

# February 2026 Bulletin



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TempleIsraelVestal.org

## Executive Board

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Arthur Siegel

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Jeffrey Greenblott

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### Rabbi

Micah Friedman

### Office Manager

Tammy Kunsman

SAVE THE DATE  
For a Joyous Community  
CELEBRATION

ALL ARE WELCOME

Temple Israel  
Vestal, NY

Please join us as we proudly celebrate  
the 10th Anniversary of the opening  
of our new building  
2016 - 2026

Sunday, July 26, 2026  
Afternoon Event

Invitation and full details to follow.  
Come celebrate, reconnect and rejoice with our  
Temple Israel Community  
as we mark this special milestone together!

***Congratulations to our January Lottery Fundraiser  
winners:***

***Dana Jones, Dan Gilbert***

## Letter from the Rabbi:



This year the first day of February corresponded with Tu BiShvat, the Jewish “New Year of the Trees.” While Tu BiShvat is certainly not a major holiday, it represents the first movement towards Spring in the Jewish calendar. With mounds of snow piled in the corners of the Temple Israel parking lot and all around the Southern Tier, Spring may feel far away. Yet, through the minor holiday of Tu BiShvat our calendar reminds us to look ahead to warmer, brighter, and more fruitful days ahead.

While the month of February promises to be another cold month, our shul will be filled each week with the warmth of small groups gathering to learn, pray, sing, and play together! Over the past few weeks, children have returned for weekly Hebrew school classes and adult learners have joined me for my new class on Hebrew in the weekly Torah portion as well as Torah in Our Times. On Wednesdays, the building buzzes between Hillel students, Mah Jong players, and Hebrew school children! We continue to gather in good numbers on Shabbat and to share heartfelt, meaningful conversation over kiddush and, once last month over Shabbat dinner.

In one month, we will celebrate our next holiday: Purim! This year Purim begins Monday night March 2nd and we are planning a joyous celebration intertwining comedy and the reading of the Megillah. Please, mark your calendar and plan to join us! For the weeks building up to Purim, on Tuesdays during Torah in our Times, I will return to much of the material that I put together last year for my class titled: The Whole Megillah. We will learn to take the Megillah seriously as a text that speaks to the ridiculous and dangerous nature of Kings and empire. Simultaneously, we will carry on our people’s ancient tradition of laughing in the face of darkness and reaffirming our commitment to the perseverance of hope through seasons of darkness.

It’s an honor to nurture this community alongside you! Looking forward to learning, singing, laughing and eating together in the weeks and months ahead!

Shalom,

Rabbi Micah Friedman

## Letter from the President

Dear Members and friends of Temple Israel,

I hope that your New Year 2026 is off to a great start. Whether you are dressed in layers against the frigid temps, or basking in the sunny South, Temple Israel is here for you! The warmth of our building, and the friendships within, are welcome respite from the tumult that surrounds us daily. When antisemitism appears everywhere, the news seems worse than dreadful, and it is difficult to separate fact from fiction in our multi-media world, take some time out to participate in Temple Israel services or study, and explore the fundamental truths that underpin our faith. Join us in-person if you can, or on zoom if you can't, for our services, classes, and programs.

Our Rabbi Search Committee is working diligently to secure a successor to Rabbi Friedman. Resumes have been reviewed, several zoom interviews have narrowed the field, and we are starting to organize visits with the best-matched candidates. We will keep you informed of how you can participate in the next steps of the process. Meanwhile we are privileged to continue to study and pray under the leadership of Rabbi Friedman. Current educational programs include Rabbi Friedman's weekly exploration of Torah in our Times on Tuesday afternoons, and a new adult learning session on Mondays designed to enhance our understanding and appreciation of Hebrew in our Weekly Parasha.

The new Temple Israel Mah-Jongg group has been meeting regularly and growing - two foursomes gathered last week and clearly enjoyed themselves. Contact Rivka Channin or the TI office for information on how you can join the fun.

I hope you have saved the date for our tenth anniversary celebration - Sunday, June 26th, in the afternoon - to enjoy a participatory family celebration for all ages! Planning is well-underway, and volunteers are needed for multiple activities. Please contact a committee member (Al Lavker and Steve Gilbert, to name a few) or call the office to register your interest in helping out.

