

# The Temple Times

2710 Genesee Street, Utica, New York 13502  
TE 315/724-4177 ★ TBE 315/724-4751

1Heshvan / Kislev 5780  
Vol.11.3 November 2019

## Temple Beth El Service Schedule

### Services

Monday Morning	9:00 A.M.
Thursday Morning	9:00 A.M.
Friday Shabbat Evening	5:30 P.M.

### Services and Kiddush Hosted by the Temple Beth El Sisterhood

Saturday Shabbat Morning	9:30 A.M.
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### Dear Friends,

To help make a minyan. Please join us.

### Temple Beth El Office Hours

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

### CANDLE LIGHTING – 5780

November 1 <sup>st</sup>	4:35 P.M.
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	4:27 P.M.
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	4:19 P.M.
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	4:14 P.M.
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	4:10 P.M.

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.

We made it  
Temple Beth El is 100



**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**CHANUKAH DINNER**

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**5:30 PM**

Full details in the  
December Temple Times

**Temple Beth El Organization**

Cantor Kalman A. Socolof

Dr. Stanley Gerstein, Rabbi Emeritus

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Julie Cain, Secretary

**Temple Beth El Cantor Message**

At one point in Junior High School I shared a desk with a particular young lady. Between things, we would talk about this and that and in time the conversation turned to religion. She was an Episcopalian. I told her that I really didn't understand the idea of the trinity. She admitted that she didn't, either. I suggested that she ask her priest to explain it to her, and then she could relay what he said to me. She agreed to this. A week or so later, she told me that she had told her priest that she didn't understand the trinity. His response was, "You don't have to understand it, you just have to believe it." Then and since I found this answer to be quite unsatisfactory.

I am currently teaching a conversion class at Temple Beth Joseph in Herkimer under the auspices of Rabbi Dan Ornstein of Temple Ohav Shalom in Albany. As part of the preparation, Rabbi Ornstein has the students write a series of essays to consider and evaluate their expectations and understanding of Judaism. Part of the first essay asks the students: "At this (relatively) early stage in your study of Judaism, write about three aspects of Judaism and Jewish life which interest you. Describe them a bit and explain how they might affect your thinking and your life." Almost to a person, the students said that one of the three things they found attractive about Judaism is that you are allowed and encouraged to ask questions.

Especially for those of us who grew up with Judaism, the freedom to question is a given. After all, the telling of the story during the *seder*, the centerpiece of the evening and the whole reason for the enterprise (sorry, it's not the *charoset*), is framed by the asking of questions. The section about the four different kinds of children is focused on answering the questions that we know will come, and we are specifically instructed to

*(Continued on Page 2)*

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## Temple Beth El Cantor's Message

(Continued from Page 2)

start the child on the path to asking if they are not able to.

Learning leads to knowledge, which in turn leads to understanding. A person, of whatever age, who asks questions wants to learn. This is a behavior we should endorse. Yes, sometimes questions are not so much to learn as they are to annoy, obfuscate or delay. Such instances are fairly easy to identify for what they are. There are those who perceive questions as a threat, often to their authority. This says far more about them than about the questioner.

Isadore Rabi, a Nobel laureate in physics, was once asked why he went into science. He replied, "My mother made me a scientist without ever knowing it. Every other child would come back from school and be asked, 'What did you learn today?' But my mother used to ask: 'Izzy, did you ask a good question today?' That made the difference. Asking good questions made me a scientist." Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks has observed, "Judaism is the rarest of phenomena: a faith based on asking questions, sometimes deep and difficult ones that seem to shake the very foundations of faith itself."

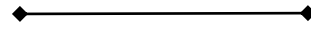
Given my job, it is not surprising that I get asked a fair amount of questions. When someone asks a question I see it as an opportunity. It is a chance to fill in gaps, broaden horizons and foment a more complete understanding of how to best live our lives. Sometimes I don't know the answers. There is nothing wrong with saying so. Not only that, but it is a chance for me to do more learning myself, so that I may be able to provide an answer after some study.

I shall close with an old piece from Dear Abby:

Why do Jews always answer a question with a question?

How **should** they answer?

Cantor Socolof



## Temple Beth El President's Message

Thank you to all those that assisted in transforming the JCC auditorium into a warm and welcoming place to greet the new year of 5780. As always, the staff members at Temple Beth El and the JCC employees were extremely helpful.

It was heartwarming to see so many of us praying together with Cantor Fader, Elliott Rabin, Izzy Cominsky, Dave Lowitz and Larry Marks. It always amazes me how simple they make it seem.

To Dave Lowitz and Stephen Rosenfeld for keeping the service running as smooth as possible, a much-deserved thanks.

