



Beth Israel Bulletin

Nisan - Iyyar 5783/ April 2023

Issue 5783 - 7

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
APRIL EVENTS

TBI PESACH SEDER

YOM HASHOAH
GUEST SPEAKER

“JEWISH PEDDLERS
IN THE NORTH
COUNTRY”
TALK AND BRUNCH

YOM HA'ATZMAUT
CELEBRATION



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From the Rabbi

Happy April everyone,

As we begin the months of April and Nisan, amid our Passover liberation story, let us cautiously look forward to a month of somber remembrance, mixed with overwhelming joy. During Passover, also known as the festival of matzah, we commemorate our new found freedom, liberated from the bondage of Egyptian slavery. Yet, we also need to appreciate that this new found freedom brings tremendous responsibility, struggle, and even failure. The arc of the Jewish people's history is a long, jagged curve, and at this nascent point in time, we had yet to collect the wisdom, life experiences, and working knowledge of Torah to enter the Land of Israel. By itself, the Exodus stands alone as a life altering journey which began on Pesach for the Israelites born into captivity and culminates at the end of Torah, as the Jews finally take their place in the Promised Land. While this transformation may have seemed effortless, the Jewish people required the time in the desert to grow and coalesce as a unified people who inevitably learn how to overcome the challenges, disappointments, and suffering.

On Wednesday, April 5th, we will gather as a community to celebrate our Passover holiday over the festive seder meal. Lastly, on April 18th, we will pause to honor the memory of those who perished and survived in the Holocaust, on Yom HaShoah. This year marks the 78th anniversary since the liberation of the Concentration Camps and the end of World War II. The month of Nisan reminds us of the simcha and tuzris that exist in our lives, sometimes in the same breath. Enjoy the sweet taste of matzah freedom everyone!

Chag Pesach Samaech/Happy Passover,

Rabbi David Joslin

rabbi@plattsburghtbi.org

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Schedule of Shabbat Services

Apr. 7, Friday, 6:30 pm Shabbat T'filah

Apr. 15, Saturday, 10:00 am Shabbat T'filah

Shmini (Lev. 9:1 - 11:47)

Apr. 21, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat T'filah

Tazria-Metzora (Lev. 12:1 - 15:33; Num. 28:9 - 15)

Apr. 28, Friday, Yom HaAtzma'ut Celebration 5:30 pm with dinner

Achrei Mot - Kedoshim (Lev. 16:1 - 20:27)



YAHREZITS

March 31, 2023

Shirley Gordon
Jacob London
Alfred Achouche
Ann Kennedy
Bert Copeland
Frances Oberman
George Allen Duskes
Harvey Taub
Sara Cohen
Harry Liebowitz

April 7, 2023

Aaron Merkel
Hannelore Weller Cintron
Sara N. Egelson
Joseph Max Feinberg
Rae Zeeman
Solomon J. Schiff
Hilda Gabor
Zvi Gretz
Jack Mark
Dorothy Sondra Futterman
Meta London Merkel
Evelyn Miller Siegel

April 15, 2023

Freda Goldman Livingston
Rose Barsky Roth
Harry Berkowitz
Harold Joseph Hutner
Jeannette Kier
Milton Soroka
Isabel Berger Landsberg
Charles Fine
Jesse V. Levy
Leah Bolker
Alice Cohen Krinovitz
Samuel Lipschutz

April 28, 2023

Gertrude Balkan
Arthur Schwoner
Anna Lavine
Linda Braunstein
Dora Cohen
Otto Menkle
Benjamin Smolar
Herbert Cohen
Leland S. Berger
Jerome H. Resnick
Elsie Leighton

April 21, 2023

Frances Benson
Abe Goldman
James Sachs
Frank Hutner
Crandall Clark
Moses Selig
Eve Lack
Abraham Markstone
Marion Piafsky
Frieda Haas
Otto Haas
Solomon Winkler
Max Morris
Beverlee Kaifetz Finkelstein
Sara Levy Gordon
Maynard Levy
Richard Rome
Harvey Taub



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS TO THE VARIOUS TEMPLE TRUST FUNDS

January 15, 2023 - March 15, 2023

JUDGE ROBERT J. FEINBERG MEMORIAL EDUCATIONAL FUND:

Lauren Covert Feinberg:

- -In memory of the Yahrzeit of Robert Julian Feinberg.

