



**March
2024**

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

Executive Board

President

Arthur Siegel

First Vice President

Michael Azersky

Second Vice President

Debra Martinez

Third Vice President

Randy Friedman

Secretary

Bonnie Brown

Treasurer

Alan Piaker

Past President

Richard Schneierson

Counsel

Mark Hubal

Professional Staff

Rabbi

Micah Friedman

Office Administrator

Tammy Kunsman



We are grateful to our Bulletin Sponsors

**In memory of Howard Engel (obm)
We wish everyone a Happy Purim and good health from
Jim Mason & Carol Engel Mason**

Adult Ed March 10, 2024

The Temple Israel/Temple Concord Joint Adult Education Group is presenting a **Brunch program at 10:00 am on Sunday, March 10, at Temple Concord**, featuring **Great Jewish Short Stories** read ***live, in person!*** by **Liz Rosenberg, Deb Williams, and Steve Gilbert**. For those unable to attend in person, the program will be streamed over Zoom at: <https://bit.ly/4aDvnJp> Meeting ID: 884 9233 9659 Passcode: 564599. A voluntary contribution between \$5 and \$20 is welcome for in-person attendees of the Brunch, 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.

STEVE GILBERT is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology at SUNY-Oneonta, a Past President of Temple Israel, a frequent davener at TI, and an amateur performer known as Ukulele Steve by residents of several Senior Living facilities in our area.



LIZ ROSENBERG is the author of numerous award-winning books for both adults and children—including poetry, novels, non-fiction, and biography. She is a professor of literature and Creative Writing at Binghamton University where she has won the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.



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 March 10!



Rabbi Micah Friedman

Happy March!

This year, March brings us to the festival of Purim, one of the most joyous, celebratory and fun days of the Jewish calendar! Towards the end of March, we will celebrate together and in partnership with Hillel at Binghamton with a joyous Sunday morning Megillah reading and meal! I hope you will all be able to join us on March 24th at 10 AM for this great event.

Traditional ways of celebrating Purim include dressing in masks and costumes, sending gifts of food to our friends, giving gifts to people experiencing poverty, hosting festive meals and eating Hamentashen. Yet, the centerpiece of the celebration of Purim is the communal reading of Megillat Esther - the book of Esther.

In this odd book of the Bible, we do not find any mention of the name of G-d. Yet, we do find a familiar narrative arc through which we can sense the mysterious workings of the Godly. There was an evil effort to kill the Jewish people which was defeated in an apparently miraculous sequence of events. In generation after generation, our people have found inspiration in this story to overcome times of intense hatred and animosity.

As we continue to find ourselves in a time of acute concern for our brothers and sisters in the land of Israel, this story may take on a unique resonance this year. Strikingly, the way that the villainous Haman describes the Jewish people could be understood as a positive description of the unique character of our people in Esther 3,8:

There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all states and countries and their religion is different from any others.

While Haman believed that our people's difference was a cause for our destruction, the Megillah implies (in my eyes) that the ways in which we are different make us stronger. Our dispersal throughout the world has enabled us to survive tyrants and foolish kings since ancient times and to even find reasons to celebrate and rejoice together.

So while we enter March still marred in the darkness and tragedy of ongoing war in our ancient homeland, our holy day of Purim offers us an opportunity to celebrate and rejoice in this dispersed, diasporic community of Temple Israel.

Please, join us this month for our Purim celebration and for our regular Shabbat celebrations and be in touch if you would appreciate my support with the events of your life.

Rabbi Micah R. Friedman

הרב מיכה שמחה פרידמן



Arthur Siegel, President

Dear Members and friends of Temple Israel,

While our concerns for the welfare and hope for release of the hostages still held captive by the Hamas terrorists remain top of mind, the growing humanitarian crisis precipitated by that atrocity is horrific. We hope that the leaders of all sides, with guidance and support of other world leaders, will somehow be able to eke out a peaceful resolution. Though none of us have ready answers or foresee an easy solution, many find solace in our traditional prayer services, and some seek guidance from our Rabbi, who makes his counsel readily available. Our weekly Shabbat services now include a prayer for the hostages authored by Rabbi Friedman, and our collective Mishebayrach for the sick goes out to all affected by this tragedy.

