



Beth Israel Bulletin

Nisan - Sivan 5782/ May 2022

Issue 5782 - 9

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
MAY EVENTS

CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
MAY 25TH



Inside this issue:

<i>Donations</i>	6
<i>President's Desk</i>	4
<i>Rabbi's Message</i>	1
<i>Service Schedule</i>	3
<i>Yahrzeit Dates</i>	3
<i>Yenta</i>	5

FROM THE RABBI

The period between Passover and Shavuot, called the Omer, is a period of transition. It is the time between the Exodus from Egypt and the receiving of Torah at Sinai. It was a moment when the Israelites no longer had the structure of slavery and did not yet have the structure of mitzvot (commandments). It was the first month and a half of what would turn out to be a forty year sojourn in the wilderness.

For me, personally, there is a resonance to this moment of transition. By the time you read this, Eva and I will be down to our last two months in Plattsburgh. As of right now, we expect that we will be locating to Queens, providing easy access to the city without actually being in its heart. As someone who has visited NYC but never lived there, I see it as a bit of an adventure into the unknown. What will life near the city require? What opportunities will it present?

Did the ancient Israelites, fresh out of Egypt, wonder what their new relationship with God would require of them? Did they find themselves trying to imagine what the next stage of their life would look like? As someone who understands the Golden Calf incident as being more about the Israelite desire to have an image of God to worship, and less about creating a different god, I wonder if they were simply trying to flesh out that future.

As a congregation, you are also in a moment of transition. While you know that I will be gone, you do not know who or what the future will bring. While there is definitely the hope that my successor will be hired and ready to take my place without a gap in rabbinic leadership, there is also the worry that my successor may not be found that quickly. I am working with various committees and individuals to ensure a stable future, but the congregation is also moving into an unknown future.

Change in spiritual leadership brings changes in how things are done. Each rabbi has their own ways of doing things. Some of the things we do differently we are consciously aware of. Far more of the changes a new rabbi institutes are done without awareness—even by rabbis who try to think carefully about what we are doing.

This moment, between new found Freedom and receiving a new Torah, is a moment of mingled emotions. Fear and anticipation, hope and worry, these emotions and others find nesting space in our souls. Yet like the Israelites, we move forward to a new future, not knowing exactly what it will look like, or what surprises will develop along the way. We step forward because we must, and we hope for holiness at the end of our journey—or even along the way.

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Schedule of Shabbat Services

May 6, Friday, 6:00 pm Family Service
Kedoshim (Lev. 19:1 - 20:27)

May 13, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Emor (Lev. 21:1 - 24:23)

May 21, Saturday, 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service and Holland Baby Naming
Behar (Lev. 25:1 - 26:2)

May 27, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Bechukotai (Lev. 26:3 - 27:34)



Y A H R Z E I T S

May 6, 2022

Joseph Cohen
William Heyman
Meyer Lipshutz
Bertha Kahner
Lillyan J. Rubin
Esther Lillian Goldman
Sam Corekin, Jr.
Isaac Fox
John Yardan

May 13, 2022

Rosa Miller
Gerry Glantz
Samuel Smith
Lillian Balkan
Louis Michaelson
Viola Harrison
Isaac Woolman
Beth Fine Kaplan
Sonia Myerson
Robert M. Brumfield
David Smith
Harry Kaplan
Sidney Kaplan
Selma Rose Shutts

May 21, 2022

Nathan Adler
Myer Lippa
Solomon Schiff
Lena K. Schlesinger
Nachman Ben Smolar
David Jr. Merkel
Frank Cohen
Major Sam Wiesenthal
Samuel Shane

May 27, 2022

Silas Kassel
Margery Sachs
Mark Rabin
Blanche Ringel
Rabbi Solomon Herschel Schoenkopf
Beatrice Matzkin
Robert S. Reiter
Mildred Eleanor Albert
Kenneth Myron Pfafsky
Edith Stevens
Pearlie Rabin
Celia Berger
Ronald Bruce Korman
Kathryn L. Menkle
Philip Cohen
Harry Gold
Minnie Kapusta
Esther Kasnowitz



NOTES FROM THE PREZ

Notes from the Prez...Greetings, gentle readers, per the calendar it appears Spring is upon us with promises of warmer temperatures, greenery, flowers and outdoor fun. May is also a month to honor mothers. I do not believe this is accidental. May is the month of rebirth on this side of the world. It's a time to sow seeds and welcome animal newborns. Mothers and spring naturally go together.

Everyone and everything can boast of having a mother. Unfortunately, not everyone had the comforting experience of having a loving mother as they grew up. Even sadder is the fact that some mothers were not a positive figure in their children's lives.

If you are one of the fortunate ones who had a mother by birth, adoption and attachment, then count yourself very blessed.

If you are a mother then you know there is no experience on earth that requires more love, strength, time, wisdom, patience and selflessness than motherhood. Looking back, I'm surprised we don't have a special month dedicated to mothers. I'm also aware we are living in a misogynistic culture where motherhood is highly undervalued. No job on earth or in space has more of an influence on the physical, emotional, moral, and psychological wellbeing of a budding human being.

I suppose that is why Adonai designated this task to women. Just slightly joking, gentle readers.

The art of mothering is not the exclusive purview of just women. In actuality, each of us have the ability to mother. Recall the videos you've seen showing toddlers patting and hugging a playmate who's crying or an adult who is upset. Have you seen PBS animal shows where animals of all species are tendering to a member in distress? If animals have an instinct for comforting and protecting, how much more do we possess the ability to care, comfort and protect other human beings? Is the mothering instinct natural in our species? I really cannot answer that, but I can equivalently state we are all in need of more mothering in our world, in our country and in our lives.

