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Temple Beth El Cantor's Message

This year Chanukah happens to fall (early) in the month of December. We will light the candles, sing the songs, spin the dreidel and eat the fried foods - all the traditional observances of the holiday. We should also think about what Chanukah is truly about.

In 168 B.C.E. Antiochus Epiphanes, leader of the Syrian Greeks, intensified an already existing campaign of Hellenization in Judea. It was his intent to unify the disparate peoples under his rule by having them share one culture and one religion: the Greek system of Gods and demi-Gods with him as their local representative. The truth is, it was showing some fair success. Many of the Jews were taken with Greek culture and were eager to embrace it, even at the price of their traditional beliefs and practices. But Hellenization was not progressing quickly enough to suit Antiochus. So he outlawed the practice of Judaism and had his troops enter the Jews' Temple in Jerusalem and defiled it. They installed statues of Zeus on the Temple grounds and offered swine as sacrifices on the altar.

As we know, the Maccabees initiated a revolt which ultimately drove Antiochus' forces out of Judea. They then set about the task of once again making the Temple fit for sacrifice to God. Aside from the cleaning, they dismantled the profaned altar and replaced it with a new one. Only then did they hold a dedication ceremony, encompassing the rededication and the postponed observance of Sukkot.

What if someone, God forbid, had come and desecrated our sanctuary? What emotions would we be feeling, and how much would we want to repair and refurbish it so that it was once again a fit setting for worship? For the residents of Squirrel Hill, PA these are not academic musings. Their *shul* has been desecrated far beyond what many of us might
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Temple Beth El Cantor's Message

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have imagined possible. Not only must they get on with the restoration of the structure and its contents, but they must also tend to the damage done to the congregants.

As we celebrate Chanukah this year, let us do so in the spirit of rededication. Let us strive to repair the breach, whether in ourselves, in our environment, or between us and others. Let us more seriously take on the work of increasing the holiness in our world.

Cantor Socolof



Temple Beth El President's Message

Happy Chanukah!

When I see the social hall filled in celebration, it puts a smile on my face. The candles glowing were not the only warm feeling in the room. Thank you to all who made the Chanukah dinner a success!

On December 6th, the religious school students, teachers and families will celebrate Chanukah with the residents of Sitrin. Everyone is welcome to join in the festivities at the community house on the Sitrin campus from 4 until 6pm.

I would like to thank the Samoshuk family for arranging the vigil after the attack on the Tree of Life members in Pittsburgh. They said in a few weeks the shooting would be old news and soon forgotten. The family asked to create a living memorial for those that had their lives cut short. With the help from congregants, eleven trees were planted on the temple grounds in honor of those slain. In the spring, we will add a plaque and dedicate these trees as a living memorial.

Gratitude can lead to feelings of love, appreciation, generosity, and compassion,

which further opens our hearts and help rewire our brains to fire in more positive ways.

Melanie Greenberg, PhD.

At this holiday season, lend a hand to the less fortunate. Please make a donation to a food bank.



Shalom,
Marsha



Temple Beth El Donations

THE VICTOR H. FLAX FUND

In Memory Of: Lois Greene
✧ Murray and Dianne Kirshtein

In Recovery Of: Elinor Lampert
✧ Murray and Dianne Kirshtein

PHILIPSON FUND

In Honor Of: Marsha Silverman being honored by the Jewish Community Federation of the Mohawk Valley
✧ Gary, Lisa and Aviva Philipson

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

Thank you, Marsha

**HADASSAH JNF
CERTIFICATES
\$18.00
PLEASE
Call Marsha 315-725-7787**

Temple Beth El Executive Director Message



Dear Friends – Shalom

I am writing this message for the December bulletin early, which is not the usual. As I attempt to share my thoughts with you there is such diversity of emotions involved in my thinking this week. I know you will all understand as you read on.

It has been very busy in our office since the start of the High Holy Days, and the holidays that follow from the New Year, to the Day of Atonement, from Sukkot and celebrating the harvest to Simchat Torah, when we again start reading the Torah from the beginning.

