December 2023



4737 Deerfield Place Vestal, New York 13850 TempleIsraelVestal. Org 607-723-7461

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Temple Israel/Temple Concord December Adult Ed at Temple Israel

Rabbi Micah Friedman will offer an innovative, multimedia presentation entitled "Bridging Old and New Worlds: How Contemporary Jews Draw upon the

Eastern-European Hasidic Movement to Enliven Our Jewish Practice".

The program and brunch will be held on Sunday December 10th from 10:00am—12 noon. In celebration of Chanukah, they will serve latkes with applesauce and sour cream, donuts, bagels, cream cheese, lox, fruit, juice and coffee.

Everyone is welcome to attend and join the conversation. The suggested donation is \$5—\$20 per person. Please RSVP ahead to the Temple Israel or Temple Concord offices by calling or emailing by Wednesday December 6th.

During this difficult and challenging time throughout the world it is important and empowering to recommit ourselves to Jewish community practice. Coming together to learn allows us to assert our faith in our ability to overcome this challenging moment in our people's history. Please join us for a joyous, thought-provoking and community-building morning.

We are grateful to our Bulletin Sponsors

For the Yahrzeit of Melvin Shapiro by Jeff & Ruth Shapiro

For the Yahrzeit of Alfred Pell by Merri Pell Preus & Tony Preus
In memory of my parents Leonard F. & Shirley G. Cohen by Ann Cohen
For the Yahrzeits of Isidore Pinsker & Aaron Rosenthal by Ilene Pinsker

In memory of Marlene Mendelson, Gussie Mendelson & Michael Mendelson by Suzanne Austenfeld

For the Yahrzeit of Edith Schutzer by Jim & Jennifer Schutzer
For the Yahrzeit of Ira H. Cohen by Marilyn Kent-Cohen
In memory of our mothers Lillian Zelter and Ella Chiron by
Don & Barbara Zelter

In memory of Alfred Hurwitz by Larry & Kathy Hurwitz

For the yahrzeits of Leonard & Marjorie Whitelaw by
Jane Whitelaw Mason

In memory of Reid Whitelaw by Jane Whitelaw Mason
For the Yahrzeit of Morton (Morty) Hofstein by Marcia Hofstein

Rabbi Micah Friedman

Dear Temple Israel Community,

We find ourselves again at the start of a new month - the month of December.

Though it is hard for me to believe, this month will mark my 6th month here in Vestal as the rabbi of Temple Israel! Fortunately, I have been blessed to begin forming relationships with somany of you and I look forward to deepening our connections with each other. There are others, however, who I have yet to get to know and I hope that these months to come will bring us together!

This month is also the 3rd month in which the State of Israel is embroiled in a deeply distressing and costly military operation with the goals of bringing home all the people still being held hostage in Gaza and uprooting the governing and military capabilities of Hamas. Thank G!d, the final week of November brought us the return of dozens of hostages, both Israelis and internationals into the embraces of their families. The redemption of captives and hostages has long been considered a vital priority for Jewish communities, as is expressed in the Talmud Bavli 8b "Redeeming captives is an immense mitzvah" . פְּדְיוֹן שְׁבוּיִם מְצְנָה רְבָּה הִיא At the same time, we have reason to be concerned by how prisoner-swaps may feed into an ongoing cycle of violence and, by the time that I am finishing this message, there is again active combat in Gaza. We must hold in our hearts and prayers so many people who are in harm's way and fearful for their lives and the lives of their loved ones as this war continues to unfold.

Even as we continue to be mired in deep concern, we are approaching a joyous holiday of light: Hanukkah! Over Hannukah, we have the holy opportunity to take time out of the darkest nights of the year and to savor the light that we kindle in our own homes and communities. This year, the need is great for us to do what we can to contribute to light in the world!

Over Hannukah, we will gather together in the community for a number of joyous celebrations! I am especially looking forward to an Adult-Education program which I will be offering for the entire community on the morning of December 10th as well as a celebration of our ongoing commitment to the Temple Israel community as we mark the 10th anniversary of the collapse of the previous TI building after minyan on Tuesday 12/12.

In addition to our Hannukah celebrations, in December I will be offering two new opportunities to join with me in life-enriching Jewish spiritual practice. On Wednesday's at 8:30 AM, I will be leading a program called "Pray, Eat, Learn" which will involve davenning from the weekday morning service with song, explanation, and conversation about the meaning of our prayers. I hope you will consider joining me for a great way to start the day and to deepen your relationship with the siddur! Then, beginning on 12/26, I will be leading a monthly evening shiur (Torah lesson) which will focus on a collection of Eastern-European teachings which I have uniquely studied and translated and that I believe provide us with powerful gateways to deepening our connection to Torah, Mitzvot, and Spirituality.

