

# THE TEMPLE TIMES

March 2025 | Adar/Nisan 5785 | Vol. 15.7

**Temple Beth El**  
UTICA, NY



## President's Message

*Marsha Silverman*

### NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW!

RCIL will be replacing the HVAC system at 1607 Genesee, and we must vacate the building. Temple Beth El offices will be housed at Sitrin from April 1 until June 30th. Services and classes will be held at the JCC during this time. **THANK YOU TO SITRIN AND THE JCC FOR ACCOMODATING TEMPLE BETH EL DURING THIS TIME.**

A commercial about the Blue Square campaign aired during the Super Bowl. We have handed out hundreds of Blue Square pins and yet I do not see many being worn. This campaign is against ALL hate not just Jewish hate. If you do not wear them, who should? If you would like more pins, please ask. They are available at temple.

Rabbi Geier celebrated Tu B'Shevat with the students in the religious school with a seder

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celebrating the fruits of the holiday. We would like to thank a guest for reading a story about Tu B'Shevat and the Berkovich family for helping with the planting of the parsley to be used on their Seder plates.

Mark your calendar for upcoming community events:

Purim March 13th

Seder April 12th

Sperling Lecture April 23rd

Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) celebration at Hamilton College April 27th

Jewtica June 8th

ט"סב

Just a reminder, to save a stamp. You can make your donations or any other payments online through Zeffy on our webpage, TBEUTICA.ORG. Click donate and follow the prompts.

Let's pray that the hostages will be home by the time you read this. My heart goes out to their family, friends and all civilians affected by this war.

Standing with Israel and we will dance again,  
Marsha



## Rabbi's Message

*Rabbi Gustavo Geier*

I just listened to the February 19th podcast by Joel Chasnoff. I don't know if you remember him as the comedian and author, we had the pleasure of hosting for a fun evening with dinner included at the JCC.

I usually enjoy his podcasts, and I rarely disagree with the concepts he shares in them. But this week, I agree so much that I can't help but share with those who don't always listen the impression it left with me.

Joel made a sharp critique of American Judaism, based on the months he spent touring with his show among communities not just from Conservative or Reform movements, but also Reconstructionist and Orthodox communities across North America.

In short, I'd say he wasn't too optimistic about the future of the liberal Jewish religious movements and his vision was as clear as the one I've been feeling in recent years.

Conservative and Reform Jews, for the most part, suffer from the exile of their young members, which is hardly news to any of us. But above all, there is a lack of commitment—not just to our traditions and mitzvot (always speaking from a progressive or liberal perspective)—but also to a significant rift with the State of Israel, which for many years was the central axis of global Jewish identity.

It's true that we can be proud of our national identity, in this case, American. It's true that every country has its own imprint regarding customs and views on Judaism. But the importance of traditions, Torah, mitzvot, and Israel was always present among our ancestors. They were the axis and guide in every event, policy, fundraiser, and educational vision from time immemorial.

In my opinion, that's what kept our people strong in values, unity, and perseverance throughout time.

As a rabbinic student for many (many) years, I often questioned what the real role of a rabbi should be. To teach Torah? To lead prayer?

To bring people closer to the mitzvot? To explain them so they happen more consciously, with a firmer will? And Israel? Should it be present?

It's all the above and much more.

It's the responsibility of the congregants to ensure that all this happens and gets passed down, not just by the rabbi on duty but from parents to children, and to grandchildren. It won't work if we make the commitment something lax and insignificant. It won't work if we view our history, our traditions, and our Jewish law as obsolete simply because we don't know it or look at it from a distance with prejudice.

I don't think the Jewish people have much of a future without the Land of Israel. Controversial, but true. I believe that without the Land of Israel, over time, the diaspora will shrink to an association that's increasingly diluted in our past; even more so than it is today.

I think Israel continues to offer a place of not just belonging but of rooting; the place of origin to which one can always return—even if they never do—but if it weren't there, they would feel an emptiness, even from afar.

This is not considering the millions of Jews, brothers, and sisters, who consider it their only nation and homeland, for which many have died defending it.

Joel Chasnoff referenced an article published in the Times, signed by many people, rabbis, and cantors, condemning the alleged "cleansing" carried out by the IDF and the possibility of moving forward with the almost crazy (in my opinion) Trump plan to relocate all Gazans.

Joel referenced the thousands and thousands of dollars that ad in the New York Times cost, and how that money was never invested in any kind of faint appeal for the lives torn apart, kidnapped, tortured, and ruined since October 7, 2023.

