

THE TEMPLE TIMES

February 2025 | Shevat 5785 | Vol. 15.6

Temple Beth El
UTICA, NY



President's Message

Marsha Silverman

I realize Chanukah was in December but the deadline for the January issue was before the amazing party at the JCC. Many thanks are in order. First and foremost, to Vic and Alan for setting up and tearing down the room and allowing us to host the event.

To Joe, Andi, and Rabbi Geier for the days of planning, shopping, and the hours of preparing and serving the food, thank you! We made an awesome team! Check out the photos in this issue of the Temple Times!

A shoutout to Caren, Mollie and Rabbi Schaktman for stepping in where help was needed. Also, a huge thanks to those that helped clean up after the festivities.

The community party/dinner was a free event sponsored by your JCC. I appreciate those that

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pitched in to help since many hands make the work load easier.

I am all for more volunteers and more celebrations! How about you?

Mark your calendars! Looking forward to Tu B'Shevat on February 13th, Purim on March 13th ,Passover Seder on April 12th, the Holocaust Memorial Lecture on April 23rd, and Israeli Independence Day TBD.

February's Birthday Shabbat will be celebrated on the 28th with a special Oneg. Let's come together to honor you!

When you see a name in the yahrzeits and have contact information for that person's family, please call the office so we can send a note to let them know.

Wishing you warm thoughts on a cold day.

Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Gustavo Geier

When I was a teenager in Buenos Aires, my family was part of the Bet-El Community, an iconic congregation that pioneered the Conservative movement in Latin America.

I grew up within that congregation as a Liberal Conservative Jew, receiving my training at the Seminario Rabínico. In truth, my education began as a teenager, long before I even started leading tefilot or conducting religious services as a cantor. Over time, I became a cantor and later pursued rabbinical studies.

My perspective on synagogues, religious services, and the Conservative movement (later called Masorti to avoid the political connotations associated with the term



"Conservative") was naturally shaped by the congregations I knew in Buenos Aires.

When I began leading High Holiday services in the suburbs of Buenos Aires, I discovered congregations that were very different from what I had known: small institutions, where members only showed interest during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur but had a profound need for spirituality during these special days.

Later, I encountered congregations in Chile, Brazil, Mexico, and eventually the United States. In Florida, I visited synagogues that had been almost "taken over" by Argentinians migrating during each economic crisis in my homeland. These were near replicas of the style I was familiar with in Buenos Aires, complete with Argentine rabbis who had imported their methods to provide comfort to the migrant members or repeating successful models they had learned.

What I came to understand was that the

Conservative movement is incredibly diverse. While this is something I had studied, experiencing it firsthand as a rabbinical student and later as a rabbi was eye-opening.

There is a common misconception that the Conservative movement is not halachic, meaning it does not adhere to Jewish law. As I've explained in other editions of the Temple Times, the Conservative movement is halachic. The Rabbinical Assembly makes decisions in much the same way the Sanhedrin did in its time, adapting Jewish law to the modern and ever-changing circumstances of life. Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan's notion of Judaism as an "evolving religious civilization" reminds us that adaptability and continuity can coexist, preserving our essence while meeting the needs of the present.

However, there was one thing I believed to be immutable and consistent across all communities: the connection between Jews and the State of Israel.

I grew up with a strong Zionist sentiment, fostered by my family and the Jewish school I attended. One might say this upbringing shaped my attachment to Israel, yet I've met hundreds of Jews who didn't have the same upbringing but were just as connected.

However, over the past year, with the resurgence of antisemitism, the events of October 7, and the ongoing war against Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis, a wide spectrum of identities has emerged—ranging from love for the land and the concept of the State of Israel to an outright desire for its disappearance. And I'm referring to sentiments among members of the Jewish people today. This was entirely new to me.

Why would a Jew wish for the disappearance

of Israel as a state? Let's not delve into politics. Since its creation in 1948, Israel has had various leaders with diverse policies, with which we may agree or disagree. That's what democracy is about, and we experience it in every country fortunate enough to allow its citizens to elect their leaders freely, even when the results make our hair stand on end.

It's important to note that the relationship between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel is not merely historical or religious—it is existential. As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once wrote, "Israel is a spiritual center, not because of its geography but because it represents the drama of existence as a Jew." This drama includes both our triumphs and struggles.

