

February 2025 Bulletin



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

We are grateful to our Bulletin sponsor:

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Judah Levine,
son of Meredith & Noah Levine and grandson of Marlene & Loren Wolsh
by Marlene & Loren Wolsh

Our Lottery Fundraiser Winners from 2024

Sue Austenfeld	Bonnie Brown (3 times)	Julia Clark
Ann Cohen (twice)	Amanda Crocker	Cathy Friedman
Steve Gilbert	Peg Jones	Ray Kunsman
Rachel Kwapien (twice)	Al Lavker	Marsha & Neisen Luks
Sandra Malkin	Samuel Malone	Nerma Miller
Keith Nelson	John Ondrako	Darcy Paul (twice)
Mary Ann Ondrako (twice)	Amy Shapiro	John Simon
Art & Suzanne Siegel (twice)	Donald Sukloff	Dave Tanenhaus
Nico Valeri	Cathy Velenchik	Diana Weiss (twice)
Jonathan Weiss	Mitchell Weiss	Robert Weiss (twice)
Aaron Wolff	Emily Wolff	Melissa Wolff
Laurence & Edyce Wyman		

Congregational News

Mazel Tov to:

Dr. Adam & Maren Nasar on the Brit Milah of their son Oren Tzvi

Loren & Marlene Wolsh on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson
Nathan Judah Levine

Wishing Good Health to:

Marcia Brown, Stephanie Horowitz,
Jeff Shapiro, Susan Gilinsky, Marcia Hofstein,
Ann Spitz, Deborah Zapotocky, Laurence Wyman,
Hersh Rozen, Jim Mason



Letter from the Rabbi:

Dear Temple Israel community,

I hope this message finds you all staying warm in this stretch of Winter with which we enter the months of February and Shevat. In February, March, and April, there will be abundant opportunities to be warmed together by the strength and liveliness of our community as we look ahead to Spring!

In February, we will gather for special Shabbat celebrations on Saturday mornings as well as on Friday nights with communal dinners. First, we have a Shabbat dinner and program for Kids and Families on the first Friday of the month 2/7. For those who joined us in December, we hope you will again join in a joyous and fun program to welcome Shabbat. All are welcome to join and to RSVP through the form on our website or contacting the office. Two weeks later, we will have our annual Scout Shabbat, led by Michael Martinez when we will welcome scouts from throughout the region for a kabbalat service followed by dinner.

We are working hard on a joy filled Purim celebration and Musical-Artist in Residence weekend in March! Beginning the first week of February and running until Purim, I will be leading a group in exploring how the ancient rabbis read Megillat Esther - the book of Esther. On Wednesdays at 10:30 AM, we will learn to appreciate the religious, ethical, and literary approaches of the Rabbis in order to contemplate how we can relate to the book of Esther as contemporary American Jewish. We will build our anticipation each week for our March 14 Purim Celebration!

This month also brings us the holiday of Tu BiSh'vat. We are planning to celebrate this Jewish holy day dedicated to trees on Wednesday 2/12 with a special seder. All are encouraged to participate! More information on this opportunity will follow.

Finally, the past month has been an eventful period in world affairs. Since our last monthly bulletin, a ceasefire and hostage exchange agreement has been reached between Israel and Hamas. Thank G!d, this has led to the release so far of 13 Israeli and 5 Thai hostages who have suffered for more than a year in captivity. Events such as these are bittersweet, as we both watch with joy as families are reunited and reel with ongoing concern for the future. We hope and pray for the speedy release of all of the hostages still held in captivity along with a larger and lasting peace throughout the Land of Israel and throughout the world. Wishing you all strength, resilience and hope.

L'Shalom

Rabbi Micah Friedman

Dear Members and friends of Temple Israel,

Letter from the President



Baby, it's cold outside! But fortunately, our Chapel and Sanctuary provide a warm haven on these cold days. Drop in at 5:30pm on Tuesday for a brief service and help make a minyan for those in our midst who are memorializing the loss of a loved one. Or join Rabbi Friedman and your friends on Friday evening to welcome Shabbat with spirited services. On Saturday morning, our services include a Torah Lesson and always conclude with kiddush refreshments provided by your Trustees. Come on in from the cold and enjoy the warmth of these services and the social engagement that accompanies them. As you know, a number of our regulars seek warmer climes during the Winter months, so we very much appreciate your participation in our services and programs, whether in-person or via zoom. We look forward to seeing you.

I also urge you to check out some of Rabbi Friedman's study opportunities. His rich and accessible scholarship is much appreciated, and he is continuing the weekly Tuesday 4:30pm sessions - "Torah in Our Times" - and adding a new weekly offering - "The Whole Megillah" - on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am. The latter will be available via zoom for those who can't get to shul, but you will find it a more fulfilling experience in-person, if you can make it. Our next Kids and Families Kabbalat Shabbat (including dinner) will be held on Friday, February 7th. Please contact the Office or the Rabbi if you can help with this program. On February 21st, Temple Israel will again host the local (regional) instance of Scout Shabbat. Scoutmaster Mike Martinez is organizing this event at TI and providing the refreshments, so please join us that evening to show your support.