February, usually quiet, was still a busy month at our synagogue, with a full slate of services, a few classes and programs in-person and on zoom, and, unfortunately, several funerals. Our calendar is filling up for March, with joint TI/TC Adult Ed, Jewish Quest for Wisdom, and a Pizza Meet & Greet focused on engaging newer members. We are pleased to see that an ever-increasing number of you are visiting our improved website templeisraelvestal.org. There you can find news of upcoming and recent events, Rabbi Friedman's sermons, a link to our on-line calendar, and, from time-to-time, hidden gems from the archives or other sources. Please bookmark the website so that it becomes your go-to source for the latest information. Of course, we will also maintain our weekly "Upcoming" email as a convenient summary of significant items in the week ahead, our monthly Bulletin to recap, and our text alert system for brief messages in the case of singular or urgent notices.

I would like to particularly express my appreciation to our Caring Community and our Ritual Committee for their ceaseless efforts on behalf of our community. Visiting the ill and shut-in is truly a mitzvah, and during the winter months there are fewer locals available to depend on, so if you are interested in joining this group, please contact Rita Bleier or Judy Simon. The Ritual Committee helps Rabbi Friedman organize service leadership and ensures that all runs smoothly, whether the Rabbi is here or away. Special thanks to Howard Schwartz, Steve Gilbert, Dave Channin, Richard Schneierson, Mark Hubal, and others who take to the bimah whenever needed.

Once again, I thank each of you for your timely fulfillment of your Dues commitments, and for your many other donations, of whatever size. A financial gift can recognize a yahrtzeit, send speedy-recovery wishes, or mark the celebration or anniversary of a simcha. It's a nice way to mark the event and help your synagogue at the same time. Most important, we seek your participation in our services, classes, and affairs. If you'd like to volunteer, you are welcome. If you would like us to offer a specific class or program, let us know. The Pizza Meet & Greet on March 17th would be a perfect opportunity to broach new ideas.

The Rabbis tell us to BE HAPPY in Adar, and in 5784 we have two months of Adar, so TWO chances to BE HAPPY!

Art

Arthur B. Siegel
President - Temple Israel

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Condolences to...

Neil & Sima Auerbach on the passing of Neil's sister Fran Lane

The Schapiro family on the passing of Barbara Schapiro

Mazel Tov to...

Michael & Wendy Wolff on the birth of their granddaughter
Elaina Michal Wolff

Get Well Wishes to...

Jeff Shapiro, Barbara (Bobbi) Markowitz, Moira Shirvan,
Ann Spitz

PIZZA Meet & Greet Fundraiser Sunday March 17th from 5:00pm—7:00pm

Support TI and enjoy a handmade, kosher pizza, soda and beer
in the company of our Temple Israel community!

Details and the order form is on TempleIsraelVestal.org.

Orders must be made by March 12th

Half price for new members (since 2019)

Payment will be collected at the door

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 Rabbi Friedman at rabbimicahfriedman@gmail.com or the office at office@templeisraelvestal.org