Thank you to Michael Silverman for his thoughtful and beautiful Yom Kippur Appeal and Lois for the meaningful martyrology before the Yiskor service.

Thank you to all of you who attended and participated in our holiday services.

Todah Rabah to Mundy for the hours she spent assigning all the honors for the High Holidays.

The Centennial Celebration took a year to plan and many hours were spent to make it a success. I would like to save my remarks until the next edition to pull my thoughts together. At this time of year, upstate New York is alive with color. Take time to look around and enjoy it.

Shalom,  
Marsha



## Temple Beth El Executive Director's Message



Dear Friends,

This is going to be a fairly short message.

Our High Holy Day services were wonderful. The JCC was welcoming, the flowers donated for Rosh Hashanah by Mark and Kathy Smith in memory of Martin and Bernice Smith and those donated by Ed and Melissa Kowalsky in memory of William Kowalsky were beautiful.

Our Congregation took part in the services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Cantor Larry Fader beautifully sang the services and delivered an inspiring sermon. Elliott Rabin, a wonderful long distance member of the Temple Beth El family made Rosh Hashanah services sparkle, as he always does, and his sermon was warm and thought provoking. Good job to both Larry and Elliott.

Many thanks to all those who helped prepare the services, to our members who took honors and who read Torah on Yom Kippur. All of you who agreed to be part of our 3 special days certainly got all of us off to a wonderful new year.

As I write this we are almost at our Centennial Celebration. It has been a pleasure to put all effort needed to plan such a wonderful event, we are all very excited to share this with everyone. I will have more to say in the December bulletin.

A good year to all.  
Mundy

**You may drop your  
Blue Box  
off at the JCC or Temple.**

Thank you, Marsha

## Temple Beth El Donations

### THE VICTOR H. FLAX FUND

**In Memory Of:** Florence Slater, H. Samuel Slater, Harry Barsky and Mendy Schulman  
✧ Dorothy Kayle

**In Memory Of:** Dr. Martin Katahn and Richard M. Klein (called Dick)  
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✧ Mimi Goldberg Slomovick  
✧ Robert and Adele Sossen  
✧ Dianne and Murray Kirshtein  
✧ Elizabeth Dobell  
✧ Elaine Brown – In memory of a beloved mother and my dear friend

### CEMETERY FUND

**In Memory Of:** Harold H. Hymes, and Gertrude Peretz  
✧ Charles and Rita Manning

In Memory of  
David Goldstone



In Memory of  
Aviva Philipson



# The Men's Club of Temple Beth El

## PRESENTS THE 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Political Forum Breakfast



Sunday Morning  
November 3, 2019

Breakfast at 9:00 A.M.

The program begins at 9:30 AM

Breakfast - \$8.00 per person

For reservations please call  
315 724-4751



Invited guests to be announced later

## Temple Beth El Simcha 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 724 4751.

Mundy

## Annual Meeting of the Temple Beth El Cemetery Corporation

Tuesday, December 3, 2019  
4:00 pm

At Temple Beth El  
everyone is welcome

## HELP US 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.

## Quiet Voices of Ahavah Rabbah

An autumn's journey upstream to Temple Beth El memories reminds me of shared meals underneath the thatch of our communal *sukkah*. Even on the chilliest afternoons, Temple Beth El 'elders' joined me to enact *hachnasat orchim* - 'welcoming guests' into our shared table and numerous stories of Utica's Jewish community.

Especially interesting to me as a newcomer were the shared histories of people who grew up together in Utica or settled for a lifetime. Some met and married their high-school sweethearts! Professional trajectories, *simchas* (joyful events) and ailing friends were all opportunities to share a steady sense of community. These elders experienced the gradual migration from Orthodox shul to Temple Beth El's magnificent synagogue on Genesee Street. And they expressed feelings of loss as young people moved away for new opportunities.

Hearing these shared histories and sentiments was a matter of great honor. Over time, I noticed a silent stream of memory patterns flowing just beneath the surface; gradually the elders imparted an unspoken, deeper significance for my rabbinic service.

From an early age, we're familiar with the *Shema* declaration of loyalty to one God and our duty to teach Jewish precepts diligently to our children. Even while in seminary, I felt closer to the stern directives of *Shema* than other sections of the liturgy. So imagine my intrigue upon learning how several elders reserved greater esteem for *Ahavah Rabbah* – the passage immediately preceding the *Shema* in the morning service.

