January 2026 Bulletin

4737 Deerfield Place
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TempleIsraelVestal.org

We are grateful to our Bulletin sponsors:

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January Adult Ed for TI/TC at Temple Concord

The Temple Israel/Temple Concord Joint Adult Education Group is presenting a **Brunch program at 10:00 am on Sunday, January 11, at Temple Concord**, featuring **Great Jewish Short Stories read *live, in person!*** by **Charles Berman**, **Andy Horowitz, Ben Kasper, and Deb Williams, with Steve Gilbert** serving as the MC. A voluntary contribution between $5 and $20 is welcome, and reservations are most helpful and appreciated; you may RSVP to Temple Concord 607-723-7355 or to Temple Israel 607-723-7461.

Here are our readers.

CHARLES BERMAN has been involved in local theater for many years, and regularly performs with Southern Tier Actors Read. Most recently he was seen as Tybalt and Friar Laurence in Romeo and Juliet at the Phelps Museum and Sir Harcourt Courtly in London Assurance with the Summer Savoyards. He regularly writes and performs in comedy murder mysteries for the local musical act Peaches and Crime. He has performed short stories on numerous occasions for the Hungry Ear program at the Broome County Library and is pleased to be participating in this event.

ANDY HOROWITZ is a graduate of Binghamton University and holds an M.B.A. from Syracuse University. He is the artistic director of Galumpha Dance Company; he lectures on entrepreneurship and offers choreographic workshops at schools and conservatories on a global stage. Andy is the co-winner of the Edinburgh Festival's Critics Choice Award, the Moers International Comedy Arts prize, and was the 2007 recipient of the Broome County Heart of the Arts award. He is an artist-in-residence of Binghamton University's Department of Theatre.

BEN KASPER taught at SUNY Broome for over 30 years. He was on the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton and a trustee at Temple Israel. He is on the committee that selected films for the annual Jewish film festival. Ben has also served on the board of The Reporter.

DEB WILLIAMS and her husband Gil have been selling used books online for over 25 years. She is an amateur actor and enjoys directing Temple Concord's Purim spiel each year, as well as organizing TC's annual November Artisan Marketplace. She is an active member of Binghamton's Shakespeare Dramatic Club. When she's not planning the next big event, Deb relaxes by knitting, cooking, and spoiling her two cats, Simon, and Cagney.

Looking forward to seeing you on January 11!

Letter from the Rabbi:

Dear Temple Israel members,

Happy secular New Year to you and yours! I hope the first few days of 2026 have found you well and, if you're local, that you're enjoying the beauty of the snow as well the comfort of warm indoors.

As you likely saw in a message I shared during Hanukkah a few weeks ago, Rav Talia and I have come to the difficult decision that I will not be continuing in my current full-time capacity as the rabbi of Temple Israel into a fourth contract-year. The past 2.5 years of serving this remarkable synagogue community have been a time filled with meaning and connection and I am deeply grateful to each of you for your part in sustaining this congregation. Now, I am looking forward to another 6 months filled with deepening in our efforts to strengthen our local community, care for each other, and embrace our relationship with Torah, Mitzvot, and Judaism!

January at Temple Israel will be filled with wonderful opportunities for coming together! In our weekly Torah reading cycle, we will begin *Sefer Shemot* - The Book of Exodus - which recounts the foundational story of our ancestor's redemption from enslavement in *mitzrayim* and our reception of the Torah. As we celebrate Shabbat each week, we have a warm group who gathers together to pray and to engage with the parsha. Beginning on Monday January 12th, I will be offering a new opportunity to engage with the weekly Torah portion and to strengthen your foundation in reading Hebrew for meaning.

Many of us, if we learned Hebrew as children, were taught to pronounce the words, but not how to understand the meaning conveyed by them. This class titled ***Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha*** will be a unique chance to intertwine language learning and meaningful engagement with the stories and commandments of the Torah. We will gather weekly, in-person and by Zoom, on Monday evenings from 6:30 - 7:45 pm and everyone is invited to participate. Whatever your background, you will be able to gain new knowledge in Hebrew language as well as to unpack new layers of the Torah. You can commit to participating on a weekly basis or simply when you are available. Please, think about coming to learn with me!

Learning has long been a central pillar of Jewish life and, in addition to this new ***Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha*** class, there are many other educational events at TI this month. Torah in Our Times resumes this Tuesday 1/6, Hadassah Mativetsky's class in partnership with the Pardes Institute on the *Torah of Being an American Jew* will meet for a third session and can still be joined. We also look forward to the January TI/TC Adult Ed Session on Great Jewish Short Stories hosted by Steve Gilbert on 1/11! Last but not least, on 1/21 our regular Hebrew School program will resume as Binghamton University student teachers return to town.

Finally, we are working to put together a couple special Shabbat meals. We have another Community Shabbat dinner scheduled January 23rd and if you would like to help prepare, please reach out. Shabbat Dinners offer a great chance to connect with others in our community across generations. On the first Shabbat of February, we will celebrate Ice Cream for Breakfast Day with Ice Cream at our Shabbat Kiddush, an original Upstate New York informal holiday.