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Light candle 5:37pm Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	Happy Birthday <i>Eitan Kaminsky</i> Shabbat services 9:30am-12pm Havdalah services 6:45pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Rabbi out of town</i>		Happy Birthday <i>Robert Weiss</i> Executive Board meeting 7pm Minyan 5:30pm			Happy Birthday <i>Robert Friedman</i> <i>Lori Lewis</i> Light candle 5:45pm & Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	Shabbat services 9:30am-12pm Havdalah services 7:00pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Turn clocks ahead Adult Ed @ TC 10:00 -12:00 Short Story readings		Minyan 5:30pm			Light candle 6:53pm Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	Shabbat services 9:30am -12pm Havdalah services 8:00pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
TI Pizza Meet & Greet Fundraiser 5:00pm-7:00pm JCC Purim Carnival 1:00-3:30pm	Happy Anniversary <i>Louis & Maxine Rosenberg</i>	<i>Rabbi off</i> Happy Birthday <i>Eden Schutzer</i> <i>Emily Wolff</i> Board of Trustees meeting 7pm Minyan 5:30pm	<i>Ritual Committee meeting 10am</i>	Happy Birthday <i>Wendy Wolff</i>	Happy Birthday <i>Stanley Gilinsky</i> Light candle 7:01pm Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	Shabbat services 9:30am-12pm Havdalah services 8:15pm
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<i>Purim</i> Happy Birthday <i>Irwin Simon</i>		<i>Jewish Quest for Wisdom 6:00pm</i> Minyan 5:30pm			Happy Birthday <i>Rabbi Micah Friedman</i> Happy Anniversary <i>Yaron & Alice Kweller</i> Light candle 7:09pm Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	Happy Birthday <i>Shira Green</i> Shabbat services 9:30am-12pm Havdalah services 8:15pm
31						
Happy Anniversary <i>Merri Pell-Preus & Tony Preus</i> <i>Rabbi Friedman vacation</i>						

General Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...

Ruth Rosenberg by Barbara & Marvin Guter

Yetta Gilinsky by Charles & Susan Gilinsky

Patricia Kline by Herbert Kline
Herman Kline by Herbert Kline

Faye Rittberg by Howard Rittberg

Goldie Bograd by Marilyn Bell
Elizabeth Spitz by Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek

Barbara Blazar by Jennifer & Jim Schutzer

Rhoda Seidel by Fran & Joseph Newmark

Sara Schapiro by Barbara A. Schapiro

In honor of...

The birth of Karen Lounsberry's granddaughter Lillian by Mimi & Dan Bartschi

Suzanne Siegel's birthday by Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek

Al Lavker by Brenda Levy & John Simon, Steven Feuer

The birth of Michael & Wendy Wolff's granddaughter Eliana

Michal Wolff by Len & Naoma Feld, Sandy Feld & Karen Piasecki, Dan & Mimi Bartschi

In memory of...

Maida Piaker by Jeffrey & Tina Feinberg, Suzanne Krause & Celia Klin

Steven Rappaport by Jeffrey & Tina Feinberg

Paulette Klin by Randy Friedman & Brenda Schlaen, Larry & Rita Bleier

Neil Auerbach's sister Fran Lane by Alan & Julie Piaker, Marilyn Bell, Robert & Diana Weiss

Josef Marks by Len & Naoma Feld, The family of Francine & Steve Stein, Dan & Mimi Bartschi, Lisa, Tom, Ethan & Claire Cummings, Sarah, Andy, Jacob & Julia Clark

CONTRIBUTIONS

Continued good health to...
Amy Derkowski by Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...
Jeanette Smith by William Jaffe
Estelle Silverman by Stuart & Vicki Rouff
Clara Brachin by Esther Gilinsky
Rose Gilinsky by Esther Gilinsky
Rhoda Seidel by Fran & Joseph Newmark

Get well wishes to...
Moira Shirvan by Judy & Irwin Simon

Landscaping Fund

In memory of...
Maida Piaker by Steve & Sandra Malkin
Steven Rappaport by Steve & Sandra Malkin
Paulette Klin by Steve & Sandra Malkin

Mitzvah Corps

For the Yahrzeit of...
Donald Bronsky by Peter Bronsky, John Frazier
Rhoda Seidel by Fran & Joseph Newmark

Adult Library

For the Yahrzeit of...
Norman Pearlman by Nan Pearlman

In memory of...

