

**November  
2023**



4737 Deerfield Place  
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TempleIsraelVestal.Org  
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In appreciation of the acts of loving kindness of the Caring Community  
by Steven Gilbert

**Sisterhood is back!**

**Rabbi Micah Friedman kicked off the first meeting of 2023 for a revived Temple Israel Sisterhood on October 24th with a discussion about the important and evolving roles that Sisterhood has played in synagogue life throughout history.**





**Rabbi Micah Friedman**

Dear Temple Israel Community,

I am writing to you in the waning moon of the month we Jews call Marcheshvan. The first syllable of this month's name "Mar" means "bitter." Classically, we consider this month bitter for its lack of holidays or special celebrations. Yet, over these past few weeks of Marcheshvan we have known a deeper layer of bitterness. In the wake of 10/7, our hearts continue to break. I have heard from so many of you about your pain, grief and empathy for the experiences of our siblings and cousins in the land of Israel.

As the State of Israel continues on with "Operation Iron Swords" in an attempt to redeem hostages being held by Hamas, to uproot Hamas's capabilities, and to secure safety for Israelis, I know that I am not alone in feeling deeply affected, even tormented. We do not know for how long the State of Israel will deem it necessary to continue with this costly operation around which much of the Israeli political leadership has united, but we do know that no matter what, as part of Am Yisrael, we will continue to feel deep concern for our brothers and sisters in Israel.

Israel was viciously attacked on the 22nd of the festive month of Tishrei in which we, like Jewish communities all around the world, celebrate another turning of our yearly cycle. On Simchat Torah, even as our hearts filled with grief and our eyes with tears, we held fast to the Torah which is our tree of life and began to read again our people's sacred story. I truly believe, from the depths of my heart, that in a terrible time such as what we have experienced in these recent weeks, we are called to recommit ourselves to holding fast to our Torah - the most precious inheritance of the Jewish people which has provided us with the determination and hope to overcome much worse moments in our people's past that still ring in our collective memory.

This past week we read the Torah portion of Lekh L'kha. Of course, in this parsha Abraham our Father first receives a blessing from G-d to journey to the land we call Israel. This is the depth of our roots in the land of Israel. Yet, we should remember that in the same breathe G-d says to Abram "You will be a blessing and through you will all the families of the earth be blessed." As concerning incidents of anti-Jewish rhetoric abound in our news feeds, this prophetic vision revealed to Abraham may seem distant and out of reach. However, this is our mission in the world which we must keep in the forefront of our minds. How can we, through our connection to our peoplehood and our sacred tradition, be a blessing to all the families of the earth?

Over the past month, our congregation and the larger Jewish community have gathered to stand with Israel and pray for peace. We have joined together to honor the lives lost, to comfort each other, and to look for inspiration in our tradition which lives and breathes in us. I pray that we will continue to find opportunities to come together, especially face-to-face, and to support each other through this time. Together, we will persevere.

To conclude, I am moved to quote another verse from Lekh L'kha which reports a Divine promise to Avraham Avinu (15:1):

אל תירא אברם אנכי מגן לך

Do not fear Avram, I am your shield.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Micah Friedman



**Arthur Siegel, President**

Dear friends,

We watch with horror the unfolding nightmare in the Middle East. Our beloved homeland of Israel was heinously attacked by Hamas terrorists who targeted and massacred innocent civilians - residents and visitors alike. The incessant rocket attacks from Gaza and elsewhere continue to indiscriminately threaten the populace of the Jewish state. Israel's essential actions of defense, and the initiative to root out and destroy the perpetrators of the terror, continue the terrible cascade of consequences for the civilian population in Gaza. We worry that the conflict will expand on other fronts, and embroil the region in turmoil.

Our concern is at once global, and local, and personal. We closely follow the news and geopolitical analysis, hoping that the might, courage, and ingenuity of the Zahal will prevail, and that the presence of the American fleet and allied influence will promote caution among nations hostile to Israel and our interests. But the focal point is Israel, to which all of us have links to varying degrees. As the horror unfolds, we check in with relatives and friends there, who at best report that they are OK ...but not really OK. Some survive narrow escapes, others know some killed or kidnapped, others are rattled by explosions or sirens. We may remember our last visit to the Holy Land, or perhaps our first, as familiar landmarks become news fodder, or targets. This fight is our fight, and it is a fight for survival.

Even more locally, we must oppose a more insidious foe. Antisemitism has reared its ugly head, on-line and in the streets, to an extent not seen in recent memory. The legitimate right to protest on behalf of refugees or innocent victims of warfare is being cynically hijacked by those who oppose Israel's right to exist, or worse, wish to eradicate the Jews entirely. We must speak out against antisemitism wherever we find it - individually and communally - in every forum to which we have access.