Planning is well underway for our celebration of Purim: the long-awaited Musical Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Zachary Mayer March 14th-16th. With Friday Evening Megillah Reading and Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat Morning Services with Kiddush, Havdallah and a Concert on Saturday Evening, and a Sunday Morning Harmony Workshop, the weekend will be full of music, learning, and fun! The volunteer organizers are seeking sponsors at various levels, so please consider how you can support this important fundraiser for Temple Israel. Most important, though, please plan to participate personally in this three-day celebration - there will be something for everyone!

Against the backdrop of the tumultuous and uncertain world in which we live, I hope that our synagogue, under the guidance of Rabbi Friedman, provides a comfort zone for the spirit of all who seek solace herein. Thank you to our Officers, Trustees, Committees, and each and every one of you who support our institution with your time and effort, and provide the financial resources which sustain our synagogue.

Keep safe and warm, and I hope to see you in shul,
Art

Arthur B. Siegel
President, Temple Israel

Artist in Residence Weekend March 14-16

We are excited about the forthcoming Artist in Residence Weekend featuring musician Zach Mayer. The weekend promises to be a joyous weekend of music and prayer.

Zach Mayer is a well-known musician who is part of a wave of new Jewish musical artists and facilitators of communal song who intertwine love for traditional Jewish music with a contemporary style. Zach brings people together through the power of nigunim, spiritual wordless melodies, rooted in Jewish tradition. He channels his family lineage of the four generations of cantors before him, as he helps communities find their own joyous voices in song.



Friday - Music, Megillah, Kabbalat Shabbat and a Nosh

We will kick off the weekend's activities starting at 4:30 pm with



lively Purim tunes, schmoozing and noshing followed by the Megillah reading around 5pm. We will then dive into spirited music and dance. As Shabbat approaches, we will transition into Kabbalat Shabbat with melodies that bring joy and connection. A simple dinner will complete the evening's Shabbat celebrations.

Remember it's Purim! Costumes are welcome!

Saturday - Musical Tefilah for Kids! Havdalah and Harmony for All!

In the morning at 10:15 children of all ages and their families are invited to a special Shabbat morning in the chapel for a service including storytelling, games and songs tailored for kids of all ages. The morning culminates in a special hakafah, where the children and their parents march into the main service in the sanctuary, singing and dancing alongside the community! A kiddush will follow services.

In the evening starting at 7 pm join with fellow congregants and the local Jewish community for an inspiring evening of music! Zach will lead us in a soulful Havdalah service at 7:30 pm. An inspirational and participatory concert will follow cosponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton. The concert will include Zach's original melodies, nigunim, Jewish songs and chants designed to uplift, delight and heal. Community musicians wishing to play their instruments in accompaniment with Zach are encouraged to reach out to Temple Israel for more information on how to obtain sheet music. Light refreshments will be served.



Sunday - Singing in Harmony Workshop

Join Zach at 11 am for an engaging workshop exploring the art of harmony and the spiritual power of song. Together we will learn two melodies — a traditional nigun and one of Zach's original compositions — while discovering which elements are rooted in tradition and which are new. Zach will share practical techniques for blending voices, and provide a glimpse into his artistic process, including his method of using melody as a Jewish spiritual practice. This fun and participatory session is open to all. Light refreshments will be served.

If you would like to volunteer for any of the programs, to register or to become a sponsor of the weekend, please call the office at (607) 723-7461 or email: office@templeisraelvestal.org

Select your sponsorship level from the following:

The Artist in Residence Weekend is made possible from a gift from The Community Foundation for South Central New York - The David and Virginia Eisenberg Fund.

Become a sponsor!

Queen Esther	\$720 and up
Uncle Mordechai	\$360 - \$719
King Ahasuerus	\$180 - \$359
Queen Vashti	\$90 - \$179
The Jews of <u>Shushan</u>	\$36 - \$89
Name your Sponsorship amount	

As a young child I often listened to how my grandfather, M. S. Cohen, left Czarist Russia in 1905, came to America and made a new life for himself. At the time, I had no idea that I was listening to a real classic Jewish immigrant story. As a teenager, I quietly marveled at his courageous strength and determination as he told us how he escaped from the Russian army, wearing only his uniform boarded a ship, changed his name, landed at Ellis Island, and ended up in Montrose, PA as a peddler. Speaking only Yiddish, he would walk from Montrose to Binghamton each week with a pack on his back selling dry goods. Eventually he had a store, moved to Binghamton, and the rest is history.