Quick quiz: Did you accept my New Year's challenge to find one or two new ways that you can support our synagogue? We need you; whether you volunteer for Chevra Kadisha or stay after Kiddush to help wash dishes - all are valued contributors, helping to sustain our synagogue for us and for future generations. Please answer the phone when the Nominating Committee comes calling, and accept your invitation to serve.

As always, I remind you that we rely on your participation, your Annual Dues, and your generous donations to our standing funds and fund-raisers. Tickets are still available for the Temple Israel 2026 Lottery Fundraiser. You may have missed the first few drawings, but \$25 still buys you hundreds of chances to win, six days a week, all year long, and every ticket sold helps Temple Israel. We appreciate your donations of any size, to celebrate a simcha, memorialize a loved one, wish someone a speedy recovery, or just to sustain your synagogue.

Enjoy the Winter - It only comes once a year!

Art

FEBRUARY 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Birthday of Carol Engel-Mason	2 <b>TU BISHVAT</b> Birthday of Mimi Bartschi Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30-7:45pm	3 Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm Exec Board meeting 7pm	4 Anniversary of Mike & Madeline Azersky Hebrew School 4:00pm	5	6 Birthday of Mike Azersky, Janet Stram Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 5:07pm	7 Birthday of Howard Rittberg Shabbat services 9:30am-Ice Cream for Breakfast Day Kiddush Havdalah 6:15pm
8 Super Bowl Sunday Birthday of Jim Novak	9 Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30-7:45pm	10 Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm	11 Learning Circle 11:00am Hebrew School 4:00pm	12 Birthday of Suzanne Siegel	13 Birthday of Ina Bellis Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 5:16pm	14 Valentines Day Birthday of Michael Schapiro Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 6:30pm
15	16 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Birthday of Brett Foreman, Steven Gilbert Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30-7:45pm	17 Birthday of Jane Maas Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm BOT meeting 7:00pm	18 Ritual Comm mtg 10am Hebrew School 4:00pm	19 Birthday of David Glassman	20 Birthday of Eileen Head Erev Shabbat svcs & 5:30pm Light candle 5:25pm	21 Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 6:30pm
22 Birthday of Howard Brown	23 Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30-7:45pm	24 Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm	25 Hebrew School 4:00pm	26 Birthday of Larry Hurwitz, Isaac Sambursky	27 Birthday of Andrea Tobias Kostick Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 5:34pm	28 Birthday of Penelope Leja Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 6:45pm

## General Fund

**For the Yahrzeit of...**  
**Maida Piaker** by *Steven Piaker*  
**Herman Kline** by *Herbert Kline*  
**Dora Arnson** by *Herbert Kline*  
**Narola Rosenberg** by *Rolph Rosenberg*

### **In honor of...**

**Jim Mason & Carol Engel - Mason, Richard Schneierson, Steve Gilbert, Roy & Sandy Paston, Ben & Susan Kasper, Larry Hurwitz and Herbert Kline for making minyan so kaddish can be said** by *Arthur & Suzanne Siegel*

**Rita Bleier for her unwavering kiddush help** by *Arthur & Suzanne Siegel*

**Richard Schneierson for his unwavering kiddush help** by *Arthur & Suzanne Siegel*

**Irwin & Judy Simon's anniversary** by *Sandy Wiener*  
**Robin Greenblott's special birthday** by *Mimi & Dan Bartschi*

### **Wishing good health to...**

**Fred Weitsman** by *Arthur & Suzanne Siegel*  
**Philip Goodman** by *Arthur & Suzanne Siegel, Roy & Sandra Paston*

**Lynne Green** by *Arthur & Suzanne Siegel*

**Richard Schneierson** by *Bonnie & Howard Brown*

## **Contributions**

**Happy New Year to...**  
**Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek** by *Arthur & Suzanne Siegel*

**In memory of...**  
**Charlotte Schneierson** by *Bonnie & Howard Brown*

### Adult Library Fund

**For the Yahrzeit of...**  
**Bernard Bograd** by *Marilyn Bell*  
**Anna Cohen** by *Ann Cohen*

### VINES GARDEN

**For the Yahrzeit of...**  
**Shirley Cohen** by *Sharon Ferraguto*

### Landscaping Fund

**For the Yahrzeit of...**  
**Beulah Riger** by *Janet & Harvey Levine*  
**Narola Rosenberg** by *Maxine Rosenberg*  
**Milton Osber** by *Arlene Osber*  
**Rita Osber** by *Arlene Osber*  
**Steven Rappaport** by *Denise & Al Friedrich*