In hard times for the Jewish people such as this one, it is important for us to continue to affirm the positive values of our tradition and to take personal responsibility for our role in sustaining vibrant Jewish life. Fortunately, we will have many opportunities to do so together over the month of December!



Arthur Siegel, President

Dear Members and friends of Temple Israel,

Our hearts break as Israel has had to resume military action to root out the terrorists who attacked our homeland and murdered and kidnapped innocent citizens and tourists. We pray that the loss of life will be minimized and the operation successful. While there is unanimity in the need for national defense and confidence in the outcome, many question the decisions of the government before and during the current tragedy, and wonder what the future will look like. How will Israel regain the

waning support of democracies around the world? Will the Israeli populace find a path to a government that will protect both our homeland and human rights at the same time? Such a solution seems elusive, but we must maintain our faith that such an ultimate outcome is possible, and dedicate ourselves to finding it.

Ten years ago, Temple Israel faced an existential crisis. In the late hours of Sunday, December 15th, 2013, the building which had been the home of Temple Israel since 1969 collapsed under ice and snow. Miraculously, there was no one in the building at the moment of the catastrophe. A dinner party had followed Havdalah the previous evening, and, ironically, a "Vision for the Future of Temple Israel" meeting was scheduled to discuss the harsh realities the synagogue faced at that time. The meeting was postponed due to winter weather, and the unoccupied building collapsed that night. As the leadership of our synagogue pondered the ruins, difficult choices had to be made. Rebuilding the edifice designed for the 1970's membership of 800 families was out of the question. Many said that our shrinking population could not support a new building of any size, that we should bank the insurance and operate without a permanent home. Fortunately, a few stronger voices of optimism carried the day, fundraising and building committees were formed, and the massive effort was undertaken. We can all be proud of the result: a modern, multi-use building, properly sized for our activities, without a debt burden. It started with indefatigable confidence in the future - a willingness to overcome any obstacle to achieve our worthy objective. Please join us on December 12th at 5:30, when we will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the collapse and initiation of rebuilding with a special program, including a compelling video of the rebuilding, Chanukkah candle lighting, and refreshments.

But the building is just a home. It is up to us - the current membership of Temple Israel - to fill it with spirit, love, laughter and inspiration today and tomorrow and far into the future. We have actually welcomed twenty new member units since 2019, I urge each of YOU to resolve, in 2024, to participate in some way greater than you have before. Come try a few classes with Rabbi Micah Friedman - two new series start this month. Stop in for services on Tuesday or Friday evening in the warmth of our Chapel, or come in on Shabbat to hear our Rabbi read and draw inspiring lessons from the Torah. Kiddush afterward has become an engaging social gathering in recent weeks. We will very much appreciate newcomers to our services in the next few months, as some of our regular flock fly South for the Winter.

As always, I thank you for timely fulfilling your Dues commitments, and for your numerous other donations to memorialize loved ones, to honor worthy individuals, to send get-well wishes, or to celebrate a simcha. These donations really add up and help us provide the spiritual, educational, and other aspects of our synagogue. We have defied the odds, to-date, but our future survival depends on YOU. Looking forward into the secular New Year, I exhort you to get involved - help shape this future with optimism and commitment.

Happy Chanukkah and Best Wishes for 2024! Art

Arthur B. Siegel President - Temple Israel

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Condolences to...

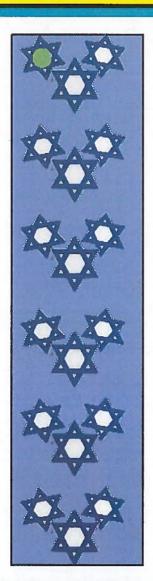
Andrew & Stephanie Horowitz and Family on the passing of their mother Sylvia Horowitz

Get Well Wishes to...

Jeff Shapiro, Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, Barbara (Bobbi) Markowitz, Moira Shirvan, Marcia Brown, Ann Spitz

Mazel Tov to...

