Story of Purim

in the Megilla scroll

Next Bulletin Deadline:
Tuesday, March 24, 2020
2019-20 Officers of the Congregation

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Temple Beth-El Bulletin
is published approximately every six weeks by

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Temple Beth-El is
an affiliate of the
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Miriam T. Spitzer, Rabbi
Scott L. Glass, Rabbi Emeritus
Temple President: Randy Ehrenberg
Sisterhood President: Gail Zussman

Director of Education and Youth Programming: Rabbi Suzanne Brody
Administrative Assistant: Jane Griffith
Adult Education Committee Chair: Ross Brann

Temple Beth-El was founded in 1924 and is located at the corner of Court & Tioga Streets in downtown Ithaca, NY. Ours is a liberal synagogue affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. We serve a growing and diverse congregation in and around Tompkins County. Recognizing the complexity and variety of people's relationship to Judaism in this community, Temple Beth-El strives to preserve and enhance our Jewish heritage by providing a wide range of religious, educational, social, and community activities that enable people to explore all aspects of Jewish life.
January 28th, 2020
2 Shevat, 5780

Dear Friends,

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the Rabbinic Training Institute. Sixty Conservative rabbis came together for four days of study, professional development and collegiality. Along with the learning, one of the best parts for me was the davening. There was the service that included a guitar; the tremendously compelling d’var Torah about a certain prayer that I don’t even like; the aliya that I was given while my son was layning from the Torah, and much more. It gave me a renewed vigor and some inspiring ideas for services.

I remember the first time I was called to make a minyan. I was a freshman in college, living in the Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall and there was a morning service downstairs in the piano room for some reason. Someone came banging at my door, woke me up, and told me to come to minyan. It was the first time that I was in a situation where women were included in the minyan. I had not gotten up in the first place because I did not think I was needed. I remember very clearly how I felt that morning, the first time that I was needed and inconvenienced and counted.

About three years later, a friend of mine requested an all-male minyan for shiva at her home after the loss of her mother. She told me that she would have preferred a mixed minyan, but if she had asked for a mixed minyan she would not have gotten any minyan at all. The minyan makers were men who would not have come if women were counted and the women in the community just were not yet used to being counted and therefore were not accustomed to showing up at minyan. “It will take time for women condition ourselves to what it takes to be part of a minyan,” my friend said.

That was a long time ago. Is it different now, here?

On the one hand, TBE women do respond to the need of shiva/yartzeit minyan. We do come when asked. On the other hand, we do not see many women at daily minyan when there is not a specific call or need. Has the idea of being part of a minyan not yet sunk in with women, as my friend posited so many years ago?

Our daily minyan here at TBE is a treasure. We have a small group of wonderful people who choose to begin their days together with a quick shaharit. There is talking and laughing and davening and tea and an occasional babka. Everyone is welcome at 7:30 weekday mornings, 9:00 Sundays and legal holidays. Many mornings we do not have a full minyan and new members will be more than appreciated. We have a new way to check and see if a minyan is anticipated on any given
morning -- see https://tinyurl.com/tbeminyan. Please add your name and be counted. Sign up for a specific day of the week or once in a while. Check it the night before to see if a minyan is anticipated and if we seem short, plan to come. Of course you can come without signing up as well!

That time in the Mathilde Schechter piano room was the first time I was called for a kaddish minyan but it was far from the last. The most recent time was just a few nights ago and earlier the same day I had been asked to lead minhah. These minyanim were also at JTS, when I received the degree Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*. It was a wonderful event. I got to see friends and classmates that I have not seen in many a year and to experience the Seminary’s new and impressive Courtyard of Light that is not quite completed. It was also a humbling event, as I listened to the cumulative accomplishments of the forty-six rabbis honored (from several classes, not just mine). One had founded a congregation in Paris. One was the chief rabbi of Hungary. A couple had positions in Israel. Several had written books. All of us had dedicated and devoted ourselves to the Jewish people, to Torah and to God. While we sometimes joke that DD stands for didn’t die, Rabbi Debra Newman-Kamin, who is the president of the Rabbinical Assembly and a fellow honoree, pointed out that it really is about what we Did Do. And with all the rabbis being honored, that that was quite a lot.

