

# May 2026 Bulletin



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

## We are grateful to our Bulletin sponsors:

In memory of Larry Rouff by *Linda Rouff Rosenbaum & Gerald Rosenbaum*

For the Yahrzeits of Doris Engel & Moira Shirvan by *Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason*

Happy Birthday to Matthew Mason & Jacob Mason by *Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason*

For the Yahrzeit of Anne Brown by *Howard & Bonnie Brown*

For the Yahrzeit of Leonard F. Cohen by *Ann Cohen*

For the Yahrzeit of Louis Rosenberg by *Maxine Rosenberg & Family*

For the Yahrzeit of Ethel Pinsker by *Ilene Pinsker & Abbi Foreman*

For the Yahrzeit of Florence Drazen by *Shelley Drazen*

For the Yahrzeit of Rhoda Seidel by *Joseph & Fran Newmark*

### Executive Board

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Micah Friedman

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## **SHIFTING PARADIGMS in JUDAISM PAST & PRESENT**

**Rabbi Leah Moser &  
Rabbi Micah Friedman**

**Brunch & Presentation @  
Temple Concord  
Sunday, June 7. 10am - noon**

**RSVP @ 607-723-7355 by June 3 preferred  
Donation \$5-20**



## Letter from the Rabbi:

Shalom Dear Temple Israel Community Members,

I hope that this bulletin message comes your way as you enjoy the beautiful sunshine of this Spring season in our region! This year, we begin the month of May in the midst of the season of *sefirat haOmer* - the counting of the year - which carries us from Passover - the season of our freedom - into Shavuot - the season of the giving of our Torah. We are officially over the hump of the Omer, with May 1st being the 29th day of the 49 days between Passover on Shavuot. During this time of year when the transformation of the natural environment around us is so striking, counting the Omer offers us an opportunity to pay attention to the more subtle shifts that happen within each of our hearts, gradually, as we journey through life's many challenges and blessings.

When we come to Shavuot this year on May 21st, we will gather in joyous celebration, learning, and song! For the 2nd year in a row, we are partnering with Temple Concord to host a *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* - a mystical practice of studying Torah late into the evening on Erev Shavuot in preparation for receiving the Torah anew. We will come together at Temple Israel for an evening interspersed with sweet treats, prayer, song, and study sessions exploring the theme of *V'zot haBerakha* - The Many Facets of Blessings. Please join us! We will also gather on Friday May 22nd to read the revelation of the Torah and 10 Commandments and on Shabbat May 23rd, the 2nd day of Shavuot, we will recite Yizkor in memory of our loved ones departed from this world.

Before Shavuot, we will come together on Friday May 15th for a Shabbat Dinner Cookout! The Community Shabbat dinners we've been hosting for the past couple years have been uniquely sweet moments that bring together different corners of our community to break bread together, get to know each other, and share in the celebration of Shabbat. I hope you will be able to join us in two weeks and, if you're able, volunteer to help set-up, clean-up, or sponsor the costs of the meal.

We continue to find ourselves in a stage of uncertainty about who will take reigns of Temple Israel leadership, with the the Rabbinic Search Committee continuing to work diligently to find an arrangement that will meet the needs of the shul come July and Nominating Committee actively looking for volunteers with a passion for shaping a vibrant Binghamton Jewish community to become an officer or trustee. To use a seasonal metaphor, maybe you will be the heavy hitter who steps up to the plate and helps Temple Israel to continue on our current path of growth!

While uncertainty abides - and challenges are inevitable, I am certain that the future of Temple Israel is bright and strong! We will celebrate our past and our future together in late July as we mark 10 years since the rebuilding of the shul! Now is your chance to join in our collective effort to forge a stronger future by participating in our communal life!

Warmly,  
Rabbi Micah



## Letter from the President

Dear Members and friends of Temple Israel,

First, a personal note: A heartfelt thank you to all who have expressed support and offered healing prayers on my behalf as I recuperate from spinal surgery. Recovery will be a long process, I am told, and it is made easier by the support and empathy of our close community. Being on the receiving end has made me all the more conscious of the many ways that the members of our community reach out to support each other. Thank you.