Temple Beth El had a wonderful Congregational Dinner, the first in many years, and it was also the weekend we had family company to join us for dinner at Temple. The next weekend I personally had the joy of attending a beautiful, warm and loving wedding.

But the happy days were to end on Shabbat, October 27th when a crazed, anti-semitic man; in a lovely neighborhood in Pittsburgh, PA went on a rampage and killed 11 members of Tree of Life Synagogue, one of three congregations in a large beautiful building in Squirrel Hill. These folks were from their 50's to their 90's, at Shabbat Services, long standing members of their Temple Tree of Life.

Our hearts hurt for those killed and wounded and their families. Many of us ask why, but there is no answer. We send our sincere sympathy and love to all the families affected by this evil act. We hope their happy memories of the past are a source of comfort to the families and that their memories are always a blessing.

We must go forward, try to perform mitzvahs, have happy thoughts and Simchas and do good deeds for those in need and those we love.

It is hard to believe that by the time you read this Thanksgiving will be over and Chanukah will be at hand, as well as the secular New Year, 2019.

All the best to all of our friends, families and the entire Jewish Community of our people.

Shalom,
Mundy

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 one they will be greeted with a clean well maintained monument.

Temple Beth El
Cemetery Corporation



FUNDRAISER

We are starting a fundraiser for the Temple Beth El Cemetery Corporation. The monies raised will be used to place benches in our five cemeteries.

Memorial benches with a plaque may be purchased for \$350.00 each.

Donations of any amount will be appreciated.



The Good Old Days Temple Beth El's

Celebrating 100 years

Please write us a story

We want to have a booklet of your stories to leave for future generations.

We would also love to have pictures to go along with your stories or just a picture of your family, business or holiday gathering along with a caption.

Here is part two of a wonderful story submitted by Lois Silverman for all of you to read and enjoy.

Perhaps this will be new information for some of you who have no idea how Temple began and that perhaps it will inspire you to begin writing stories of your own life with Temple Beth El and the Jewish Community in the Utica area. I'm sure you will recognize names from the founders who have passed but still have family with us today.

SHARE YOUR STORIES and PICTURES

The 1900's.
Here is where last month's story ended ...So before the High Holydays in 1919, he called together 38 women who became the charter members of the Ladies' Auxiliary of Temple Beth El.

PART 2 begins

...The first president was Mrs. David L. Cohen. In 1921, the Ladies' Auxiliary of Temple Beth El affiliated with the Women's League of the United Synagogue. The first delegate from Utica to the 1922 National Convention of Women's League in Pittsburgh, was Mrs. Reuben Kaufman. Mrs. David L. Cohen was elected national treasurer of the Women's League in 1923. The Ladies' Auxiliary of Temple Beth El later changed its name to the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El. The organization's name was changed but

not its basic purpose--to serve Temple Beth El.

One of the main functions of the Sisterhood was to develop and enhance congregation life. The Auxiliary provided a kosher kitchen. It was a complete kitchen established with the little sums raised with the usual bake sales and auctions. Of course, as complete as it was, the Sisterhood's new pots cooked for quite a while on an old stove that Minnie Krohn donated to the Temple.

The Sisterhood in the kitchen served the first supper for the newly organized Men's Club in 1922. In 1925, the Sisterhood took charge of the first luncheon of the first State Conference held by the Council of Jewish Women in Utica.

Of course, even in those days, you couldn't keep the Sisterhood in the kitchen all the time. The Sisterhood sponsored the first community Seder in 1926. It purchased Bibles to present as gifts to those confirmed.

It was about the same time, around 1922, when the ladies started making jokes about "going intellectual" as the Sisterhood began devoting 15 minutes of each meeting to current Jewish affairs. Who would have thought then that those informal discussions would have led to the nationally recognized programs our Sisterhood soon had and still has today?