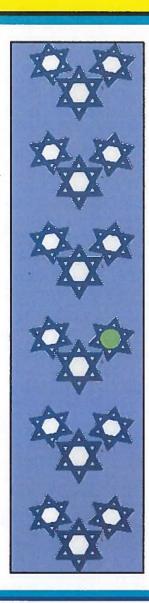
Hadassah Mativetsky for being elected to the Binghamton City Council for District 5



TEMPLE ISRAEL SISTERHOOD
INVITES YOU TO
A CHANUKAH
CATERED BRUNCH
& GIFT EXCHANGE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023
11:00 am
THIS EVENT IS FREE FOR PAID-UP
MEMBERS.
\$10 FEE FOR GUESTS AND
NON-MEMBERS
PLEASE BRING A WRAPPED GIFT
(NOT TO EXCEED \$10)
FOR GIFT EXCHANGE

RSVP BY NOV. 29 TO TAMMY EMAIL <u>TITAMMY@STNY.TWCBC.COM</u> OR CALL OR TEXT (607) 723-7461



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						Happy Birthda Shirley Bronsl Susannah Stuppel
					Light candle 4:15pm Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	Shabbat service 9:30am-12pm Havdalah servic 6:45pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sisterhood Chanukah Party 11:00am					Chanukah Day 1	
Shiva minyan 5-7pm @ Horowitz home	<u>Happy Birthday</u> Jonathan Harris	Executive Board meeting 7pm			l inht anndla	Shabbat service
Happy Birthday Larry Bleier		Minyan 5:30pm	Pray-Eat-Learn 8:30-10:00am		Light candle 4:34pm & Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	9:30am-12pm Havdalah servic 5:45pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Adult Ed at T.I. with Rabbi Friedman speaking —10am Happy Birthday	_	,	Happy Birthday Barbara Roberts	*	Happy Birthday Esther Gilinsky Tony Turnbull	Happy Birthda Jeff Horowitz
Alexa Wyman Elysha Wyman		:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	Pray-Eat-Learn 8:30-10:00am		Light candle 4:35pm	Shabbat service 9:30am –12pm
		Minyan 5:30pm	Ritual Committee meeting 10am		Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	Havdalah servic 5:30pm
17	18	19	20	21 Rabbi out of the	22	23
Happy Birthday Alex Chase- Levenson	Happy Anniversary Joel & Heidi Thirer	Happy Birthday Mika Friedman Happy Anniversary		Office Happy Birthday Al Lavker	Office closed for holiday	Happy Birthda Richard Stran
		Board of Trustees meeting 7pm Minyan 5:30pm	Pray-Eat-Learn 8:30-10:00am		Light candle 4:38pm Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	Shabbat service 9:30am-12pm Havdalah servic 5:30pm
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Happy Anniversary Stuart & Vicki Rouff Happy Birthday Peter Bronsky	Christmas: Office closed for holiday	Happy Birthday Lisa Newman Joy Yarkoni		Happy Birthday Flo Balin Betty Wamer		Happy Birthda Dick Lewis
31 Happy Birthday Fran Goldman		Minyan 5:30pm Jewish Quest for Wisdom 6:00pm	Pray-Eat-Learn 8:30-10:00am	-	Light candle 4:22pm Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	Shabbat service 9:30am-12pm Havdalah servic 5:45pm

General Fund

In memory of...

A donation by Stuart Green

Barbara Balotin by The Senior Finance Staff at SUNY Upstate, Ina Bellis, Pete & Grace Sylvester Brendan Byrnes by Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus Claire Shefftz by Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus Tom Head by Merri Pell-Preus & **Tony Preus** Kenneth Harf by Ruth Kapiloff Lanie Blumberg by The Bronsky/ Cafritz family Sylvia Horowitz by Sue Krause, Celia & Sophia Klin, Howard & Bonnie Brown, Ilene Pinsker & Ron Sacks, Larry & Kathy Hurwitz, Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus, Len & Naoma Feld, Michael & Wendy Wolff, Marcia Hofstein, Roy & Sandra Paston, Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek . Ann Cohen

For the Yahrzeit of ... Irving Markowitz by Bobbi Markowitz Dr. Irving Licker by Charles & Susan Gilinsky Evelyn Greenblott by Robin, Jeff & Cookie Greenblott Ida Braslow by Merri-Pell Preus & **Tony Preus** Charles Baken by Robin, Jeff & Cookie Greenblott Marilyn Leventhal by Wendy & Michael Wolff Ludwika Horowitz by Ilana Segal Morty Hofstein by Roy & Sandra Paston

Refuah shelema to...