I don't want to rely on the well-worn argument of reasserting Israel as the only country where Jews can live openly as Jews without fear of persecution (at least internally). Nor do I want to invoke the familiar justification that the land was promised to us by our God. We cannot present the Torah as evidence to those who don't see it as a sacred text, let alone a binding document.

The point is that our history as a people was forged there—both ancient and modern. Our traditions are rooted in that same place. Even if we only consider contemporary history, the work of the chalutzim (pioneers) who transformed deserts and swamps into productive land, and the overall development that has made Israel a powerhouse in various fields, the bond between the Jewish people and that land is profoundly strong.

From my humble perspective—and as I've

shared in previous articles about the years leading up to the state's creation—I believe we made many serious mistakes. And I fall into the same trap many others do: judging from the diaspora while sitting in a comfortable chair.

I have no right to judge. I don't believe anyone in a similar position does.

This doesn't mean we must agree with policies we find unjust or with violations of human rights, should they occur.

Israel is the beginning and the journey of our story, with triumphs and failures, successes and missteps, justice and injustice—just like every other nation on this planet.

Meanwhile, there is a generation of Jewish parents who seem to have forgotten the hardships endured by the People of Israel for not having a state of their own—a place and a government to rely on in times of need. These parents have failed to pass down to their children, and perhaps even their grandchildren, the understanding that Israel was founded through the tireless efforts of Jews from across the diaspora who collectively said, "Enough" to persecution, antisemitism, and massacres for the sole crime of being Jewish.

These parents, their children, and their grandchildren often judge Israeli society without taking the time to investigate or verify whether the claims made by antisemitic rhetoric hold any truth. They remain unaware that Israeli society is home to a rich tapestry of religions, that universities host students from diverse backgrounds and beliefs, and that the Knesset includes an Arab party, which in some cases even votes against the very state's existence.

These parents and their offspring—likely

including the next generation—genuinely believe that this, too, shall pass without taking responsibility for the reality at hand. Like the proverbial ostrich burying its head in the sand, they pretend that what happens around them will not affect them simply because they choose to ignore it.

History has repeatedly shown us that things do not work that way.

I firmly believe we must celebrate the existence of a Jewish state—pluralistic and inclusive—every single day. In times of crisis, above all, we must strive to support and assist in any way we can, so that its people and government can grow and embody the human values our tradition teaches us. This must be done with the differences that have always defined us and the unity we have always needed.

Personally, I believe we must celebrate its existence, support it, and help in whatever way we can to ensure its people, and its government grow and embody the human values our tradition teaches us—with the diversity that has always defined us and the unity we've always needed.

May the Almighty guide us in the difficult task of understanding one another and being understood, both internally and externally. May the Kadosh Baruch Hu illuminate us as a people and as a shared humanity, leading us toward understanding and coexistence. May Adonai bless us with the greatest of blessings: peace for the people of Israel, for all humanity, and for every creature in the universe.

In Hebrew, peace is shalom, a concept that goes beyond mere absence of conflict. It embodies shlemut, a sense of completeness—feeling whole in our lives, with our goals, with ourselves, and with everything and everyone around us.

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- Stuart Greene
- Arline (Osna) Trapanick
- William T. Sitrin
- Sara Smith
- Anna Sarah Grossman
- Edith Lorig
- Milton Richards
- Jewel Friedlander
- Lena Rosenthal
- Hyman Wertheim

-Sherry Cooperman

THE CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of: Milton S. Manning
 • Charles Manning



Shabbat Services

Friday Evening: 5:30 pm
 Saturday Morning: 9:30 am
Join us at Temple or on Zoom



CEMETERY NEWS: A MESSAGE FROM THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE

This is NOT an easy topic to discuss or think about, however it is very important. The Cemetery Committee would like you to think about funeral plans for yourself, your spouse, other family members or a friend.

If you do, it will be more helpful for everyone left behind. Your family or friend will be so relieved when they know what the person wants.

Please let the Temple and the Funeral Director (of your choosing) know what you and your family have decided. Temple strives to help families at this difficult time. The more details we know the better it is for the ones left behind.

There is a Questionnaire for you to review and complete. It may help you to ask the necessary questions.

**Thank you,
The Cemetery Committee**

CEMETERY QUESTIONNAIRE

Temple Beth El, Jonathan Lodge, House of Israel, Sharie Teffilah, Mason Road

PREPARE AND PLAN

Name: _____

Hebrew Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Family Contact: _____ Phone#: _____

Do you have a Funeral Director: (circle) YES NO

If YES , Who is it or Name or Organization _____

Do you have a Plot in one of the 5 Temple Beth El's Cemetery's? (circle) YES NO

Which Cemetery: _____

Do you know your Section? _____ Plot? _____ Grave#? _____

Please share anything you would like us to know.