Throughout it all, Temple Israel is here to support all of us as a community. Rabbi Friedman regularly offers words of consolation and inspiration as we each deal with today's reality in our own way. We hope that you will join us for weekday or Shabbat services, or at other synagogue activities to engage with him. Educating our children in the history of the Jews and our beliefs is a major bulwark protecting the continuity of our people and homeland, so participation in our Hebrew School is essential. Our next major educational event for adults is the Global Day of Jewish Learning, sponsored by the Jewish Federation, at the JCC on November 5th, so please register for that. In times of adversity, Jews have always gathered strength from our faith and our institutions. With your financial and personal support, Temple Israel will continue to be here for us.

In closing, be assured that we are taking appropriate precautions regarding security. To date, there have been no specific credible threats to Temple Israel, however we have maintained contact with State, County, and local law enforcement, and you may notice more frequent road patrols stopping by the synagogue. Hope to see you here soon.

Am Yisrael Chai b'Shalom - May the people of Israel live ... in Peace !

Art

Arthur B. Siegel  
President - Temple Israel

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

## Get Well Wishes to...

Jeff Shapiro, Rabbi Moshe Shmaryahu, Barbara (Bobbi) Markowitz,  
Moira Shirvan, David Tanenhaus, Marcia Brown

## Mazel Tov to...

Michael & Wendy Wolff on the marriage of their daughter  
Emily to Matt Bachman

## Condolences to...

Brenda Schlaen and her family on the passing of her father  
Dr. Horatio Schlaen

The family of Barbara Balotin on her passing



## ADULT LIBRARY

Do you remember the humorous but true travel slogan, "come to Israel and see the pyramids"? It was very short-lived in 1967 when Israel enlarged its borders to include the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Sinai Peninsula after winning the Six Day War. Within months the slogan was gone and Israel gave back the land that they had conquered and reverted to the present borders. Needless to say, they have been fighting for their survival ever since.

If you would like to refresh or expand your knowledge of Israel, visit our library. We have books on Israeli history, former leaders, inventors and inventions, cooking, art and more. There is no time like the present to celebrate and stand with Israel.

Ann Cohen

## Congratulations to our October lottery fundraiser winners:

*Phyllis Frank, Carole Reeder, Art & Suzanne Siegel, Melissa Wolff*

## 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 [titammy@stny.twcbc.com](mailto:titammy@stny.twcbc.com)

# November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Office hours 2pm-4pm	3  Light candle 5:38pm Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	4  Shabbat services 9:30am-12pm Havdalah services 6:45pm
5 Turn clocks back 1 hour  Happy Birthday Brian Schutzer	6	7  Executive Board meeting 7pm  Minyan 5:30pm	8  Happy Birthday Rae Hubal	9	10  Happy Birthday Hollie Levine  Light candle 7:57pm & Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	11  Shabbat services 9:30am-12pm Havdalah services 5:45pm
12	13	14  Happy Anniversary Dick & Lori Lewis  Minyan 5:30pm	15  Happy Birthday Hadassah Mativetsky  Ritual Committee meeting 10am	16	17  Happy Birthday Steve Malkin Happy Anniversary Laurence & Edyce Wyman  Light candle 4:23pm Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	18  Happy Anniversary Dan & Malvinia Sambursky  Shabbat services 9:30am -12pm Havdalah services 5:30pm
19	20	21  Board of Trustees meeting 7pm  Minyan 5:30pm	22  Office closed  Happy Birthday Bobbi Markowitz Renee Williams Jasmin Rosales	23  Thanksgiving  Office closed  Happy Anniversary Jay & Michelle Green	24  Office closed  Light candle 4:18pm Erev Shabbat Services 5:30pm	25  Shabbat services 9:30am-12pm Havdalah services 5:30pm
26	27  Happy Birthday Walter Jacobson Yaron Kweller	28  Minyan 5:30pm	29	30		

## General Fund

### *In honor of...*

**George Siegel's 97th birthday** by Fred & Sandra Weitsman, Lynne Green, Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek, Len & Naoma Feld, Ann Cohen, Donna Foster

**Arthur Siegel** by Mark & Susan Walker

**Marcy & Gavi Yonaty's granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah** by Larry & Kathy Hurwitz

**The engagement of Tammy & Kurt Kunsman's daughter Shelby to Nico Valeri** by Larry & Kathy Hurwitz

**The marriage of Emily Wolff to Matt Bachman** by Michael & Wendy Wolff, Lynne Green

**Rabbi Geoffrey Brown, Art Siegel, Steve Malkin, Roy Paston and Tammy Kunsman for making Emily & Matt's wedding magical** by Michael & Wendy Wolff