Alan Robinson by Harriet Horowitz, Rochelle Goldberg, Heather Robinson

Children's/Family Library

For the Yahrzeit of...
Norman Pearlman by Nan Pearlman

Bernie Shifrin Music Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...
Norman Pearlman by Nan Pearlman

Hebrew School Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...
Edward Bittman by Nancy Bittman

Cemetery Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...
Lillian Goodman by Philip Goodman
Hannah Goldman by Philip Goodman



Adult Library

The Jewish Daily Forward more recently known as *The Forward* was the most renowned American Yiddish newspaper of its time. Founded in 1897 by Abraham Cahan, it was the literary newspaper of note for millions of Jewish immigrants for 120 years. Its daily short stories and novellas, in addition to its advice column, a Bintel Brief, were a reflection of the assimilation plights encountered by the early 20th century immigrants.

Have I Got A Story For You edited by Ezra Glinter is a compilation of 42 of those short stories and novellas translated into English. Abraham Cahan, Morris Rosenfeld, B. Kovner, Sholem Asch, Isaac and Israel Singer, and Chiam Grade are just a few of the well-known fiction authors whose works appear here. Brief biographies of each author with commentaries on their themes precede each of their stories. Original publication dates of each piece are noted, and in many cases, help set the proper tone. All told, *Have I Got A Story For You* is an emotional psychological view of a century of the American Jewish experience seldom recorded elsewhere. Look for it along with our other books on the immigrant experiences.

As a footnote, after 1983, *The Forward*, still in Yiddish, was published on a weekly basis. Today, with a changed format and in English, it is available online only.

Ann Cohen

Congratulations to our February lottery fundraiser winners:

Darcy Paul, Bonnie Brown, Diana Weiss, Donald Sukloff

Temple Israel Funds:

Adult Library (\$10 minimum, \$36 for a bookplate)	Bernie Shifrin Music Fund (\$10 minimum)
Bulletin Sponsor (\$36 minimum)	Cemetery Fund (\$10 minimum)
Children's Library (\$10 minimum, \$36 for a bookplate)	Clergy Sustaining Fund (\$10 minimum)
General Fund (\$10 minimum)	Hebrew School Fund (\$10 minimum)
Kiddush Fund (\$10 minimum)	Landscaping Fund (\$10 minimum)
Mitzvah Corps (\$10 minimum)	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (\$10 minimum)
Rabbi Hurwitz Scholarship (\$10 minimum)	VINES Garden (\$10 minimum)

March 2024 Yahrzeits

March 1

George Gilinsky* observed by *Esther Gilinsky*
Melvin Manasse observed by *Matthew Manasse*

March 3

Anna Goldman observed by *Fran Goldman*
Ileen Sandra Wachtel observed by *Rabbi*
Geoffrey Brown

March 4

Patricia Kline observed by *Herbert Kline*

March 5

Faye Gerstein observed by *Susan Kasper, Alan*
Piaker

March 6

Clara Krassin observed by *Terry Shelley-*
Krassin

March 7

Margaret Rappaport* observed by *Lois*
Rappaport
Harold Schwartz observed by *Lynne Green*

March 8

Yetta Gilinsky* observed by *Charles Gilinsky,*
Stanley Gilinsky

March 11

Leonard Kostick observed by *Richard Kostick*

March 12

Keith Osber* observed by *Arlene Osber*

March 14

Anne Felsen observed by *David Weintraub*

March 15

Eve Gerblet observed by *Leon Vainer*

March 16

Martin Davis observed by *Larry Davis*
Marcia Shuman observed by *Andrew Shuman*
Walter Ullmann observed by *Arieh Ullmann*
Owen Wolff observed by *Michael Wolff*

March 18

Herman Kline* observed by *Herbert Kline*

March 20

Ben Hechtman* observed by *Ron Sall*

March 22

Natalie Levine observed by *Renee Williams*

March 23

Anna Berger observed by *Roy Paston*
Oscar Epstein* observed by *Maxine Rosenberg*

March 27

Shirlee Galanty observed by *Madeline Miller*
Sarah Warner* observed by *Howard Warner*

March 30

Robert Greenblott observed by *Cookie*
Greenblott, Jeff Greenblott

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

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.