But times change. During the middle 20's, due to their improved economic situation, the Jews started to move out of the Jewish "ghetto" of the Second Ward into the southern section of the city around Corn Hill. Therefore its leaders decided to move the Temple closer to its members and into bigger quarters to accommodate its steady and constant growth. Someone wrote about this time:

Perhaps the Building Committee decided to build the new temple on Genesee Street

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because it was the main street then and would continue to be the main street. The temple should be on the main street, not on a side street, not stuck away in a corner, but on the street where traffic was heaviest; where people could see us every day; and as people passed by they could look and say to themselves 'Here is a Jewish synagogue. Here is Beth El, a house of God.' It's a symbol of something important that our city needs--that all cities need. a symbol of peace, brotherhood, justice and a better world.

On June 30, 1929, the honor of laying the cornerstone was given to Myron S. Liberman, one of the men who initiated the Temple. A box containing the historic records was placed in the cornerstone. Julius Tumposky, the second Temple President deposited the history of the synagogue. Mrs. Lena Cone Galinsky, President of the Sisterhood, inserted the history of the Sisterhood. Solomon Jacobson, Director of the Religious School placed the roster of the school children in the box. The ceremony was completed with Joseph Sonneborn, Chairman of the Building Committee, depositing a list of members and contributors to the building fund.

The new building cost \$205,000 which was rather an impressive sum for so small a community in those days. It was built with a seating capacity of 650 and a convertible auditorium-gymnasium that could seat up to 700. Other facilities of the building consisted of 7 classrooms; a chapel; a library; a kitchen; offices for the rabbi, the secretary and the cantor. The building also contained other facilities including a cloakroom, showers, and a Sisterhood lounge (where the present Temple Board Room is).

On Oct. 29, 1929, 4 months after the laying of the cornerstone, the terrible stock market crash occurred. The affluent members saw their wealth disappear. Some members could

not pay their pledges. The task before the leadership of Temple Beth El was twofold: the loss of pledged revenue had to be made up somehow and Temple Beth El had to continue functioning as a strong religious, educational and social institution despite the depression.

A new program toward that end was instituted with the Sisterhood in the forefront. In November, 1930, the Sisterhood undertook the sponsorship of many cultural programs. It established the Book Review Club, thus stimulating interest in good books of Jewish and general interest. Sisterhood also took over the maintenance and operation of the Temple's library. Sisterhood instituted adult classes in Hebrew for women in 1932 as well a Child Study Group and an Oneg Shabbat Study Circle. The Annual Lecture Series--the forerunner of the Kallah--and the Monthly Temple Lecture Series--the forerunner of the Weitzman Lecture Series--were started in 1936 by the Sisterhood. Sisterhood sponsored series brought into the Temple such internationally known speakers as Max Artz, Maurice Samuels, Rabbi Milton Steinberg, Dr. Robert Gordis, Dr. Simon Greenberg, Dr. Abram L Sachar, Ludwig Lewisohn, Dr. Abraham Neuman, Cornelius Vanderbilt, and many others.

Sisterhood was in the forefront of the new brotherhood movement. In addition to sponsoring, organizing, and preparing a community Seder, Sisterhood reached out to the non-Jewish community in many ways. In 1925 the Sisterhood was well represented in the Community Chest (now the United Way) campaign. In January 30, 1939, Sisterhood invited the members of the Lutheran Church to the musical pageant, "My Country Tis," written by Althea Osber Silverman, a former Utican. Miss Sara Freedman of Temple Beth El and Mrs. E.H. Hitzelberger of the Church of the Redeemer jointly directed the pageant in which the members of various racial groups took part.

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In the early 1930's when the Hebrew School of Temple Beth El finally met in the Temple building itself the Sisterhood started giving parties for the children at the time of the major holidays--Rosh Hoshanah, Hanukah, Purim, Passover, and Shavuot. These parties helped make the learning process more enjoyable and meaningful for the students.

In 1930 Sisterhood organized the first of what was for many years the highlight of the Temple's, if not the Jewish Communities, Social Year--the Thanksgiving Ball. It was a formal dance. Since our Temple's basement served also as a gym, the dance was held outside the Temple at the most elegant ball rooms in Utica--at the Hotel Utica, the Hotel Hamilton, the newly redecorated Twin Ponds. It was a purely social event with no food served. People would hold pre-ball parties at their homes and come to the dance when it began at around nine o'clock. From the First Thanksgiving Ball in 1930, Sisterhood raised \$22 which it gave to the Temple to help alleviate its financial problems.

