

April 2026 Bulletin



4737 Deerfield Place
Vestal, NY 13850
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TempleIsraelVestal.org

We are grateful to our Bulletin sponsors:

For the Yahrzeit of Faye Gerstein by *Susan & Ben Kasper*

For the Yahrzeit of Lillian Jacobson by *Howard & Bonnie Brown*

For the Yahrzeit of Morton Brown by *Howard & Bonnie Brown*

For the Yahrzeit of Rosanne Rubinstein by *Dorie & Damian Osisek*

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TC/TI Adult Education Program, April 19

American Jews and The Civil War



Richard Kreitner, author of *Fear No Pharaoh: American Jews, the Civil War, and the Fight to End Slavery* will tell the story of Jewish engagement through the lives of six American Jews who shaped the complexities of the Civil War period. As they struggle to make sense of a polarized time, American Jews debated with one another about religion, morality, and politics — conversations that prefigure many of our own.

The entire community is welcome to attend what promises to be an informative and fascinating program and enjoy a lite brunch, on Sunday April 19, from 10am-noon at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield Place, Vestal.

Suggested donation of between \$5-20

Kindly RSVP by April 13

Contact Temple Israel at 607 723-7461, e-mail: office@templeisraelvestal.org

or Temple Concord at 607 723-7355

The TC/TI Adult Ed. Program gratefully acknowledges a gift from The Community Foundation for South Central New York - The David and Virginia Eisenberg Fund which helped to underwrite this program.

Letter from the Rabbi:



Hag Kasher v'Sameach and a Zissen Pesach!

We should have a holiday that is sweet, joyous, and kosher! The word kosher has come to colloquially mean “fit to eat according to Jewish law and custom” but in a more fundamental sense means “proper” “correct” as in ethical or upstanding. As Rav Talia led us in exploring for a TI-TC Adult Ed event in March, we cannot simply claim that Jewish food laws are simply about being ethical. Simultaneously, our sacred tradition strives to teach us how to live good and ethical lives through the structures through Mitzvot.

On Pesach, we focus our attention on one of the key ethical insights of the Torah: that all human beings deserve dignity befitting creatures made in G-d's image. In the story of the Exodus, G-d demonstrates a Divine mandate against slavery, dehumanization, and tyranny. In the laws which follow in the book of Exodus and the rest of the Torah, our experience of subjugation in Egypt becomes the cornerstone of the ethos of a sacred society: a society where we know the soul of the stranger and, instead of taking advantage of the vulnerable, we go out of our way to love and aid the stranger, orphan, and widow.

As we gather with family and friends - and in shul community - to observe Pesach, in addition to the sweetness and joy of our festival, may we become recommitted to the ethical mandate of the Torah: to love and protect the vulnerable in our community, in our country, and around the world.

March was a very full month for Temple Israel and April will be as well! Of course, the meetings with two finalists for rabbi of Temple Israel were particularly consequential events. At the same time, our regular communal life marched onwards!

We had two joyous and fun Purim celebrations at the start of March. If you took photos at our Purim celebration, please send them to me! Last Shabbat, we had a special communal Shabbat dinner and Shabbat morning in honor of Shabbat haGadol. Each week, small groups gathered with me to study the Torah portion on Monday nights and discuss Torah and contemporary issues on Tuesday afternoons.

In April, we will have 7 different opportunities to celebrate Pesach in the community including full-morning services, Torah study, and evening services. I hope you will join us if you're in town! We are also looking forward to another fascinating TI-TC Adult Ed program and communal commemorations of the Israeli national holidays, Yom HaShoah, Yom haZikaron, and Yom haAtzmau't. Stay tuned for more details about how we will be marking these days together.

On the 2nd night of Pesach, we begin the Counting of the Omer. Each night, for 49 nights until Shavuot - the festival of the giving of the Torah - we are commanded to count the days. You can read more about Counting the Omer here: <https://www.exploringjudaism.org/holidays/omer/>

While there are many ways Jews make deep meaning out of this mitzvah, the core practice of counting each day teaches us to take note and pay attention to each day. Each new day provides us with opportunities to contribute to the improvement of the world, to learn something new, and to engage in another act of hesed.

