

December 2024 Bulletin



4737 Deerfield Place
Vestal, NY 13850
607-723-7461
TempleIsraelVestal.org

We are grateful to our Bulletin sponsors:

For the Yahrzeits of Alois Gross, MD and Dr. Paula Gross by *Jim & Beverly Novak*

For the Yahrzeit of Alfred Pell by *Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus*

For the Yahrzeit of Murray Weber by *Jack & Darlene Weber*

For the Yahrzeit of Martin Paston by *Roy & Sandra Paston*

TC/TI Adult Ed Committee Program on Dec. 22: “Midrashic Responses to October 7th from Israeli Women”

The Adult Education Committee of Temple Concord and Temple Israel will hold a program and brunch on Sunday December 22, from 10am-noon at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield Pl, Vestal. Rabbi Micah Friedman of Temple Israel will guide attendees through a participatory experience of learning from two modern Midrashim, written by Israeli Women in the immediate aftermath of October 7th, and who lived in communities nearby the Gaza Strip, the ancient texts on which they are based, and our own responses to their words.

The shocking and horrifying events of October 7, 2023 and the subsequent war have prompted so many Jews around the world to grapple with challenging questions and have unearthed layers of pain and heartache which have their roots in previous periods of Jewish suffering.

Among the many ways that Jews have struggled to respond to 10/7 is writing new Midrashim. Midrash is a foundational Jewish approach to Torah and to life in which a person seeks out meaning through interpreting a text from the Torah. Midrash is an ancient style of interpretation that plays a central role in the Talmud and other rabbinic literature. Often, Midrashim engage with complex aspects of human experience and difficult passages in the Torah in provocative and inspirational ways that speak to people even many generations after the Midrashim were composed.

Like most ancient literature, the classical Midrashim which were passed down to us were written (almost) exclusively by men. However, in recent decades, women from all different kinds of Jewish backgrounds and communities have turned to the style of Midrash to bring their own experiences and perspectives into dialogue with traditional Jewish texts. Dirshuni is an effort of Rabbi Friedman's personal friend and teacher Tamar Biale to compile Midrashim written by contemporary Israeli women to share their wisdom with the larger world. Over the past 10-15 years, two volumes of Dirshuni have been published in Hebrew and one in English and the writing and study of modern women's Midrash has become an inspiration to American and Israeli Jews alike. The two Midrashim we will study are part of this larger project.

In the context of our ongoing grief as Israel continues to be at war, these Midrashim invite us to recognize the tools of Midrash Israeli women have used to give voice to grief and hopes for the future, and the resources our Jewish tradition offers us for persevering through disasters with resilience, open-heartedness, and love.

The entire community is welcome to attend. There is a suggested donation of between \$5-20 per person. For more information and to RSVP, contact Temple Israel at 607-723-7461, or Temple Concord at 607-723-7355 by December 13, so enough refreshments can be prepared.



Letter from the Rabbi:

Dear Temple Israel Community,

Hodesh Tov! Wishing you a good new month of December and of Kislev! As we approach the end of 2024, we find ourselves in the start of Winter, preparing for the shortest days of the year, and our Festival of Lights Hannukah, which will accompany us into the year 2025!

Our holy work to bring light to the world continues to be of great need as we continue to pray for the immediate return of the Israeli hostages held in Gaza, an end to the ongoing war, and a greater peace for Israel and the world. Our relief at the news of a ceasefire with Hezbollah has this week been overshadowed by the heartbreaking news of the death of Omer Neutra ל"ר, a young Israeli from New York who was deeply involved in Conservative Jewish life and community.

As we continue to pray for peace and security throughout land of Israel, we look forward to joyous events in our local Jewish community this month and beyond! On the first Shabbat of December 12/6, a large group of Kids, Families and community members will gather to celebrate a Shabbat together with prayer, dinner, and play. If you haven't yet RSVP'ed, you are still welcome to join us!

Later in December, on Sunday 12/22 from 10 AM - Noon, we will have our next TI/TC Adult Education program here at Temple Israel! I will be sharing powerful creative words of contemporary Israeli women compiled through. You can read more about the program on the front page of the bulletin

Beyond December, I'm excited to announce that in March we will welcome a good friend of mine Zach Mayer for a special Musician-in-Residence Weekend! Zach will join us on Purim Day through Shabbat and Sunday morning, bringing traditional and new Jewish music for us to sing and enjoy together! A forming group is working to plan several events for March 14 - 16 and we could use your support! Everyone's help would be appreciated: musicians who'd like to join a Saturday night concert and Purim-Shabbat party planners alike!

In these dark Winter days, we have the chance to come together and to cultivate the light of Shabbat and Hannukah and to strengthen our special local Jewish community!

Letter from the President



Dear Members and friends of Temple Israel,

After the fast pace of autumn holidays, we were tempted to take a breath, but the Temple Israel family has kept up a continuous pace of activities, December promises more to come. Each of us is part of this family, and we sustain each other through difficult moments and celebrate the high points.

