



The Temple Times

2710 Genesee Street, Utica, New York 13502
TBE 315/724-4751

Iyar / Sivan 5781

Vol.12.9 May 2021

Temple Beth El Service Schedule



Services via ZOOM at
5:30 PM Friday
By: Cantor Kalman Socolof
See your email for an invitation.
If we don't have your email please call the
office or email it to beauboxer@aol.com

Temple Beth El Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

CANDLE LIGHTING – 5781

May 7, 2021	7:51 PM
May 14, 2021	7:58 PM
May 21, 2021	8:06 PM
May 28 2021	8:12 PM

Please notify Temple of any **ADDRESS CHANGES** you have for the **winter or summer months**, we need these address changes if we are to continue sending the bulletin – Thank You.



Temple Beth El Organization

Cantor Kalman A. Socolof
Dr. Stanley Gerstein, Rabbi Emeritus

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Mark Smith, Treasurer
David Lowitz, Secretary

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Dan Cohen	Stephen Rosenfeld
Michael Damsky	Yevgenii Samoshuk
David Lowitz	Brad Sklar
Ann Nathan	

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Mundy B. Shapiro, Executive Director
Julie Cain, Secretary

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315/724-4751 Fax 315/724-6883
E-Mail: tbeutica@gmail.com
Website: tbeutica.org

Temple Beth El Cantor Message

The Torah sets three major festivals for us to observe: Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot. All three are presented as times when we are obligated to assemble and to celebrate. In the times of the Temple in Jerusalem, one was expected to go there to make one's holiday offerings.

These are different times. Many people still observe Passover and Sukkot. Shavuot, however, seems to be the least of the three. Why would that be? Given that Shavuot is the remembrance of receiving the Torah at Sinai, you would think that it would be of greater importance, even primacy. I suspect that it may have to do with the fact that Passover and Sukkot entail very specific rituals, and Shavuot does not. Well, actually, it does, but no one seems to do them anymore. More about that in a bit.

On Passover we have the cleaning, the preparations, the buying and preparing of special foods, and the whole no chametz thing. On Sukkot, we have the lulav and the etrog, and the sukkah itself which we are to dwell in for the week (weather permitting). The only practices tied to Shavuot are the eating of dairy and pulling an all-nighter studying Torah. While eating dairy isn't a real inconvenience (who doesn't like blintzes, cheesecake and ice cream?), neither is it something so special that it is specifically associated with a particular holiday. As for staying up all night, I dare say that it is something most of us have not done in a long time for any reason.

The three pilgrimage festivals reflect the high points of the year in an agrarian community: planting, first-fruits and harvest. This would hold across different cultures. Part of the genius of Judaism is to infuse that which is regular, even pedestrian, with an opportunity for *kavanah*, for intent. When we are mindful of our activities, we increase the incidence of holiness. This is why we refer to the festivals

as the times of freedom, giving of the Torah, and rejoicing.

It might be argued that, as a Cantor, I have an inherent bias in favor of ritual. My personal commitment to the importance of ritual observance predated my time in the cantorate, and will likely continue afterward.

From time to time, I am asked why the emphasis on ritual. Can't we be good Jews simply by living ethical lives and doing acts of *tikkun olam*? I think that Shavuot serves as an example that the answer to that questions is no. Were we to live such a life, we would still be good people, but we would not be living a life that was identifiably Jewish. In the absence of ritual, there is an absence of observance and engagement. Perhaps the lesson of Shavuot is that it is not enough to receive the Torah. We must also practice it.

Cantor Socolof



TAKE A NICE LONG WALK



Temple Beth El President's Message

Temple Beth El
 Erev Shavuot Zoom Services
 Sunday, May 16th
 8:30 pm
 and
 Second Day of Shavuot with Yiskor
 Tuesday, May 18th
 9:30 am
 Watch your email for the Zoom link.

Please watch your mail for a letter concerning a Congregational Meeting for Temple Beth El. Your in person attendance will be necessary and vital for the congregation.

The search committee has been busy interviewing candidates for Temple Beth El's new spiritual leader. Thank you to Stanley Shapiro, Cantor Fader, Mark Smith and Ann Nathan for the hours spent screening the resumés and interviewing the candidates.

Cantor Fader and Elliot Rabin are looking forward to conducting the High Holiday services in person this September. Let's hope and pray that the Covid restrictions will allow us to gather at the JCC.

Winter is over and spring is blossoming. I hope all your wishes are fulfilled.

Be well and please take care,
Marsha



Temple Beth El Executive Director's Message

Hello All,

How nice that Spring has been teasing us and it seems like it might stay around. We had an abbreviated Seder again this year, hopefully we will be able to share our Seder next year.

This month we have a holiday to observe, Monday May 17th is the first day of Shavout, when we celebrate the birthday of our religion and the acceptance of the Ten Commandments.

It has been the responsibility of Jewish moms to teach the learning of the Ten Commandments to our children, along with emphasis to always show honor to our parents.