I don't think I've seen the same level of public initiative or outcry with such an enormous expenditure, showing indignation over Israel's sovereignty being violated in October 2023, nor for the men and women who were violated, stripped of their lives, their freedom, even after more than 500 days. I haven't seen a similar page published condemning the barbaric slaughter of babies and elderly people, or the annihilation of entire innocent families.

I understand that a rabbi should have a special commitment to those who are weak. The last 500 days have shown that Hamas and much of the population of Gaza are not the weak ones. The support from the Red Cross and UN-led organizations not only gave them power and impunity but also left the trust in the concept of supposed neutrality at a level almost equivalent to fraud.

Commitment to Israel—not to its governments and politicians, but to the State of Israel—is, in my view, inherent to rabbinical formation, the rabbinic task, and community work. As we always say, Israel needs us, but we need Israel more. And it's our job to sustain it in the best way we can and to educate those who follow us in that commitment.

It's time to sit down and talk about how we can do this together. It's time to think about how we can smooth over our differences and strengthen ourselves in a project that

doesn't just secure the survival of our congregations for a few years, but looks ahead to the next 10 or perhaps 20 years, so that our grandchildren won't have to rack their brains thinking about how to survive, but will simply continue the legacy passed down to them by their parents and grandparents... as used to happen with our people in time immemorial.

We are again very close to Purim, the perfect time to put on masks for a day, only to take them off the next day and show ourselves as we truly are, bringing out the best in us to grow together... as a community.

מְשַׁנְחֵנְס אָדָר מְרַבֵּין בְּשִׂמְחָה

Mishenichnas Adar marbin be-simcha.

When the month of Adar begins, we increase in joy.

Let's make it a reality in our daily task.

It's time...

Am Israel Chai, as long as we commit to making it happen and not just let it be a catchy phrase or song.



# DONATIONS

Donations can be made online: [www.tbeutica.org/donate](http://www.tbeutica.org/donate)

## THE VICTOR H. FLAX FUND

In Memory of: Elizabeth Bartnick, Harry Bartnick, Leonard Bartnick

- The Bartnick Family

## THE CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of: Bessie G. Manning, Nathan Samuels, Charles Manning, Julius Manning, Anna Hymes

- Charles Manning

In Memory of: Arthur Goodman

In Memory of: Barry Benson

## 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**

**It's that time of year again to start thinking about having your loved ones' headstones and footstones cleaned. BUT FIRST A LITTLE STORY**

**Last fall my brother went to our parents' graves in Massachusetts, he called me later that day and told me he tried to clean them up a little, but they were pretty dirty. We discussed it and decided to find someone to clean them, and we would split the cost.**

**He contacted the person in charge of the cemetery and was given the name of the person to call to clean the stones.**

**He called the stone cleaner and asked them to clean the 2 stones and asked for the price. WELL did he get a big surprise. The price quoted was \$500.00 for 2 ordinary headstones. We didn't even ask about the 2 footstones because my brother had cleaned them with a wire brush, and they look really nice.**

**We talked about it and decided we would have them cleaned since we had never had them done before, "SHAME ON US".**

**The point of this story is that the Temple Beth El Cemetery prices are incredibly reasonable, and the service we use does a wonderful job.**

**From dirty like this stone to clean and looking brand new like my parents' stone.**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Beaboxer@gmail.com)
- Deadline for submission is **April 1, 2025**





# SIMCHA GRAMS

## April

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

### Date

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

### Date

Josh Pearlman	06	Bob and Ellie Cohen	4/20/1986
Edward Kowalsky	07		
Evan Philipson	18		
Howard Stern	19		
Jeremy Philipson	22		
Debra Rosenthal	30		



## 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

## MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
2	3	4 TBE Religious School 4:00 PM TBE Torah Class 5:45 PM at Temple or on Zoom TBE Board Meeting 7:00 PM	5	6	7 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30	8 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM TE Torah Studv
9	10	11 TBE Religious School 4:00 PM TBE Torah Class 5:45 PM at Temple or on Zoom	12	13 Erev Purim	14 Purim TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30	15 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
16	17	18 TBE Religious School 4:00 PM TBE Torah Class 5:45 PM at Temple or on Zoom	19	20	21 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30	22 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
23	24	25 TBE Religious School 4:00 PM TBE Torah Class 5:45 PM at Temple or on Zoom	26	27	28 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30	29 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
30	31					



