



Beth Israel Bulletin

Cheshvan - Kislev 5783/ November 2022

Issue 5783 - 3

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
NOVEMBER EVENTS

SHABBAT SERVICES



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From the Rabbi

Happy November/Chodesh tov Temple Beth Israel,

As we continue through the passage of the fall season and the Hebrew month of Heshvan, which is a particular sour month due to the lack of holidays, we begin to settle into the familiarity of life post-chagim.

At the end of October, we turned the Torah scrolls back once again, returning to the beginning of Genesis. As we revisit the Torah, like an old familiar novel, we fall back into the reoccurring themes (good vs evil, sibling rivalry, trust issues in G-d, respect for the land), the same old characters, (Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Rachel, Benjamin, Dinah, Leah, etc) with all their successes, failures, role-model behavior, and cautionary character flaws.

However, this year, rather than falling back into the comfortable ways of focusing on our favorite holidays and the Torah stories we love, let's try pushing ourselves to embrace a tradition, holiday, individual, event, Hebrew phrase, or phenomenon in the Torah that has piqued an interest. Ever been fascinated about an obscure name in the weekly parsha? Not sure what Noah's ark looked like? What route Abraham took in his family's journey to the Land of Israel? These are just some of my burning questions when we gloss over the weekly Torah portions. When we re-read these stories from our childhood, let us move through our initial understanding of the parables to generate curiosity and excitement beyond the simple words in the Chumash. Perhaps, we could critically analyze the character development of the individuals in our stories. Have we considered the perspectives of the unheard voices in the Torah? What do Rashi or our sages say? If we push ourselves to think differently about how we interact with the written text, then we push ourselves to grow in our understanding of Torah and the world around us.

Let us continue to reinvent Torah in completely new, refreshing ways.

Shabbat Shalom and Chodesh Tov,

Rabbi David Joslin- benyisraeldavid@gmail.com



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Schedule of Shabbat Services

Nov. 4, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Lech-Lecha (Gen. 12: 1 - 17:27)

Nov. 11, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Vayera (Gen. 18:1 - 22:24)

Nov. 19, Saturday, 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
Chayei Sara (Gen. 23:1 - 25:18)

Nov. 25, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat Service
Toldot (Gen. 25:19 - 28:9)



YAHREZITS

November 4

Monty Miller
Milton Gross
Hyman H. Harrison
Tamar Farrington
Arlene Amith
Mitchell Lewis
Martha Jayne Clark
Chaya Lifshitz
Leah Lifshitz

November 11

Aaron Fox
Harriet Berkowitz
Dora Kobel-Fannie
Abraham Alpert
Morris Gitlin
Irving Krinovitz
Lena Fox
Ann Goldman Rednor
Joseph Aaron Schiff
Thelma Kaplan
Samuel Morris Schantz
William Levy
Samuel N. Newman
Judith Helfgott
Violetta Bill Brumfield
Martin M. Goldman
Burton Goldstein

November 19

Walter Kasnowitz
Morton M. Markstone
Morris Cohen
Hattie G. Kaifetz
Ida Shapiro
Louis Winkler
Bertram Anderson
Lillian Newman
Margarate Nolland
Saul Nolland
Florence Davis
Louis Freedman
Bessie Goldsmith

November 25

Bessie Hurwitz
Abraham Moldovan
Regina L. Slatkin
Ray Miller Groetzinger
Morris Isaacson
Abraham Mose Krinovitz
Henrietta Greenfield
Lillian Newman
Loretta Oppenheim
Jeanette Kahner Merkel
Terry Ford
George JL Taylor



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS TO THE VARIOUS TEMPLE TRUST FUNDS

September 16, 2022 - October 15, 2022

GENERAL FUND:

Nancy Person:

- In Honor of our new Rabbi, David Joslin.

Miriam Worthington:

- In Honor of our new Rabbi, David Joslin.

Ron Marx:

- In memory of Henry Freedman.

Cerise Oberman:

- "A Mazel Tov to Miriam and Tom Worthington on the marriage of Eric and Jill."

James H. Godfrey, Jr:

- In memory of James and Jane Godfrey and Barbara Nolland.

Michael Ratner:

- In memory of Alice Ratner.

Cheryl Kabeli

Yahrzeit Fund:

Beth Nolland:

- In memory of Barbara Nolland.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Cerise Oberman:

- To welcome Rabbi David Joslin to our Congregation!!

Janet and Jerry Davis:

- To welcome Rabbi David Joslin to our TBI Family.

Dr. Stacey Mascia

A New and Easy Way to Donate to TBI!!!

