



Beth Israel Bulletin

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

BEST WISHES TO
THE RABBI IN HIS
FUTURE
ENDEAVORS -

YOU WILL BE
MISSED



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FROM THE RABBI

This is my final bulletin column as your rabbi. After somewhat in excess of fifty columns, this one is the last.

How does one end five years with a community? What does one say? It feels simultaneously like there is too much to say and also too little. On the one hand, there is so much to reflect on about our five years together. On the other, since I can't include everything, what do I include?

I begin with a thank you. Thank you all for my time here. Thank you for taking a chance on a rabbi who despite thirteen years of experience had minimal pulpit experience. Thank you for helping me learn what aspects of the job I do well, and what areas needed (or still need) improvement. Thank you for helping me become a better rabbi.

Thank you for providing me with a job and a home, spiritual as well as physical. In five years here Eva and I have enjoyed living in the rabbinate and been delighted not to be homeowners. Thank you for the care and upkeep of the house. And especially for the quick responses whenever there were issues that needed to be addressed. I do, especially, want to thank Andy who was so often my first call when something went wrong, and who somehow managed to get someone here quickly whenever it was truly urgent.

You have also provided me with a spiritual home. A place where I have prayed and taught, contemplated and learned. You

gave me the room to explore spiritually, to experiment with understandings of prayers and God. In five years on the bima, I can recall the times when someone decided I'd gone too far in a sermon on one hand. You didn't always agree with me, but you were willing to listen and consider.

You provided me with opportunities to teach adults. In our weekly Torah study you not only accepted my style of critically exploring the text, you pushed me to become a better teacher of the text. Not every community would have engaged in the academic style of my Torah study. I appreciate that this community did.

Thank you for trusting me to teach your children. Spending quality time with each bar or bat mitzvah is a special privilege for a rabbi. Telling stories to the younger children and getting reactions of joy or disbelief is nourishing in a different way than giving a sermon. Getting to know each child as an individual is one of the treats of serving a smaller congregation.

I so appreciate all of you who have served on committees or the board. Working together with you to create and sustain this community has been a privilege. Thank you for helping me understand where my ideas were impractical, but also embracing and enacting ideas that fit.

Thank you all for your patience as we worked our way through a pandemic. When, all of a sudden, we needed to rethink how we did everything. When I had to relearn how to do my job, and how best

(Continued to Page 7)

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Schedule of Shabbat Services

June 3, Friday, 7:00 pm Isaac Nizel's Confirmation, Shavuot Yizkor Service
Bemidbar (Num. 1:1 - 4:20)

June 10, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Nasso (Num. 4:21 - 7:89)

June 17, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Beha'alotcha (Num. 8:1 - 12:16)

June 24, Friday, No Service

June 25, Saturday, 10:00 am Beth Brumfield's Bat Mitzvah
Sh'lach (Num. 13:1 - 15:41)



Y A H R Z E I T S

June 3, 2022

Isadore Kaplan
Anne Taub
Harry Elbaum
Kevin Edward Adler
Estelle Dorothy Elson
Hyman Krinovitz
Henrietta Chanah Kaufman
Brigitte Hirschfels
Herman Leighton
David Caplan
Francis Levy
Charles Miller
Lottie Winkler
Rose Berwitz
Esther Kasnowitz

June 17, 2022

Stanford C. Reed
Rose Rabin
Hanina Cao-Ba Ezerzer
Minnie R. Gottlob
Aaron Merkel Scheier
Sarah Goodrich Forman
Rebecca Lavut
Lillian Adler

June 10, 2022

Dr. Leonard J. Schiff
Caroline Janet Schlesinger
Jonas Wallace
Alan Davis
Isadore Fievisohn
Irving Goldman
Frances Krinovitz
Dorothy Levites
Eliza Scheier Schiff
Mildred Cohen
Sarah White Gross
Lena R. Albert
Sadie Lipschutz
Renee Ruzow
Thomas Brumfield
Abraham Caplan
Louis Cohen
Avrom Jacobs
Adam Ruzow
Nathan Smith
Mattie Morris
Thomas Brumfield
Avrom Jacobs
Irving Goldman