GENERAL FUND

Miriam Worthington

Diane Fine:

- to thank Cerise Oberman, Larry Soroka, Janet Davis, Rabbi Joslin and everyone else who checked in on me during my recent surgery and recovery.

Sue, Howard, Jacob, Daniel Meyerson:

- In memory of Carol Gross .



Yahrzeit Fund:

Elle Berger and Mike DiNunzio:

-in memory of Jonathan Matzkin, brother of Sara Brown.

Marcia Wolosz:

-in memory of Isidore Bookman.

Gayle Ratner:

-in memory of my my dear Grandfather, Albert Greenfield.

Larry Kriff:

-in memory of Ralph Kriff.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Susan Albert:

- in appreciation for all you are doing for our congregation, Rabbi David.

Lucy Burrell Taylor

Special thank you sent out from Maria to Janet Davis, Andy Kaplan and Jeff Weisburgh. Thanks for all the hard work and dedication they provided helping in the office while I was in Florida. Thank you sent to the Board and the Rabbi for allowing me to take extended time each year.

Interfaith Food Pantry

The Souper Shabbat service, benefitting the Interfaith Food Pantry, resulted with a very generous outcome!. 24 pounds of food and \$266.00! Thank you all on behalf of the Plattsburgh Food Pantry. I attended the IFP monthly meeting on 2/7/2023 and will share our information.

https://plattsburghfoodshelf@gmail.com

Phone: 518-562-3663

Mailing Address: P.O.Box 1317

Plattsburgh, NY 1290

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Recently, the New York Times reported the failure of Hasidic schools in New York City to provide adequate secular education to their students while still taking public monies. Also, many of these schools have used public money for special education students when no such students needed it. Aside from the basic questions about whether or not public money should support Hasidic or other sectarian schools, the articles raised another issue. What does it mean to be Jewish? The Hasidic schools emphasize ritual and observance which, of course, are important parts of being Jewish. But they seem to have neglected the ethical and value elements of Jewish life. Often, Reform Judaism is characterized as Jewish “light” and some more orthodox parts of the Jewish landscape don’t even consider Reform as Jewish. Living a Jewish life is more than observance and ritual. It is about living ethically and following Hillel’s explanation that all of Torah is encapsulated in “What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow: this is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation; go and learn.”

For those who attend Torah study, this comes as no surprise. The discussions around the Torah portion are always about the ethical and moral issues raised and how they apply to contemporary life. The Rabbi engages in lively conversation and debate about how thousands of years of Jewish thought applies to how we live our lives.

Temple Beth Israel has its own issues around the values and meaning that should be its focus. To explore this and related questions, we are exploring the mission of TBI and how that mission fits the needs of the congregation and its challenges over the next five years. As TBI engages in this visioning process, it is critical to keep Hillel’s thought in mind and to maintain pride and confidence in who we are as Jews. The Rabbi, Beth and myself have had very thoughtful discussions about both the current state of the Temple and ideas for its future. However, before it proceeds further, we would like to take the pulse of the congregation to find out what it feels about how the Temple is meeting its needs. We are now working on developing a method for gaining this information probably through a survey and some individual interviews. Stay tuned for more information and please respond to the survey to find out what the congregation thinks. I am optimistic about the prospects for TBI. Working together, we can make the next years meaningful to those we serve and to the broader Jewish community. As always, I look forward to hearing any thoughts or concerns you might have.

As of this moment, snow hopefully has passed and temperatures will start to climb. I look forward to spring and hope that you too will enjoy the flowering of the trees and warmer weather. Passover comes soon and I wish you and your families a joyful celebration of this important holiday.

Cheryl Kabeli



Leave a Legacy Gift to Temple Beth Israel

Your Legacy is our Future Do you have an IRA, 401k, life insurance policy or savings account? You can use any of these to leave a gift to TBI without paying anything today. It’s easy. Just contact your financial institution and name Temple Beth Israel of Plattsburgh, NY as your beneficiary.

Rabin Religious School News

NFTY??? What is it?

NFTY is a movement that builds strong, welcoming, inspired communities through teen-powered engagement. Together, we pursue tikkun olam, personal growth, youth empowerment, and deep connections, all rooted in Reform Judaism.

Participation in NFTY helps teens build confidence, friendships and leadership skills through experiential youth-led educational programming including social justice projects, worship, and community-building initiatives. NFTY is open to teens in grades 6 to 12.

We will be joining the Northeast Region and look forward to engaging in leadership, social action and Jewish life.