During the succeeding years, the Sisterhood aided the synagogue financially by conducting large social events such as the Thanksgiving Eve Dance, the Purim Masquerades, and the Spring Dance. The women of the Sisterhood labored conducting auctions, white elephant sales, bake sales, and all types of fund-raisers.

The Sisterhood contributed more than \$25,000 to the coffers of the temple during the most trying years, 1930-1945. Rabbi S. Joshua Kohn wrote in his book about the Jewish Community of Utica: "It may justly be recorded that the Sisterhood was not only an integral part of the synagogue during the most difficult years of 1930-1945, but was the dynamic force in the social and cultural life of the Temple's program as well as the major force in its financial stability."

It was during this time that Sisterhood took an active role in community, state, and national organizations as well as the temple. In 1933, Mrs. Herman Sonneborn was the first Sisterhood president to be elected to the Board of Trustees of the Temple Beth El. And when the Jewish Community Council was organized, the Sisterhood joined immediately.

During World War II, Sisterhood women volunteered to help the Red Cross and were aides (Gray Ladies) for Rhodes General Hospital (located on Burrstone Rd). They manned the USO booth at the Utica train station. They also sent packages once a month to Jewish servicemen in the Philippines through Chaplin Rabbi Morris Adler's Jewish Welfare Board project.

In the 40's our Sisterhood's Past President Rita Markson became President of NY State Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Later Nettie Schwartz also became Branch President and a National Vice-President. In subsequent years among those who were active in Branch were Bert Resnikoff as vice-president, Rita Manning as secretary, and presently Lois Silverman, as vice-president and National Board and National Committee member thus continuing Temple Beth El Sisterhood's role of leadership. Further the Branch Conferences held in Utica were always considered among the best ever held in NY State.

From 1948, Sisterhood has been a strong supporter of the State of Israel. During Israel's many wars, Sisterhood was there doing and giving. In fact every year whether in peace or war, Sisterhood has given funds directly to Israel and to the emerging Conservative movement there.

From its founding over 40 years ago, Sisterhood has supported Women's League for Conservative Judaism's Torah Fund/Residence Hall campaign, making its

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quota of donations almost every year.

During the fifties, Sisterhood became active in supporting the newly founded Camp Ramah program. In the 40 years of Camp Ramah's existence, more than a hundred Temple Beth El children have attended the camp thanks to help from a Sisterhood campership.

In the fifties Sisterhood continued to lead as the Temple maintained its role as a social institution. Sisterhood ran theater parties to see films at the Oneida Square movie theater as well as continuing its Thanksgiving Dance.

In the sixties, the thirty-year-old Temple building needed remodeling. And the Sisterhood was there to do whatever was asked of them. As they had done thirty years before when the building was being built, the women of the Sisterhood raised funds for the remodeling by laboring long hours conducting auctions, white elephant sales, bake sales, and all types of fund-raisers.

Into the seventies and eighties the Sisterhood was always there to help. It restocked the Temple's supply of silverware as well as pots and pans during the late 70's and early 80's.

During this time, Sisterhood also assumed the sponsorship of the Temple's Israel Scholarship for high school students.

It is more than a half truth when someone jokingly says: when the Temple needs something and doesn't have the funds or the workers, call Sisterhood for its members are always there.

And yet even though it does so much work in and out of Temple, Sisterhood's image of ladies in white gloves and hats working only in the kitchen and in fund-raising for the Temple is a lingering false stereotype. In the 70's and 80's the Sisterhood has confronted

and met many changes and many challenges to its very existence. But Sisterhood has endured because there are still women who feel that the work of Sisterhood is worth continuing. Creative thinking by these dedicated and energetic women has allowed Sisterhood to overcome the hard times so it can look hopefully toward the future.

What does the future hold for Sisterhood? No one knows. We can only enter the future remembering the legacy of the past. And what is this legacy?