**Wishing good health to...**  
**Fred Weitsman** by *Maxine Rosenberg*

## Rabbis Discretionary Fund

**For the Yahrzeit of...**  
**Gail Weinberg** by *Sandy Foreman*

**Wishing good health to...**  
**Philip Goodman** by *Judy & Irwin Simon*  
**Marilyn Bell** by *Judy & Irwin Simon*

### Rabbi Hurwitz Fund

**For the Yahrzeit of...**  
**Lee Korn** by *Tony Turnbull*

### Kiddush Fund

**For the Yahrzeit of...**  
**H. Joseph Goldman** by *Fran Goldman*  
**Ruth Azersky** by *Denise & Al Friedrich*

### Cemetery Fund

**In memory of...**  
**Paul & Helen Drozdow** by *Louise Sheiman*

## Congregational News

**Condolences to:** Richard Schneierson on the passing of his mother Charlotte (Rubenstein) Schneierson

**Get Well wishes to:** Philip Goodman, Fred Weitsman, Lee Foreman, Susan Gilinsky, Robert Weiss, Laurence Wyman, Ann Spitz, Charlie Pladek, Stephanie Horowitz

# FEBRUARY 2026 YAHRZEITS

## February 1 - 12

**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*  
**Joan Dorothy Bowman** observed by *Lori Lewis*  
**Bess Horowitz** observed by *Beverly Rozen*  
**Fritz Rosenberg\*** observed by *Maxine Rosenberg, Rolph Rosenberg*  
**Emanuel Stahler** observed by *Lynn Dumoff*  
**Ruth Rosenberg\*** observed by *Barbara Guter*  
**Victor Rozen\*** observed by *Beverly Rozen*  
**Esther Jacobson** observed by *Walter Jacobson*  
**Robert I. Weintraub\*** observed by *David Weintraub*  
**Herman Balin** observed by *Florence Balin*

## February 13 - 18

**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*  
**Fay 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*  
**Bess Balin** observed by *Florence Balin*  
**Leonard Kostick** observed by *Richard Kostick*  
**Deborah Zapotocky\*** observed by *Myrna Dubofsky*

## Shevat 14 - 25

## February 19 - 22

**Keith Osber\*** observed by *Arlene Osber*  
**Alan Robinson\*** observed by *Rochelle Goldberg, Harriet Horowitz*  
**Pauline Glicker** observed by *Larry Hurwitz*  
**Anne Felsen** observed by *David Weintraub*  
**Nathan Goldstein\*** observed by *David Goldstein*  
**Rachel Sall** observed by *Ron Sall*  
**Sarah Sall** observed by *Ron Sall*  
**Rebecca Weinberger** observed by *Judy Simon*  
**Gloria Earl** observed by *Janet Stram*  
**Eve Gerblet** observed by *Leon Vainer*  
**David Ribler\*** observed by *Pam Marcus*  
**Jeremy Ullmann\*** observed by *Arieh Ullmann*

## Adar 2 - Adar 5

## February 23 - 28

**Marcia Shuman** observed by *Andrew Shuman*  
**Walter Ullmann** observed by *Arieh Ullmann*  
**Owen Wolff** observed by *Michael Wolff*  
**Donald Bronsky\*** observed by *Shirley Bronsky, Peter Bronsky*  
**Leopold Aryhe Weisner** observed by *Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu*  
**Herman Kline\*** observed by *Herbert Kline*  
**Rhoda Seidel** observed by *Fran Newmark*  
**Dr. Thomas Tanenhaus\*** observed by *David Tanenhaus*  
**Dora Arnsen** observed by *Herbert Kline*  
**Barbara Blazar\*** observed by *Jennifer Schutzer*  
**Ben Hechtman\*** observed by *Ron Sall*  
**Clara Brachin** observed by *Esther Gilinsky*

## Adar 6 - Adar 11

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.

### 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.**