liz Newton
9 Lily Sarnow
13 Rabbi D. Kominsky
20 Bob Adler
26 Andrew Lack
27 Gabriel Malseptic
28 Max Grafstein
28 Lucy Shutts

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

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,
like:
 - **Housewares** – dishes, knickknacks, blankets, sheets, etc.
 - **Toys and games**
 - **Sporting goods, outdoor items**
 - **Artwork**
 - **Small furniture, flat screen TV. etc**

What we **cannot** accept* for donation (because it doesn't sell):

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

(*These items can be donated to the appropriate charitable places)

If you have any questions please contact:

Marcy Weisburgh, Chairperson

Email: mweisburgh@frontier.com

Text (518) 534-0118



WANTED

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

[J. Hogan Refrigeration & Mechanical Inc.](#)

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[Martin & Sons Auction Sales & Service Inc.](#)

[Adirondack Pennysaver, Inc.](#)

[CVPH Cardiology](#)

[Brown Funeral Home, Inc.](#)

[Upstone Materials](#)

Footworks

Beth Nolland--Foot Hygienist
Home foot care (your location)
518-572-7273

Forrence Orchards

2731 Route 22
Peru, NY. 12972
518-643-9527

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

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