



# Beth Israel Bulletin

Sh'vat - Adar II 5782/ February/March 2022

Issue 5782 - 6/7

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL  
FEBRUARY/MARCH  
EVENTS

ADULT PURIM SERVICE

ZOOM SERVICES



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## FROM THE RABBI

There is a certain hubris in trying to say/ think/plan about anything two months in the future at the moment. As I sit down in mid-January to say something that might still have relevance at the end of March (which is the time period covered by this bulletin), I am struck by just how little I know about how the world will look, or how we will feel about it when we get there.

In thinking back over the last two years, I am struck by how many times we made plans assuming things would be "back to normal" by the time we got there. Whether it was thinking about High Holidays during the Spring of 2020, or assuming that we would be back in person the next Passover during the Summer of 2020, or putting together an entire annual calendar for 2021 - 2022 in which we planned a full year of food-based in-person activities, our expectations and hopes have been dashed time and again. I wish I were using this space to push everyone to join us for Souper Shabbat which was scheduled for February 4th. Obviously, that is not happening this year.

Sitting with this uncertainty about the future, we are reminded that even in the normal times, our plans were less solid than we believed. No matter how much we might have regarded our calendar entries or trip itineraries as true representations of the future, there was always the chance that circumstances

would undo our intentions. Sickness, weather, even death have always had the power to melt away the concreteness of our planning.

Hubris, for the ancient Greeks, was a specific form of pride, in which a human believed that they were not subject to the will of the gods. Inevitably in literary works, the gods would correct that misapprehension. I tend not to embrace a theology in which God willfully acts upon the details of our lives, yet I do believe that maintaining a basic humility is key to living a balanced life.

It is important to recognize, at some level, that we are not in charge. Try as we might, we cannot shape the world to our will. Things happen which are beyond our control or our prediction. We ride the swells of life, hoping that the boat we build is sturdy enough to protect us.

The Temple Beth Israel community is part of the boat that we each have built. It is our hope and intention that it helps us ride out the storms and weather the waves. It is not the entirety of the boat for any of us, but it is a key resource to all of us who choose to engage with it.

It is my hope that by the time I am writing my next column, the world will seem a little less uncertain. That someday we will be able to make more solid plans once again.

In the meantime, I am glad to be with you all as we continue to build Temple Beth Israel, each and every day.

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## Schedule of Shabbat Services

Feb. 4, Friday, 6:00 pm Family Service  
Terumah (Ex. 25:1 - 27:19)

Feb. 11, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service  
Tetzaveh (Ex. 27:20 - 30:10)

Feb. 19, Saturday, 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service  
Ki Tisa (Ex. 30:11 - 34:35)

Feb. 25, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service  
Vayakhel (Ex. 35:1 - 38:20)

\*\*\*All Service will be on Zoom only

Mar. 4, Friday, 6:00 pm Family Service  
Pekudei (Ex. 38:21 - 40:38)

Mar. 11, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service  
Vayikra (Lev. 1:1 - 5:26)

Mar. 18, Friday, 7:00 pm Adult Purim Service  
Tzav (Lev. 6:1 - 8:36)

Mar. 25, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service  
Shmini (Lev. 9:1 - 11:47)

## Y A H R Z E I T S

### February 19, 2022

Issac Bibliowicz  
Al J. Kaiser  
Albert Greenfield  
Reuben Caplan  
Sidney Pickman  
Theodore Ruzow  
Benjamin Harrison  
Miriam Rubin-Sousa  
Rabbi Morris Cherkas

### February 4, 2022

Meyer S. Lichtig  
Minnie Harrison  
Henry Scheier  
Benjamin Feinberg  
Carla H. Hyatt  
Benjamin Berger  
Ruth Levy  
Bernard Cohen  
Joshua Egelson

### February 25, 2022

Stanley Briefer  
Bernice L. Good  
Louis Lawrence Garrell  
Harry J. Furman  
Caleb Caplan  
Rose Cohen  
Beatrice Waldman  
Jonathan Nizel  
Betsy London  
Edna Horner  
Bernice L. Good