Please join us for morning minyan. Then we all can be DD for the day -- Did Daven

B’vrakhah, Rabbi Spitzer

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*Help Rabbi Spitzer perform the mitzvah of bikkur holim, visiting the sick. Please let her know if you are going into the hospital or would like a home visit.*

Rabbi Spitzer’s column called “Ask the Rabbi” is at [www.tbeithaca.org/home/rabbispitzer/](http://www.tbeithaca.org/home/rabbispitzer/)

*Rabbi Spitzer posts thoughts and articles of Jewish interest. Follow her at:* [www.facebook.com/RabbiMiriamSpitzer/](http://www.facebook.com/RabbiMiriamSpitzer/)

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B’Yachad Ithaca Jewish Preschool…

… a community Jewish preschool open to all children ages 2 ½ - 5 years, offering a child-centered, play-based, arts-enriched curriculum in our indoor and outdoor spaces. Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. with optional aftercare, and flexible scheduling to meet your children’s needs.

Now accepting enrollment at: [byachadithaca@gmail.com](mailto:byachadithaca@gmail.com)

(607) 273-5775, and Visit B’Yachad at Temple Beth-El, 402 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, New York 14850
From the Director’s Desk

Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Perachya taught that each of us should find a way to make a teacher for ourselves and acquire for ourselves a friend (Pirkei Avot 1:6). I find myself pausing to reflect on this wise advice as I take a few moments to myself in the midst of a very packed schedule of sessions at the Jewish Educators Assembly (JEA) annual conference. Here, I am able to immerse myself in intense moments of connection with my teachers, both those from whom I have learned before, and those whom I am just meeting for the first time. I am also able to deepen my connections with colleagues who I am also blessed to call my friends.

While neither the students in the Religious School nor the students in B’Yachad attend conferences, we do find a variety of different opportunities to expose our students to multiple teachers and peers. As has become our yearly tradition, the faculty and students of the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School came together with the faculty and students of Tikkun v’Or’s Religious School for a special program on the first Sunday classes resumed in January. Together, children and teens traveled around the world to learn about Jewish communities in Argentina, Uganda, Morocco, China, and India. Along the way, students had the opportunity to learn from new-to-them teachers and they took steps to acquire friends as they played soccer and mancala and shared their own experiences with Jewish communities around the world.

Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Perachya concludes his advice by urging us to judge each person favorably. However, sometimes it is important to do more than just judge someone favorably, sometimes we also need to show others how to do the same. On the Sunday of Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, students in the Religious School learned some ways in which Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel contributed to Reverend Martin Luther King’s work, and they explored what it means to “pray with our feet.”

Do you know someone who wants to know more about events for children or teens in or out of Religious School? I’m always happy to add people to the Tot Shabbat, Religious School, or Teen email lists!

Kol tuv (all the best),
Rabbi Suzanne Brody

USY & Kadima

USY and Kadima hosted a section at the Hanukkah fair this year. The youth groups co-joined in hosting an Escape Room which is a popular attraction across the country in which participants have to figure out codes and solve a mystery in order to escape a room. This hanukkah themed escape room had 4 sections. One section asked attendees to translate Greek letters to English letters in order to crack a code. A second section asked attendees to unscramble words related to The Jewish Holiday. The third section had attendees complete a maze. A fourth section had participants put together a puzzle of a menorah. All the attendees had a great time and enjoyed the challenge! It was a big success! It was so wonderful to have both youth groups represented at the fair this year!

On MLK Jr. Day, TBE’s USY-ers met up for a bowling event at The Cornell Lanes. This was the first official USY event of the year. At this event, USY-ers had fun hanging out, taking a break from their school work, and trying to get a strike! The USY-ers enjoyed the event and are looking forward to future events.

Stayed tuned for the next USY event which will be an ice-skating event coming up next month!

