

# THE TEMPLE TIMES

March 2024 | Adar I/II 5784 | Vol. 14.7



## President's Message

*Marsha Silverman*

Spring in February was a nice surprise. I hope this finds everyone well.

Did you make your reservations? We are celebrating Purim with the entire community and Temple Emanu-El will be hosting this year on March 23rd. After we imbibe in some nibbles and cocktails, Rabbi Geier and Rabbi Schaktman will share the reading of the Megillah.

Afterwards, we will PARTY and of course eat. I am looking forward to seeing your costume. Come and share the fun with friends and family.

Please save the dates at the JCC:

- Community Seder, Monday, April 22nd
- The Helen and Leon Sperling Holocaust Memorial Lecture, May 9th
- Jewtica #3, June 9th

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A huge thank you to Mundy Shapiro and Ruth Wolfe for polishing the silver breast plates, yads and crowns for our Torahs. Don't forget your sunglasses when we open the ark.

About the #BlueSquare Campaign, we have handed out hundreds of blue square pins and yet I do not see many being worn. This campaign in 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 and the JCC.

After services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings, we schmooze, drink and share dairy delights. Please feel welcome to join and add to the buffet.

Just a reminder, to save a stamp. You can make your donations or any other payments online through Zeffy on our webpage, [tbeutica.org](http://tbeutica.org).

Bring them home and Shalom,  
Marsha



## Shabbat Times

Mar 1st Light Candles: 5:33 pm  
Mar 2nd Havdalah: 6:34 pm  
Parashat Ki Tisa

Mar 8th Light Candles: 5:41 pm  
Mar 9th Havdalah: 6:43 pm  
Parashat Vayakhel

Mar 15th Light Candles: 6:49 pm  
Mar 16th Havdalah: 7:51 pm  
Parashat Pekudei

Mar 22nd Light Candles: 6:58 pm  
Mar 23rd Havdalah: 8:00 pm  
Parashat Vayikra

Mar 29th Light Candles: 7:06 pm  
Mar 30th Havdalah: 8:08 pm  
Parashat Tzav

## Shabbat Services

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



## Rabbi's Message

*Rabbi Gustavo Geier*

What happened in the second half of 1947 and during 1948 is complicated to narrate. David Ben Gurion is accused of having a strategic plan to expel Arabs from villages in Galilee in the north and around the Arab city of Lod in the center. They were to drive out the Arabs from Galilee and overcome the Syrian and Lebanese forces invading Galilee. Conquer Galilee, cleanse Galilee, defend Galilee. Ensure that Galilee becomes Jewish.

The Palmach, the shock forces of the Haganah, and the IDF are accused of perpetrating a massacre in those villages and especially in Lod.

After years of "coexistence" between Jews and Arabs with attacks and deaths multiplying the list I shared last month by many, there was a clear vision that coexistence was not possible in the same territory.

A plan existed and was executed to transfer Arab inhabitants from their villages to Jordan, and Gaza and other territories. Pressure was applied with the option of relocation being the logical choice for intimidated inhabitants who did not want to face possible death, but above all, there was a massacre.

Do excuses suffice to justify a massacre? The accounts of some who received evacuation orders and found themselves in the subsequent dilemma of deciding between life and death of dozens of people included some apologies that attempted to mitigate the impact that decision had on their lives and psyches. "We were surrounded." "We were under imminent threat from within and from outside." "There was no time, I had to make an immediate decision." "Terrible things happen in war."

While humanity is accustomed to this type of moral confrontation in every war we live or study, it is not something we are accustomed to as the Jewish People, the State of Israel, or the IDF.

I prefer to cite the account from the book "My Promised Land" by Ari Shavit, which makes a meaningful account of what happened:

"The Arab city of Lod suspected nothing. Lod had no idea what was about to happen. For forty-four years, it had watched Zionism enter the valley.

During the forty-four years that Lod watched Zionism approach, Lod prospered. From 1922 to 1947, the population more than doubled, from eight thousand to nineteen thousand. The leap was not only quantitative but also qualitative. Modernization was everywhere. After the devastation caused by the 1927 earthquake, many of the old mud dwellings were replaced by new solid stone houses. Near the Great Mosque and the cathedral, a commercial center



and a new mosque were built. On the west side of the city, a district with symmetrical streets emerged. Lod was a central intersection of the Palestine railway system, and the executives of the railway company lived in the new English-style garden suburb, the city's pride. There was electricity on some streets, running water in some houses. Two state schools and an Anglican school educated Lod's boys and girls separately. Two clinics, five doctors, and two pharmacies ensured decent medical service. The mortality rate dropped to twelve per

thousand, while the fertility rate increased dramatically. A genuine social revolution had occurred in Lod in the first half of the twentieth century.