May the season of the Omer ahead support us in our efforts to cherish each day and continue to engage in mitzvot.

L'shalom



Letter from the President

Dear Members and friends of Temple Israel,

Our search for a successor to Rabbi Friedman has been our highest priority lately. As previously reported, after screening all interested candidates, our Rabbi Search Committee narrowed the field down to two finalists and you have had the opportunity to engage with both of them. Based on the committee assessment and your feedback, both of these candidates meet our requirements. Unfortunately, Max Davis declined our offer. We currently have an offer outstanding to Rabbi Alex Hamilton and we expect to hear from him imminently. Each of these candidates received offers from multiple institutions, demonstrating that it is a very competitive recruiting environment. We will keep you informed of his decision, and either way, we will take the steps necessary to sustain ritual leadership of our synagogue.

Our synagogue community has been particularly active in recent weeks, with events on offer for all stripes within our kahal. In the last ten days alone, we enjoyed a special kiddush lunch after Shabbat morning services led by Rabbi Candidate Max Davis, a joint TI/TC Adult Ed Brunch featuring Rabbi Talia Laster, and a Shabbat dinner after Friday evening Services catered by Rabbi Friedman. These special events were in addition to the regular weekday and Shabbat services, twice-weekly classes with our Rabbi, Hebrew school, Mah Jongg, and various other study sessions. Under the leadership of Rabbi Friedman, nearly all of this activity was dependent upon volunteers to plan, deliver, and clean up after these successful events.

At Passover, we are enjoined to retell the story of the departure from Egypt in the first person, as if we, personally, had thrown off the shackles of slavery and slogged through the miraculously split sea. I encourage you to fulfill an analogous mitzvah by being present - in the present! Temple Israel has much to offer, provided we each take a hand at the wheel, doing our part to generate ideas and share enthusiasm, to develop and carry out these initiatives. Join a committee, serve on the Board of Trustees, or just roll up your sleeves after kiddush!

Thanks to ever one of you for your continued support and participation, your Annual Dues, and your generous donations.

Wishing you all a zissen Pesach - a sweet Passover - to you and all your dear ones!

Art

		APRIL		2026			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1	2	3	4	
			Rabbi Friedman away	Passover Day 1 Office closed Services 10:30am - 12:15pm	Passover Day 2 Office closed Light candle 7:14pm	Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 8:30pm	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Rabbi Friedman away	Mahjong 2:00pm Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30 Exec Board meeting 7:00pm	Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm	Passover Day 7 Office closed	Passover Day 8 Office closed Services 9:30am - 12:00pm	Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 7:22pm	Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 8:30pm	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Mahjong 2:00pm Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30	Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm	Class with Hadassah 11:00am Hebrew School 4:00pm		Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 7:30pm	Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 8:45pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Adult Ed @ T.I. 10:00am-American Jews in the Civil War era	Mahjong 2:00pm Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30	Office closed Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm BOT meeting 7:00pm	Office hours 2-4pm Ritual Comm mtg 10am Hebrew School 4:00pm		Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 7:37pm	Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 8:45pm	
26	27	28	29	30			
	Mahjong 2:00pm Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30	Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm	Hebrew School 4:00pm				

Contributions

General Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Celia Pearis by *Herbert Kline*

Barbara Bograd by *Marilyn Bell*

Robert Greenblott by *Robin, Jeff, Adam, Elana & Cookie Greenblott*

Germaine Rosenberg by *Rolph Rosenberg*

Martin Davis by *Lawrence Davis*

Rita Tino Davis by *Lawrence Davis*

Ira Davis by *Lawrence Davis*

Edward Bittman by *Nancy Bittman*

Celia Goldstein by *Dave, Ofelia, Mark, Cindy & Rachel Goldstein*

Clara Krassin by *Terry Shelley - Krassin*

Steven Bleier by *Larry & Rita Bleier*

Richard Mendelson by *Sue Austenfeld*

In memory of...