--Matt Feiler, Youth Group Coordinator
Caring Committee Request
Can you spare a few hours a year to help others? If you might be able to help with any of the following tasks, please let us know. You are not committed. If you are called, you can say no. Can you… Drive a congregant to services Fri ____ Sat____
Drive a congregant to services on a holiday____ Visit a congregant at a nursing home____
Drive a congregant to a doctor’s appointment____ Provide a meal for someone who is recuperating____ Visit a congregant in her/his home____ Make a friendly phone call____
Run a quick errand for a congregant____ My schedule is generally pretty open_______
I am usually available on______________
Name______________________ Telephone_______________Email______________________
This form can be mailed to or dropped off at the temple office, in care of Rhoda Janis or Evelyn Kalish. If you would like to contact by phone or email instead: Rhoda Janis, rjanis@twcny.rr.com, 607-257-0473, or Evelyn Kalish, ekalish51@gmail.com 607-387-6398

Begin your day where you count! TBE boasts a daily minyan at 7:30 AM every weekday and at 9:00 AM on Sundays and holidays. We have had some trouble making a minyan lately. Coming to minyan is an easy way to make a difference-- and it is uplifting. We have a new sign-up sheet if you would like to commit to a specific day, day of the week, or day of the month. See tinyurl.com/tbeminyan. Or just come!

Beth-El Partners
TBE’s membership committee is seeking volunteers to join us in launching a new program designed to support new members during their first year in our community. Our goal is to match new members with families or individuals so that they feel welcomed and included as they join our congregation. Volunteers will connect with new members through a variety of activities, such as Friday night dinners and attending services together periodically. The membership committee will coordinate this program and will provide volunteers with support and guidance. If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please reach out to Ariel Avgar (aca27@cornell.edu).

March Birthdays

March Anniversaries
7-Ivy/Jonathan Mauser---
Friday Night talk Sisterhood Shabbat

Welcome everyone, and thank you for joining us today. Since this is Sisterhood Shabbat, it seems particularly fitting to speak about the women we learn about in this week’s Torah portion. These could be considered some of our earliest heroines. Tonight, we have the opportunity to pay tribute to some of the women who came before us and taught us to stand up to injustice and consider ways we can stand up to injustice in today’s world.

Think about Shifra and Puah, the midwives who saved Hebrew baby boys from being killed. Yocheved, Moses’ mother, Miriam his older sister and Bithiah, Pharaoh’s daughter who adopted Moses. Each of them played a role in saving his life. So, one could say, that in ways Moses owed his life to these five women.

We are wise to acknowledge and be respectful of our past as groups and leaders change. Celebrating those who came before us can guide us in the direction we take as we move to the future. We find ourselves in challenging times these past few years, a time of transition at our synagogue, this is an election year in America, issues of morality and ethics affecting our politics, climate change, immigration, racism, increasing antisemitism and increasing world tensions.

So many of us are unsure of what to do as the world around us is mired in conflict. Some of the simple things we can consider doing can include practicing gratitude, being gracious and kind to others, doing a caring act each day and standing up for those who cannot. One might ask why? How does that impact all of the challenges that were mentioned above?

These are times when showing kindness, understanding and judging less can empower all of us. I appreciate that we as women are stronger together when we support one another. When we work together, we can truly have an impact on our country, our lives and the lives of others. Think of the various women movements over the past few years and the impact that they are having or have had. Think of our young women such as Greta Thunberg and how empowering she is! Volunteer, get involved, share your voice.

Shabbat Shalom

Gail Zussman, Sisterhood President
Sisterhood Bulletin

Many thanks to Linda Aigen and Liz Hess for coordinating and baking so many hamantaschen the first week in January. Thanks to Linda A. and David Weiner for schlepping all the supplies for the bakers. Thanks to Aleza Simons for premaking the dough the night before and giving everyone a huge head start on baking. Thanks to all of our bakers: Marlaine Darfler, Beth Davis, Linda Canina, Jill Leichter, Julie Paige, Esther Racoosin, Marty Alani, Jenny Weinraub, Razi Aigen, Carrie Regenstein, Barbara Nosanchuk, Paula Grant, Edy Krauss, Dave Kraskow, Karen Gilovich, Heidi Orlos, Evelyn Kalish, Madeline and Daniel Oakley, Beth Begany, Linda Mandel, Joy Blumkin, Leslie Erhlich, and Corinne Stern. I hope I left no one out.

We appreciate Paula Grant for doing a run at BJ’s for goodies for our Purim bags and getting it all to the temple, the rest has been ordered via internet.

We appreciate all the hard work behind the scenes that Rochelle Proujansky, Myra Berkowitz and Beth Davis did for Sisterhood Shabbat. The food was plentiful and yummy, all of the women participating in services were well prepared and clear on their roles along with support with warmth and care on the Bimah. It’s members like these who make our temple shine!