But in 1947, the issue of Palestine comes to a decisive moment. In February, Her Majesty's government had had enough of the conflict between Arabs and Jews and decided to leave the Holy Land and allow the United Nations to decide its fate. In June, a United Nations inquiry commission composed of eleven members arrives in Palestine and while touring the country visits Ben Shemen, the Jewish population that lived peacefully for decades and helped both cities prosper, and the valley of Lod.

In August, the committee reaches the conclusion that there is no way for Jews and Arabs to coexist in Palestine and therefore suggests dividing the land into two national states. In November, the UN General Assembly endorses the partition plan and calls for the establishment of a Jewish state and an Arab state. Since the Arab League and the Arabs of Palestine reject Resolution 181, violence erupts in the country. It becomes clear that Arab nationalism is about to eradicate Zionism and destroy the Jewish community in Palestine by

using brute force. It becomes clear that the Jews must defend themselves alone, because no one else will come to rescue them. From December 1947 to May 1948, a cruel civil war erupts between Arabs and Jews. After the British leave, the State of Israel is founded on May 14, 1948. The next day, the armies of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon invade, and a large-scale war breaks out.

On July 4, 1948, Operation Larlar, designed to conquer Lod, is presented to the Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben Gurion. On July 10-11, the eighth brigade of the IDF conquers the northern part of the Lod Valley: the villages of Deir Tarif and Haditha and the international airport. Simultaneously, the elite Yiftach brigade takes the southern part of the valley: the villages of Inaba, Gimzu, Daniyal, and Dahariya.

On July 11, two platoons of the Third Regiment of the IDF advance from the conquered village of Daniyal towards the olive groves that separate Ben Shemen from Lod. Intense machine gun fire from the outskirts of Lod stops them.

In the late afternoon, the column leaves Ben Shemen and rushes to reach the city of Lod, shooting at anything in its path. In forty-seven minutes of intense offensive, more than a hundred Arab civilians - women, children, and the elderly - are killed by bullets. Regiment 89 loses nine members.

By nightfall, the Zionists have taken the city of Lod. The next day, two Jordanian armored vehicles enter the city by mistake, unleashing a new wave of violence. The Jordanian army is several kilometers to the east, and the two vehicles have no military significance, but some of Lod's citizens mistakenly believe they are the

harbingers of liberation. Some of the soldiers of the Third Regiment mistakenly believe they are now facing the imminent danger of a Jordanian attack. Near the small mosque, Israeli soldiers are shot at.

The order is given to return fire. Soldiers fire in all directions; some throw grenades into homes. One fires an anti-tank PIAT projectile at the small mosque. In thirty minutes, at high noon, more than two hundred civilians are killed. Zionism perpetrates a massacre in the city of Lod. As if they were not only demolishing a conquered Arab city, but also the values of the socialist Zionist edict to be humble and do good and serve a greater good."

The biggest excuse is that if it were not done in that way, the war could end in the death of Zionism. And if Zionism dies, what will happen in the land of Israel will be what happened over and over again in Europe. The Jews will be Jews again: they will be helpless.

Lod and the villages around it and those in Galilee, expulsion, mass deaths, are part of our

contribution, perhaps inevitable, to the conflict that we continue to experience today. Tens of thousands of unjustifiable deaths from the point of view of the bereaved contribute to the almost impossible task of moving towards peace

I have an idea for a "Peace Treaty," although it may seem somewhat naive.

I fervently believe in the concept of Teshuva, repentance as a basic concept for coexistence among people. I do not mean the repentant who apologizes to himself or lives repressed by guilt for his misbehavior, but exactly the Teshuva conceptualized by Maimonides, the Rambam, and which I have already shared, especially from the pulpit of Temple Beth El.

In a nutshell, Teshuva must have 4 steps:

1. **Hakarat hachet:** We must recognize in principle that we have acted wrongly.
2. **Tikun:** Repair the damage.
3. **Vidui:** Public acknowledgment of the error.
4. **Azibat Hachet:** The definitive change by choosing a different path when facing the same situation again.

## Cemetery Head & Footstone Cleaning

We are taking requests to clean head and footstones in our 5 cemeteries:



Temple Beth El  
House of Israel  
Mason Road  
Sharie Tefillah  
Jonathan Lodge



**The cost is very reasonable:**  
\$50.00 for each footstone  
\$75.00 for each headstone

This must be paid for before the stones are cleaned.