June 25, 2022

Rose Hurwitz
Nathan Selbst
Barbara Lichtig
Leona Lorberbaum
Thinh Cao-Ba
Max Copeland
David Fields
Katherine Jeanne Merkel
Albert Tamman
Nathan Feldman
Herbert Reuter
Rose Ruzow
Abe Kaifetz
Gabriel Mamane
Wlodziemierz "Wolf" Zachariasz
Bernice Bernstein
Josephine Lichtig
Abraham Schaffer
Dorothy Appel Feldman
John J. Hiller
Joseph Kassel
Eve Lewin
Max Lessner
Myer Levine
Robert L. Berger
Israel Cohen
Harry Kleinberg
Jeannette Nizel
Saul H. Rubin
James Bergman
Clara Achouche
Katherine Wood
Nathan Selbst

Schedule of Shabbat Services

July 1, No Services

Korach (Num. 16:1 - 18:32)

July 8, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service

Chukat (Num. 19:1 - 22:1)

July 15, No Services

Balak (Num. 22:2 - 25:9)

July 22, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service

Pinchas (Num. 25:10 - 30:1)

July 29, No Services

Matot-Masei (Num. 30:2 - 36:13)

Aug. 5, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Services
Devarim (Deut. 1:1 - 3:22)

Aug. 12, No Services
Vaetchanan (Deut. 3:23 - 7:11)

Aug. 19: Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Eikev (Deut. 7:12 - 11:25)

Aug. 26: No Services
Re-eh (Deut. 11:26 - 16:17)

YAH RZEITS

July 8, 2022

Jennie Rovins
Helen Evans Wolfe
Mollie Cohen
David Sterns
Aaron Watermeier
Kate Wolfe
Jerome Levine
Harold Weisburgh
Dorothea Ann Merkel
Milton Rubin
Violet Rovins Caplan
Dr. Israel Winkler
Celia Bookman
Ruth Smith
Louis Kalofsky
Harry Lippert
Blanche Mendelsohn
Ruth Ship
Harry Skloff
Ben Spielberg
Hector Escudero
Delores Escudero
Harvey E. Duchin
Barney A. Kobel
Louise Treistman
Barbara Gordon Nolland

July 22, 2022

Noel Merrihew
Aldrich M. Benson
Melvin Cohen
Rose Furman
Ollie McNulty Paul
Charles E. Slatkin
Samuel Cohen
Yetta Juskowitz
Samuel Gordon
Irene Hartoch Marx
Harold Rome
Mary Hurwitz
Morris M. Shubert
Doris Bornstein Edelman
Hannah Bornstein
Sally D. Hirsch
Betty Goldner Lipshultz
Gertrude Kriff

August 5, 2022

Lillian Shubert
Michael Kaufman
Abraham Levine
Jack Siegel
Irwin Stevens
David Aibel
Stanley D. Weinstein
Clara Schwartz
Irving Fishman
Isidore Goldstein
Lillian Sarnow
Mae Resnick
Pearl Goldenberg
Sharmaine Haas
Yetta Shainmark
Louis Evans Wolfe

August 19, 2022

Julius Bernstein
Harold B. Shubert
Harry S. Roth
Dr. Dorothy W. Gross
Bella Selig London
Mary Elaine Marcus
Moishe H. Myerson
Ray Schweizer Wallace
Fanny Rosenak
Rae Selbst
Sylvia Berger
Harry Dunn
Maude Doernbach
Myron J. Sr. Gordon
Harry Alpert
Minnie Cohen
Louis Ratner
Edith Goldman Shipley
David Burde
Ruth A. Kobel
Harry Levites
Jennie Feldman
Moses Katzper
Ada Brown
Rachel Dunn
Sarah Feldman



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- in memory of Eleanor Goldman.

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- In Memory of Peter Kriff.

A generous contribution was made at the bequest of Eleanor Goldman.



To aid Jewish immigrants from Ukraine, your Temple is sending \$1000 to HIAS, (Hebrew Immigrant Aide Society). This organization has helped Jewish immigrants since WWII.

You'll find the link under HIAS.

Take a Moment and Make a Difference

It is easy to honor or remember friends and family with a contribution to any of the Temple Funds—no donation is too small. Simply tear/cut off this sheet, list the Fund that interests you, write a check, and drop in the mail to:

Temple Beth Israel, Att: Treasurer, 1 Bowman Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901.

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In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Write your own _____

Signed _____

NOTES FROM THE PREZ

Notes from the Prez...And suddenly it's spring! No, I take that back. Gentle reader, it is not spring. The last week has surely been summer in August! And I am sure the weather will again do flip flops in the next few weeks. This is the Adirondacks.

These rapid changes in our weather pattern reflect a phenomenon I have been observing over the last few years. Change happens all the time and constantly, but it seems to be that significant change is happening faster than I am able to process it.