The primary significance of *Ahavah Rabbah* (great love) was illuminated by Rabbi Yaakov Yosef of Polonoye (1704 – 1794) - an early follower of the *Baal Shem Tov*, and author of the first printed book of *chassidut*. R. Yaakov Yosef begins: "The liturgy prescribes that the Prayer of Love (*Ahavah Rabbah*) must be recited before the Proclamation of God's Oneness (*Shema*). Commentary: The Master (*Baal Shem Tov*) was told that the Messiah has not come because people do not devote themselves sufficiently to this prayer. These words of Love are the kisses that precede union, awakening desire in the Presence (*shekhinah*) so that

her child, compassion, might come forth." [*Toledot Ya'acov Yosef* 38d]

This teaching of *Baal Shem Tov* awakens our hearts to the natural progression of love and intimacy - that brings forth compassion in a relationship. The intended godly sense of 'compassion' – liturgically embedded in the Hebrew root of *chemla* - also implies mercifulness or pardon. These are aspects of compassion lovingly bestowed by elders and grandparents upon the younger generations. Behaviors that parents and teachers chastise – grandparents just smile and forgive with a knowing twinkle of the eye! Similarly, long-term couples may develop the godly compassion to be merciful and pardon when asked in good faith.

Returning to my upstream Utica memory journey, I distinctly hear voices of Beth El elders reciting the *Shema*'s declarations of loyalty – to God and traditions. I see their faces gathered in the *sukkah*, smiling in the fragrant fall air. And we can appreciate their gentle expressions of *ahavah rabbah* - compassion for friends and younger generations who drifted downstream to new possibilities. Such is the fate and hopeful duty of our elders – to quietly induce *ahavah rabbah* in present times, while patiently awaiting Messiah.

We close with core passages from the *Ahavah Rabbah* liturgy:

"Deep is Your love for us, Lord our God; You spare us with abundant compassion.

As You taught our ancestors life-giving laws...so [too] we implore You graciously teach us...

Praised are You, Lord, who chooses his people Israel with love."

*Mazal Tov* on Temple Beth El's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and wishing the Temple Beth El community a *z'man simchateinu* (time of joy)!

May you draw ever closer to God and loved ones *b'ahavah rabbah* -

Rabbi Jeff Segall



# A Tax-Wise Tip

Exclusively for Congregants  
70 1/2 years old or older!

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) you have enjoyed tax-deferred growth in this account since its inception. Now, as you take your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year, the amount you withdraw is subject to income tax. Did you know that if you choose to make a gift using the assets of your IRA you can satisfy the annual distribution requirement while completely avoiding the income tax that would otherwise be due?

For example: Directing the financial institution that manages your IRA to transfer \$10,000 to your favorite qualified not-for-profit (such as Temple Emanu-El or Beth El) means that the Temple receives the full \$10,000 and you are no longer responsible for any income taxes...which could have been as much as \$3700 depending upon your tax situation...on this withdrawal. Plus, the amount of the gift satisfies at least a portion of your RMD. The limit is \$100,000 annually.

Should you consider taking advantage of this gift-giving and tax-avoidance strategy, there are 5 things to pay special attention to:

- 1) This is valid only for traditional IRA's, it doesn't work with Roth IRA's;
- 2) For an estimate of how much tax you can save this way, consult your accountant or tax advisor;
- 3) DO NOT withdraw from your IRA and then write a check! You must ask your financial institution to transfer your gift directly to the recipient;
- 4) Don't wait until the very end of the year to initiate this transfer, as IRA managers are often fairly slow in executing transfers. Give them at least a month before the end of the calendar year!

- 5) Contact the Temple office for details at the time that you wish to initiate the transfer. We can provide you with account information to make sure that your gift arrives in the right place!

*This Tax-Wise Tip is provided courtesy of the Temple Emanu-El Planned Giving Committee. Feel free to contact us through the Temple office if you like additional information or have further questions.*





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Thank You!!!

## Temple Beth El December Simcha Grams



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	Dec	DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES	Date
David Finer	12/02	Stanley and Aliza Gerstein	12/25/61
Eleanor Cohen	12/03		
Andrew Philipson	12/11		
Aliza Gerstein	12/13		
Mel Oster	12/17		
Sharon Orkin	12/24		
Richard Wolfe	12/24		
Millie Rokeach	12/29		
Heidi Foote	12/31		

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  
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Due by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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

## Temple Beth El November Yahrzeits

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of November 2, to 8, 2019 4 to 10 Heshvan 5780