We are working hard at organizing our kitchen in ways that will encourage everyone to keep it organized and easy to access. Please read the information regarding the Temple Kitchen in this bulletin. Please welcome Steven Henderson as our new kitchen coordinator, if you pass him take a moment to introduce yourself.

We are thrilled to have Steven on board, he was interviewed and hired by the ad hoc Kitchen Committee (Joy Blumkin, Esther Racoosin, Joanne Zager, Linda Mandel and Betsy Rudolph). They did a fabulous job and we appreciate their time and effort.

Steven’s main job is working at the Y. He is more than qualified to take on the 2 hours a week of cleaning our kitchen and keeping our supply closet organized and cleaned. Please understand that with doing a once over of the kitchen once a week along with washing and drying dishrags and tablecloths Steven’s 2 hours go by quickly. If you have concerns or questions about Steven’s responsibilities please contact Gail Zussman,.gzussman@twcny.rr.com to share them or leave her a note in the temple mailbox.

Mah Jong started, it is now meeting on Sundays from 10:30-12:30, by the coffee room. Men, women and teens are welcome to come learn at any of the sessions.

If you have a current card or set consider bringing it, friends welcome!

Keep an eye out for these upcoming programs : Wine tasting with Samantha Lesser and David Kraskow, baking rugelach with Jill Leichter and Rebecca Lesses speaking on ”Contemporary Antisemitism”.

Many of you are aware that Purim will soon be upon us. We are looking for teen, men, women, families to volunteer in packing and delivering Purim bags. The google signup sheet will be on both the listserve and sent home via Sisterhood membership through an email. Please spare a few hours. It’s a great family activity while also performing a mitzvah at the same time. Here is the google signup sheet information: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gcR8SUR1S7A_1Vf5SbU85qmTP2yJ87nVetrOe5M3b6o/edit?usp=sharing

We are looking for packers on Thursday, March 5th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM in the Social Hall.

Pick up and deliveries are set for Sunday, March 8th.

Please consider taking a small delivery route and sharing some cheer with others.

We have included the guidelines for using our kitchen. Remember this is everyone’s kitchen. I think of the kitchen as part of the heart of our community, where people gather to prepare food, smooze and share meals together. What a wonderful way to build connections.
Shabbat Shalom!

Support the Oneg and Kiddush Fund!!

This fund is used by the OK Team to purchase food items for Shabbat Oneg and Kiddush. You can send a contribution to Temple Beth-El and write in the memo line: for the Oneg and Kiddush Fund!

Consider making a donation to mark a milestone, life cycle event or remember a loved one. You can also set up an Oneg or Kiddush! For more information, contact OK Team leader Esther Racoosin at elr605@verizon.net or 607-257-3999.

- The OK Team makes sure that there is an Oneg after Friday night services, and
- a Kiddush after Saturday Services.

Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El

Invites you to our Sixth Kosher Wine Tasting Sunday, March 15th, 3 PM. Wine-friendly snacks will be served. $18 per person.

RSVP required by March 10 via temple website with credit card, or Jane’s office for check or exact cash.

All of drinking age are welcome.
KITCHEN GUIDELINES:
AFTER USING THIS KOSHER KITCHEN PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

- DISHES AND SERVING WARE - Wash dry and put away.
- SINKS - Clean all food scraps out of sinks.
- COUNTERS – Wipe all counters, there is a spray bottle with a mixture of water/bleach mix that is to be used at the end of any event to spray down all counters and then let air dry, this is the last thing to be done before leaving the kitchen. It will be with cleaning supplies underneath the sink.
- LEFTOVER FOOD – Follow the Guidelines below
- PAPER GOODS – replace clean, unused items back in the Sisterhood closet just outside the kitchen, in the social hall.
- LINENS - place all dirty towels and tablecloths in the bin, in the hallway.
- When you leave the kitchen there should be nothing on the clean counters.
- NOTIFY – Please let Sisterhood know if the kitchen was not cleaned when you arrived.

Please Leave a note on bulletin board if we are running low on paper supplies/cleaning supplies so that the kitchen is ready for the next group who want to use it.

On the Kitchen Bulletin board there is information on where and how to donate food. Please follow them

GUIDELINES FOR LEFTOVER FOOD

- MOST IMPORTANT—determine if the leftover food is suitable for another use. If many hands have been in the food or if only a small amount is left over, please THROW IT OUT.