Our search for a successor to Rabbi Friedman continues to be our highest priority. Unfortunately, Rabbi Alex Hamilton declined our offer. There is a silver lining: Rabbi Hamilton has accepted a position at Binghamton University, so he will be relocating to our area and will be a member of our community. We are continuing our recruiting for a full-time hire and at this writing we have a couple of new candidates in the interview pipeline. In parallel, we are investigating promising part-time solutions to cover our essential needs in the interim. We will keep you informed of our progress as we take the steps necessary to sustain ritual leadership of our synagogue.

May 1st is celebrated in many countries and cultures. This year, it coincides with the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, when we Jews celebrate Pesach Sheni, or Second Passover, which is a "second chance" for those who were unable to properly celebrate Passover last month to eat Matzah and fulfill the ritual requirements. Perhaps it's a good time for each of us to take stock and think about our role in sustaining our synagogue. Maybe it is your turn to take a seat on the Board or serve as an Officer. We are currently in nominating season, seeking the next cadre of synagogue leaders. If you'd like to take this "second chance" to fulfill the mitzvah in this way, please contact a member of the Executive Committee to be considered for a leadership role. It might be more fun and satisfying than you expect, and you'll have some ownership in determining the future course of the institution we hold dear.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support and participation, your Annual Dues, and your generous donations. Please consider how you can help make each and every one of our programs successful.

There is a role for everyone!

Wishing you all a healthy and happy transition to Spring!

Art

		MAY		2026			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1	2	
					Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 7:45pm	Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 9:00pm	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	Office hours 2:30pm-4:00pm Mahjong 2:00pm  Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30	Office closed Lag B'Omer  Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm  minyan 5:30pm	Hebrew School 4:00pm  Exec Board meeting 7:00pm		Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 7:53pm	Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 9:15pm	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
MOTHER'S DAY	Mahjong 2:00pm  Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30	Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm  minyan 5:30pm	Class with Hadassah 11:00am  Last Day of Hebrew School 4:00pm		Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm followed by a family cookout Light candle 7:30pm	Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 9:15pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	Mahjong 2:00pm  Hebrew with the Weekly Parsha 6:30	Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm  minyan 5:30pm  BOT meeting 7:00pm	Ritual Comm mtg 10:00am	TI/TC @ TI Erev Shavuot learning event 7:30pm	Office closed Shavuot Day 1 Services @ 9:30am Light candle before 8:07pm	Shavuot Day 2 Services @ 9:30am with Yizkor Havdalah 9:45pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Memorial Day Office closed	Torah & Our Times class 4:30pm  minyan 5:30pm			Erev Shabbat svcs 5:30pm Light candle 8:13pm	Shabbat services 9:30am Havdalah 9:30pm	
31							

## Contributions

### General Fund

#### For the Yahrzeit of...

**Edward Davis** by *Lawrence Davis*  
**Jeff Shapiro** by *Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason, Maxine Rosenberg*  
**George Siegel** by *Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason*  
**Jeremy Ullmann** by *Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason*  
**Sarah Bronsky** by *Shirley, Shari & Mark Bronsky*  
**Marion Singer** by *Marjorie Singer*  
**Sidney Singer** by *Marjorie Singer*  
**Matthew Joseph Singer** by *Marjorie Singer*  
**Ana Rubin** by *Hyman Rubin*  
**Florence Drazen** by *Shelley Drazen*  
**Steven Stein** by *Francine Stein*  
**David Guter** by *Marvin & Barbara Guter*

#### In memory of...

**Larry Rouff** by *Walter & Joan Rozen Jacobson, Shelley Drazen*  
**Carrie Rosefsky Wickham** by *Shirley & Mark Bronsky*  
**Charlotte Schneierson** by *Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek*  
**Jack Goldstein** by *Dave, Ophelia, Mark, Cindy & Rachel Goldstein*  
**Marilyn Lederman** by *Howard & Bonnie Brown*  
**Edwin Bronsky** by *Don & Barbara Zelter*  
**Jack Broda** by *Dr. Mark Bronsky, Dr. Jennifer Sexton Cooper*

#### In honor of...

**Our grandson Dorien Samuel Mason becoming a Bar Mitzvah** by *Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason*  
**The marriage of Marcy Cohen's grandson Andrew Shatz to Jesse Saltzman** by *Shirley & Mark Bronsky*  
**Rabbi Friedman's birthday** by *Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek*