I am not truly a Maimonidist. I disagree with him on numerous positions, but I believe that this definition and simplification of Teshuva is brilliant and clear. I perceive the thought of a mere possibility that two peoples sit in conversation, each with the list of grievances of the atrocities inflicted on its own people, and begin from there with the recognition of what has been done, seeking each perpetrator party to find a way to make amends, publicly acknowledging the responsibility of what has been done, and agreeing to move forward without confrontation.

Super naive, I know, but without repentance and without recognition of errors, no approach to any affected party is possible.

Let us pray for the time when we can understand each other despite the sufferings, deaths, and aggressions that each people inflicted on the other. Let us pray for the day when there will be a sincere negotiating table aimed at improving the lives of both the People of Israel and the Arab people.

Let us pray for the return of the hostages who also suffered the unjust massacre of October 7 and remain in captivity. Let us pray for the IDF to resolve the ethical conflict of facing death every day.

In the month when we will celebrate Purim together, may the masks be on our faces only for that day. May our lives be free of masks, recognizing our reality, the reality of our past, to achieve a better future

May the Lord grant us peace in our hearts and in our lives soon.



# DONATIONS

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- Joan and Aaron Dulitz and Family

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- Charles J. Manning



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To date Ruth has washed and ironed **27** taleisim.

The High Holy Days will be here before you know it – and wouldn't it be wonderful to have a clean sweet smelling tallit?

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**The first person to request it may have it.**

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**SATURDAY  
MARCH 23**

**ENTRY  
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**8pm - Megillah reading with  
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**9pm - The party continues with  
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# COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER

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## MENU

Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:15 PM

Wine/Grape Juice

Matzo Ball Soup

Gefilte Fish

Carmelized Citrus  
Chicken

Roasted Potatoes

Brown Sugar Glazed  
Carrots

Lemon Roasted  
Asparagus

Coffee/Tea  
and  
Assorted Desserts



Please make reservations by calling 315 724 4751 or  
Email – tbeutica@gmail.com

**RSVP NO LATER THAN April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children 5 to 12 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children under 5 (FREE) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



# CELEBRATING TU B'SHEVAT AT TEMPLE BETH EL!

We planted lettuce  
for our Seder plate



made a collection  
box for JNF to  
plant trees in  
Israel,

and ate fruits for  
the holidays!



# 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?

Guidelines:

- This 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](http://jccutica.net), [tbeutica.org](http://tbeutica.org), [templemanuel-utica.org](http://templemanuel-utica.org)

Submit completed application and essay to: [Anneyoss@gmail.com](mailto:Anneyoss@gmail.com)

**Deadline for submission is April 19, 2024**

Cash prizes will be awarded.

The first place essay will be published in the program for The Annual Helen and Leon Sperling Holocaust Memorial Lecture on **May 9, 2024** at the Jewish Community Center, 2310 Oneida St. Utica NY 13501

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

# 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 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30 PM	2 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
3	4 TBE Hebrew Class Intermediates 3:30 PM	5 TBE Hebrew Class Beginners 3:30 PM TBE Board Meeting 7:00 PM	6 TBE Hebrew Class Intermediates 2:30 PM TE Religious School 4:00 PM TBE Religious School 4:15 PM	7 TBE Hebrew Class Beginners 2:30 PM  TBE Torah Class 5:30	8 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30 PM	9 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
10	11 TBE Hebrew Class Intermediates 3:30 PM	12 TE Women's Club Lunch 12:00 PM TBE Hebrew Class Beginners 3:30 PM	13 TBE Hebrew Class Intermediates 2:30 PM TE Religious School 4:00 PM TBE Religious School 4:15 PM	14 TBE Hebrew Class Beginners 2:30 PM  TBE Torah Class 5:30	15 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30 PM	16 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
17	18 TBE Hebrew Class Intermediates 3:30 PM	19 TBE Hebrew Class Beginners 3:30 PM  	20 TBE Hebrew Class Intermediates 2:30 PM  TBE Religious School 4:15 PM	21 TBE Hebrew Class Beginners 2:30 PM  Torah Class 5:30 PM	22 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30 PM	23 Erev Purim TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM  Adult Purim Costume Party 7:00 PM
24 Purim	25 TBE Hebrew Class Intermediates 3:30 PM	26 TBE Hebrew Class Beginners 3:30 PM	27 TBE Hebrew Class Intermediates 2:30 PM  TBE Religious School 4:15 PM	28 TBE Hebrew Class Beginners 2:30 PM  Torah Class 5:30 PM	29 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 5:30 PM	30 TBE Hybrid Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
31						