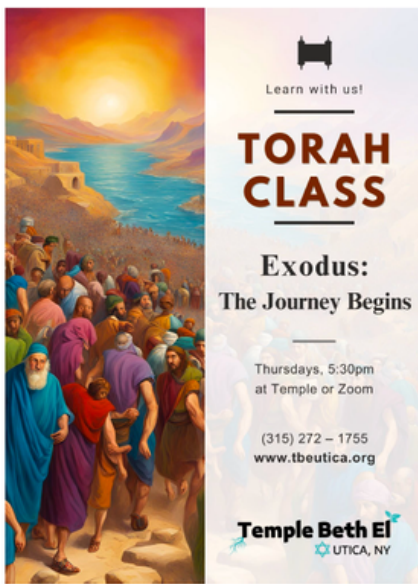
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### HEBREW LANGUAGE CLASS

Beginners: Tuesdays 3:30pm & Thursdays 3pm  
Intermediate: Mondays 3:30pm & Wednesdays 2:30pm

(315) 272 – 1755  
www.tbeutica.org

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UTICA, NY

Learn with us!


### TORAH CLASS

Exodus:  
The Journey Begins

Thursdays, 5:30pm  
at Temple or Zoom

(315) 272 – 1755  
www.tbeutica.org

Temple Beth El  
UTICA, NY




Enroll today!  
Ages 5 - 12

### HEBREW SCHOOL

Wednesdays, 4pm at the  
Jewish Community Center

(315) 272 – 1755  
www.tbeutica.org

Temple Beth El  
UTICA, NY



# Yahrzeits

Yahrzeits observed during the week of March 8 to 14, 2025 – 8 to 14 Adar 5785

These will be read from the pulpit on Friday March 7, 2025

Pauline Bernstein*	Ludwig Eisen*	Arthur Markson*	Hattie Cohen Smith*
Abraham Bernstein*	Sarah Ferrucci*	Dr. Jack Margolis	Louis M. Smith*
Charles Berger*	Mathis Feller*	Florence Bloom Nathan*	Anna Solomon*
Celia Liba Berlin*	David Gersten	Toby Nathan*	Nathan Targer*
Louis Berkowitz*	Edithe Goldenson	Milton D. Nelson*	Lena Taylor*
Rose Bellis*	Elaine Brown Gould*	George L. Ornest*	Sol B. Tannenbaum*
Hyman Berkowitz*	Albert Gordon*	Miriam Goldstone Parker*	Bernard Toffler*
Gertrude Abelove Berson	Anna Grossman*	Celia Rebeck*	Hyman Tumposky*
Bessie Berkowitz*	Matilda Jacobson*	Nettie S. Schwartz*	Max Weinberg*
Celia Plotka Block*	Harry Karstadt*	Arline B. Schechter*	Isaac Ichno Weinberg*
Minnie Cominsky*	Herbert Kall*	David Sherman*	Gertrude M. Williams*
Abe O. Cohen*	Fannie Kowalsky*	Miriam Simmons*	Ralph F. Wilcove*
Harry Cone*	Esta Landset*	Betty W. Simon*	Janet G. Wineburgh*
Eli Cramer*	Benjamin Levinthal*	Louis N. Singer*	Dr. Jacob J. Wineburgh*
Rachel Davis*	Bernard Lichtman*	Jennie Slater*	Benny Woodoff*
Robert Danner MD			Samuel Wolf*

Yahrzeits observed during the week of March 15 to 21, 2025 – 15 to 21 Adar, 5785

These will be read from the pulpit on Friday March 14, 2025

Joseph D. Abelson*	Celia Danner*	Samuel Karinsky*	Alfred Picker*
Nathan Alpert*	Erwin Fischer	Ida Kennedy*	Samuel Rosen*
Mollie Alpert*	Clara Galinn*	John Kingsley	Arthur C. Rosenberg*
Dora Berkowitz*	Lottie B. Grossman*	Louis Kowalsky*	Harris Samuels*
James Arthur Benson*	Albert Greenburg*	Jacob Kowalsky*	Joseph Schwartz
David Bigelow*	Roslyn Leona Haven	Rose Fink Krohn*	Victor Seidenberg*
Charles Bloom*	Edmond Harris*	Mary Levine*	Jacob Shatsky*
Lena Benjamin Brody*	Charles Z. Holstein*	Max Abraham Lyons*	Shaia Sheiman*
Dr. Sarah H. Brooks*	Benjamin H. Jacobson*	Harry Markson*	Etta G. Simons*
Gertrude Cone*	Bert Jacobs*	Samuel Markson*	Lewis Snyder*
Hyman Cohen*	Doris Katzman*	Joseph L. Manning*	Max Trapnick*
Walter Cramer*			Frances Tumposky*