#### Wishing good health to...

**Arthur Siegel** by *Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason, Bill Weber, Richard Schneierson, Bonnie & Howard Brown, Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek, Don & Barbara Zelter, Marcia Hofstein, Larry & Kathy Hurwitz, Ben & Susan Kasper, Robin & Jeff Greenblott, Fred & Sandra Weitsman, Ruth Shapiro*  
**Howard Warner** by *Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason, Richard Schneierson, Don & Barbara Zelter*

**Maxine Rosenberg** by *Jim Mason & Carol Engel-Mason*  
**Hollie Levine** by *Richard Schneierson*  
**Roy Paston** by *Larry & Kathy Hurwitz*

#### In appreciation of...

**Alan & Julie Piaker** by *Hollie Levine*  
**Arthur & Suzanne Siegel** by *Bill Weber*

### Bernie Shifrin Fund

#### For the Yahrzeit of...

**Florence Drazen** by *Shelley Drazen*

#### In memory of...

**Larry Rouff** by *Shelley Drazen*

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

#### For the Yahrzeit of...

**Marsha Grass** by *Julie & Rory Jurman*  
**Esther Marcovski Channin** by *David Channin*

#### Wishing good health to...

**Roy Paston** by *Judy & Irwin Simon*  
**Arthur Siegel** by *Judy & Irwin Simon*

### Landscaping

#### Wishing good health to...

**Roy Paston** by *Beverly Rozen, Maxine Rosenberg*  
**Arthur Siegel** by *Beverly Rozen, Arlene Osber, Marcy Cohen, Maxine Rosenberg*

#### In memory of...

**Larry Rouff** by *Beverly Rozen*  
**Carrie Rosefsky Wickham** by *Maxine Rosenberg*

#### In honor of...

**The marriage of Marcy Cohen's grandson Andrew Shatz to Jesse Saltzman** by *Maxine Rosenberg, Beverly Rozen*  
**The upcoming marriage of Don & Barbara Zelter's grandson Jack Bonime to Rebecca Rychuk** by *Maxine Rosenberg, Beverly Rozen*

### Kiddush Fund

#### In appreciation of...

**Suzanne Siegel** by *Marcia Hofstein*

Mitzvah Corps

For the Yahrzeit of...  
Sylvia Mirvis by *Robin & Jeff Greenblott*  
Samuel Kasper by *Ben & Susan Kasper*  
Alan Robinson by *Harriet Horowitz, Rochelle Goldberg, Heather Mann*

Cemetery Fund

For the Yahrzeit of...  
Alice Richman by *Karen Maddalone*  
Florence Wulwick by *Nancy Basmann*  
Hebrew School Fund  
For the Yahrzeit of...  
Henrietta Kletsky by *Debra Martinez*

**SAVE THE DATE : SATURDAY JUNE 20  
A SERVICE & KIDDUSH TO HONOR RABBI'S  
MICAH FRIEDMAN & TALIA LASTER**

Congregational News

*Mazel Tov to:*

Don & Barbara Zelter on the upcoming marriage of their grandson Jack Bonime to Rebecca Rychuk

*Wishing Good Health to:*

Francine Stein, Arthur Siegel, Roy Paston, Myrna Dubofsky, Howard Warner, Lee Foreman, Susan Gilinsky, Robert Weiss, Ann Spitz

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

**Brett Demetros, Theresa Delorenzo, Bill Weber,  
Craig Sparer, Dana Jones**

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.

Join Temple Israel on  
Sunday, July 26, 2026  
at 12:00 noon  
for our 10th Anniversary Celebration

"You can replace a building,  
you can't replace people."  
- Steve Gilbert long time board member

Temple Israel rebuilt not just a structure,  
but a renewed sense of unity and purpose.

WE CORDIALLY INVITE THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY  
TO CELEBRATE WITH US AS WE REFLECT ON OUR  
PAST AND CELEBRATE THE FUTURE IN  
OUR NEW SYNAGOGUE.

**Please mark your calendars for our special event  
and remember to-**

**\*RSVP by July 10, 2026  
\*to Tammy (607) 723-7461  
\*office@templeisraelvestal.org**

## Temple Israel 10th Anniversary Celebration – Congregation Participation Requested

On Sunday, July 26, 2026, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of our rebuilt synagogue—an important and meaningful milestone for our congregation.