Here's to a 2026 with ongoing growth and connection for all in our community!

L'shalom,
Rabbi Micah Friedman

Letter from the President

Dear Members and friends of Temple Israel,

A historic decade

As we enter the second quarter of the twenty-first century, I wish each of you a Healthy and Happy New Year 2026. This year also marks the tenth anniversary of the rebuilding of our Temple Israel building after our prior edifice was destroyed by a severe winter storm. We will mark this anniversary with a gala celebration in July. Watch for details, please volunteer to help in one of many ways, and plan to join us for this joyous occasion!

Temple Israel has been blessed throughout our 140-year history with dedicated volunteers who come forward to meet the evolving needs of our congregation. Making the courageous decision to rebuild, undertaking the daunting task of fundraising, and then managing the myriad details from the first shovel to installing the torah scrolls in the ark -- all was accomplished by dedicated volunteers. Maintaining the rhythm of Weekday, Shabbat, and Holiday Services requires participation on the bimah, in the pews, and behind the scenes. New ideas are always welcome, and special programs can always be added when we take the initiative to make them happen.

We are always looking for volunteers! As a New Year's Resolution, I urge you to find one or two new ways that you can support our synagogue to keep it a vibrant center for education for young and old, prayer and consolation, life cycle events, and social connection; for us and for future generations. When the Nominating Committee comes calling, please say "Yes" to an invitation to serve.

As Rabbi Friedman has informed us, he will be ending his tenure as Temple Israel Rabbi at the end of June. We have appreciated his scholarship, compassion, and dedication and wish him and Rav Talia great happiness in the next phase of their life together. We look forward to continuing to study and pray with his leadership while our search committee seeks a successor.

Upcoming educational programs include Rabbi Friedman's continuing weekly exploration of Torah in our Times on Tuesday afternoons, and a new adult learning session designed to enhance our understanding and appreciation of our prayer services, as well as our periodic Adult Education events held jointly with Temple Concord. Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Temple Israel 2026 Lottery Fundraiser. Just $25 buys you hundreds of chances to win, six days a week, all year long, and every ticket sold helps Temple Israel.

Maintaining the health of our pluralistic egalitarian congregation is more crucial than ever, as a bulwark against the rising tide of antisemitism in the world.To operate Temple Israel 365 days every year, we rely on your participation, your Annual Dues, and your generous donations to our standing funds and fund-raisers. We appreciate your donations - large or small - to celebrate a simcha, memorialize a loved one, wish someone a speedy recovery, or just want to give to sustain your synagogue. Let's fulfill our New Year's Resolutions together!

Wishing you a Healthy and Happy New Year 2026,
Art

		JANUARY	2026			
Sunday	**Monday**	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**	**Saturday**
				1 Office closed	2 Birthday of Rita Bleier Anniversary of Irwin & Judy Simon Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 4:26pm	3 Birthday of Ari Green, Dennis Robi Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 5:45pm
4	5 Birthday of Marilyn Bell	6 Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm Exec Board meeting 7pm	7 Hebrew School 4:00pm	8	9 Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 4:33pm	10 Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 5:45pm
11 Birthday of Sandra Weitsman Adult Ed at Temple Concord 10:00am	12 Birthday of Jonah Kaminsky Anniversary of Howard & Bonnie Brown Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30	13 Birthday of Barbara Zelter Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm	14 Birthday of Marcia Hofstein, Sandy Wiener	15 Birthday of Wendy Green, Reagan Whiting	16 Birthday of Robin Greenblott Erev Shabbat svcs & 5:30pm Light candle 4:41pm	17 Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 6:00pm
18	19 Birthday of Elaina Sokol MLK Day Office closed Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30	20 Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm BOT meeting 7:00pm	21 Birthday of Zohar Friedman Ritual Comm mtg 10am Hebrew School 4:00pm	22	23 Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Shabbat Dinner Light candle 4:49pm	24 Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 6:00pm
25	26 Birthday of Maxine Rosenberg, Jonathan Weissberg Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30	27 Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm minyan 5:30pm	28 Birthday of Cathy Friedman Hebrew School 4:00pm	29	30 Rabbi conference Birthday of Merri Pell Preus Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 4:58pm	31 Birthday of Stuart Green Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 6:15pm

Contributions

General Fund

For the Yahrzeit of…

Jeanne Stearns by *Charles & Susan Gilinsky*
Oscar Gruber by *Charles & Susan Gilinsky*
Anna Gilinsky by *Charles & Susan Gilinsky*
Patti Baken Lapidus by *Cookie Greenblott & Family*
Rose Guter by *Marvin & Barbara Guter*
Edith Krasnow by *Arthur & Suzanne Siegel*
Sanford Siegel by *Arthur & Suzanne Siegel*
Anita Foster by *Arthur & Suzanne Siegel*
Andrew Krasnow by *Arthur & Suzanne Siegel*
Ciorna Rubin by *Hyman Rubin*

In memory of…

Richard Weiss by *Robert & Diana Weiss*
Bertine Fields by *Stuart & Vicki Rouff*
Gary Miller by *Elise Beams*
Saul & Ruth Levin by *Eve Levin*