### February 11, 2022

Sylvia Simonowitz  
Ethel R. Goldman  
Irving Kessler  
Maxine L. Elbaum  
Bertha Mendelsohn  
Gordon  
Aladar Haas  
Tillie Reuter  
Myron M. Caplan  
Kenneth Schweber  
Mark J. Davis  
Samuel Gottlob  
Mabel A. Markstone  
Sydney Oberman  
Albert Sarnow  
Julius Garrell  
Susan M. Furnberg  
Sydney B. Resnick



### March 4, 2022

Henry "Honey" Lewin  
Laura Julietta Hirschfels  
Samuel Baker  
Charlotte Selig  
Monique Sarnow  
Fanny Levites  
Leo F. Schiff  
Louis Cohen  
Pearl Lichtig Kaplan  
Lillian Goldstein  
Robert Gitlin  
Rachel Harrison  
Samuel Kobel  
Samuel Mendelsohn  
Samuel B. Michaelson  
Jakob Lifshitz  
Robert Gitlin

### March 11, 2022

Christopher Haley  
Phyllis Kabat  
David Schreiber  
Rose Goldstein  
Mark Steven Lichtig  
Caroline Scheier  
David Sr. Merkel  
Lillian Reinstein  
Emanuel Goldenberg  
Irving Abrams  
William Charney  
Joseph Lipschutz  
Irving D. Bernstein  
Samuel Luria  
H. Leonard Schlesinger

### March 18, 2022

Pearl Liebowitz  
Lillian Zohn  
Hannah Sorscher  
Donald H. Burrell  
Edna Salzberg  
Shirley Pepper White  
Isaias Scheier  
Carol Gross  
Joseph Merkel  
Harry Cohen  
Jack Davis  
Abraham Merkel  
Shaye Trunk  
Tillie Kleinberg  
Herbert L. Lewis

### March 25, 2022

Sidney Balkan  
Peter Kriff  
Dorothy Weisburgh  
Lottie Hartoch  
Jack (Jacob) Lipshultz  
Dr. Philip Livingston  
Pessa Segalowitz  
Samuel S. Goldman  
Kenneth Sarnow  
Shirley Gordon  
Jacob London  
Charles Schwalb  
Beatrice Schwalb  
Lottie Hartoch

## NOTES FROM THE PREZ

Notes from the Prez...Gentle Reader, those who know me well, are aware that I am a down-to-earth realist. Yet, there are times when even I must accept that there are unexplainable forces beyond this mortal world that send us guidance for our earthly journey. Call it what you will, i.e., psychic phenomenon, spiritual communication or magic; we get help from the most unusual sources.

Our only requirement is that we be open to receive this guidance. For example, one day as I was driving along Route 9, I found myself following a large dump truck going at snail speed. There was no passing allowed and my patience factor was zero that morning. Being a southern lady, I didn't even entertain the thought of honking my horn. Ghastly behavior! But the situation still frustrated me.

Needless to say, the longer I followed the truck, the shorter my patience grew. Then it happened! A message was delivered. This wasn't about my driving at all. There on the back of the truck was a large sign in caps which read, "DON'T PUSH". Of course, I would never even think of physically trying to push a multi-ton dump truck. My car would be severely damaged and so might I.

Was this my message to don't push? This wasn't about the truck at all. It was a message reminding me to "not push". And I was pushing through life. I was pushing to get things done, pushing to get things to go my way, pushing for other people to make changes they were not ready for, pushing myself physically and emotionally.

The only thing I was accomplishing from all this pushing was increasing my blood pressure and missing the joy of being in the present. I was living in the future and wasting my present.

I remember reading once that the most important thing on a tombstone was the dash between our birth date and our death date. That insignificant dash between birth and death represents our life: what we did and how we lived. That dash represents our struggles, joys, achievements, failures, loves, hates, gains and losses.

If we were able to read that dash, what would it tell us about that person? Were they kind, were they an asset to their community, did they love unconditionally, are they remembered fondly? Did they leave the world better?

Did they take to heart the task of tikkum olam (repairing the world)?

One cannot work on repairing the world if we are too busy pushing through it.

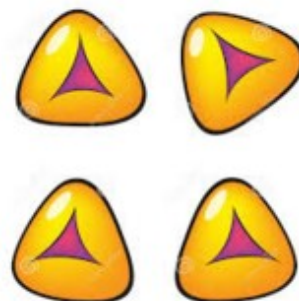
At Shabbat services, Rabbi David sets the stage for us to stop, breathe, center ourselves and focus on being here in the present. Not as easy as it seems. Our minds are frenzied ferrets on steroids. We are always thinking what do I need to do? How can I get this done? Etc., etc. It takes discipline and strength to cage our overactive minds, and practice. To do it. It doesn't come naturally.