- PRIOR TO THE EVENT—If you are planning to save food at TBE, first find out if there is a future need for the food. Please check in with Sisterhood President for this.

- IF SAVING FOOD PLEASE FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING STEPS:
  1. Wrap it well and label it with the date, what the food is, where it came from, and the quantity. Please do not freeze on platters. Please bag it in smaller portions.
  2. ON THE SABBATH, please do not make labels. Store the food appropriately in the fridge or freezer. Please return to label on another day. Unlabeled food will be thrown out within the week following an event.
  3. EVENT SPONSORS are responsible for removing leftover food or ensuring that it has been approved to save.

Many thanks for following this. We appreciate it!

WHERE TO DONATE LEFTOVER FOOD

St. John's Community Services is the current name of the former Friendship Center. Physical donations can be made between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday at 618 W State Street, Ithaca, NY. For donations outside of those hours, please contact the shelter directly at 607-354-8990 Please call the shelter directly to share what you would like to donate and ask if they will accept it. You can call the number above outside of the weekly day hours to donate. Do not leave it for someone else to drop off.

LOAVES AND FISHES will sometimes take leftover food. Kitchen managers are in the kitchen Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am-2:30pm and Tuesday/Thursday from 2:30pm-7:30pm and can receive donated food items. If those times do not work for you, please call our office at 607-272-5457 to make an appointment. Please check their website for what food they will take.
WELCOME! 

Temple Beth-El, Embracing Jewish Diversity

“My house will be called a house of prayer for all people.” (Isaiah 56:7)

The Temple Beth-El community welcomes Jews by birth, Jews by choice, persons of any culture or ethnicity, and those of other faiths interested in exploring Jewish traditions. All are welcome to attend services and programs.

Join the TBE community—You do not need to be a member to attend services and activities at Temple Beth-El. This includes services on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Jewish individuals and their families are encouraged to become members so they can participate more fully in Temple life. Membership benefits include a warm and caring community, voting privileges, access to publications and announcements, and the opportunity to support the synagogue through regular dues. The Membership Committee considers financial needs and respects privacy when recommending dues structures. Members may be, for example, unmarried individuals, couples, families that include people of another faith or no faith tradition, or grandparents with children. For more information about membership, please contact membership committee Chair, Ariel Avgar (membership@tbeithaca.org).

Interfaith families and individuals of other faiths and traditions—Temple Beth-El welcomes individuals of any faith tradition to attend services, classes, and other synagogue activities. Interfaith families participate actively within the synagogue community, at educational programs for individuals of all ages, and within our Sisterhood (local chapter of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism). Open to all, Basic Judaism classes are offered regularly at Temple Beth-El, and these classes may be a good starting point for individuals considering converting to Judaism.

LGBTQ+ individuals and families—Individuals and families within the LGBTQ+ rainbow are welcome at Temple Beth-El, are represented in our membership, and participate fully in the life of our congregation.

Special needs—Temple Beth-El accommodates individuals with a wide range of special needs.

- Most of the TBE facility is wheelchair accessible, thanks to ramps and a lift. Accessible areas include the sanctuary, chapel, libraries, offices, social hall, and most classrooms.
- The new loop-assistive listening system in the main sanctuary can be accessed by a personal t-coil enabled hearing aid, with portable receivers available for those without a compatible device.
- The Religious School provides individualized attention to students with a variety of special needs.
- Additional accessibility requests are addressed, as needed.

This page was created with input from the congregational meetings in 2019 and was approved by the TBE Board in January 2020. Please contact a Board member if you have any questions or suggestions.
You can make a difference: Let’s Fight for Religious Pluralism

Theodor Herzl envisioned Israel as a homeland for all Jews. But today the government of that Jewish homeland recognizes only one stream of Judaism. The Masorti and other pluralistic movements are in an ongoing struggle for recognition. While progress has been made, there are still many challenges ahead.

As American Jews, we don’t often get a chance to make a direct impact in Israel. However, the upcoming 2020 World Zionist Congress election gives us that opportunity. Every five years, an election is held to determine the leadership of the World Zionist Organization, an agency connected to powerful and influential Jewish organizations. It is important that the MERCAZ Slate, the official slate of the Conservative/Masorti Movement, has a strong showing in this upcoming election.