We need your help to locate family & friends

Temple Beth El is trying to locate family members or friends of loved ones who have a Yahrzeit during the month. The list is always in the bulletin and on the web.

FOR EXAMPLE:

These are the Yahrzeits observed during the week of January 11 to 17, 2025 – 11 to 17 Tevet 5785
 These will be read from the pulpit on Friday January 10, 2025

Barney Abelson*	Minnie Gusoff*	Robert Markson	Hyman Sitrin*
Arthur S. Bonnett*	Stuart Greene*	Max Nozik	Enid Savett
Reba Abelove*	Hyman Fialko*	Eva Pollicove	Benjamin Targer*
Louis Cramer*	Irving Seldin*	Morris Rothenburg*	Barnet Trolin*
Samuel Cohen*	Edward F. Jacobson*	Rabbi S. Jacobs*	Lawrence A. Tumposky*
Robert Ellis*	Bertha Glick Krohngold*	Rabbi A H. Dolgoff*	Arline (Osna) Trapanick*
Else Elias	Betty Kowalsky*	Sarah Danzig*	Florence Weitzman*
Dorothy Friedlander*	Israel Levinson*	Jeanette Weiss Schwartz*	Bertha Yetra*
Joseph Galinsky*	Esther Myers	Harry Schnier*	Julia Yust*
Mendel Golding			

If you know how to contact any of the families or friends of anyone on this list or any list, we want to invite them to join us for services on Friday at 5:30 PM or Saturday at 9:00 AM at 1607 Genesee St., to say Mourners Kaddish. If they live outside of the area, they are welcome to ZOOM*.

Any information you have will help us to locate a family member or friend. You can email us at tbeutica@gmail.com or call the office at 315 724 4751 (if we aren't in the office, please leave a message).

In addition we are offering to place a special stone on the loved one's headstone, for a donation of \$10.00. You can mail a check to 1607 Genesee St, Utica NY 13501 or go to our website tbeutica.org and make your donation through the link Donate and then ZEFFY. There is no charge for this.

*if you want to ZOOM email Marsha Silverman at beauboxer@aol.com she will give you the link password.

IN ADDITION EVERY YEAR, JUST BEFORE THE HIGH HOLY DAYS WE ARRANGE FOR HEAD AND FOOT STONES TO BE CLEANED FOR A VERY REASONABLE PRICE. CONTACT THE TEMPLE OR EMAIL US AND WE WILL SCHEDULE THE CLEANING FOR YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS' STONES.

THE HELEN AND LEON SPERLING HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ESSAY CONTEST

The lessons of history are many. Among the most important is the way that events of the past teach us how to better view the present and to react with understanding, foresight, and courage.

Choose **one** of these topics for your essay:

1-How do events of the Holocaust have meaning in our current time of increasing anti-Semitic events occurring in the United States?

2-How has your personal life been affected by the study of the Holocaust?

3-A book, movie, article or documentary that influenced your understanding of the Holocaust and encouraged you to learn more. Describe.

Guidelines:

- The essay contest is open to students in 2 categories.
 - Grades 6-8 and 9-12.
 - **Submit a PDF approximately 3 pages**
Using 12pt. Times New Roman font double-spaced.
 - Cite your references and sources since plagiarism will be disqualified.
 - Grammar, punctuation and spelling will be taken into consideration.
- Entry forms are available on the following websites:

JCCUTICA.net TBEUTICA.org TEMPLEEMANUEL-UTICA.org

- Submit completed application and essay to: Beauboxer@gmail.com
- Deadline for submission is April 1, 2025**

Cash prizes will be awarded and
the first-place essay will be published in the program.
The Annual Helen and Leon Sperling Holocaust Memorial Lecture
APRIL 23, 2025 7:30PM
Jewish Community Center
2310 Oneida St. Utica NY 13501

**SPONSORED BY THE HELEN AND LEON SPERLING
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

ENTRY FORM

Helen and Leon Sperling Holocaust Education Essay Contest

Student Name:	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	
Sponsoring Teacher:	
Teacher's Email:	
School's Name:	

- Submit completed application and essay to: Beaboxer@gmail.com
- Deadline for submission is **April 1, 2025**