Change is the topic of this column and we can all acknowledge that nothing is as constant as change. Recently, a friend was lamenting the difficult circumstances she was facing in her life. In her frustration, she asked me if it will ever end? My reply was that I could not predict when and if it will end, but I definitely could predict it WILL change. Life is all about change, some good some not so good. Some change we control, some we have no control over.

Take aging for instance, we have no choice or control over aging. What we can control is whether we grow up or not.

During my one and a half years as your president, I've seen a lot of changes in our temple. Many of the old guard have sadly passed. Several of the steadfast worker bees have picked up roots and moved. A pandemic has unraveled the very fabric of our nation, and to some degree, the foundation of our temple.

If I may share with you, gentle readers, some unsettling feelings that are keeping me up at night. I feel and sense that the pulse of Temple Beth Israel, Plattsburgh, NY is slowing. One of my deepest fears is that in the coming years the Jewish Community of the North Country will go the way of so many small Jewish synagogues in the nation and simply fade into history.

This is a change I dread with every fiber of my being and I am only a recent resident to this area. How much more will the passing of TBI affect those of you who have lived here all your life or for decades? I don't see this happening on my watch but I see the process slowly sucking life out of our community.

Perhaps it is time to begin CPR (committed personal responsibility) on our temple?

This change did not just start overnight and it won't be fixed overnight. In reality it may not be able to be stopped at all. Many factors have contributed to the erosion of our community. To list a few: COVID has separated us from each other and physical separation along with real fear that being together may make us ill has certainly pulled us apart, we have had difficulty getting and retaining qualified teachers for our religious school, the number of Jewish families in the area have decreased, we have had and are still dealing with getting and keeping a rabbi who can stabilize our spiritual community, and the inconsistency of being open then closed then open but with restrictions (now, how crazy can that make us?).

In a previous column, I joked about someday there being a blue historical sign marking where Temple Beth Israel stood. Today, I am not joking! I look around on Shabbat services and the sanctuary is empty save 2-3 people. Where is everybody? Out of approximately seventy member families, there was not even a minyan for Shabbat services. I'm not understanding this. Services are in person and on Zoom; talk about convenience. One doesn't even have to get up off the couch to attend services!

I'm not a holier than thou type of person and I hope you don't see me that way but I gotta wonder what's happening in people's lives that they cannot find one hour every few weeks to stand up and be counted as Jews? As your president, I am at a loss to understand this. As a congregant, I am deeply saddened. Will the death of Temple Beth Israel be another statistic of the pandemic?

Small congregations are closing throughout the country. * We can stop this dying process at TBI and change this dire prediction. But no one person or even a handful of the old faithful can do it. It's going to take a village or in this case a community. I am asking each and everyone of you to do CPR (committed personal responsibility) for Temple Beth Israel.

How? Glad you asked. For starters, come sit either personally or virtually in the pews. Let the world see you, a Jew being a Jew for an hour a week. Visible is being

NOTES FROM THE PREZ (CONT.)

there. Do some outreach; invite a new Jewish family to services. You are in the field and will know this stuff way before anyone else. Get involved in the running of the temple. Volunteer (yes, that word!) to do an oneg, lead a service, change a lightbulb, clean the sanctuary, visit a shut-in, join the mah jong group, teach a class. If you don't like how services are being done, bring some new ideas to the board and ritual committee. We are open and responsive to new ideas. We need you, especially now as we may be without a rabbi for a while.

The change is happening and you have the power to direct its course. May you all have a peaceful summer as you get charged up to infuse new energy into our temple.

Baruch HaShem,

ElizaBeth

*Refer to article sent out by Andrew Kaplan on the closure of synagogues.

FROM THE RABBI (CONTINUED)

to meet old needs in new ways. And thank you also for understanding the extra wear and tear doing it all over Zoom took out of me.

Thank you to the presidents of the congregation who have been my direct supervisors (Janet, Debra and ElizaBeth). You have been a partner in leadership, a sounding board, a sympathetic ear. You helped me overcome challenges and to understand situations which weren't always obvious to me. You gently pointed out my failings, but also told me what I was doing well.

Finally, I want to thank everyone at Temple Beth Israel who trusted me to be your rabbi. You welcomed me into your lives. You shared your joys and your sorrows with me. Serving a congregation is not just a job, but a calling. Thank you for calling me.

*Please join me and my family on Saturday June 25, 2022,
at the 10:00 AM service.*

At the age of 73 years old, I will be making my Bat Mitzvah.