A vote for MERCAZ is more than the opportunity to gain delegates to the World Zionist Congress – it is our best opportunity to send a strong message to the Israeli government and people of Israel that we stand for an Israel that is democratic and pluralistic, which recognizes and empowers all streams of Jewish practice, and which guarantees the civil and political rights of all of its citizens.

Voting begins on January 21st and extends to March 11th. You can vote at the website MERCAZ2020.org — VOTE SLATE #6.

MERCAZ supports—

1. An Open Pluralistic Jewish Society
2. No Restrictions on the Law of Return
3. Governmental Respect for Conservative and Egalitarian Traditions and Practices
4. Increased Funding for the Conservative/Masorti Movement
5. Strengthening the Ties Between American Jews and Israel
6. Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism
7. Achieving Peace
8. Supporting Israel as a Democratic Ally and Engaged Global Citizen
9. Over 80 Conservative/Masorti Congregations growing and thriving in Israel
10. Over 800,000 Israelis affiliating with Masorti and liberal Judaism

Todah Rabbah
Rabbi Spitzer and the Congregation express our heartfelt appreciation to:

- The members of the board of directors who give of their time, their energy and their expertise to make sure our Temple continues to function so well.
- Rabbi Brody for running the religious school, working in B’Yachad, and establishing excellent relationships with our youth from the youngest children to the oldest teens.
- Myra Berkowitz for putting out the listserve every week and keeping us on top of what is going on at TBE.
- Jerry Davis, Jerry Dietz, the house committee and the security committee on getting the new security cameras in place and working on refining the systems that keep us safe and welcome.
- The religious school board for providing Coffee on Sundays and giving people a way to schmooze and get to know each other. That is what we are all about.
- Jerry Dietz and his intrepid team of volunteers for the fantastic latkes and other food at the Hanukkah party: Eric Alani, Marty Alani, Myra Berkowitz, Pam Bleiwas, Ted Bronsnick, Vanessa Conroy, Nancy Emerson, Ken Finkelstein, Liz Hess, Marjorie Hoffman, David Kraskow, Greg Levins, Roy Luft, Tyson Merrill, Todd Olsen, Jane Powers, Carrie Regenstein, Joe Regenstein, Mike Riley, Seth Riley, Lenny Rosenfield, Jeff Silber, David Weiner. It was a fun party!
- The ritual committee: Todd Olson; David Weiner; Roy Luft; Myra Berkowitz; Rebecca Lesses for serving as ushers and gabbaim and for working on all the details to make services flow and ritual meaningful at TBE.
- All those who have read Torah and Haftorah in the past weeks, including but not necessarily limited to: Jeff Spitzer, Myra Berkowitz, Nancy Emerson, David Weiner, Lise Rosenfield, Richard Rosenfield, Beth Daskin, Tamar Gutfeld, Steve Heller, Gideon Saar, Rebecca Lesses, Adam Saar, Joel Malina, Yael Saar, Marjorie Hoffman, Madeline Oakley, Esther Racoosin, Roy Luft. Look how this list is growing. See tinyurl.com/tbereaders to volunteer.
- All those who have led services in the past weeks, including but not necessarily limited to: Eric Alani, Myra Berkowitz, Ross Brann, Steve Heller, Marjorie Hoffman, Rebecca Lesses, Gideon Saar, Yael Saar, Jeff Spitzer, David Weiner, Richard Rosenfield.
- Lise Rosenfield for her extensive help with the TBE Layners and Leaders chart.
- The Oneg/Kiddush team including Esther Racoosin, Don King and Jane Griffith for a beautiful oneg every Friday, and kiddush every Shabbat morning. Special shout-out to Roy Luft, Nancy Emerson, for the hot tea on tap.
- The caring committee, for helping out in times of joy and in times of need and for providing rides.