Marilyn Bell by Merri Pell-Preus &
Tony Preus

In honor of...
The engagement of Tammy & Kurt Kunsman's daughter
Shelby to Nico Valeri by Ann
Spitz & Charlie Pladek, Jim &
Beverly Novak, Jane Whitelaw
Mason

CONTRIBUTIONS

The marriage of Emily Wolff to Matt Bachman by Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek, Jim & Beverly Novak, Don & Barbara Zelter George Siegel's 97th birthday by Jim & Beverly Novak Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason for the beautiful November 18th Kiddush by Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek Art & Suzanne Siegel for all they do for Temple Israel by Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek

Speedy recovery to...
Marilyn Bell by Jim & Beverly
Novak
Moira Shirvan by Bonnie &
Howard Brown, Len & Naoma
Feld

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A donation by Arieh Ullmann & Rhonda Levine

For the Yahrzeit of...
Marion Sommers by Marcia
Brown
Beulah Riger by Janet & Harvey
Levine
Ada Rouff by Stuart & Vicki
Rouff

In memory of...
Barbara Balotin by Tony
Turnbull
Sylvia Horowitz by Judy & Irwin
Simon

Cemetery Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...
Jacquelyn Jaffe by William Jaffe

Landscaping Fund

In memory of...
Dr. Horatio Schlaen by Alex &
Tara Kaminsky
Sylvia Horowitz by Dave & Teri
Tanenhaus, Beverly & Hersh
Rozen, Louis & Maxine
Rosenberg

Speedy recovery...
Jerry Parmet by Hersh & Beverly
Rozen
Marilyn Bell by Louis & Maxine

Marilyn Bell by Louis & Maxine Rosenberg

In honor of...
The engagement of Tammy &
Kurt Kunsman's daughter
Shelby to Nico Valeri by Arlene
Osber

Adult Library

Get Well wishes to...

Marcia Brown by Ann Cohen

For the Yahrzeit of...
Julian Jarecky by Maida Piaker
Jacob Piaker by Maida Piaker
Philip Piaker by Maida Piaker

Clergy Sustaining Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

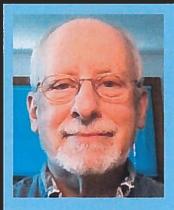
Murray Weber by Jack & Darlene
Weber

Mitzvah Corps

In memory of...
Sylvia Horowitz by Arlene Osber

Congratulations to our
November lottery
fundraiser winners:

Mitchell Weiss
Art & Suzanne Siegel
Donna Resnick
Denise Gilbert
Debra Martinez



From the Temple Israel Archives
By Steve Gilbert
This months article was taken from the
June 21, 1957 Bulletin

Large Class Confirmed at Temple Rites

The largest class in the history of Temple Israel, 23 girls and 10 boys, were confirmed at impressive ceremonies at the Temple on Sunday evening, June 2. Rabbi Hurwitz officiated at the ser-

Rabbi Hurwitz officiated at the service and gave the charge to the confirmants. Under the direction of Mrs. B. Norman Pearlman the confirmants presented a magnificent cantata "This Is My God," which depicted the power of faith in Jewish history. Mrs. Pearlman also provided the organ accompaniment. The Temple Choir, under the direction of Bernard Shifrin, sang for the service and cantata.

Following the service a gala reception for the confirmants and their parents took place in the auditorium.

A capacity congregation attended the confirmation, filling almost every seat in the Temple and balcony.

Saturday evening saw over a hundred boys and girls enjoying themselves to the music of Gino's Society Orchestra at the confirmation dance.

We are grateful to all who helped to make this Confirmation such a glorious affair. We especially wish to thank the mothers committee, headed by Mrs. Erwin Rosenberg, for all their help.



Adult Library

The period between Simchat Torah and Chanukah is Jewish Book month. To celebrate Chanukah, we have cookbooks with latke recipes. Also if you're in the mood for a romantic novel, read *The Matzoh Ball*. Despite the title, it is a Chanukah book.

On a more serious note, we own several books about anti-Semitism. However, if you choose to read only one, make it the Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt's book *It Could Happen Here*. I've reviewed it once before but today it bears repeating, since unfortunately, now it really is happening here. The author offers a clear no-nonsense explanation of the origins of hate and how to recognize it in our daily lives and in social media. His five-tier Pyramid of Hate illustrates the development from general biased attitudes, to acts of bias, to systemic discrimination, to bias-motivated violence, and finally to genocide. He refers to hate directed towards all groups, not only the Jews.