### *Welcome...*

**Rabbi Micah Friedman & Talia Laster to our community** by Robin & Jeff Greenblott

### *In memory of...*

**George Gitlitz** by Lee & James Broder

**Brian Zable** by Don & Barbara Zelter

**Stephen Bittman** by Denise & Al Friedrich

**Dr. Horatio Schlaen** by Len & Naoma Feld, Bonnie & Howard Brown, Sue Krause & Celia Klin, Lori, Bobby, Jared & Lindsey Schapiro, Alan & Julie Piaker, Michael & Saba Wiesner

**Barbara Balotin** by Sue Krause & Celia Klin, Jim & Beverly Novak

### *For the Yahrzeit of...*

**Jose Sambursky** by Joyce Sambursky

**Solomon Spitz** by Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Henry Weinstock** by Ann Spitz & Charlie Pladek

**Albert J. Kline** by Herbert Kline  
**Nathan Gilinsky** by Stanley Gilinsky

**Brendan Byrnes** by Hollie Levine

**Adele Wiener** by Sandy Wiener  
**Martin Paston** by Roy & Sandra Paston

### *Get Well wishes to...*

**Marilyn Bell** by Don & Barbara Zelter, Marcia Hofstein

### *Refuah Shlema wishes to...*

**Marcia Brown** by Judy Spring

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

### *For the Yahrzeit of...*

**Charlotte Nelson** by Keith & Donna Nelson

**Sam Morgan** by Ruth & Jeff Shapiro

**Sandra Feinberg** by Jeff & Tina Feinberg

**Harry Greenblott** by Robin, Jeff & Cookie Greenblott

**Elihu Channin, MD** by David & Rivka Channin

**Avraham Derhy** by David & Rivka Channin

**Mildred Levine** by Harvey & Janet Levine

### *Get Well wishes to...*

**Marilyn Bell** by Judy & Irwin Simon

**Roy Paston** by Judy & Irwin Simon

**Charles & Susan Gilinsky** by Judy & Irwin Simon

### *In appreciation of...*

**Sylvia Horowitz -Thank you for your hospitality** by Judy & Irwin Simon

## Landscaping Fund

### *Get Well wishes to...*

**Marilyn Bell** by Al Lavker

### *In memory of...*

**Brian Zable** by Hersh & Beverly Rozen

**Stephen Bittman** by Arlene Osber

**Dr. Horatio Schlaen** by Hersh & Beverly Rozen

### *For the Yahrzeit of...*

**Claire Feldman Palnik** by Loren & Marlene Wolsh

### Bernie Shifrin Music Fund

### *For the Yahrzeit of...*

**Marion Rapp** by Barbara Roberts  
**Benjamin Bronsky** by Ann Bronsky

### Sisterhood

### *For the Yahrzeit of...*

**Marcia Murphy** by Terry Shelley-Krassin

### Children's/Family Library

### *In Honor of...*

**Having the High Holidays on Zoom** by Denise & Al Friedrich

### *For the Yahrzeit of...*

**Claire Shefftz** by Jonathan Shefftz

### Adult Library

### *For the Yahrzeit of...*

**Ferne Weintraub** by David Weintraub

### *In memory of...*

**Barbara Balotin** by Ann Cohen

### Cemetery Fund

### *For the Yahrzeit of...*

**Philip Goodman** by Philip Goodman

### A Simchat Torah Like No Other

Despite the somber backdrop of war in Israel, the Temple Israel community gathered together on the weekend of October 7 and 8 to celebrate Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Rabbi Micah Friedman, leading the end of his first High Holiday season in the Southern Tier, along with his partner, Rabbi Talia Laster, wove the importance of prayer, supplication and celebration into a fabric that wrapped the congregation in the love of Torah and Israel.

Guests of honor included George Siegel, a longtime member and father of current Temple President Art Siegel. George celebrated his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday with several honors including the first Aliyah on Shmini Atzeret as well as the "Chatan Torah" (groom of the Torah) Aliyah in which we read the last paragraphs of the Torah before immediately beginning over again.

Also present were Rabbi Friedman's parents, visiting from Florida. They each received honors on both days. It was a pleasure to see the Rabbi read Torah for his parents and to see them *shep nachas* in his doing so.

The prayer for rain, a core part of Shmini Atzeret worked particularly well, herein the Southern Tier, on Saturday. Sunday, Simchat Torah, for its part, broke crisp and clear, reinvigorating quaking hearts around the globe with strength, vigor and determination.