The second day, Tuesday May 18th we observe Yiskor. It has also become traditional for confirmations and consecrations to take place on Shavout.

It is said "The Torah is a Tree of Life and happy are those who guide themselves by it."
Proverbs 3:18

Let's all be sure to be vaccinated for COVID-19, wear a mask, stay out of crowds and take special care of ourselves and all we care about. We have to keep praying that the scientists in our world will be able to continue to find ways for us to overcome the COVID-19 virus and we will be able to live in a safe, healthy world again very soon.

Happy Spring and Shalom to all,
Mundy



IN MEMORY of

Joseph P. Zelliff



On April 7th, 2021 an amazing group of people came together at The House of Israel Cemetery on Mason Road in Utica, NY; to pay their last respects to a complete stranger, a gentleman who had no family to honor him, say goodbye or pray for him.

It all began when we received a call from a funeral director from Hackensack, NJ asking if there was any way Joseph Paul Zelliff could be buried near his mother in the House of Israel Cemetery, they had some documentation about his mother and her untimely death (by drowning in a pool in Rome, NY in 1972). They had a copy of his birth certificate and an old census report. From that small amount of information his mother's grave was located and he was able to be buried next to her.

The funeral director Sherry Ben Simon who drove Joseph from New Jersey to New York didn't expect anyone to be there for the internment. She was both extremely shocked and pleasantly surprised by the number of

people who came to say goodbye and honor Joseph.

Our Cantor Kalman Socolof spoke about a man he didn't know except from the few small details on the documents we received, but showed that Joseph did matter. It appeared Joseph had a difficult life and absolutely no family at all. What a wonderful way to spend an hour out of our life in this awful time of Covid-19 and this dreadful Pandemic.

We need to recognize these people who gave of themselves for Joseph, it was a remarkable tribute to them. Thank you so much for being part of celebrating Joseph's life and having a **minyan** for him. Mel Oster, Rae and Steve Rosenfeld, Judy Finer, Stan and Mundy Shapiro, Mark Smith, Shelly Bartnick, Ira Pearlman, Ernie Berkowitz, Marsha Silverman, Frank Williams, Sherry Ben Simon and Kalman Socolof.

A footstone will be placed at Joseph's grave as a reminder that he lived.

Cemetery News

SPRING is HERE

Cleaning Headstones and Footstones

at
 Temple Beth El Cemetery
 House of Israel Cemetery
 (Mason Road Cemetery)
 Shaarei Tefillah Cemetery
 Jonathan Lodge Cemetery

We are taking orders NOW that it is spring for an August cleaning. We require that the orders be in by the second week in August so we can schedule the cleanings before the 2021/5782 High Holy Days.

The cost of cleaning is very reasonable:

- Headstones \$50.00
- Footstones \$35.00

All you have to do if you are going to have your family plot cleaned is send a note, send an email or give us a call at Temple Beth El and we will take care of the rest.

Perhaps you could even send a little extra and have a headstone or footstone cleaned for someone who has no family left to care for their plot.

**THIS WOULD BE A
 MITZVAH FOR YOU!**

Many of the family members buried at our cemeteries were members of the military. If you let us know we could add a flag to their grave.

We want to keep these cemeteries as beautiful as possible.

Temple Beth El Donations

THE VICTOR H. FLAX FUND

In Memory of: Bob Solomon

☆ Randy Fair



Temple Beth El Simcha Boards

Temple Beth El has Simcha Boards to celebrate birthdays, Bat and Bar Mitzvahs, anniversaries, graduations, weddings and honors.

If there is someone in your family or a friend you would like to recognize, you may do so by sending all the necessary details to the office. For \$125.00, you can make someone proud and happy forever.



Help Temple Beth El Locate Families

If you know anyone who has family buried in any of our cemeteries that have family members who have gravestones in disrepair, please ask them to contact us or simply send us their address and we will contact them. This way when they come to visit their loved ones, they will be greeted with a clean well-maintained monument.



Temple Beth El Memorial Boards

The long hallway where Temple Beth El's sanctuary and office are located contains our Memorial Boards. If you have a family member that you would like to memorialize and have a memorial light lit on the week of their yahrzeit year after year, you may call the office. The cost of the plaque is \$300.00.

For any questions or additional information to honor or memorialize a loved one call the office at 315 724 4751.

Mundy

Temple Beth El May Yahrzeits

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of May 8, to 14, 2021, 26 Iyar to 3 Siven 5781

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday May 7, 30, 2021

Joseph M. Abramson*	Edward Coleman	Mollye H. Levy*	Evelyn S. Simons*
Harry Bonnett*	Harry Dresher*	Ethel Laine*	Eleanor L. Savett*
Meyer Boff*	David Goldstein	Rita Markson*	Samuel Smith*
Myron Berger*	Joel M. Galinn*	Harris G. Nathan*	Rae Sitrin*
Howard Blaugrund*	Julius B. Kay*	Anne Fine Pressler*	Cynthia Slavin
Mildred Brooks	Rose Krohngold*	Sarah Tumposky Snyder*	Martin Saltzman
Sarah Cynkus*	Arthur Levinson*	Israel Saltzburg*	Samuel Weinstein*
Bertha G. Caplan*	Jacob Lurie*	Samuel Stern*	