Let them know if you can help.
- Gail Zussman and the Sisterhood for organizing and hiring the new kitchen coordinator, Steve Henderson.
- Gail Zussman and the Sisterhood for organizing Mah Jong.
- Dr. Ross Brann, Rabbi Suzanne Brody, and Cantor Richard Rosenfield, for enriching us by teaching adult ed classes.
- Marjorie Hoffman and the Arts committee for the innovative Hanukkah Crafts Fair, and the Rachel Lampert performance.
- Myra Berkowitz, Rochelle Proujansky, Beth Davis, and all the women who worked so hard leading services, reading Torah, writing divrei Torah, baking the tremendous spread, and so much more for Sisterhood Shabbat and all year round. See the Sisterhood page of the website for the divrei Torah.
- Ariel and Christine Avgar for opening their home and hosting the warm and welcoming New-and-Potential-member evening.
- The search committee for all that they did to make rabbi candidate feel welcome and to make the weekend as success.
Contributions

Discretionary Fund
➢ Harold Scheraga, in memory of his beloved wife, Miriam Scheraga;
➢ Susan Adleman, in memory of her dear friend and neighbor, Miriam Scheraga;
➢ Rabbi Scott & Sharon Glass, in honor of Rabbi Spitzer on receiving her honorary doctorate from JTS;

General Operating Fund
➢ Elise Gold Pesco & Michael Pesco;
➢ Marsha Pond;
➢ Rita & Joe Calvo;
➢ Jerry & Margaret Dietz;
➢ Martha Frommelt & David Feldshuh;
➢ Jennifer Herzog;
➢ Deborah Starr & Elliot Shapiro;
➢ Martha & Laura Linke, in memory of their beloved father, Simpson Linke, on his sixth Yahrzeit;
➢ Phyllis Rappaport, in memory of Mark Samuels, her beloved brother;
➢ Esther Racoosin & Eric Alani, in appreciation of Linda & Dana Mandel;
➢ Bernice Jeffries, in loving memory of her aunt, Miriam K. Scheraga;
➢ In memory of Miriam Scheraga, beloved wife of Harold Scheraga: Judith & Gordon Hammes, Edward Kent, Ryszard Wawak,
➢ Michael Kesten;
➢ Linda & Stephen Pope;
➢ Lee Kaltman, in honor of Rabbi Spitzer;
➢ Albert Alexander;
➢ Joy Blumkin & Lew Golinker;
➢ Ellen Cohen-Rosenfield & Michael Katz-43 for 43;

Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School
➢ Liz Hess & David Kraskow;
➢ Laura Falk;

Winifred C. Hammer and Judith Hammer Campbell Book Fund (of the religious school)
➢ Arnold & Mary Hammer, in memory of his dear mother, Winifred C. Hammer, on the occasion of her 19th Yahrzeit;

Bebe Hoffman Memorial Garden
➢ Beth & Ivan Tomic;
➢ Louise Hoffman;

Oneg/Kiddush Fund
➢ In memory of Connie Currier, beloved mother of Cathy Currier: Marlaine & Rick Darfler, Phyllis Rappaport,
➢ Marla Allentoff, January simchas birthday Kara Schweid; February simchas birthday Megan Schweid;

Arts Fund
➢ Beth Begany;

Samuel and Nettie Forsheit Fund for Professional Development
➢ Carrie & Joe Regenstein, with much love and best wishes for Ella Mendelson’s continued good health; in honor of Rabbi Spitzer’s receiving an honorary Doctorate form the Jewish Theological Seminary; in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Julia Mendelson; in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jamie Regenstein; in memory of Miriam Scheraga, beloved wife of Harold Scheraga;

Coffee on Sundays!
Stop by the Youth Library classroom on Religious School Sundays, any time from 9 to 10:15 AM, for a hot cup of real coffee or tea! Here’s to Sunday morning coffee (and a bit of conversation) following Religious School drop-off, following the morning minyan, or just because you’re nearby on Sunday morning!

Mah Jong
Meet by the coffee room, Sunday, 10:30-12:30, Men, Women and Teens Welcomed. Bring a set or current cards if you have either.
Imagine living a century ago in a shtetl. No television or videos. What would you do for an evening’s relaxation? Perhaps friends would come together to read or tell stories and poems, or play music. Let’s try to recreate that time of slower pleasures.

AN EVENING OF JEWISH STORIES, POETRY AND MUSIC
The Temple Beth-El Social Hall
Court Street, corner of Tioga Street in Ithaca
Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 7:30
Special celebration this year of Shabbat Shirah with a call for poetry!