Shabbat is a good time to practice being in the present. One whole day of letting go and slowing down. A time to stop pushing and close that to-do list in our brains. Rabbi David provides us a clear message and directions on how to enter the Shabbat at Shabbat services. He encourages us to stop, center, breathe and let go of the material world and enter the Sabbath – the Jewish Island of time where we can renew and refresh. The sabbath is a time to be in the present and "DON'T PUSH".

May you all be present every day and especially on Shabbat.

Baruch Ha'Shem

ElizaBeth



# Yenta

MAZEL TOV to Keith Taylor who in early January became a Ger Toshav. The certificate reads:

"I give thanks for the loving relationship with the Jewish people that Lucy brings to my life.

I come today to formalize that relationship and to take on the status of Ger Toshav, an "Affiliate of the Tribe".

He was given the Hebrew name of Eliezer son of Abraham v Sarah."

It was a lovely ceremony led by Rabbi David with Lucy, Beth Brumfield and Jerry Davis as witnesses. Suzi Kier-Merrihew, Janet Davis and Carol Staves observed the blessed event in Keith's room at Meadowbrook..

Andy Kaplan is recovering beautifully from his hip surgery. He's getting stronger and more mobile daily. The food train arranged by Diane Fine was so very helpful. Don't say anything but it seems he may have put on a few pounds from all of the goodies he's received! HAHA! Be careful and keep your eyes open... he's now driving!

We, as a congregation, are so fortunate to have the likes of Diane Fine, Beth Brumfield, Lucy Taylor and Deb Moldovan. They have been so essential to Andy's recovery.

Well, even though Ronnie Marx is far away in San Diego, he and Jerry Davis communicate daily over their Sudoku games. Thank heaven for cell phones!

The Hurwitz family is happy to have Hallie home safe and sound from her 100 day gap year in Europe.

Speaking of the Hurwitz family, Hallie- daughter of Dina and Craig- is doing a podcast with Her Dad & Grandma Sara of her time spent in Ireland, England, France, Italy and Greece. She had a great time and has a lot of wisdom to share. What a terrific experience for her to share with us. It can be found on Youtube at- THL Hallie's European Tour Podcast.

Lenny Zelkowitz has been called up by FEMA again. This time he's going to the state of Washington to assist with the aftermath of recent flooding. FEMA would love to hire him full time, but remember he is retired!



Fortunately for Michelle Zelkowitz, she has adopted a 2 yr old cat named Bessie to keep her company during Lenny's absence. Michelle teaches her cats tricks and it's amazing to witness them. With Lenny away, it will be interesting to see what Bessie can learn.

Thanks to Jack Helfgott for plowing our parking lot recently. We were between contractors and he gladly helped out.

Tom Dufore is keeping busy baking his delicious Lumberjack Cookies... yummy!

There are Facebook photo's of Jeanot Caoba playing pickleball out in Arizona. Does he have his sunscreen on???





## WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS TO THE VARIOUS TEMPLE TRUST FUNDS

December 16, 2021 - January 15, 2022

### MENSCH FUND

**Phyllis Freedman:**

- In Memory of Avrum Shainmark.



### Yahrzeit Fund:

**Laurie C. Turner:**

- In memory of Robert Julian Feinberg

### GENERAL FUND

**Gayle Ratner:**

- In memory of Rhoda Greenfield.

Thank you to TBI congregation and a Thought

I would like to thank everyone who have help me through my total hip replacement recovery and rehab. For anyone who doesn't know, after a cancellation on October 11th, I was able to have my hip operation December 21th at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany. I was discharged on the 22nd and home about 5 PM.

I feel very lucky and fortunate to be a member of Temple Beth Israel because without the efforts and support of the congregation, not sure what I would have done.

This is a thank you to everyone I can remember. The following supplied food, rides and spiritual support through visits and calls.