The second half of his book resembles a handbook of common sense systemic solutions. Suggestions for parents on how to explain extremism and bias to their children as well as a step-by-step lesson plan for teachers to use in the classroom are just two of the aids offered. Numerous examples of how communities have been coming together after tragic events are cited. And, of course, the past, present and future of the Anti-Defamation League, including its history is discussed. *It Could Happen Here* is an easy read primer on all forms of hate and a call to arms.

Please remember, when borrowing books from the library to sign them out. Leave the cards in the box on the desk. Remember to return the books within 2-3 weeks so that others may read them too. Using our self-service library is on the honor system. Thank you. Have a safe and wonderful Chanukah.

Ann Cohen Temple Israel Librarian

December 2023 Yahrzeits

December 1—7

Michael Mendelson observed by Sue Austenfeld

Helen Simon observed by Philip Goodman Jesse Jarecky* observed by Maida Piaker Marjorie Whitelaw observed by Jane Mason Harry Katz* observed by Betty Warner Leonard Whitelaw observed by Jane Mason Ida Sall* observed by Ron Sall Alfred Hurwitz observed by Larry Hurwitz Gertrude Grass observed by Marsha Grass Morty Hofstein observed by Marcia Hofstein Eva Levey observed by Fran Goldman Mary Friedman observed by Robert Friedman Ada Rouff* observed by Stuart Rouff, Linda Rosenbaum

December 8—15

Hyman Goldman observed by Philip Goodman Beulah Riger* observed by Janet Levine Rose Guter* observed by Marvin Guter Zelda Goldman* observed by Steve Gilbert Lillian Goldstein observed by Philip Goodman Joseph Marcal observed by Debra Martinez & Michael Martinez

Jacob Shulman* observed by Gail Shulman Gertrude Meltzer observed by Don Zelter Martha Bauman observed by Dave Tanenhaus Morris Goodman* observed by Philip Goodman Patti Baken Lapidus observed by Cookie

Sanford J. Siegel* observed by Art Siegel, George Siegel

December 16—22

Howard Engel* observed by Carol Engel-Mason Edith Krasnow* observed by Art Siegel, George

Norman Sall* observed by Larry Sall Lillian Cohen* observed by Marcy Cohen Dr. Irving Licker observed by Susan Gilinsky Andrew Mark Krasnow* observed by Art Siegel, George Siegel

Annette Steidlitz observed by Barbara Schapiro Anita Foster* observed by Art Siegel, George Siegel

Thomas Davis* observed by Larry Davis Lena Savitch* observed by Brian Savitch Gertrude Weiss* observed by Robert Weiss Shirley Cohen* observed by Ann Cohen Lana Kaufman-Franklin observed by Florence Balin

December 23—31

Sylvia Rozen* observed by Hersh Rozen Pearl Shulman* observed by Gail Shulman Michele Slotnick observed by Lynn Dumoff Rose Manasse observed by Matt Manasse Belle Rosengarden observed by Marsha Grass Ciorna Rubin observed by Hyman Rubin Morris Brown observed by Marcia Brown Lina Herz* observed by Carol Herz Abraham Miller observed by Madeline Miller **Leoni Schoemann** observed by *Jane Maas* Sylvia Weber* observed by Bill Weber Sharon Whitbeck observed by Hollie Levine Goldie Hurwitz observed by Larry Hurwitz Samuel Riger* observed by Janet Levine Jeanne Stearns observed by Charles Gilinsky

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

The Caring Community

Please Inform the Rabbi:

If your health condition changes, if you undergo a medical procedure, if you are hospitalized, if you move to an assisted living facility, or if you are in rehab, please contact the Temple at 607-723-7461 or email titammy@stny.twcbc.com

Mourners' Kaddish

If you wish to recite Mourner's Kaddish during a weekday Zoom service, please contact Howard Schwartz at schwerz@stny.rr.com
or call the Temple office at 607-723-7461. An e-mail notice will be sent to the congregation encouraging attendance to have enough participants to make up a Minyan. It would be helpful if you contact Howard or the office ten days or more before the date to provide enough time to send out the notice. Temple Israel holds weekday Minyan services on Zoom and in-person on Tuesdays and Fridays at 5:30pm. If you would prefer a different day to coincide with a Yahrzeit date, let us know and we will work to make those arrangements. To see a video on how to recite the Mourner's Kaddish, go to the Temple Israel website, templeisraelvestal.org, under Worship.