One of our early members said it best:

Somehow the people who worked together in the Sisterhood young and old alike are the most important part of it all. Without the people who gave so much of themselves, the work, the struggle, and even the goals--no matter how important these goals were--would all be quite meaningless.

Sisterhood was started and exists today to teach Torah and to enhance Beth El (God's house), and to support the Conservative movement which guides us toward positive Jewish living.

We hope you enjoyed this

There is so much more to this story and how the very active Sisterhood began but you will have to wait until the next bulletin to read on.

Think how wonderful it will be to have a whole booklet of these stories to read and perhaps pass on to your children and grandchildren.

Temple Beth El Men's Club Political Breakfast Sunday, November 4th

What a fantastic turnout for our 90th Political Breakfast. We served more than 165 meals and we were at full capacity with spectators. All enjoyed listening to the 8 candidates present their platforms.

An event like this cannot come off without the help of others. I'd like to thank Ernie Berkowitz, my co-chairman. Mike Silverman, publicity chairman, moderator Norm Siegel and timer Ann Siegel and registration chair, Stanley Shapiro. My behind the scenes helpers were, Mundy Shapiro, Rita Davan, Avlim Tricic, Julie Cain and Mark Smith and of course the tireless servers, Marsha Silverman, Rae Rosenfeld, Mark Kall, David Lowitz, David Goldbas, Evgeni and Gleb Samoshuk, Cecily Eidelhoch and Sara Silverman.

Once again we appreciate the food donation by Eric Smith.

Please save the date, Sunday, November 3, 2019 for our 91st Political Breakfast. See you there!

Steve Rosenfeld,
TBE Men's Club President



Shabbat Evening Services. Yes, You Can.

*I begin with a prayer of gratitude
for all that is holy in my life.
God needs no words, no English or Hebrew,
no semantics and no services.
But I need them...
(Ruth Brin, in Mishkan T'filah)*

Friday evening has long been a special time for the Jewish people. On Friday evening, we are invited to enter into the holy space of Shabbat. And to gather as an extended family to do so.

All Erev Shabbat services at Temple Emanu-El now begin at 6PM, offering new possibilities for those for whom the previous schedule did not work.

You can...come directly from work. You can even come early, if you'd like, and read, meditate or have a cup of coffee.

You can...go home, check the mail, change your clothes (or not) and then come to the temple.

You can...have a bite before coming, or enjoy the savory pre-dinner oneg that often follows services.

You can...set the table, get dinner prep started, and then return home after services for dinner.

You can...go out with your family, or with temple (or other friends) for dinner following services.

You can...bring your kids, your grandkids, or someone else's kids or grandkids (ask permission, please) and welcome Shabbat together with them.

You can take a break from your productive, busy, stressful life, and enjoy the peace of prayer, song, learning and community that is Erev Shabbat at the temple.

Yes, you can.

Reclaim Shabbat. It's a weekly gift that restores and refreshes.

Every Friday at 6PM.

WE WILL

The Samoshuk Family organized a community vigil at temple in memory of the eleven lives lost in the Pittsburgh shooting. Cantor Socolof led a group of sixty people in prayer and readings. Eleven trees were broken to symbolize the lives that were cut short and eleven candles lit in their honor.

The trees were planted a few weeks later as a living memorial.

This outpouring of community support shows the need for tolerance and coexistence.



NOT FORGET!!



Temple Beth El December 2018/5779 Yahrzeits

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of December 8 to 14, 2018
30 Kislev and 1 to 6 Tevet 5779

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday December 7, 2018

Bessie Arlen*	Eli Freeman*	Eunice G. Kahn*	Sadie Rogow*
Daniel J. Blaugrund	Sidney I. Friedlander*	Andrew W. Kates*	Lily Socofsky
Sarah Boyer*	Harris Goldstein*	Harris Lazarus*	Harold Schecter*
Nathan Brooks*	Dorothy Goldstone*	Meyer Philipson	Miriam Smith*
Meyer J. Cohen*	Sadie Goldstone*	Sylvia G. Philipson*	Hannah D. Sitrin*
Sylvia M. Cone*	Sylvia Hymes*	Jerry Rosenblum*	Samuel Silverman*
Moses A. Cohen*	Ruth B. Klein	Gerald Leonard Richelson*	Anna W. Weiss*
Jacob H. Ekstein*	Sarah R. Kowalsky*	Sarah Rockford*	Dr. Joseph Wolhandler*
Ruth Feldman*			Morris Zavotsky