As Rabbi Friedman pointed out in his recent drash for parsha Toldot on families in conflict (see The Reporter, Vol. LIII, No. 24, November 29th, if you missed it), as a group we hold diverse views, yet we are able to address difficult issues and find common purpose. In our own country and our own time, challenges abound, anti-semitism is a serious concern - but we have much to be thankful for, as we live in a land of plenty and of opportunity, subject to the rule of law.

It has been our privilege to observe a number of family events in our congregation over the Thanksgiving weekend. This past Shabbat, we celebrated the anniversary of Howard Warner's Bar Mitzvah and he chanted the Haftorah to mark the occasion. Meanwhile, Dave Channin read the Torah portion as his son and his new bride were called to the Torah to celebrate their recent wedding. The Channins and Warners sponsored a very special Kiddush which all enjoyed. On Sunday, over two dozen of us gathered in the Chapel for a minyan service to honor the Yahrtzeit of Steve Malkin's father Alec.

Perhaps you would like to participate in a service or sponsor a kiddush to mark an event in your family. Rabbi Friedman and the Board members are happy to facilitate any sort of celebration in addition to those we have programmed. Meanwhile, please join us on Friday, December 6th for a family-oriented erev Shabbat service and dinner. Check our website templeisraelvestal.org for the latest updates!

I take this opportunity to thank you for keeping up with your dues and donations which are vital to enable us to deliver our programs, education, and services. We have launched once again the Temple Israel Lottery for 2025. Contact the TI Office to buy tickets, each of which will have hundreds of chances to win throughout the year - any time the NYS Lottery is drawn (except on Saturday!) Tickets make great Chanukkah gifts for children and grandchildren, who can watch for their number to come up all year long.

Some of our regulars have headed South for the Winter, so your attendance at our Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday services (in-person or on zoom) is greatly appreciated. Enjoy the spiritual and thermal warmth of your extended Temple Israel family!

Art

Arthur B. Siegel

President, Temple Israel

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Executive Board meeting 7pm	4 Hebrew School 4-6pm	5 Office hours 2-4pm	6 Family Kabbalat Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 4:14pm	7 Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 5:30pm
8	9 Office closed	10 minyan 5:30pm	11	12	13 Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 4:15pm	14 Shabbat services 9:30am
15	16	17 4:30pm Post Election Discussion minyan 5:30pm Board of Trustees meeting 7pm	18 Office closed Ritual Committee mtg 10:am Hebrew School 4-6pm	19 Office hours 10am--12pm	20 Erev Shabbat 5:30pm Light candle 4:17pm	21 Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 5:30pm
22 TI/TC Adult Ed at Temple Israel 10:00am - 12:00pm	23	24 Office closed for minyan 5:30pm	25 the holiday	26 Chanukah Day 1	27 Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 4:21pm	28 Shabbat services 9:30am
29	30	31 New Year's Eve minyan 5:30pm Followed by Menorah lighting and latkes				

General Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Adele Wiener by Sandy Wiener
Barbara Balotin by Eric & Theresa Balotin

Diane Gartell by Susan & Charles Gilinsky

Morris Rosenbaum by Scott, Lenny, Bob & Suzanne Rosenbaum

Harry Greenblott by Robin & Jeff Greenblott, Cookie Greenblott

Irving Markowitz by Barbara Markowitz

Evelyn Greenblott by Robin & Jeff Greenblott, Cookie Greenblott

Melvin Shapiro by Jeff & Ruth Shapiro

Alec Malkin by Steve & Sandra Malkin

Marilyn Leventhal by Wendy & Michael Wolff

In honor of...

All the Ushers and Greeters for their assistance during the High Holidays by Steven Malkin

Dan Sokol's Bar Mitzvah by Larry & Rita Bleier, Roy & Sandra Paston, Lynne Green, Howard & Bonnie Brown

The marriage of David & Rivka Channin's son Joshua to Alexis

Miller by Roy & Sandra Paston, Anonymous, Howard & Bonnie Brown

Ariela Kweller's Bat Mitzvah by Yola Ginzburg Kweller

Dick Lewis by Bernie & Ilana Segal

Art & Suzanne Siegel for all the wonderful work they do by Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek

George Siegel's birthday by Donna Foster

In memory of...

Brendan Byrnes by Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus

Lu Jones by Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus

Marilyn Aigen by Bob & Lori Schapiro, Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus, Anonymous, Sue Krause, Celia & Sophia Klin, Sandra Shapiro

Contributions

Lynn Myers by Sue Krause, Celia & Sophia Klin

Rachel Ann Wolk by Wendy & Michael Wolff

Wishing Good Health to...

Steve Gilbert from Anonymous
Tammy Kunsman by Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek

Jim Mason by Howard & Bonnie Brown

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Mildred Levine by Harvey & Janet Levine

In honor of...