Carrie Rosefsky Wickham by *Walter & Joan Rozen Jacobson, Nancy Bittman*

Larry Rouff by *Fred & Sandra Weitsman*

Sidney A. & Ida O. Epstein by *Marvin & Barbara Easton*

Louis Rosenberg by *George & Rolph Rosenberg*

In honor of...

Robert Weiss's 98th birthday by *Len & Naoma Feld*

The Bar Mitzvah of Jim Mason & Carol Engel -

Mason's grandson Dorien

Samuel Mason by *Larry & Rita Bleier*

Wishing good health to...

Arthur Siegel by *Len & Naoma Feld*

Howard Warner by *Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason*

Landscaping Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Burt Blazar by *Jim & Jennifer Schutzer*

Germaine Rosenberg by *Maxine Rosenberg*

Gregorita Martinez by *Debra Martinez*

Hersh Rozen by *Maxine Rosenberg*

In memory of...

Carrie Rosefsky Wickham by *Joyce Sambursky*

Larry Rouff by *Arlene Osber*

In honor of...

The marriage of Marcy Cohen's grandson Andrew Shatz to Jesse Saltzman by *Arlene Osber*

Kiddush Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Hirschel Kasper by *Ben & Susan Kasper*

Leon Weisslender by *Ruth Shapiro*

Wishing good health to...

Arthur Siegel by *Jerry & Phyllis Heller*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation by Arina Makurina

Thank you to...

Rabbi Friedman & our Jewish community for their kindness when our brother Gary Brian Kline passed away by *Susan & Russell Heigh*

Cemetery Fund

In honor of...

Dick Lewis by *Nancy Basmann*

For the Yahrzeit of...

Robert Basmann by *Nancy Basmann*

Sarah Flagman by *Marcia Brown*

Bernie Shifrin Music Fund

In honor of...

Stephanie Horowitz's birthday by *Luanne Yancey*

In memory of...

Sylvia Horowitz by *Luanne Yancey*

Rabbi Hurwitz Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Michele Turnbull by *Tony Turnbull*

Birthdays and Anniversaries for April

April 1 - Joshua Hubal
April 3 - Zev Rosales
April 5 - Naoma Feld, Beverly Rozen, Heidi Thirer
April 5 - Ben Kasper
April 9 - Joan Rozen-Jacobson
April 11 - Nancy Basmann, Susan Gilinsky, Aviva Kaminsky,
Alice Kweller, Andre Rosales, Lawrence Wiesner
April 12 - William Weissberg
April 13 - Richard Kostick
April 14 - Jordyn Goldberg
April 17 - Amanda Cronk
April 18 - Julie Piaker
April 20 - Don Zelter
April 21 - Jeff Greenblott, Rabbi Shmaryahu, Howard Warner,
Brody Whiting
April 22 - Michelle Green
April 23 - Ezra Gindi
April 25 - Bonnie Brown, Jeffrey Feinberg, Rochelle Goldberg
April 26 - Isaac Green
April 27 - Mark Hubal
April 28 - Daniel Miller
Anniversaries
April 14 - Mel & Myrna Dubofsky
April 30 - Jim & Jennifer Schutzer

Congregational News

Mazel Tov to:

To Dorien Samuel Mason on becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Dorien is the son of Dr. Matthew & Colleen Mason, and grandson of Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason

Marcy Cohen on the marriage of her grandson Andrew Shatz to Jesse Saltzman

Get Well wishes to:

Howard Warner, Lee Foreman, Susan Gilinsky,
Robert Weiss, Ann Spitz, Charlie Pladek

Condolences to:

Lana Rouff & Family on the passing of Larry Rouff

Congratulations to our March Lottery Fundraiser winner:

Donald Sukloff (twice)

The Caring Community

Please inform the Rabbi: If your health condition changes, you undergo a medical procedure, are hospitalized, you move to an assisted living facility or rehab, or if you are aware of anyone in our congregation who needs attention.

A New Program Philosophy coming to all Temple Israel members

Dear Temple Israel Members,

We are **excited** to announce the formation of a new program philosophy for Temple Israel! It is important that Temple Israel become a source of spiritual and emotional support for ALL its members. We would like to have a variety of activities and programs that provide opportunities for spiritual and social interactions.