*This is a dream I have had for over 40 years. Please come
and share this milestone event with me.*

*Following the service, a luncheon will be served in the social
hall.*

Elizabeth Brumfield

TEMPLEGRAMS

July

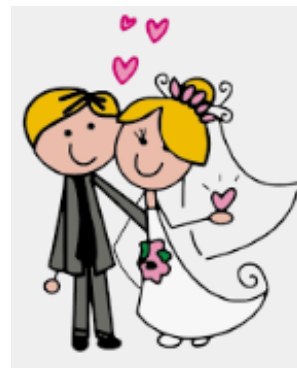
- 1/Sara & Harvey Hurwitz
- 1/Shelley & Michael Lack
- 2/Marilyn Lorberbaum
- 4/Seth Goldenberg & Liz Newton
- 6/Mike DiNunzio
- 8/Jodi & Mike Sperling
- 12/Bob Davis
- 16/Jim Godfrey
- 16/Mark Goldman
- 16/Matt & Jen Shutts
- 22/Carole & Jeanot Cao-Ba
- 23/Mark Sarnow
- 27/Harvey Hurwitz
- 27/Jason Marx
- 28/Jessica Harrison-Repko
- 29/Jodi (nee Goldenberg) Sperling
- 30/ Mike Sperling
- 31/Marcy Weisburgh

August

- 14/Sarah Reif
- 16/Debra Rabin Menase
- 16/Ian Ratner
- 16/Michelle Davis & Ben Stafford
- 16/Jeff Weisburgh
- 22/Sarah Davis & Kori Redepenny
- 28/ Kevin Smith

September

- 1/Jen Shutts
- 7/Joel Shutts
- 8/Debra Good & Douglas Chaves
- 13/Jeff & Marcy Weisburgh
- 16/Sharon & John Schenkel
- 21/Carol Klepper
- 25/Cheryl & Sabieli Kabeli
- 25/Alice & Ronnie Marx
- 25/Richard Smith
- 27/Michael Lack
- 28/Sandra Ghelman & Cody Sanders



If you would like to send a greeting to anyone on the list, please circle those names and send your list with \$0.50 per name by June 25, 2022. Please make out the checks to Temple Beth Israel and mail your list to Carol Staves, 26 Tom Miller Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

Be sure to indicate how you would like the card signed:

Yenta

Cheryl Kabeli physically attended, and not by ZOOM, her graduation ceremony at Syracuse University for her Doctorate. We're so proud of you!

PJ & Amanda Miller attended a re-enactment at Fort Ontario in Canada. They thoroughly enjoy these activities and participate throughout the summer and fall seasons.

Mazel Tov to Beth Brumfield on her Bat Mitzvah. She enjoyed working with Rabbi David and Leora Willins on perfecting her Hebrew.

Sarah & Rodney Brown are back in their summer digs after a quick, on the way, visit with Becca & fiance Steve in Maryland

Linda Leighton, Janet Davis and Sharon Schenkel all hit milestone birthdays recently. Anyone else we missed??

The entire family of Janet & Jerry Davis came home over Memorial Day weekend to celebrate Janet's 70th birthday. Cabins were rented at Marine Village and it was a rare and special time spent together.

Mona & Henry Goldenberg made a week long trip back to the Burgh. It was great seeing them. They'll soon be moving into their new home in RI.

Cerise Oberman & Larry Soroka are home from a visit to Tova & Zack in Washington State.

Ann Ruzow-Holland enjoyed a 2 week visit to Scottsdale, Arizona with daughter Bri and grandsons Rowan & Henry.

Alice & Ronnie Marx went to Florence and Tuscany for a vacation with college friends. All but Ronnie ended up with positive COVID tests as they prepared to return home. Ronnie flew home and Alice returned 10 days later. What an ordeal!

Sara & Harvey Hurwitz had a visit from grandson Jack and friend Sophie. They were thrilled to meet her and enjoyed a Hurwitz family musical evening at the Oval Craft Brewing. The question is, does Sara remember going home??

Janet & Jerry Davis took a 5 day emergency trip to San Francisco to see his brother Victor, who suffered a mild stroke. It was a quick visit but great to reconnect with family. San Francisco is a great place to



visit. Amazingly, they were on the United flight from Washington, DC with Jack and Sophie. It is a small world!

Talia Sanders will be going to a Reconstructionist summer camp for a week or two this summer in Pennsylvania. She'll be joining her cousins there. We can't wait to hear about it! The Rachel Harrison Camp Fund is helping with expenses.