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of December 15 to 21, 2018
7 to 13 Tevet 5779

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday December 14, 2018

Augusta Ablove*	Abraham S. Goldman*	Bella Kohn*	A. Philip Rosen*
Meir Ablove Family*	Harriet Goldberg*	Israel Levinson*	Dorothy E. Smith*
Louis Cramer*	Jennie Goldstone*	Hannah Leah Lyons*	Harry Schnier*
Max W. Caplan*	Minnie Gusoff*	Leopold Lewus*	Sol Schneider*
Samuel Cohen*	Stuart Greene*	Robert Markson	Jeanette Weiss Schwartz*
Else Elias	Edward F. Jacobson*	Esther Myers	Benjamin Targer*
Howard Feiner	Helen K. Jacobs*	Max Nozik	Raymond Wolfe*
Rebecca C Friedlander*	Sina Kowalsky	Faye Norwalk*	Anne Whitestone*
Mendel Golding	Barney Krohn*	Eva Pollicove	David Whitestone*
Joseph Galinsky*	Ethel S. Kowalsky*	Sylvia B. Philipson*	Julia Yust*

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of December 22 to 28, 2018
14 to 20 Tevet 5779

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday December 21, 2018

Barney Abelson*	Hyman Freeman*	Judson Leve*	Hyman Sitrin*
Reba Ablove*	Hyman Fialko*	Pearl G. Nathan*	Enid Savett
Arthur S. Bonnett*	Irving Seldin*	Sarah R. Nusbaum*	Sarah Danzig*
Hattie Bloom	Hyman L. Jacobson*	Esther R. Ornest*	Sara Smith*
Barnet Berlin*	Edward W' Jacobson*	David M. Philipson*	Barnet Trolin*
Joseph Berson	Bertha Glick Krohngold*	Morris Rothenburg*	Lawrence A. Tumposky*
Robert Ellis*	Betty Kowalsky*	Rabbi S. Jacobs*	Arline (Osna) Trapanick*
Dorothy Friedlander*	Adrienne Gail Kroll*	Rabbi A H. Dolgoff*	Florence Weitzman*
Minnie G. Frank*			Bertha Yetra*

The following Yahrzeit will be observed during the week of December 29 to January 4, 2019
21 to 27 Tevet 5779

These names will be read from the pulpit on Friday December 28, 2018

Harris Berger*	Sara Ida Comins*	Flora Glick*	Moses Rosenthal*
David Arlen*	Anna E. Demsky	Betty Kamino Kowalsky*	Jacob Schneider*
Zeld Berkowitz*	Robert Ellis*	Jennie Kamino*	Karen Silverman*
Anna H. Bernstein*	Ella L. Eidelhoch*	Helen Kaminkowitz*	William T. Sitrin
Samuel L. Baker*	Louis Freedman*	Jacob Krohngold*	Florence R. Sitrin*
Harris Berger*	Anna Sarah Grossman*	Sara Reba Levinson	Bernice Weiss*
Sarah Berger*	Jacob Goldstone*	Leo Lenchner*	Ruth Weitzman*
Jacob Coleman*	Myron Leonard Goldstone*	Samuel M. Marmelstein*	Joseph A. Yetra*



Temple Beth El Simcha Grams



January 2019

Happy Anniversary

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS	Date	JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES	Date
Ellen Orkin	5 th		
Vicki Socolof	9 th		
Alan Rosenblum	12 th		
Joanne Hirshfeld	13 th		
Logan Oster	14 th		
Kathy Smith	17 th		
Debbie Nathan	26 th		
Brian Jonas	31 st		

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