SIMCHA GRAMS

March

MARCH BIRTHDAYS	Date	MARCH ANNIVERSARIES	Date
Margo Zeidner	3/8	Roz and Harry Fisher	3/9/61
Jane Brophy	3/10	Donna and Marc Jonas	3/9/72
Diane Kall	3/17		
Gary Philipson	3/24		
David Orkin	3/17		
Donna Jonas	3/19		
Caroline Lampert	3/19		
Alex Rosenblum	3/20		
Kristina Berg	3/23		
Holly Nathan	3/25		



CELEBRATE YOUR SIMCHAS WITH TEMPLE BETH EL

Please call the temple office at 315-724-4751 or mail a check to add a birthday, anniversary, or another special celebration to our list of simchas.

Deadline: 15th of the month. Cost \$1.50 ea.





If submitting **by mail**, include the name and date of your simcha(s) as you wish it to appear on the simcha gram, as well as your telephone number and a check made out to the temple.

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

TEMPLE CALENDAR & CLASSES

Class enrollment is now open! Contact us for more information

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
2 	3 TBE Talmud Torah 3:30 PM TBE Conversion Class 4:30 PM	4 TBE Beginner Hebrew Class 3:30 PM TBE Board Meeting 7:00 PM	5 TBE Intermediate Hebrew Class 2:30 TBE RS 4:00 PM Ritual Meeting 7:00 PM	6 TBE Torah Class 3:00 PM TBE Torah Class 5:30 PM	7 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30	8 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
9	10 TBE Talmud Torah 3:30 PM TBE Conversion Class 4:30 PM TBE Board Meeting 7:00 PM	11 TBE Beginner Hebrew Class 3:30 PM	12 Erev Tu Bi'Shvat TBE Intermediate Hebrew Class 2:30 TBE RS 4:00 PM	13 Tu Bi'Shvat TBE Torah Class 3:00 PM TBE Torah Class 5:30 PM	14 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30	15 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
16	17 President's Day TBE Talmud Torah 3:30 PM TBE Conversion Class 4:30 PM	18 TBE Beginner Hebrew Class 3:30 PM	19 TBE Intermediate Hebrew Class 2:30	20 TBE Torah Class 3:00 PM TBE Torah Class 5:30 PM	21 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30	22 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
23	24 TBE Talmud Torah 3:30 PM TBE Conversion Class 4:30 PM	25 TBE Beginner Hebrew Class 3:30 PM	26 TBE Intermediate Hebrew Class 2:30 TBE RS 4:00 PM	27 TBE Torah Class 3:00 PM TBE Torah Class 5:30 PM	28 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30 and Birthday Oneg	



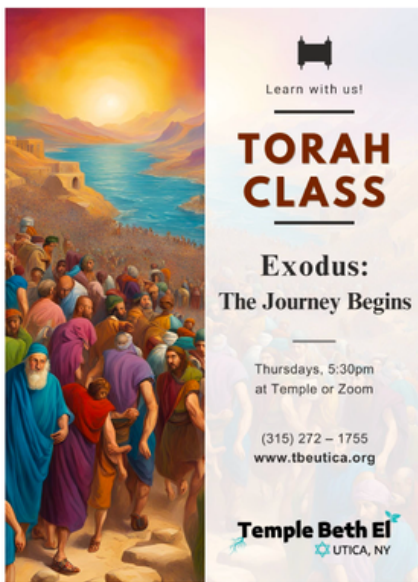
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TORAH CLASS

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HEBREW SCHOOL

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YAHRZEITS

Yahrzeits observed during the week of February 8 to 14, 2025 – 10 to 16 Shevet 5785

These will be read from the pulpit on February 7th, 2025

Max Benjamin*	Harry Greene*	Herbert Kopel*	Samuel L. Simon*
Bertha Blumberg*	Irving Greenfield*	Abraham Levine*	Harry Shapiro
Frances Winnick Cohen*	David Gross	Mary Levenson*	Gertrude Frankel Stahl*
Dora M. Freedman*	Merwin Geffen MD	Bessie G. Manning*	Solomon Simon*
Bessie N. Freeman*	Harvey Harris	Daniel Meyers	Ben Slater
Harvey Fink*	Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kirschstein*	Samuel Meyers*	Dr. Alfred Sumberg
Rachel Goldenson*	Robert Kowalsky*	Frances Katzman Revitch*	Samuel L. Wolfe*
Anna Goldman*	Florence Kurtzman*	Solomon Stayman*	Rebecca Weinstein*