Isaac Nizel is headed to Israel on a NIFTY tour. Aside from raising his own monies, his trip is assisted financially by The Israeli Scholarship Fund set up by Mark & Pearl Rabin.

Jeff Weisburgh can be seen zooming around in his new White Lexus. It's a beautiful and thoughtful gift from his wife. Driving to North Carolina for the winter will be much more comfortable now!

Ilana Reiblein Nelson has been recruited by Oswego Hospital to return to work there. They loved having her in their lab before and are thrilled to have her back. She'll work a shortened schedule and be home more with husband Scott.

We were saddened to learn of Sharon Levine's moving. It's our loss and her grandkids' gain to have her nearby. Best wishes Sharon.

Best wishes are extended also to Hal & Becky Rubin on their move to the Albany area.

You will all be missed.

Farewell to our Rabbi and Eva. It's been an unusual 5 yrs with many rituals celebrated on ZOOM. Enjoy your future in Astoria, being closer to family and a sabbatical to assist with rejuvenation from the strain and exhaustion of COVID. You will be missed by many, especially your Adult Ed students.

Don't forget to send your news to office@plattsburghtbi.org with YENTA in the subject line!

Your Donation Makes a Difference!

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1 Bowman Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901, Attention: Treasurer*

General Funds

General Fund: Everyday Temple operations.

Yahrzeit Fund: Traditionally made for the yahrzeit observance of a loved one. This is part of the General Fund.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: This fund is used by the Rabbi as needed to assist needy individuals, contribute to tzedakah and support other activities that further the mission of TBI. These funds are not used for the personal benefit of the Rabbi.

The Joyce Cohen Building Fund: The interest from this fund is used to make any capital improvement on both the Temple and Rabbinate. Contributions to this fund will continue to insure our ability to keep up on repairs and maintenance of our congregation's properties.

21st Century Fund: Ensures that funds are available to retain a Rabbi.

Woolman Rabbinical Trust Fund: Supports a Rabbi as spiritual leader for our community.

Education Funds

Rabin Religious School Trust Fund: Supports the Religious School.

Merkel-London Library Fund: Supports the purchase of books, periodicals and films that support the needs of the congregation and Religious School.

Fanny S. Schiff Trust Fund for Youth Activities: Supports youth programs and activities.

Judge Robert J. Feinberg Memorial Educational Fund: For acquiring books, periodicals, audio-visual equipment, software and the like to aid in the education of the members of the congregation.

Rachel Harrison Camp Fund: Provides scholarship money for children and teens to attend Jewish camps.

The Israel Student Scholarship Fund: Provides supplemental funding for current and former students of RRS to travel to Israel.

Cultural Funds

The Charles E. and Regina L. Slatkin Lecture Fund: Supports programs with Jewish content in the areas of art, literature or music.

Mensch Fund: To be used for programs and purchases that might not be accommodated within the regular Temple budget.

Martin M. Goldman and Family Fund: To provide for the enhancement of Jewish life and worship in Plattsburgh.

Harvey Duchin Jewish Cultural Fund: Cultural programs and/or activities, including music, art, lectures etc., for the benefit of the congregation.

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Bet Kneset (House/Maintenance/Security):

Larry Soroka 518-570-9159, Isoroka48@gmail.com

Chinuch (Religious School): Jen Shutts 518-569-8061; jennifershutts@gmail.com

Gemilut Chasadim (Caring Committee): Diane Fine, 518-562-2099, finedc@gmail.com

Membership: Cerise Oberman, 518-570-9158, ceriseoberman@gmail.com

Noar (Youth Group): PJ Miller, 518-645-2028, pjmillier1800@gmail.com

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Sara Hurwitz, 518-324-6041, sarhar7163@gmail.com

Tarbut (Jewish Culture & Enrichment): Diane Fine, 518-562-2099, finedc@gmail.com

Tikun Olam (Social Action): Carol Staves, 352-584-2827, cjstaves@gmail.com

Bulletin Articles

Mary Fievisohn: 518-497-6979; tbibulletin.editor@gmail.com

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Carol Staves, 352-584-2827, cjstaves@gmail.com

Temple Administrators:

Andy Kaplan, 518-569-7151, kappy8@charter.net,

Jeanot Cao-Ba, 518-563-3903, jeanotcbj@aol.com,

Rabbi:

Rabbi David Kominsky, 518-314-9218,

rabbi@plattsburghtbi.org

Office:

Maria Foster, 518-563-3343,

office@plattsburghtbi.org

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Temple Fund _____

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In memory of _____

Write your own _____

Signed _____

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