At this time, the decision is being made as to who will become the new rabbi for Temple Israel. Rabbi Micah Friedman has made an important contribution to Temple program ideas and increased participation in all areas. We have appreciated his willingness to embrace this goal. To ensure this growth continues, it is essential that Temple Israel offer many opportunities that support and sustain an emotional and physical connection to the Temple. We **need** your ideas in order to create an agenda that encompasses all of us.

We can divide the possible programs into different categories. For example, one program might be more interesting for families with children, while another might appeal more to women or men or couples. However, all programs would be OPEN to anyone in the community who wishes to attend.

We have some ideas for programs but would like to know what **YOU** think so that when the committee meets, **WE HAVE A DIRECTION!** Think about what would bring **YOU** to the Temple. Then write down your great ideas and drop them off in the office with Tammy. She will keep them safe and pass them along to the committee. We would like all congregants to consider themselves to be a member of the program committee. If you would like to be a part of the Steering Committee, please let Tammy know. We welcome all ideas and support. There will be a general meeting in late May or early June to review the ideas that have come to our attention.

APRIL 2026 YAHRZEITS

April 1 - 7

Nissan 15 - 20

Sidney Epstein* observed by *Marvin Easton*
Julius Lipetz observed by *Cookie Greenblott*
Morton Brown observed by *Howard Brown*
Sarah Flaggman observed by *Marcia Brown*
Rosanne Rubinstein observed by *Dorie Osisek*
Moira Shirvan* observed by *Jeremy Shirvan*
Ira Davis observed by *Lawrence Davis*
Stephen Meltzer observed by *Shelley Hubal*
Alice Richman* observed by *Karen Maddalone*
Jerome Seidel observed by *Fran Newmark*

April 8 - 16

Nissan 21 - 29

Natalie Grumet observed by *Lori Schapiro*
Sarah Bronsky* observed by *Shirley Bronsky*
Esther Marcovski Channin observed by *David Channin*
Bob Tobias observed by *Andrea Tobias Kostick*
Anna Kurson* observed by *Sandra Paston*
Marjorie Weiss* observed by *Jonathan Weiss*
William Joseph Sorkin observed by *Sharon Sorkin*
Erna Maas observed by *Jane Maas*
Sylvia Mirvis* observed by *Robin Greenblott*
Samuel L. Kasper observed by *Ben Kasper*
Shepard Warner* observed by *Howard Warner*

April 17 - 23 **Nissan 30 - Iyar 6**

Florence Wulwick observed by *Nancy Basmann*
Anne Brown observed by *Howard Brown*
Donald Roberts observed by *Barbara Roberts*
Michael Wiesner observed by *Cherese Rosales, Lawrence Wiesner*
Herb Hotchner observed by *Elissa Brown*
Pamela Lavker observed by *Al Lavker*
Celia Pearis* observed by *Herbert Kline*
Louis Rosenberg* observed by *Maxine Rosenberg*
Samuel Green observed by *Lynne & Stuart Green*
Nathalie Kaufer observed by *Naoma Feld*

April 24 - 30

Iyar 7 - 13

Leonard Cohen* observed by *Ann Cohen*
Florence Drazen observed by *Shelley Drazen*
Alexander Schweiger* observed by *Arlene Osber*
Marvin Tanenhaus* observed by *David Tanenhaus*
Edith Feinberg observed by *Jeffrey & Richard Feinberg*
Vivienne Sall observed by *Ron Sall*
Craig Seitel observed by *Kathy Seitel-West*
Ana Rubin observed by *Hyman Rubin*
Ida Shapiro observed by *Sandra Shapiro*

An asterisk(*) indicates that the name has a memorial plaque in the Sanctuary.

If you wish to recite Mourner's Kaddish during a weekday service, other than Tuesday or Friday, please contact the Temple Israel office. A notice will be sent to the congregation to make up a Minyan. It would be helpful if you contact us two weeks prior to the date.