We are inviting the broader community to join us at Temple Israel for this special occasion. The program will include a Dedication Program followed by a complimentary BBQ lunch. The celebration will also feature unique raffle baskets and a 50/50 drawing. There is no charge to attend; however, reservations will be required and must be received by July 10.

As part of making this event both festive and financially manageable, we are asking our congregation members to play a direct role. Specifically, we ask if you would consider providing a gift basket to be included in our raffle.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the event, and attendees will have the opportunity to place their tickets into the baskets they are most interested in. Winners will be drawn at random during the celebration.

To help ensure the success of the raffle, we ask that each basket (tray or pail, etc) have a minimum value of \$50 worth of product. The more desirable your basket, the more raffle tickets we'll sell. Ideas include:

- A basket of scratch-off lottery tickets
- A \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant or store
- A sports-themed basket
- A coffee or tea basket with mugs and treats
- A children's activity themed basket
- A beach themed basket
- A baby themed basket
- A baking themed basket
- A car detailing themed basket

Or any creative theme you would like to assemble

Stores such as HomeGoods, TJ Maxx, Harbor Freight can be a great resource for putting together attractive baskets at a reasonable cost.

All baskets must be delivered to Tammy no later than July 1.

Details for the broader anniversary celebration are still being finalized, and we encourage you to share ideas, stay tuned for updates, and consider volunteering where possible.

If you have any questions please contact Kathy Hurwitz @ 607-237-6257.

Thank you in advance for your participation and support. We look forward to celebrating this special milestone together.

Warm regards,

10th Anniversary Activities Committee

## Adult Library

Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan (1881 – 1983) was one of the most influential personas of 20<sup>th</sup> century American Judaism. His story is told in *Mordecai Kaplan: Restless Soul* by Jenna Weissman Joselit. Emigrating from Europe at the age of 9, he was raised in the ultra-orthodox world of New York's lower east side. Even before becoming ordained, he realized the need to break away from the European orthodoxy. Early in the 1920's, he was instrumental in forming what would become the first Jewish Community Center. He envisioned it as a place for education, recreation, socialization and worship. During the same period, when his daughter was of age, she became the first Bat Mitzvah. The then unpopular ritual was revived 40 years later in the 1960's when it became mainstream.

Rabbi Kaplan is best known as the father of Reconstructionist Judaism. In addition to his long teaching tenure at the Jewish Theological Seminary, all of his accomplishments are far too numerous to mention. He wrote a more modern version of the haggadah, wrote a siddur to accompany his revised and shortened Saturday morning service (the format of which we follow today). Most importantly, he wrote what came to be regarded as the definitive account of modern American Jewish life and thought, *Judaism as a Civilization: Toward a Reconstruction of American Jewish Life*. His work redefined Jewish identity, emphasized reason, intellectual discovery, and a religion that evolved with the times. As part of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, he was presented with a scroll signed by numerous rabbis that summed up his life --- "rabbi, teacher and leader of generations, founder of Reconstructionism, shaper of 20<sup>th</sup> century Judaism, prophet of our own age".

Ann Cohen

### Birthdays for May

May 3 - Sivan Bock  
May 4 - Jay Green, Alex Kaminsky  
May 5 - Marilyn Kent-Cohen  
May 7 - Jonathan Weiss  
May 8 - Judy Simon  
May 9 - Emma Goldberg, Hannah Goldberg  
May 10 - Rabbi Geoffrey Brown  
May 12 - Bill Weber  
May 13 - Charlie Pladek  
May 14 - Len Feld, Jerry Heller, Karen Prowda  
May 19 - Dorie Osisek, Roy Paston  
May 21 - Diana Weiss  
May 22 - Edyce Wyman  
May 26 - Lisa Tessman  
May 30 - Meg Leja, Arthur Siegel  
May 31 - Kathy Hurwitz, David Tanenhaus

### Anniversaries for May

May 4 - Jeff & Robin Greenblott  
May 16 - Loren & Marlene Wolsh  
May 17 - Howard & Betty Warner  
May 18 - Michael & Wendy Wolff  
May 20 - Ron & Linda Sambursky  
May 25 - Rabbi's Micah Friedman & Talia Laster and Jason & Kim Weinstein  
May 27 - Damian & Dorie Osisek  
May 28 - Jeffrey & Hadassah Mativetsky and Samuel & Alexandra Segal