Stories like this are found in *World of Our Fathers* and many other books detailing Jewish immigration. One of our most recent books, *The Money Kings* by Daniel Schulman, relates the stories of German Jewish immigrants who ultimately influenced the American financial world. Surprisingly many of them came from modest beginnings. Only Jacob Schiff who arrived in New York City from Frankfurt, Germany in 1865 was wealthy enough to open a brokerage firm near the New York Stock Exchange in 1867. The others --- founders of Lehman Brothers, J & W Seligman and Company, Goldman Sachs, and Kuhn Loeb all began with the classic immigrant story. Joseph Seligman left Bavaria in 1837, arrived in New York City and went to Mauch Chunk, PA where he started as a cashier and clerk. In less than a year he became a peddler with a pack on his back. His peddling took him to Alabama where he opened a dry goods/ general store. With his brother, whom he helped bring over, he moved to New York City in 1848 and formed J. Seligman Brothers Importers. By 1900 the Seligman Brothers were investment bankers.

Similarly, Emanuel and Henry Lehman arrived in New York City from Germany, were peddlers with packs on their backs, made their way to Montgomery, AL and opened a dry goods shop in 1849. H. Lehman Brothers mercantile shop went into the cotton business during the Civil War era. Abraham Kuhn also migrated from Germany in 1839. He was a peddler with a pack on his back and went from New York City to Indiana where he opened a dry goods business. He was joined by his friend Solomon Loeb who arrived in 1849. They eventually formed Kuhn Loeb. Marcus Goldman had slightly different beginnings. He arrived from Germany in 1848. He was a peddler by cart (horse and buggy). His peddling was in New Jersey and Philadelphia, PA. In 1869, he and Samuel Sachs were investment bankers (Goldman Sachs) in New York City.

The Money Kings is far more than just about these German immigrant financial titans. It documents American history from before the Civil War to the 21st century. More importantly, it gives the reader a panoramic views of the people who shaped America --- their attitudes, beliefs, opinions of fellow immigrants from Russia, politics, slavery, civil rights, anti-semitism and more. This fascinating history is both difficult and important to read.

February 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 6:15pm
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Torah & Our Times discussion 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm Executive Board meeting 7pm	The Whole Megillah class 10:30am Hebrew School 4:15-6pm BBYO Info Session 6-7:30pm		Kids & Family Shabbat and dinner 5:30pm Light candle 5:09pm	Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 6:15pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Super Bowl Sunday		Torah & Our Times discussion 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm	The Whole Megillah class 10:30am Hebrew School 4:15-6pm		Valentine's Day Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 5:18pm	Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 6:30pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	President's Day Office closed	Torah & Our Times discussion 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm Board of Trustees meeting 7pm	Ritual Committee mtg 9:30am The Whole Megillah class 10:30am Hebrew School 4:15-6pm		Scout Shabbat w/dinner 5:30pm Light candle 5:27pm	Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 6:30pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	
		Torah & Our Times discussion 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm	The Whole Megillah class 10:30am Hebrew School 4:15-6pm		Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 5:35pm	

General Fund

A donation by Richard Schneierson

In memory of October 7, We are One
by Janet Stram

For the Yahrzeit of...

Ida Braslow by Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus

Sylvia Polishook by Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus

Rose Rosenbaum by Scott, Lenny, Bob & Suzanne Rosenbaum

Oscar Gruber by Charles & Susan Gilinsky

Anna Gilinsky by Charles & Susan Gilinsky

Ciorna Rubin by Hyman Rubin

Morris Brown by Marcia Brown

Sharon Whitbeck by Hollie Levine

Steven Rappaport by Denise & Al Friedrich

Maida Piaker by Alan & Julie Piaker

Hyman Thirer by Joel & Heidi Thirer

Ruth Azersky by Denise & Al Friedrich

In honor of...

The Brit Milah of Oren Tzvi Nasar by Janet Stram, Anonymous

Tammy Kunsman by Jeff & Ruth Shapiro

Barbara Zelter's special birthday by Len & Naoma Feld

Suzanne Siegel's birthday by Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek

In memory of...

Stanley Gilinsky by Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus, Jeffrey & Carolyn

Schapiro, Judy & Jerry Laffer, Ivan Burman, Don & Barbara Zelter

Mathew Epstein by Larry & Rita Bleier, Joyce Sambursky, Don & Barbara Zelter, Anonymous

Gary Miller by Frank & Elise Beams

Wishing you good health to...

Hersh Rozen by Shelley & Mark Hubal, Marcy Cohen

Jim Mason by Jeff & Ruth Shapiro

Contributions

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Jacob Shulman by Gail Shulman

In honor of...

Rabbi Micah Friedman for all that he's done by Charles & Susan Gilinsky

In appreciation of...

Fred & Sandra Weitsman by Judy & Irwin Simon

Al Lavker by Judy & Irwin Simon

Bernie Shifrin Fund

Wishing you good health to...