**LEARNING HEBREW AT  
TEMPLE BETH EL**

**שבת**

**BEGINNERS**  
TUESDAYS 8:30PM &  
THURSDAYS 2:30PM

**עברית**

**INTERMEDIATES**  
MONDAYS 8:30PM &  
WEDNESDAYS 2:30PM

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PHONE: 315-272-1755

# Yahrzeits

Yahrzeits observed during the week of March 2 to 8, 2024 – 22 to 28 Adar I, 5784

These will be read from the pulpit on Friday March 1, 2024

Joseph Abelove*	Ida Dean*	Esther Kennedy*	Saul William Pross*
Rebecca Bonnett*	Max Friedlander*	Sheyna Lippe Keller*	Adele Popick*
Benjamin Brill*	Samuel S. Freeman*	Gertrude Tumposky Kantor*	Harry Perlman*
Samuel J. Blaugrund*	Leo Gerber*	Celia Klein	Rose F. Smith*
Mary Bonnett*	Joyce Goldstone	Lena Levinson*	Dorothy F. Slakter*
Jacob Boff*	Nathan Gross*	Rabbi Jerome Lipnick*	Celia Sumberg*
Samuel Caro*	Jonas Herzog*	Lillian Boyer Lacher*	Ida Silverstein*
Herman Cohen*	Celia M. Harris*	Laurence D. Lampert	Samuel Schwartz*
Rachel Cohen*	Anne Jaffey*	Sara R. Newman*	Fannie Weitzman*
	Milton Kirschbaum*	Wolf Philipson*	Samuel Yatkowsky*

Yahrzeits observed during the week of March 9 to 15, 2024 – 29 Adar I to 5 Adar II, 5784

These will be read from the pulpit on Friday March 8, 2024

Louis Brown*	Samuel Kaminkowitz*	Jennie Zavotsky*	Natalie Gerstein*
Sarah S. Lewus*	Solomon Cohen	Bernard and Brother Sahl*	Nathan Lewis
Samuel Kerker*	Jacob Krulik*	Albert Merman*	Morris Marks*
Jacob G. Rosenwald*	Bertha Savett*	Esther P. Shattan*	Joseph H. Mettelman*
William J. Kowalsky*	Allen E. Kennedy*	Elwood Nedell*	Gordon J. Maran
	SamuelZavotsky*	Rebecca Rothenberg*	

Yahrzeits observed during the week of March 16 to 22, 2024 – 6 to 12 Adar II, 5784

These will be read from the pulpit on Friday March 15, 2024

Sarah Schneider*	Mort Rizika	Toby Nathan*	Herbert Kall*
Martha M. Sevilla*	Gertrude M. Williams*	Elaine Brown Gould*	Miriam Simmons*
Leonard A. Bartnick*	Isaac Ihno Weinberg*	Arline B. Schechter*	Bernard Toffler*
Sarah Adler*	Benny Woodoff*	Louis N. Singer*	Eli Cramer*
			Betty W. Simon*

Yahrzeits observed during the week of March 23 to 29, 2024 – 13 to 19 Adar II, 5784

These will be read from the pulpit on Friday March 22, 2024

Janet G. Wineburgh*	Doris Katzman*	Joseph D. Abelson*	Lena Benjamin Brody*
George L. Ornest*	Ida Kennedy*	Dora Berkowitz*	Erwin Fischer
Ralph F. Wilcove*	Dr. Sarah H. Brooks*	Bert Jacobs*	Charles Z. Holstein*
			Jacob Kowalsky*

Yahrzeits observed during the week of March 30 to April 5, 2024 – 20 to 26 Adar II, 5784

These will be read from the pulpit on Friday March 29, 2024

Louis Kowalsky*	Max Berger*	Moses H. Berger*	Anna Herman
Samuel Karinsky*	Jack Freeman*	Celia Brown*	Herman Cohen*
Arthur C. Rosenberg*	Hyman R. Tapper*	Irving Jacob Shoor*	Louis M. Goldstone*
Mae Sumberg Freedman*			Ida Landset*



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Dr. Stanley Gerstein, Rabbi Emeritus

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Mark Smith, Treasurer  
Rae Rosenfeld, Secretary

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Julie Cain, Secretary

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### Temple Beth El

1607 Genesee St, Utica, NY 13501  
Office: (315) 724-4751  
[www.tbeutica.org](http://www.tbeutica.org)

### Rabbi Geier

Call/Text: (315) 272-1755  
[gustavoгеier@gustavoгеier.com](mailto:gustavoгеier@gustavoгеier.com)