For all of you who have been asking and pleading for an online donation page....IT HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!

You can now donate to any of TBI's 17 funds directly from our website. It is easy, fast, and painless! Look for the DONATION button on the main page of our website: plattsburghtbi.org. The DONATION button takes you directly to the list of all Temple Funds and an explanation of each.

Just select the fund you want to make your donation to and click on it. This will take you to the form where you identify the amount of your donation and the type of payment you are using: credit, debit or PayPal. Once that is completed, you will have an opportunity to write a personalized message that will appear in the Temple Bulletin.

This is a new venture and we want to make sure everyone feels comfortable using it. So if you encounter ANY issues or have questions about the online process, please contact ceriseoberman@gmail.com She will be delighted to answer your questions or assist you.

If online donation is not your "thing," no worries! You still have the option to do it the old fashioned way! See the Temple Bulletin for a listing of all our funds and use the tear off sheet for sending in your contribution via snail mail.

A hearty thank you to Jeff Weisburgh, our Treasurer, for completing the technical work that connected all the backend pieces. And a huge call out to Tova Soroka, our pro bono Web Master, who designed our new donation page.

NOTES FROM THE PREZ

We meet again, Gentle readers, LaShanna Tova! The intense and troubling self-assessment of the High Holy Days are slowly giving way to a Shanna Tova, a changing season, and a joyous celebration of Simcha Torah! Usually by this time, (post HHD), I'm so done with all the self-reflection, penance and deep pondering required of Yom Kippur, I'm ready to move on to the rest of the year. But not this year. For some odd reason, I remain in a state of super awareness of myself, my actions, my thoughts and my observations. And my first column after Yom Kippur contains an apology to any one whom I have unintentionally harmed by what I've said, written or did. For this I ask your gracious forgiveness.

As far as my being an uncomfortable nudge in reminding you that we all have responsibilities to keep our temple alive and well, yaddah, yaddah, yaddah. Well, for that I'm not so sorry. As your president I see this as being part of my job description.

Getting back to my deep ponderings and introspection: I have been observing people around me and considering our place and our role in the universe. How what we do makes some kind of impact on the world. Thinking how a few people make great, dynamic discoveries or breakthroughs in science, theology, medicine and space, etc. and the rest of us just seem to plod along.

It has come to my observation that each individual makes some type of reaction in and with the world. A single individual, although just a speck on a speck, has the ability to affect the whole world. Yes, a few make tsunami waves of change and get worldwide recognition but how about the rest of us? Are our contributions less notable because there is no fanfare? My thoughts have been examining the vastly unrewarded and absolutely vital role of raising children, e.g. parents, teachers, counselors, coaches, aunts, uncles, family, friends, etc, etc. One does not have to bear children to nurture them.

Our Jewish history has a cultural norm of educating young people and challenging them to think, imagine and contribute to the healing of a harsh world. As we assimilate into the broader culture, I believe some of the cultural emphasis on learning and moral obligation may

be getting lost along the way. I have no data to substantiate this but it's what I "see". There is less kindness, caring and healing in our world. Not that the past was so great but there was an expectation of nobility of purpose and supporting the common good. If you have ever taught a child, explained something to a teenager, listened to a child, or provided a moral guide for a young person, then in my book, you are a superhero.

The effect one can have on a child is tremendous! I don't believe anything we do is more important. By "creating" a good human being you have influenced the present, the near future and the future future. The difference between a child who has been nurtured, challenged, loved, made to feel the world is a safe and trusting place will develop into a healthy complete person. Incomplete people are lost as they have no guidelines. They look for fulfillment in cults, drugs, power, sex, money and even religion. They spew hate, bigotry and misinformation because it's what they know. Seeing them on the news and on social media, I ask myself, "what are they thinking?", "how can someone believe falsehoods against reason"?

Then I step back and look closely. What I see is anger and hurt and a need to lash out and destroy before they are destroyed. These incomplete people are scared to death.

My theory is they are protecting what they don't have – a sense of completeness and self-worth. So, to give up even a nanosecond of their flawed persona by considering an opposing view or seeing things from a different perspective rattles their very being. Incomplete children become incomplete adults.

So, this year, I would like to acknowledge the unsung cultivators of our youth. You who have set guidelines for behavior and enforced it. You who have been the "worst person in the world" for saying "no". You who have been an example of strength and patience when times are tough. You who have listened. You who have insisted on school attendance and doing the work. You who set the example of a Jewish home and modeled acts of kindness and charity. You who give selflessly over and over again. You who are working on repairing a broken world.

Thank you.