Hillel Happenings

Spring Break has come and gone and we are all looking forward to the beginning of Spring. We are actively looking for a new slate of Board members as many are graduating this year!

As the world's largest Jewish organization, Hillel takes a leading role in confronting antisemitism on college campuses and ensuring the safety and security of Jewish Students. We are applying to join the Campus Climate Initiative (CCI). The CCI provides college and university administrators with opportunities to seriously explore these topics — and create meaningful action plans — alongside a community of peers from institutions around North America. This collaborative, educational, and practical experience offers administrators on participating campuses, in partnership with their local Hillel professionals, to engage together with us in:

- Gathering, assessing, and utilizing data to better understand the current climate for Jewish students in their campus community and to inform strategic next steps
- Training and empowering university administration and staff to better understand the needs of Jewish students, the diversity of the Jewish community, and the challenges of campus antisemitism
- Creating and adopting best practice policies, procedures, and programs to address antisemitism and foster a positive campus climate for Jewish students and all students.

Yenta

The song and guitar music provided at services by Suzi Kier-Merrihew has been wonderful. We're so fortunate to have Suzi with her guitar and the occasional accompaniment of Lynn Schlesinger. Her collaboration with Rabbi David is so very enjoyable.

Mazel Tov to Bernie Cohen who celebrated his 94th birthday this winter. Kudos to Marilyn who keeps him going strong!

It's nice to see on Facebook that Sarah & Rodney Brown are enjoying their winters spent in FL.

Andy Kaplan has had a doozy of a cough/URI. He's finally on the mend.

PJ and Amanda Miller have been busy with their reenactments over this winter. BRRR! Some interesting photos are on his FB site

Welcome home to Lenny Zelkowitz as he returns from working for FEMA in the Ft Myers area post Hurricane Ian.

Beth Brumfield & Tom Dufour made a visit to daughter Leah and husband in Charleston. They are next planning on spending Yom Ha'atzmaut in Israel this Spring. What an experience!!

Sharon Schenkel's son and family from Colorado spent a week enjoying the warmth and beaches of St Croix.

Our Purim celebration this year was different and fun. Most attendees dressed up a little and we had a good time reading the modern version of the Megillah that Rabbi David found. Sweet treats were consumed by all. Little Rowan & Henry Holland were the hit of the afternoon dressed up in their spacesuits! It was so nice to have little people there!

Sara & Harvey Hurwitz flew to FL for a week and enjoyed the change in weather. Luckily, they returned the day before the Nor'easter hit!!

Sabi and Sophie Kabeli spent February break visiting family in London. Mom Cheryl was here but spent her March break in FL. She had a little time to herself at the beach and visiting old friends.

Marcy Weisburgh spent part of her March break visiting her Mom and family in Albany. She's the star student of her college Spanish class.



Alice and Ronnie Marx purchased a new Prius in California. They and their 2 dogs will be driving home this spring, unless, of course, Alice decides to take the safer

route and fly!

The J & J Davis family have had a number of exciting events since January-

Mazel Tov to Jerry Davis who celebrated his 90th birthday in March. We should all have his strength and stamina!

Aaron Davis turned the big 40 in February. "Yom Huledet Sameach" Happy Birthday!! Where have the years gone??

Congratulations to Sarah Davis on her new position as Leader of the Children and Families Division of the Hennepin County, MN District Attorney's office. She will now be in a position to effect the policies of Juvenile Restorative Justice, her speciality, in the county.

Kudos to Michelle Davis on accepting a part-time position of Administrative Support Staff for an inpatient Mental Health Facility in Littleton, CO. Michelle is always open to a new adventure.

We are saddened by the death of longtime member Michael Ratner. What a strong-willed fighter he has been for so many years. He's always had such a positive attitude. Our condolences to Ian and his family, Gayle and the girls and Sharon. May his memory be a blessing.

Condolences to the WInternitz family who unexpectedly lost their beloved nephew/cousin, Carey Liss, earlier this year. May his memory be a blessing.

The Lorberbaum's sweet dachshund Sadie passed away over the winter. She was a special furry friend who brought them much joy and love. Sending warm hugs...

Please send your Yenta news to: office@plattsburghtbi.org, with YENTA in the subject line!

Your Donation Makes 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. You can make your donation online at www.plattsburghtbi.org/donate or simply tear/cut off the bottom of this sheet, 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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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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