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of May 15, to 21, 2021, 4 to 10 Siven 5781

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday May 14, 30, 2021

Selma Bell*	Reba Starer Freeman*	Rosalind Kaplan	Rhoda Rosen*
Sarah Krohn Bernstein*	Anne H. Greene*	Herman B. Kowalsky*	Elizabeth Rizika*
Rachel Bartnick*	Julius Greenburg*	Bella Gurno Kirschstein*	Rose Hymes Reisman*
Edward Brooks*	Nettie S. Galinsky*	Gertrude R. Leventhal*	Manuel Saltzburg*
Elizabeth Cominsky*	Gary S. Gilbert*	Rose Zier Landset*	Eva L. Slater*
Harry Cynkus*	Anne Hoffman*	Ruben Margolis*	Meyer Joseph Smith*
Louis Damsky*	Betty Illfelder*	Samuel Newman*	Esther (Essie) Shapiro
Morris Friedman*	Dora Newman Jacobson*	Irving Picker*	Michael Yust*
Ethel Finer	Ralph L. Krohn*	Libby Picker*	

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of May 22, to 28, 2021, 11 to 17 Siven 5781

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday May 21, 30, 2021

Isabelle Alpert*	William Greene*	Frances Jacobson Lurie*	Max Parker*
Harry A. Brill*	Elias H. Goldman*	Stanton Lacher	Manuel Rosen*
Herman Berkowitz*	Bertha L. Harris*	Sally Lorig*	Asher B. Yoseph Rivlin*
Dr. Marvin Berkowitz*	Florence Nelson Jacobson*	Louis Markson*	Florence Smith*
Joseph Cominsky*	Rochel Kay*	Julia Meyer*	Marshall R. Starer*
Fannie Densen*	Isadore Krohngold*	Lillian Bernice Philipson*	Abraham Zellman Smith*
Jacob C. Finer*	Morris Levine	Helen Picker*	Rita Goldie Shulman*
Bessie Goldberg*	William Leve*	Frances Jacobson Lurie*	Sara Ruth Smith*
			Nettie Shapiro*

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of May 29, to June 4, 2021, 18 to 24 Siven 5781

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday May 28, 30, 2021

Harry L. Berkowitz*	Gershon Horwitz*	Bertha F. Rosen*	Samuel Silverman
Marvin Bloom*	Wella Kacenenbogen Imich*	Harry N. Rosen*	Sarah Speiller*
Harry A. Brill*	Selma Kupfer	Irwin Rockford*	Tillie F. Sherman*
Gertrude Cohen*	Estelle D. Kaplan	Harris Solomon*	Marilyn Stern*
Henrietta Ehrlich*	Phyllis Wolf Movsh*	Jacob Slater*	Sarah B. Tavrow*
Libby Geffen*	Edward Movsh	Howard Ziv Sitrin*	Herbert Weiss*
Mary W. Greenburg*	Jacob M. Rosenthal*	Rhoda M. Samuels*	David Zeidner*
Irving Gusoff*			

Temple Beth El June Simcha Grams



JUNE BIRTHDAYS	Date	JUNE ANNIVERSARIES	Date
Marian Freeman	04	Mel and Judy Oster	6/16/1974
Rabbi Stanley Gerstein	05	Norman and Ann Siegel	6/21/1964
Ellen Samuels	05	Norman and Ellie Neslin	6/22/1980
Bob Cohen	07		
Roz Fisher	09		
Steven Kowalsky	11		
Murray Kirshtein	22		
Ruth Berkowitz	28		
Dr. Steven Levine	28		
Dianne Kirshtein	29		

Enclosed is \$1.50 per name that I have indicated. I have enclosed a check made out to the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El for \$_____ for _____ (#) of Simcha Grams

Mail to:
Rae Rosenfeld
3008 Oneida Street
Sauquoit, NY 13456

Due by the 15th of the month

I have printed my name and date as I wish it to appear on the Simcha Gram.

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Please call the Temple Office 724-4751, if you wish to add any names to the list



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Ads in the Bulletin

If you are interested in placing an ad in The Temple Times, now is the time to do it. Your ad will be in each monthly bulletin for the next year at the following prices:

Business Card Size	\$125.00
Quarter Page	\$150.00
Half Page	\$175.00
Full Page	\$200.00

If you are interested, please contact either Rita (Temple Emanu-El) 315-724-4177 or Mundy (Temple Beth El) 724-4751.

MAY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 TBE Board Meeting 7:00 PM TE Rabbi Class Finding Our Way 7:00 - 8:30 PM	5	6	7 TBE Service 5:30	8
9 	10	11	12	13	14 TBE Service 5:30	15
16 Erev Shavuot	17 Shavuot	18	19	20 	21 TBE Service 5:30	22 
23	24	25	26	27	28 TBE Service 5:30	29
30	31 					