Yahrzeits observed during the week of March 22 to 28, 2025 – 22 to 28 Adar, 5785

These will be read from the pulpit on Friday March 21, 2025

Joseph Abelove*	Ida Dean*	Gertrude Tumposky Kantor*	Saul William Pross*
Max Berger*	Samuel S. Freeman*	Sheyna Lippe Keller*	Clara Glick Rockowitz*
Moses H. Berger*	Mae Sumberg Freedman*	Esther Kennedy*	Samuel Schwartz*
Samuel J. Blaugrund*	Jack Freeman*	Milton Kirschbaum*	Irving Jacob Shoor*
Rebecca Bonnett*	Max Friedlander*	Celia Klein	Ida Silverstein*
Mary Bonnett*	Leo Gerber*	Ida Landset*	Libbie B. Singer*
Jacob Boff*	Louis M. Goldstone*	Lillian Boyer Lacher*	Dorothy F. Slakter*
Benjamin Brill*	Joyce Goldstone	Laurence D. Lampert	Rose F. Smith*
Celia Brown*	Nathan Gross*	Lena Levinson*	Anne C. Smith*
Samuel Caro*	Samuel J. Grossman*	Rabbi Jerome Lipnick*	Dorothy Smith*
Rachel Cohen*	Celia M. Harris*	Sara R. Newman*	Celia Sumberg*
Minnie L. Cohen*	Anna Herman	Harry Perlman*	Hyman R. Tapper*
Herman Cohen*	Jonas Herzog*	Wolf Philipson*	Fannie Weitzman*
	Anne Jaffey*	Adele Popick*	Samuel Yatkowsky*

# Yahrzeits

Yahrzeits observed during the week of March 29 to April 4, 2025 – 29 Adar to 6 Nissan, 5785

These will be read from the pulpit on Friday March 28, 2025

Dora Brill Alderman*	Herbert H. Galinn*	Sarah S. Lewus*	Yerac Samuels*
Arthur Berkowitz	Shaina Gordon*	Arno M. Lewus*	Rose Saltzman
Ethel Blaustein*	Theresa Guttman*	Janice Goldstone Lipman	Helen Schor*
Betty Bloom	Samuel Kaminkowitz*	Mae Mitchell*	Yetta Schneider*
Louis Brown*	Hyman Katzman*	Alan B. Nathan*	Bernard Sherman*
Isadore Brooks*	Bernard Stuart Kamin*	Lena G Oppenheim*	Susie I. Sherman*
Solomon Cohen	Samuel Kerker*	Albert Prybutock*	Sarah Slakter Ben*
Morton L. Cominsky	Allen E. Kennedy*	Meyer A. Rebeck*	Jane Gerston Stone*
Ida Cohen	Charles T. Klein*	Jacob G. Rosenwald*	Lew Starer*
David W. Cone*	William J. Kowalsky*	Allen I. Rockford*	Anna Trapanick*
Anita Cramer*	Lena Kopel*	Bianca D. Rosenblum*	Andrew Wineburgh*
Anna Amelia Fink*	Jacob Krulik*	Bertha Savett*	Samuel Zavotsky*
Harriet C. Friedman*		Dr. Milton A. Savett*	Jennie Zavotsky*

## Save the Date



April 27, 2025

Free Performance by the ABCdario Dance Company



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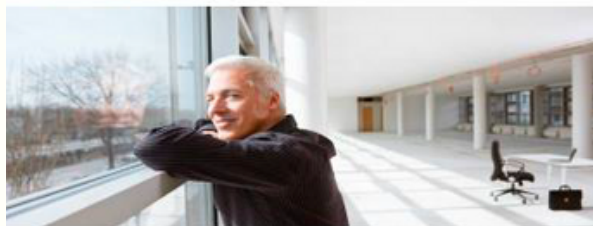
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**Ads in the Bulletin**

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.



# TEMPLE ORGANIZATION

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## CLERGY

Rabbi Gustavo Geier  
Cantor Kalman Socolof, Cantor Emeritus  
Dr. Stanley Gerstein, Rabbi Emeritus

## OFFICERS

Marsha Silverman, Executive Director  
Marsha Silverman, President  
Mark Smith, Treasurer

## TRUSTEES

Ernest Berkowitz	Wayne Meyers
Dan Cohen	Dr. Bradley Sklar
David Goldbas	Roseanne Witonsky
Murray Kirshtein	Don Dresher

## STAFF

Julie Cain, Secretary

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*A Conservative congregation  
established for the worship of God,  
the study of Torah and the practice  
of righteous deeds.*

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**Temple Beth El**  
1607 Genesee St, Utica, NY 13501  
Office: (315) 724-4751  
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**Rabbi Geier**  
Call/Text: (315) 272-1755  
[gustavo@geier.com](mailto:gustavo@geier.com)