Hersh Rozen by Mel & Myrna Dubofsky

For the Yahrzeit of...

Shirley Cohen by Sharon Ferraguto

Dr. Albert Shulman by Gail Shulman

Brian Rapp by Barbara Roberts

Sisterhood

For the Yahrzeit of...

Shirley Cohen by Sharon Ferraguto

Sarah Shulman by Gail Shulman

Narola Rosenberg by Rolph Rosenberg

Mitzvah Corps

For the Yahrzeit of...

Shirley Cohen by Sharon Ferraguto

VINES Garden

For the Yahrzeit of...

Shirley Cohen by Sharon Ferraguto

In honor of...

The birth of Michael & Kimberly Schiffman's daughter Lacy Blair by The Bronsky/Cafritz Family & Bronsky Orthodontic NYC Team

In memory of...

Robert I. Dobson by The Bronsky/Cafritz Family

Barbara Sarkisian by The Bronsky/Cafritz Family

Warren Robbins by The Bronsky/Cafritz Family

Irving Schnetterling by The Bronsky/Cafritz Family

Adult Library

For the Yahrzeit of...

Bernard Bograd by Marilyn Bell

Dr. Harold Shulman by Gail Shulman

Anna Cohen by Ann Cohen

Wishing you good health to...

Hersh Rozen by Ann Cohen

Kiddush Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Mina Kamp Levene by Gail Shulman

In honor of...

Barbara Zelter's special birthday by Larry & Kathy Hurwitz

Landscaping Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Pearl Levene Shulman by Gail Shulman

Rabbi Hurwitz Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Jacob Levene by Gail Shulman

Lee Korn by Tony Turnbull

Temple Israel Archive Committee



In our efforts to create a Temple Israel archive we have come across several copies of the 100-Year anniversary books (see photos). We believe they are nice mementos of an important milestone of our congregation. If you would like to own a copy you can pick them up from the synagogue office. And if you are so inclined, please feel free to make a donation to defray the cost of creating the Temple Israel archive. Thank you.

Jeff Greenblott & Arie Ullmann

Many thanks to Temple Israel congregants for your continued support of CHOW. Food and monetary donations play a large part in filling the warehouse shelves, stocking the pantries we serve and putting food on the tables of the hungry. Community assistance is vital to our mission and the Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse looks forward to Temple Israel's lasting partnership.

Executive Board

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Secretary: Bonnie Brown
Counsel: Jeffrey Greenblott
Past President: Richard Schneierson

Professional Staff

Rabbi: Micah Friedman
Office Manager: Tammy Kunsman

FEBRUARY 2025 YAHRZEITS

February 1 - 8

John Arthur observed by *Amy Shapiro*
Oscar Gruber observed by *Charles Gilinsky*
Joan Dorothy Bowman observed by *Lori Lewis*
Dr. Alvan Gilinsky* observed by *Esther Gilinsky*
Ruth Lavker* observed by *Al Lavker*
Milton Osber* observed by *Arlene Osber*
Rose Bronsky* observed by *Ann Bronsky*
Anna Gilinsky* observed by *Charles Gilinsky*
Paulette Klin observed by *Celia Klin*

February 9 - 15

Estelle Silverman* observed by *Vicki Rouff*
Sybil Tobias observed by *Andrea Tobias Kostick*
Marjorie Kaufman observed by *Kerry Weinstein*
Shirley Katz* observed by *Betty Warner*
Bert Krassin observed by *Terry Shelley-Krassin*
Ruth Azersky* observed by *Denise Friedrich, Ralph Azersky, Mike Azersky*
Marilyn Oretskin* observed by *Ivy Oretskin*
Anita Savitch observed by *Brian Savitch*

February 16 - 23

Bess Horowitz observed by *Beverly Rozen*
Fritz Rosenberg* observed by *Louis Rosenberg, Rolph Rosenberg*
Emanuel Stahler observed by *Lynn Dumoff*
Ruth Rosenberg* observed by *Barbara Guter*
Victor Rozen* observed by *Hersh Rozen*
Esther Jacobson observed by *Walter Jacobson*
Robert I. Weintraub* observed by *David Weintraub*
Herman Balin observed by *Florence Balin*

February 24 - 28

Rita Osber* observed by *Arlene Osber*
Jeanette Smith* observed by *William Jaffe*
David Benensohn observed by *David Weintraub*
Alan Leon Kirsch observed by *Wendy Wolff*
Faye Rittberg* observed by *Howard Rittberg*
Katie Brown observed by *Marcia Brown*
Leza Weisslender Morgan observed by *Ruth Shapiro*
Alec Menewitch observed by *Edyce Wyman*
Joseph Schwartz observed by *Lynne Green*
Philip Wulwick observed by *Nancy Basmann*

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.

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.