Yahrzeits observed during the week of February 15 to 21, 2025 - 17 to 23 Shevet 5785

These will be read from the pulpit on February 14th, 2025

Julia Simon Aronson*	Joseph Glick*	Morris Pollack*	Nathan Samuels*
Dr. Harold B. Arlen*	Mechel Gilbert*	Israel Perlman*	Ann Perlman Seldin*
Bea Abrams*	Hiram Goldenson*	Louis G. Payne	Ida R. Seld*
Harold Alpert	Ida Goldstein*	Max Philipson*	Abraham Schechter
Hyman Brooks*	Dr. Edmund Goldstone	Nathan Rebeck	Lillian Sugarman*
Benjamin Brown*	Emma W. Kowalsky*	Dr. Judith A. Resnik*	Mose P. Silverstein*
Elizabeth Bartnick*	Maxine R. Kall*	Ruth S. Rosenblum*	Helen Simons*
Dorothy Berkowitz	Aaron David Levy*	Belle Rosky*	Dr. Gerald Segal*
Carol Brown*	Rae LaVine*	Hymen P. Snyder*	H. Bruce Schwartz
Jack Daniels*	Charles Manning*	Ryfka Schechter	Sarah Gossis Tapper*
William Edelstein*	Victor Pressler*	Mollie Sherman*	Abraham H. Wyner*
Sari Emas*			Edward I. Weiss*

Yahrzeits observed during the week of February 22 to 28, 2025 – 24 to 30 Shevat 5785

These will be read from the pulpit on February 21st, 2025

Richard Edward Arlen*	Ruth Ben Kroll*	Bertha Birdye Rizika*	Benjamin Simon*
Abraham Block*	Milton P. Kayle*	Florence Sarah Rabinowitz	Jacob Moses Smith*
Cantor Martin Badanoff*	Saul Shepard Lasher*	Bertha Rabinowitz*	Lena Schmuckler*
Tema Cramer*	Hyman Mittleman*	Col. Ilan Ramon*	Minnie I. Smith*
Sarah Cohen*	Carrie Nedell*	Vilmos Reisner*	Edward Silverman*
Morey Cummins	Dorothy Nathan*	Max Stone*	Sora Blume Wineburgh*
Joseph Y. Freeman*	Rita H. Osber*	Theodore Stone*	James L. Wolfe*
Anna Fink*			

Yahrzeits observed during the week of March 1 to 7, 2025 – 1 to 7 Adar 5785

These will be read from the pulpit on February 28th, 2025

Sarah Adler*	Benjamin P. Holstein*	Nathan Lewis	Rubie H. Root*
Herman Berger*	Isador Heiman*	Florence Levinson*	Mort Rizika
Fannie Burger*	Gabriel Harris*	Julius Manning*	Sarah Schneider*
Morris Bonnett*	Katherine Rose Hahn*	Joseph H. Mettelman*	Bernard and Brother Sahl*
David Ben*	Jennie Horowitz*	Annette G. Mansky*	Sam Schmuckler*
Leonard A. Bartnick*	Idelle Herman*	Albert Merman*	Tessa Simon*
Ryzel M. Cohn*	Nathan Jacobson*	Morris Marks*	Sadie Silverman Singer*
Clara Cher*	Bernard Katzman*	Gordon J. Maran	Irving Jacob Schultz
Ann Fosberg Demell*	Anita Krohn*	Elwood Nedell*	Max Schechter*
Natalie Fuhrman*	Minnie Krohn*	Sydney Oberman*	Marion Saltzburg*
Delmar Blaugrund Franklin*	Dr. Sol E. Kantor*	Simon D. Parker*	Esther P. Shattan*
Rabbi Joseph Gerstein*	Reuben Kaplan*	Bella Perlman*	Martha M. Sevilla*
Martha R. Galinn*	Sam Levin*	Anne Perlmutter-Klein*	Edna Schwartz
Eva Goldberg*	Samuel J. Lindey*	Rebecca Rothenberg*	Peshe Hinda Vyner*
Rose Greenburg*	Emanuel LaVine*	Harry Nathan Rosenthal*	Samuel Weinburgh*
Natalie Gerstein*	Milton LeBlang*	Jennie E. Rosen*	Harry Weiss*
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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	Half Page \$175.00
Quarter Page \$150.00	Full Page \$200.00

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



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*A Conservative congregation
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the study of Torah and the practice
of righteous deeds.*

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