



Beth Israel Bulletin

Iyyar - Sivan 5783/ May 2023

Issue 5783 - 8

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL
MAY EVENTS

LUCY
BURRELL-TAYLOR
BAT MITZVAH

SHAVUOT



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From the Rabbi

Happy May/chodesh tov!

This month is jam packed filled with Jewish and Israeli holidays!

On Thursday, May 18th, Israel will commemorate Yom Yerushalayim, the day in which Jerusalem was finally unified under Jewish control, following the 1967 Six-Day War. Over the last year, we have seen various images of Israel; a powerful I.D.F fighting back against Gaza terrorists, a compassionate care-giver in international humanitarian efforts such as the Turkish earthquakes, to a cutting-edge pharmaceutical giant combatting medical mysteries, or as a harbor of safety for Ukrainian Jews. Sometimes, we fixate on one specific representation when we characterize our opinion of Israel; Masada-strength, Yad Vashem-victim/survivor, Western Wall-spiritual, West Bank-warzone, marzipan-culinary, etc. When in reality, like all relationships, our attitudes and opinions are probably shaped by a wide spectrum of complicated, nuanced factors, events, memories, and experiences.

On Friday, May 26th we will gather to celebrate the harvest holiday of Shavout. Tradition has it that the Israelites became a Jewish people when they received the Torah at Mt. Sinai on Shavout. As a result, we re-read the Ten Commandments. Also, as an homage to the Jews who accepted the joy and oy of the commandments, we recall the Book of Ruth which highlights the journey that Jews-by-choice face when choosing to join the Jewish community.

So, as we add another candle to the birthday cake, 66 years after Jerusalem's Unification and more than 3,300 years after the Revelation at Mt. Sinai, what image do we carry of Israel and the Jewish people? These nationalistic and spiritual holidays give us an opportunity to reconsider our relationship with the state of Israel as well as with worldwide Jewry. What is our connection to Israel? How does Zionism impact our Judaism? What does it mean to be Jewish, and to belong to the Jewish people?

חג שבועות שמח Hag shavu'oa't samaech!/Happy Shavout,

Rabbi David Joslin

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Schedule of Shabbat Services

May 5, Friday, 5:30 pm Shabbat T'filah - Prayers and Pizza
Emor (Lev. 21:1 - 24:23)

May 13, Saturday, 10:00 am Lucy Burrell-Taylor Bat Mitzvah
Behar - Bechukotai (Lev. 25:1 - 27:34)

May 19, Friday, 7:00 pm Shabbat T'filah
Bemidbar (Num. 1:1 - 4:20)

May 26, Friday, 5:30 pm Shavuot Service— Yizkor and Food



Y A H R Z E I T S

April 28, 2023

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

May 5, 2023

Eleanor Goldman
Benjamin Singer
Marion Alpert
Louis Mostovitch
Joseph Cohen
William Heyman
Meyer Lipshutz
Bertha Kahner
Abraham Joshua Bibliowicz



May 13, 2023

Lillyan J. Rubin
Esther Lillian Goldman
Beth Fine Kaplan
Sam Corekin, Jr.
Isaac Fox
John Yardan
Rosa Miller
Gerry Glantz
Samuel Smith
Lillian Balkan
Louis Michaelson
Viola Harrison
Isaac Woolman
Anne Taub
Sonia Myerson
Robert M. Brumfield

May 19, 2023

David Smith
Harry Kaplan
Sidney Kaplan
Selma Rose Shutts
Nathan Adler
Myer Lippa
Solomon Schiff
Lena K. Schlesinger
Nachman Ben Smolar
David Merkel, Jr.
Frank Cohen
Isadore Kaplan
Major Sam Wiesenthal

May 26, 2023

Samuel Shane
Silas Kassel
Margery Sachs
Mark Rabin
Blanche Ringel
Rabbi Solomon Herschel Schoenkopf
Beatrice Matzkin
Robert S. Reiter
Mildred Eleanor Albert
Kenneth Myron Piafsky
Edith Stevens
Pearlie Rabin
Celia Berger
Ronald Bruce Korman
Kathryn L. Menkle

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS TO THE VARIOUS TEMPLE TRUST FUNDS

March 16, 2023 - April 15, 2023

MENSCH FUND

Phyllis Freedman:

- in memory of my Mother, Rose Barsky Roth.

THE CHARLES E. AND REGINA L. SLATKIN LECTURE FUND

Cerise Oberman/Larry Soroka:

-to honor you, Jerry, on 90 Remarkable years!

Yahrzeit Fund:

In memory of Michael Ratner:

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Joyce and Larry Miller

Sharon Ratner

Betty and James King

Elle Berger and Mike DiNunzio

Katherine and George Hubbell

Linda Noyes

Alfred B. Landsberg:

- in memory of his Mother, Isabel Burger Landsberg.

Irene and Jeff Gretz:

- in memory of Jack Mark and Zvi Gretz.

Carolyn Payne:

- in memory of Evelyne Miller Siegel.

Aran Gretz:

- in memory of Zvi Gretz.

GENERAL FUND

Cerise Oberman/Larry Soroka:

- in memory of Mike Ratner.

Deb Good and Doug Chavez:

- to congratulate Jerry Davis on his 90th Birthday;

- with sympathy on the passing of Michael Ratner.

Linda and Steven Leighton:

- in memory of Mike Ratner;

- in honor of Jerry Davis' 90th Birthday.

Sharon Ratner:

- in honor of Jerry Davis' 90th.

Elle Berger and Mike DiNunzio:

- to wish a Super Happy Birthday to Jerry Davis.