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday November 1, 2019

Manny Abelow*	Frieda Fisher	Evelyn Keehn	Norman Nathan*
Ben B. Brown	Monte Futterman	Jeanette S. Katzman*	Nathan Rubenstein*
Samuel Berkowitz*	Samuel Fein*	Sidney Kamino*	Victor H. Smith*
Mary Brooks*	Pesach Galinsky*	Dr. Stuart E. Krohn*	Dr. Robert Smith*
Alfred Alvin Brown*	Ruth R. Goldstone*	Alan J. Kaplan*	David H. Stone*
Joseph Cramer*	Lillian Gordon*	Eva Kaplan*	Anna Silverman*
Sadie Cohen*	Jami Rose Grossman*	Adelaide Lumberg*	Charles L. Weitzman*
Michele Dew	Jennie C. Katzman	Barney Lumberg*	Arthur Wasserman*

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of Nov. 9 to 15, 2019 11 to 17 Heshvan 5780

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday November 8, 2019

Miriam L. Abelson*	Sarah Fink*	Sophia K. Krohngold	Hashe B. Yitzchok Rivlin*
Jane Cone Bonnett*	Mary B. Freedman*	Helen Kopel*	June G. Rizika*
Mamie Berman*	Mary Freeman	Tillie Klein	Hattie Rudolph*
David Brooks	Rose Greenburg*	Mabel S. Krohn	Yitzhak Rabin*
Evelyn Rose Buff*	Morris Greenburg*	Wolfe Landsman*	Fannie Seidenberg
Esther Mardon Bernstein*	Samuel Glazer	Ida Ella Lurie*	Mandel G. Schulman*
Harry Chazan	Alice Gordon*	Harry Levinson	Mollie Altman Segal*
Joseph Cramer*	Isaac Hymes*	Joan Lipnick	Ramon Simons*
Isaac Dean*	Saul Harris	Mamie Mettelman*	Julius Tumposky*
Ernest H. Emas	Hyman Kopel*	Eva Mazer*	Myron W. Wolfe*
Helen Egeth*	Norma Hope Kennedy*	Jacob L. Nusbaum*	

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of Nov. 16 to 22, 2019 18 to 24 Heshvan 5780

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday November 15, 2019

Ethel Case Berkowitz	Harry Friedlander	Robert R. Levee*	Lena Samuels*
Ruth Brill*	Harry M. Glick*	Philip Movsh*	Miriam W. Silverman*
Helen Weitzman Braverman*	Samuel Greenberg	Isabel H. Manning*	Seymour Smith*
Phyllis Bernstein*	Jack D. Goldstone	Rose L. Nathan*	Sherwin Seldin
Joseph Cohen*	Samuel Hurowitz*	Sarah Philipson*	Etta Tumposky*
Samuel Cone*	Jacob D. Jacobson*	Lena K. Rosenthal*	Mollie Wilcove
Harry Cooperman*	Harris Kowalsky*	Sarah H. Speiler*	David Weitzman*
Bella Fein*	Rosalie Kirshtein*	Anna Simon*	

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of Nov. 23, to 29, 2019

25 Heshvan to 1 Kislev 5780

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday November 22, 2019

Joseph E. Berkowitz	Gertrude L. Gennis*	Joseph H. Kerner*	Rhoda Ribyat*
Dr. Robert B. Beede*	Jennifer Lynn Golden*	Ruth Kupfer	Sarah Snyder*
Goldie Brooks*	Esther Goldstein*	Edith S. Levy*	Edward Sherline*
Morris H. Cohen*	Myron Greenburg	Regina Mailman*	Stella V. Silverstein*
Anna Ella Cominsky*	Rose L. Horwitz*	Frances Niederland	Isadore Samuels*
Evelyn Cooperman*	Gertrude F. Jameson	Jeanette Philipson*	Albert L. Silverman*
Rosalyn R. Cramer*	Arlene Rose Kessler*	Murray Palmer*	Dr. Albert A. Schwartz*
Isaac Edelman*	Sarah Cohen Kopel*	Hyman Rebeck*	Stephen R. Solomon*

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of Nov. 30 to Dec. 6, 2019 2 to 8 Kislev 5780

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday November 29, 2019

Ida Abelow*	Albert M. Freeman*	Rachel Levine*	E. Michael Spieler*
Sylvia Abrams	Shirley Flax*	Charles Levine	Edward M. Speiler*
Irving Brooks*	Herbert Grossman*	Sadie Markson*	Abraham Siegel*
Abe Barth*	Edward Goldberg	Anna Gersten Perlman*	Lena Stark*
Bertha S. Charkow*	Abraham Klein	Louis Philipson*	Sidney I. Slavin
Ruth Drescher Cohen	President John F. Kennedy*	Sara Puttock*	Chayah Weisberg*
Bertha Damsky*	Rachel Levin*	Irving Pollack*	Benjamin Weitzman*



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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 Mundy Shapiro (Temple Beth El) 724-4751 or Rita Davan (Temple Emanu-El) 724-4177.