Ariela Kweller's Bat Mitzvah by Judy & Irwin Simon

In memory of...

Marilyn Aigen by Roy & Sandra Paston

Landscaping Fund

In honor of...

Mel Dubofsky's 90th birthday by Al Lavker

Hersh & Beverly Rozen by Scott, Lenny, Bob & Suzanne Rosenbaum

For the Yahrzeit of...

Claire Feldman Palnik by Loren & Marlene Wolsh

Mitzvah Corps

For the Yahrzeit of...

Alois Gross, MD & Dr. Paula Gross by Jim & Beverly Novak

VINES Garden

For the Yahrzeit of...

Jack Krassin by Terry Shelley - Krassin

Rabbi Hurwitz Fund

In memory of...

Barbara & Irvin Schapiro by Bob Rosenbaum

For the Yahrzeit of...

Edward Rosenberg by Barbara & Marvin Guter

Cemetery Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Philip Goodman by Philip Goodman

Jacquelyn Jaffe by William Jaffe

Executive Board

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Rabbi

Micah Friedman

Office Manager

Tammy Kunsman

Congregational News

Mazel Tov to:

David & Rivka Channin on the marriage of their son Joshua to Alexis Miller

Get Well wishes to:

Marcia Brown, Stephanie Horowitz, Jeff Shapiro, Susan Gilinsky, Marcia Hofstein, Ann Spitz, Mel Dubofsky, Steve Gilbert, Laurence Wyman

Condolences to:

The family of Marilyn Aigen on her passing

Congratulations to our November Lottery Fundraiser winners:

Amy Shapiro, David Tanenhaus, Mitchell Weiss, Robert Weiss (twice), Sandra Malkin, Keith Nelson

It's time to pick your 3 digit numbers for our
2025 Lottery fundraiser!

Please watch for the emails arriving soon containing a letter explaining the fundraiser and the forms to fill out and return to the office with your payment of \$25 for each 3 digit number you choose, for your chances to win every day (except Saturdays) in 2025.

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.

DECEMBER 2024 YAHRZEITS

December 1 - 11

Melvin Shapiro observed by *Jeff Shapiro*
Jacquelyn Jaffe* observed by *William Jaffe*
Alec Malkin observed by *Steven Malkin*
Helen Smigel observed by *Joan Jacobson*
Jerry Horowitz observed by *Beverly Rozen*
Marilyn Leventhal observed by *Wendy Wolff*
Marlene Mendelson observed by *Sue Austerfeld*
Edith Schutzer* observed by *Jim Schutzer*
Ira H. Cohen observed by *Marilyn Kent-Cohen*
Charlotte Nelson* observed by *Bruce Nelson, Keith Nelson*
Rhoda Gilinsky-Brodsky observed by *Elliot Brodsky*
Max Kaufman observed by *Florence Balin*
Isidore Pinsker observed by *Ilene Pinsker*

December 12 - 15

Charles Baken observed by *Cookie Greenblott*
Israel Djivre observed by *Diana Weiss*
Cantor Daniel Gildar observed by *Sandra Paston*
Richard A. Brown observed by *Rabbi Geoffrey Brown*
Anna Heller observed by *Jerry Heller*
Maurice Goldman* observed by *Steven Gilbert*
Ludwika Horowitz observed by *Ilana Segal*
Gussie Mendelson observed by *Sue Austenfeld*
Martin Paston* observed by *Roy Paston*
Irving Zalbowitz* observed by *Beverly Rozen, Marcia Zalbowitz, Alan Zalbowitz*
Lillian Zelter* observed by *Donald Zelter*
Diane Gartell observed by *Susan Gilinsky*
Israel Margolis observed by *Brenda Margolis*

December 16 - 21

Abram Goodman observed by *Philip Goodman*
Alan Grass observed by *Marsha Grass*
Ella Chiron observed by *Barbara Zelter*
Anita Cohen observed by *Rita Bleier*
Helen Drozdow* observed by *Louise Sheiman*
Alfred Pell observed by *Merri Pell-Preus*
Ida Braslow observed by *Merri Pell-Preus*
Michael Mendelson observed by *Sue Austenfeld*
Helen Simon observed by *Philip Goodman*
Harry Katz* observed by *Betty Warner*
Leonard Whitelaw observed by *Jane Mason*
Marjorie Whitelaw observed by *Jane Mason*

December 22 - 31

Ida Sall* observed by *Ron Sall*
Alfred Hurwitz observed by *Larry Hurwitz*
Gertrude Grass observed by *Marsha Grass*
Morton 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*
Hyman Goldman observed by *Philip Goodman*
Beulah Riger* observed by *Janet Levine*
Rose Guter* observed by *Marvin Guter*
Zelda Goldman* observed by *Steven Gilbert*
Lillian Goldstein observed by *Philip Goodman*
Jacob Shulman* observed by *Gail Shulman*

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.