Linda and Steven Leighton:

- in memory of Elsie Leighton;

- to thank all for Steven's Birthday and our Anniversary thoughts.

Francis H. Jessie:

- Passover Donation.

*With pride and pleasure,
Ms. Lucy Burrell-Taylor
invites you to celebrate her long-awaited Bat Mitzvah
on Saturday May 13, 2023 at 10:00 am at Temple Beth Israel.
Shabbat luncheon to follow.
All are welcome.*

NOTES FROM THE PREZ...

Greetings, Gentle Readers, and may I wish each and everyone of you a very joyous spring.

We have survived a very unusual winter and a most snowy March. In thinking about our weather pattern, I believe Mother Nature was dozing until late February then realizing she hadn't really wintered the North Country much, decided to throw all her winter snow into the month of March. Or so it seemed to me. You are entitled to your own opinion.

So, spring is here and life in this part of the world is undergoing renewal and growth. Crocus, daffodils, and forsythias dot the brown earth with bright colors and eventually green will burst forth upon the awakening world. Nature is setting the stage for her annual ritual of proliferation and creation. Every flower, every tree and bush, every creature and bird are generating new life so the future of the species will continue and thrive. What an absolutely thrilling time of the year!

Nature is doing her part to obey the Almighty's command to be fruitful and multiply. For the young this may indeed mean bearing offspring and bringing forth the next generation, so we may continue as a species. But unlike nature we are not released from the order to be fruitful and create only while we are in the spring of our life. We are above the creatures, made in the image of God. We have been blessed with so much more than even the most intelligent animal. Our talents and gifts stretch beyond childbearing years. Age has given us understanding, patience, knowledge, skill, wisdom, talent, and so many more attributes that we must continue to produce and create even into our winter years.

Sadly, I see many seniors who erroneously believe retirement means doing nothing but waiting for death. They wither in front of the TV. Their minds and bodies shrink and become stiff with inactivity. Their skills and talents wither like dying vines. And, I have also seen seniors who are actively involved in the process of creating and fulfilling the mitzvah of being fruitful and multiplying. These are the people I see on committees, on boards of temples and hospitals, volunteering in the community and working for the environment. They are using the wisdom of their age and passing it on to

younger people, organizations and the world. I also see them relishing in the fullness of life. They are volunteering, teaching, attending services, hosting onegs, attending classes and lectures, singing, praying, and engaging.

Like you and I, they are busy. Their lives are full of family, health issues, appointments, etc. etc. My beloved Thomas says, "He needs to get a job, so he can have a day off". This may be true, but he is still going despite all the demands of aging.

May I urge you, gentle senior reader to continue to create and produce. A good place to start is in our/your temple. We need your wisdom and knowledge on boards and committees. We need your personality and get 'er done attitude to keep Temple Beth Israel alive and flourishing. I see the same "old" faces at services, doing onegs, working on committees, etc. I'd like to see some new or senior faces getting involved. Without you, I can sadly predict our temple will not be able to continue unless you become invested and involved.

We have a new, fresh, energetic Rabbi who is bringing interesting and thought-provoking classes to the temple. If nothing more, come and show your support by just being there. Even better, keep our temple producing and continuing for future generations by joining a committee or becoming a board member. It beats watching daytime TV.

We as seniors may not be able to put in 40 work hours a week. We may only "produce" a few hours a week but that's ok. In fact, slowing down a bit is part of Mother Nature's plan to keep us going. I believe it also meets the Almighty's requirement for us to remain productive and creative.

Baruch Ha'Shem

ElizaBeth



Yenta

We enjoyed a successful, delicious seder for the first night of Passover at the Temple. It was a pleasure to meet Rabbi David's Mom. We let her know how much we enjoy having him as our Rabbi. Our seder was a first for her. We hope to see her back in the future.

It was a pleasure seeing so many members at our seder. After 2-3 years, it was good being together as a family again! Such a relief!

Diane Fine has an art exhibition coming up at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts. She'll be showing works made with her fellow artist and long-time collaborator, Mario Laplante, at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts from May 4th-June 17th.

The Kabeli's were off on a Caribbean cruise with fellow friends from Seton Catholic over break. Did any other of our Seton members go??

Sara & Harvey Hurwitz enjoyed a visit from granddaughter's Arielle & Chelsea to celebrate the first night of Passover with them. We were happy to see them at our congregational seder.

Janet & Jerry Davis continued the 90th birthday celebration for Jerry with a family trip to FL. There were 18 family members there and a wonderful time was had by all. Staying at a 7 bedroom home with 6 bathrooms made life easy. The indoor salt water pool was a hit with everyone!

Sarah Brown cruised on a Disney ship recently with one of her besties.

PJ Miller was seen enjoying history and activities at Ft William Henry in Lake George. Was wife Amanda there too?

The Weisburgh and Cao-ba families made a trip from AZ to San Diego to see Ronnie & Alice Marx for a few days. That was after Jeff & Marcy did some touring in New Mexico. Lots of driving!

Speaking of Alice, she has a new fur baby coming home with her from CA. There's a story behind this that you must hear from her...

Lil Resnick was seen in photos on Facebook kicking up



her heels at her new home in Lake Forest. They have a multitude of activities there that she's enjoying.

Lucy Burrell Taylor will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah in May. We look forward to being with you on this special day.

Caroline Nizel was recently promoted in her position at the Bakery in Market 32. Stop by and say hi.

The Oberman/Soroka family spent time in Mexico City for a wedding and then went on to Oaxaca, I believe. Time spent with Tova & Zach is always a special occasion.

Please, please, please send Yenta your news via the office. Thanks!

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



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