The highlight of the two days of *chag*, however, was the Simchat Torah celebration held on the morning of Simchat Torah for the first time in many years. With a fresh energy and devotion, the Rabbis Friedman and Laster led seven full *hakafot* around the sunlit sanctuary. All five Torahs, each, still clad, in its white High Holiday tunic and bearing sparkling silver breast plate and crowns, were danced from person to person around the room. The refrains of *hoshia na*, "save us", *hatzlicha na*, "grant us success", and *annenu b'yom karenu*, "answer us in our time of calling", that rang through the hall, were all the more poignant and sincere given the crisis in Israel. Everyone present was able to have an Aliyah and all were invited to approach the Torahs and watch the reading.

The services were a meaningful moment that touched many hearts; one of those mystical occasions that uniquely coalesces a bouquet of emotions and sentiments into a healing whole. "Beautiful", "touching", "not seen in years" were just some of the accolades whispered among friends. Services, each day, were followed by kiddush lunch, sponsored by the Siegel and Channin families, respectively. In addition to Rabbi Friedman and Rabbi Laster, davening and Torah and Haftarah readings were led by Howard Schwartz, Richard Schneierson, Mark Hubal, David Channin and Steven Gilbert.

## November 2023 Yahrzeits

### November 1—9

**Claire Shefftz** observed by *Jonathan Shefftz*,  
**Benjamin Bronsky\*** observed by *Ann Bronsky*  
**Jack Leitner** observed by *Diana Weiss*  
**Irving Markowitz** observed by *Barbara Markowitz*  
**Adele Wiener** observed by *Sandra Wiener*  
**Saul Bauman** observed by *David Tanenhaus*  
**Leo Goldman** observed by *Fran Goldman*  
**Tom Head** observed by *Eileen Head, Hadassah Mativetsky*  
**Bruce Kweller** observed by *Yaron Kweller*  
**Elizabeth Brown\*** observed by *David Weintraub*  
**Constance Kapel** observed by *Heidi Thirer*  
**Evelyn Greenblott\*** observed by *Cookie Greenblott*  
**Albert Pigeon** observed by *Sandra Malkin*  
**Abraham Tanenhaus\*** observed by *David Tanenhaus*

### November 10—21

**Emery Woodruff** observed by *Florence Balin*  
**Albert J. Kline\*** observed by *Herbert Kline*  
**Paul Mateescu** observed by *Malvinia Sambursky*  
**Marion Sommers** observed by *Marcia Brown*  
**Jack Zelter\*** observed by *Donald Zelter*  
**Rita Pober** observed by *Kathy Seitel-West*  
**Marvin Shapiro** observed by *Jeff Shapiro*  
**Jacquelyn Jaffe\*** observed by *William Jaffe*  
**Alec Malkin** observed by *Steve Malkin*  
**Helen Smigel** observed by *Joan Rozen Jacobson*  
**Jerry Horowitz** observed by *Beverly Rozen*  
**Marilyn Leventhal** observed by *Wendy Wolff*  
**Marlene Mendelson** observed by *Sue Austenfeld*  
**Edith Schutzer\*** observed by *Jim Schutzer*

### November 22—25

**Ira H. Cohen** observed by *Marilyn Kent-Cohen*  
**Charlotte Nelson\*** observed by *Bruce Nelson, Keith Nelson*  
**Rhoda Gilinsky-Brodsky** observed by *Elliot Brodsky*  
**Max Kaufman** observed by *Florence Balin*  
**Isidore Pinsker** observed by *Ilene Pinsker*  
**Charles Baken** observed by *Cookie Greenblott*  
**Israel Djivre** observed by *Diana Weiss*  
**Cantor Daniel Gildar** observed by *Sandra Paston*  
**Richard A. Brown** observed by *Rabbi Geoffrey Brown*  
**Anna Heller** observed by *Jerry Heller*  
**Michael Horowitz** observed by *Sylvia Horowitz*

### November 26—30

**Maurice Goldman\*** observed by *Steve Gilbert*  
**Ludwika Horowitz** observed by *Ilana Segal*  
**Gussie Mendelson** observed by *Sue Austenfeld*  
**Martin Paston\*** observed by *Roy Paston*  
**Irving Zalowitz\*** observed by *Beverly Rozen*  
**Lillian Zelter\*** observed by *Don Zelter*  
**Diane Gartell** observed by *Susan Gilinsky*  
**Israel Margolis** observed by *Brenda Margolis*  
**Abram Goodman** observed by *Philip Goodman*  
**Alan Grass** observed by *Marsha Grass*  
**Ella Chiron** observed by *Barbara Zelter*  
**Anita Cohen** observed by *Rita Bleier*  
**Helen Drozdow\*** observed by *Louise Sheiman*  
**Alfred Pell** observed by *Merri Pell-Preus*  
**Ida Braslow** observed by *Merri Pell-Preus*

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](mailto: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](http://templeisraelvestal.org), under Worship.