In honor of…

Shelby Valeri's achievements by *Larry & Kathy Hurwitz*
Arieh Ullmann's special birthday by *Len & Naoma Feld*
Arlene Osber's special birthday by *Len & Naoma Feld*

Wishing good health to…

Fred Weitsman by *Howard & Bonnie Brown*
Lee Foreman by *Ben & Susan Kasper*
Philip Goodman by *Howard & Bonnie Brown, Robin & Jeff Greenblott*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

For the Yahrzeit of…

Eva Levey by *Fran Goldman*
Ada Rouff by *Stuart & Vicki Rouff*

In honor of…

Rabbi Micah Friedman by *Jonathan & Tracey Weiss*

Mitzvah Corps

For the Yahrzeit of…

Ada Rouff by *Gerald & Linda Rosenbaum*

Landscaping Fund

For the Yahrzeit of…

Chuck Schweiger by *Arlene Osber*

Cemetery Fund

For the Yahrzeit of…

Morris Goodman by *Philip Goodman*
Hyman Goldman by *Philip Goodman*
Morris Brown by *Marcia Brown*

Hebrew School Fund

For the Yahrzeit of…

Joseph Marcal by *Debra Martinez*

Adult Library Fund

In honor of…

Florence Balin's 100th birthday by *Ann Cohen*

All of our 2025 Lottery fundraiser winners

Sue Austenfeld (3 times)
Dan & Mimi Bartschi
Ina Bellis (2 times)
Bonnie Brown
Jacob Clark
Claire Cummings
Sandy Feld
Denise Gilbert
Sue Krause
Kurt Kunsman
Al Lavker
Lynda Malone
Max Malone
Bill Ondrako
Darcy Paul
Barrie Rosenberg
Eric Rosenberg
Maxine Rosenberg
Lori Schapiro (2 times)
Lee Shapiro
Rose Shapiro
Ruth Shapiro
Vicki Shapiro
Art & Suzanne Siegel
Diana Weiss
Michael Wolff
Wendy Wolff
Robin & Jeff Greenblott

Congregational News

***Get Well wishes to*:**

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

Congratulations to our December Lottery Fundraiser winners:

**Maxi Malone, Bonnie Brown, Darcy Paul,
Diana Weiss, Robin & Jeff Greenblott**

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.

JANUARY 2026 YAHRZEITS

January 1 - 6 **Tevet 12 - 17**

Sylvia Rozen* observed by *Beverly Rozen*
Pearl Shulman* observed by *Gail Shulman*
Michele Slotnick* observed by *Lynn Dumoff*
Rose Manasse observed by *Matt Manasse*
Bert Rosenbaum observed by *Bob & Scott Rosenbaum*
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*

January 7 - 12 **Tevet 18 - 23**

Goldie Hurwitz observed by *Larry Hurwitz*
Maida Piaker observed by *Alan Piaker, Susan Piaker*
Samuel Riger* observed by *Janet Levine*
Jeanne Stearns* observed by *Charles Gilinsky*
Lee Korn observed by *Tony Turnbull*
Maxine Bertin observed by *Dick Lewis*
Martin Bleier* observed by *Larry Bleier*
H. Joseph Goldman* observed by *Fran Goldman*
Charles Rozen* observed by *Beverly Rozen*
Carl Hurwitz observed by *Larry Hurwitz*
Nora Herz* observed by *Carol Herz*
Hannah Ruth Pell observed by *Merri Pell-Preus*
Narola Rosenberg observed by *Maxine Rosenberg, Rolph Rosenberg*

January 13 - 19 **Tevet 24 - Shevat 1**

Bernard Bograd observed by *Marilyn Bell*
Elaine Lewis* observed by *Dick Lewis*
Brian Rapp observed by *Barbara Roberts*
Julius Azersky* observed by *Mike Azersky*
Isaac Benensohn observed by *David Weintraub*
Chuck Schweiger* observed by *Arlene Osber*
Samuel Wexler observed by *Myrna Dubofsky*
Sylvia Azersky observed by *Mike Azersky*
Hyman Thirer observed by *Joel Thirer*
Billie Gilbert* observed by *Steve Gilbert*
David Shapiro* observed by *Sandra Shapiro*
Ann Stahler observed by *Lynn Dumoff*

January 20 - 31 **Shevat 2 - 13**

Gertrude Berman observed by *Brenda Margolis*
Anna Cohen* observed by *Ann Cohen*
Steven Rappaport observed by *Mike Azersky, Denise Friedrich*
Yedda Tanenhaus* observed by *David Tanenhaus*
John Arthur observed by *Amy Shapiro*
Oscar Gruber observed by *Charles Gilinsky*
Sarah Shulman* observed by *Gail Shulman*
Dr. Alvan Gilinsky* observed by *Esther Gilinsky*
Ruth Lavker* observed by *Al Lavker*
Milton Osber* observed by *Arlene Osber*
Anna Gilinsky* observed by *Charles Gilinsky*
Paulette Klin observed by *Celia Klin*
Estelle Silverman* observed by *Vicki Rouff*
Sybil Tobias observed by *Andrea Tobias Kostick*

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.