Mothers are our very first teachers. First lesson is how to suck and get food. In case some of you didn't know,

babies are not born with the knowledge of how to suckle. Knowing how to suck is pretty important if the child is going to live. Think about just what a miracle that is: creating and sustaining another human being? With bottles and formula readily available today, we forget that in ancient days, if there were not a wet nurse available, the infant would die of hunger.

Mothers have the power of creation, life and death. When I think upon this, I personally believe God is a female deity, a mother. God creates and sustains life. Woman creates and sustains life. Of course, men have an integral part in this begetting of life and I think they have made way too much of it in their writings. As the ancient scribes were men, I suppose they slanted the sacred texts to give themselves top billing.

I wrote this column to remind us and to stress the importance of and value of mothers and mothering. Mothering is something we can all do if we so choose. May I suggest, gentle reader, that we begin to take every opportunity to mother, comfort and soothe the distress of each other. "Hurt people, hurt people." If we can soothe even a little hurt from another's life, we can continue in tikkun olam.

Baruch Ha'Shem, ElizaBeth



[This Photo](#) by

Nonperishable food items can now be dropped off at Temple Beth Israel. For further information about the Interdenominational Food Pantry (IFP), go to plattsburgfoodshelf.org *thank you.*

Yes, Again. Due to increase in covid cases, we will **NOT** be doing one-gs for a while. Stay tuned for more updates. Effective Friday 15 April.

Yenta

Tom DuFore was seen driving around town with his hair dyed bright green for St Patrick's Day.

PJ & Amanda Miller spent a day in Ogdansburg giving a presentation regarding 18th century maple sugaring techniques.

Harvey Hurwitz is recovering nicely from his surgery while under the protective eye of wife Sara.

Randy Patnode is recovering quickly from his recent knee surgery with the help of wife Susan at his side.

Miriam & Tom Worthington made a trip to Montreal to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary!

Judy Weisman has been dancing her legs off recently in Boston & Illinois. Very impressive!

The Weisburgh's are glad to be home from Charlotte. Jaxon is anxious to see his furry friends!

Ronnie & Alice Marx traveled home from San Diego through some terrible weather in Oklahoma and Arkansas. They're barely home and already heading off for a 10 day visit to Italy with a group of college friends.

Sarah Davis was a guest speaker on the topic of Juvenile Restorative Justice at the International Academy of Trial Lawyers in LA. She was housed at the Beverly Hills Wilshire 4 Season Hotel, toured TV studios and enjoyed the warm CA sun. Rough trip!

Rodrigo Chaves, cousin of our own Doug Chaves, was elected President of Costa Rica! Does that mean you and Debra get to stay in the Presidential residence when you visit??

Our Temple donated \$1000 to aid in the Ukrainian crisis through the aid organization HIAS. HIAS was founded as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in 1881 to assist Jews



fleeing pogroms in Russia and Eastern Europe. Please go to [HIAS.org](https://www.hias.org) for more information and to donate.

Lil Resnick happily spent the first night of Passover with Lynn Schlesinger and family.

Sara Hurwitz' had a nice birthday visit from daughter Monica and husband Ian.

Sadie Trunck was noted as Remarkable Woman in the Champlain Valley. Here is the link to read the article-

<https://www.mychamplainvalley.com/recognizing-remarkable-women-2022/>

A major TODAH RABAH to the Ritual Committee for the Pesach gift bags.

Phyllis Freedman hosted her family for the first seder. The guest of honor was her great granddaughter Norah.

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars! Temple Beth Israel will be holding the Congregational meeting (or *All Hands meeting as your current president likes to call it*) on **Wednesday May 25, 2022**. Time: **5:30 pm** smoked meat sandwiches followed by meeting at **6:15 pm**. Agenda will be sent prior to meeting.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS TO THE VARIOUS TEMPLE TRUST FUNDS

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- In Memory of Evelyne Miller Siegel.

Yahrzeit Fund:

Phyllis Freedman:

- In Memory of Rose Barsky Roth/Sweet Pesach.

Alfred and Ruth Landsberg:

- In Memory of Isabel Burger Landsberg.

Gayle Ratner:

- Thank you for our Purim Goodies.

Susan and Randy Patnode:

- To Thank Jerry and Janet Davis, Beth Nolland, Michelle Davis, Ben Stafford, Marcy and Jeff Weisburgh, and Sara and Harvey Hurwitz for your kindness, your support and the delicious food.

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.

Dear Temple Beth Israel Congregation:

Let us talk about the kindness of strangers.

I recently have been managing a health crisis in my family. My son became ill and was hospitalized for several days requiring surgery. He now routinely needs care from a specialist in Watertown . The crisis was shocking and frightening. Having to be in Syracuse for several days without knowing what was wrong or when we would be able to return home was very stressful indeed. When a parent is dealing with something like this, he or she may feel alone... isolated and so afraid.

I did, and it was in this time that several Temple Beth Israel congregants got together and started gathering donations to help my family. We received cash, checks and Venmo deposits, along with lovely cards and caring words. In addition to this, they expressed concern and compassion for us and our situation and that continues even today, when we are out of the crisis and into the management of the issue.

I would never have expected anyone to be so kind and generous! I am still shocked at how people stepped up to help us. I wish I could express to you the way such an experience leaves me. I feel as though I have been cared for and that my family has been cared for. What is more valuable than that?

Each day that passes, someone asks me about the status of things and offers a kind word or sentiment. The steady consistency has been remarkable from people that I have not known for very long and some I have yet to meet.

I am not certain how this was organized or by whom, but I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for something that has left a lasting impression on me. It truly made me feel part of a caring community and that is more valuable to me than you can imagine. I thank you sincerely for your generosity and kindness to me and to my family.

With Appreciation, Tracey Serlock

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