Baruch HaShem /ElizaBeth

Yenta

A warm welcome to Rabbi David Joslin We're so thrilled to have you join our Temple family.

George and Carol Staves want to thank all those who were there to help and support them this summer. It was a time quite heavy with worry. But here we are. George is feeling so much better since he received his pacemaker.

They also want to personally thank Miriam W & the Ritual Committee for all their hard work and co-ordination during the High Holy Days. Cantor Emily was a gift to listen to.

Max Grafstein is burning up the track on Seton's Track team. Congratulations!

Max can also be seen driving Ben and himself to school. It hardly seems possible he's old enough to drive.

it was wonderful seeing so many friends and faces at HH services. They were beautiful under the direction of Student Rabbi-Cantor Emily. Her inclusion of Rabbi David Joslin made them even more special.

Our Torah readers and other participants added immeasurably to our services. It's unfortunate that a number of congregants tested positive for COVID shortly thereafter.

We are so fortunate to have a Ritual Committee beyond compare. Their enthusiasm and dedication have kept us



connected during our COVID pandemic. We appreciate their hard work. As weary as we are of it, COVID is not over and flu season is just starting. Vaccinate, mask up and stay healthy.

Our Sukkot was lovely, decorated with pine boughs and corn stalks providing cover for the many, many hats, scarves, socks and mittens donated by our members. They were brought to our local JCEO for distribution to those in need.

Simchat Torah was celebrated in person and via zoom. Thanks to all who participated.

Rabbi Joslin has taken the helm of Torah and Bible study and I've heard that it's not to be missed!

Remember to send your news to yenta in c/o -

office@plattsburghbtbi.org with YENTA in the subject line!

Rabbi Joslin's office hours

- Sunday & Monday – off days
- Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday – 9:30 am - 5:00 pm by appointment or drop in.
- After regular hours by appointment. Emergencies – anytime.

What's a Temple gram????



- a. A Jewish music player?
- b. An easy and nice way to say congratulations?
- c. An ancient unit of measurement?

If you guessed **b**, you are correct.

A Temple gram is a nice way to congratulate someone on their birthday, anniversary, or other life-cycle event. It's easy to do. List of special dates are printed in the bulletin every three months. Just circle the name(s) on the Temple gram page of the person you would like to congratulate. Enclose \$0.50 for each name circled. Mail page with circled names and your check to Carol Staves. Voila! A beautiful card is sent to that person(s). Now isn't that easy? What a nice way to remember them for less than the cost of a stamp!



NAME THAT SHABBAT SERVICE CONTEST!

Starting December 2, on the first Friday of each month, TBI will have a one-of-a-kind Shabbat T'filah, a creative service, a service with a twist, a service meant for the whole TBI family, young and old(er).

The Ritual Committee needs your help giving it a name!

Send us your ideas for the perfect name

And if your submission is chosen, **WIN** one of a kind prize!

Submit your ideas to worthington.miriam@gmail.com

before November 15

Thank you!

Your Donation Makes a Difference!

Simply fill out the form below, write a check payable to Temple Beth Israel and mail to
1 Bowman Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901, Attention: Treasurer

OR

Make an online donation using a credit or debit card or PayPal on Temple Beth Israel's website. Go to
plattsburghtbi.org/donate. It's quick and easy!

General Funds

General Fund: Keeps Temple Beth Israel humming

Yahrzeit Fund: Honors the memory of a loved one

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: Assists the rabbi in supporting needy individual, tzedakah and the mission of TBI

The Joyce Cohen Building Fund: Supports repairs and maintenance of the congregations' properties

21st Century Fund: Ensures that Temple Beth Israel can support the services of our rabbi

Woolman Rabbinical Trust Fund: Contributes to maintaining a rabbi

Torah Trust Fund: Supports repairs to our Torahs as needed

Education Funds

Rabin Religious School Trust Fund: Enhances our children's religious school experiences

Merkel-London Library Fund: Purchases materials for the congregational library

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

Judge Robert J. Feinberg Memorial Educational Fund: Purchases materials and resources for continuing education

Rachel Harrison Camp Fund: Offers scholarships for children and teens to attend Jewish camps

The Israel Student Scholarship Fund: Provides funds for current and former Rabin Religious School students for travel to Israel

Cultural Funds

The Charles E. and Regina L. Slatkin Lecture Fund: Supports program of or about Jewish art, literature or music

Mensch Fund: Funds program and purchases outside annual budget

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

Harvey Duchin Jewish Cultural Fund: Benefits cultural offerings and programs

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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:

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518 -569-8979

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