# MAY 2026 YAHRZEITS

**May 1 - 7**

**Iyar 14 - 20**

**Henrietta Kletsky** observed by *Debra Martinez*  
**Sylvia Kostick** observed by *Richard Kostick*  
**Beatrice Roberts** observed by *Barbara Roberts*  
**Michael Robert Weissberg** observed by *Jonathan Weissberg*  
**Ida Epstein** observed by *Marvin Easton, Ivy Oretskin*  
**Rona Loiederman** observed by *Barbara Roberts*  
**Maurice Sall** observed by *Ron Sall*  
**Milton Bronsky\*** observed by *Judy Agata, Gary Kaganowich*  
**Dr. Stewart Bauman** observed by *Dave Tanenhaus*  
**David Guter\*** observed by *Marvin Guter*  
**Frances Hofstein** observed by *Marcia Hofstein*  
**Ethel Pinsker** observed by *Ilene Pinsker, Abbi Foreman*  
**Steven Stein** observed by *Francine Stein*  
**Beatrice Beilin** observed by *Marcy Cohen*  
**Leslie Gray** observed by *Sandra Paston*  
**Sidney Singer** observed by *Marjorie Singer*

**May 8 - 15**

**Iyar 21 - 28**

**Sophie Kessman** observed by *Marilyn Livsky*  
**Harry Weintraub\*** observed by *David Weintraub*  
**Shyndell Hana Weisner** observed by *Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu*  
**Samuel Cohen\*** observed by *Marcy Cohen*  
**Samuel Levine** observed by *Sue Austenfeld*  
**Jose Martinez** observed by *Debra Martinez*  
**Sophie Greenhouse** observed by *Ann Cohen*  
**Rae Klott** observed by *Lynne Green*  
**Elsie Menewitch** observed by *Edyce Wyman*  
**Paula Rappaport\*** observed by *David Weintraub*  
**Dora Sambursky** observed by *Joyce Sambursky*  
**Emma Djivre** observed by *Diana Weiss*  
**Doris Engel\*** observed by *Carol Engel-Mason*  
**Morton Kaganowich\*** observed by *Judy Agata, Gary Kaganowich*

**May 16 - 22**

**Iyar 29 -Sivan 6**

**Irving Kaplan** observed by *Phyllis Heller*  
**Ludwig Maas** observed by *Jane Maas*  
**Gerald Paston** observed by *Roy Paston*  
**Fanny Segal** observed by *Ilana Segal*  
**Arthur E. Kapel\*** observed by *Heidi Thirer*  
**Matthew Singer** observed by *Marjorie Singer*  
**Beatrice Rothe** observed by *Andrea Rothe*  
**Edna Glassman** observed by *David Glassman*  
**Howard Green** observed by *Lynne, Jay, Brett & Stuart Green*  
**Edward Davis** observed by *Lawrence Davis*  
**Louis Edelman\*** observed by *Sandra Shapiro*  
**Herbert Herz\*** observed by *Carol Herz*  
**Samuel S. Siegel** observed by *Arthur Siegel*  
**Jacob Weber\*** observed by *Bill Weber*  
**Norman Feldman\*** observed by *Shelley Drazen*

**May 23 - 31**

**Sivan 7 - 15**

**Nathan Brown** observed by *Marcia Brown*  
**Nathan Melamed\*** observed by *Shelley Drazen*  
**Jordon Gilinsky** observed by *Esther Gilinsky*  
**Simon Riger\*** observed by *Janet Levine*  
**Kurt Schoemann** observed by *Jane Maas*  
**Sylvia Bleier** observed by *Larry Bleier*  
**Thelma Robi** observed by *Dennis Robi*  
**Martin Gilbert\*** observed by *Steve Gilbert*  
**Molly Feldman\*** observed by *Shelley Drazen*  
**Eva Horowitz\*** observed by *Harriet Horowitz*  
**Betty Brown** observed by *Marcia Brown*  
**David Hofstein** observed by *Marcia Hofstein*  
**Morris Lowy** observed by *Ann Spitz*  
**Zippora Lowy** observed by *Ann Spitz*  
**Byron Bowman** observed by *Lori Lewis*  
**Esta L. Shuman** observed by *Nancy Bittman*  
**David Martinez** observed by *Debra Martinez*

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.