Sandra Ghelman-Sanders

Lynn Schlesinger

Linda & Steven Leighton

Marcia Wolosz

Cerise Oberman & Larry Soroka

Sharon Levine

Beth Nolland

Cheryl & Sabi Kabeli

Marcy & Jeff Weisburgh

Miriam & Tom Worthington

Tom Dufore

Sara & Harvey Hurwitz

Carol Staves

Deb Moldovan & Robert Jewell

Susan & Randy Patnode

Jerry Davis

A big thank you to Diane Fine who organized the Meal Train and spent many minutes on the phone with me before and after operation. To Ronnie and Alice Marx for calling long distance, not collect, checking up on me.

The same for Jeanot and Carole Cao-Ba. And Jeffrey and Marcy Weisburgh. Sharon Schenkel messaged me many times from St Croix. Mona Goldenberg, Bernie Cohen and Marilyn Smith, Jack Helfgott and Rabbi David all checked up on me. Last but certainly the best my "sister/wives nurses" without whom I know I would have had a rough rehab. A big hug of appreciation to Suzie Kier-Merrihew, Janet Davis, Elizabet Beth Brumfield, and my personal chauffeur, who was there for me before and after the surgery Lucy Taylor.

A final thought: I feel truly blessed belonging to Temple Beth Israel. When my father and then my mother died, you were there for me. Now you are again there for me. This is the part of temple membership that is most meaningful. Your temple family will be there for you.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew "Andy" Kaplan

PS Sorry if I missed anyone. It was unintentional. But let know.

# TEMPLEGRAMS

## APRIL

- 3/Charles Lack
- 4/Jeanot Cao-Ba
- 5/Henry Davis
- 5/Leo Grafstein
- 6/Carole Cao-Ba
- 8/Lynn Schlesinger
- 9/Sara Hurwitz
- 13/Thomas Davis
- 14/ Micki & Richard Smith
- 17/Jesse Marx
- 19/Beverly Reuter
- 20/Sandra Ghelman
- 21/Noa Sanders
- 21/Zoey Sperling
- 26/Wendy Resnick Spargo
- 27/Rebecca Brown
- 27/Sonja Brown
- 27/Rhoda Green

## MAY

- 2/Eric Worthington
- 3/Keith Taylor
- 4/Bunny Adler
- 9/Linda Leighton
- 10/Briana Holland
- 11/Ilana Reiblein
- 11/Sharon Schenkel
- 12/Nathaniel Sarnow
- 13/Sue Goldman Meyerson
- 15/Carol & George Staves
- 13/Lucy Burrell Taylor
- 21/Janet Davis
- 21/Seth Goldenberg
- 24/Lisa & Aaron Davis
- 25/Carol Staves
- 27/Susan & Steve Albert
- 27/Abbi Olivieri

## JUNE

- 2/David Holland
- 4/Shelley Lack
- 4/Jenna Marx
- 6/George Staves
- 8/Yoram Cao-Ba
- 14/Kyle Sarnow
- 15/Mona & Henry Goldenberg
- 16/Samantha Worthington & Anass Bouayadi
- 16/Natalie & Sean Mercaldi
- 19/Madeline Davis
- 21/Marilyn & Roger Lorberbaum
- 21/Caroline Nizel
- 24/Cheryl Kabeli
- 24/Lillian & Jerry Resnick
- 26/Cecily Feldman



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 March 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:

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## **WILL YOU STEP UP TO THE BIMAH?**

**TBI is looking for congregants who might be interested in learning how to lead services.**

**Rabbi David Kominsky will conduct a workshop and give us the essentials of what it takes to lead a successful Shabbat service.**

**Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 1-3 PM on Zoom**

**Participating in this course does not constitute a hard commitment to lead a service. However, the Ritual Committee and Rabbi David are hoping to form a group of leaders that would be comfortable leading a service as the need arises.**

**For those members not comfortable leading a service by themselves, it is possible to share the responsibility with another congregant.**

**Even if you don't feel comfortable leading a service after the workshop, you will have a better understanding of our Shabbat services and greater enjoyment as a congregant in the future.**

**No knowledge of reading Hebrew is required as transliteration for all prayers are readily available. If you do not have a prayer book at home, you will be able to pick one up in the office the week of March 13<sup>th</sup>, or we will make other arrangements if necessary.**

**Please consider joining this workshop and explore the possibilities!**



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PET NAME (FIRST ONLY)

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**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.

**21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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

Temple Fund \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Write your own \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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