Sponsored by the Temple Beth-El Arts Committee

Adults and children should consider presenting stories, poems, music or skits under seven minutes duration. Please let us hear from you. To offer your participation, contact Marjorie Hoffman, 257-9924 or marjorie@tweny.rr.com

Refreshments will be served
Requested Donation $4
Family Donation $8
Please enter on Tioga St at top of ramp
Do you have something you would like to share that tells a story of how your family came to America?

This past fall, the Social Action Committee of Temple Beth El sponsored a tour of the exhibit *How the Light Gets In* at the Johnson Museum. The show focused on the movement of people across the globe as they searched for safe harbors after life threatening events and disruptions from war and ethnic discrimination.

To follow up, the Social Action Committee (with help from the Arts Committee) would like to create an exhibit this spring about our own community’s migration and immigration stories. The focus of this exhibit will be an object (or two) that tells a story from your own family; where they came from and how they came here. The exhibit will also include a map.

If you are interested in participating, all we need is digital photos of the object(s) and an explanation that includes answers to the following questions.

1. What is your name?
2. What is the object?
3. What city/country is it from?
4. What is the approximate date of the object?
5. What is your relationship to the original owner of this object?
6. Is there a story behind the object? (It is OK if you cannot answer this question.)

Please send your photos and responses to Jill Leichter: offpainting@gmail.com by March 1st.
Temple Beth-El Spring Fundraiser: Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
February 28-March 1, 2020

Rabbi Laura Geller

Reservations
Event details are on the other side.

RSVP by **(Extended to February 7th!)** with check payable to Temple Beth-El or sign up and pay online at tbeithaca.org with PayPal.

Name(s) __________________________________________

___ place(s) for Shabbat dinner on Friday ($18/person/$20 for non-members) $________

___ place(s) for Shabbat lunch on Saturday ($12/person/$15 for non-members) $________

Subtotal for meal reservations: $________

Cost should not be an obstacle to attending events; please contact Rabbi Spitzer to make alternate arrangements.

In addition to the above, I want to help Temple Beth-El by supporting the weekend with Rabbi Geller:

**Benefactor**
Includes reservations for all events, a signed copy of Rabbi Geller’s book, and recognition in the event program.

☐ Scholar-in-Residence Weekend Benefactor: $7,500 $________

☐ Shabbat Dinner Benefactor: $2,500 $________

☐ Shabbat Lunch Benefactor: $2,000 $________

☐ Patron $500 and above
Includes reservations for all events and recognition in the event program.

☐ Sustainer $250 and above
Includes recognition in the event program.

☐ Supporter $100 and above
Includes recognition in the event program.

☐ Contributor $18 and above
Includes recognition in the event program.

Total amount enclosed: $________
Rabbi Laura Geller

*Getting Good at Getting Older*
*(No Matter How Old You Are!)*

Dear Friends,

Jewish study represents one of the most important activities we undertake at Temple Beth-El. Our community has a unique opportunity to learn from one of the most dynamic thinkers and teachers of our time: Rabbi Laura Geller. We have known her for fifty years and benefitted greatly from her uncommon wisdom, what she calls the "Torah of her life." Publication of her book, co-authored with her late husband Richard Siegel, is an opportune time for the TBE and Ithaca community to study with Rabbi Geller.

We hope you will join us in supporting this opportunity by choosing to be a donor for this special weekend. Your reservations and support are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely, Ross Brann (Adult Education Chair) & Eileen Yagoda

Rabbi Laura Geller, Rabbi Emerita of Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills, was twice named one of Newsweek's 50 Most Influential Rabbis in America. Ordained by Hebrew Union College in 1976, she was the third woman in the Reform Movement to become a rabbi. Rabbi Geller served as the director of Hillel at the University of Southern California for 14 years, afterward working as director of the Los Angeles division of American Jewish Congress.

In 1994, Rabbi Geller was hired by Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills, becoming one of the first women to lead a major metropolitan synagogue. Author of numerous articles in books and journals, she was on the editorial board of *The Torah: A Women’s Commentary.*

Rabbi Geller serves as a Fellow of the Corporation of Brown University and on the boards of Encore.org and the Jewish Women's Archives.

Weekend Schedule:

**Friday, February 28**

6:15 pm Shabbat “Getting Good at Getting Older (No Matter How Old You Are!)”

**Dinner following services** (reservation required)

“Living (Not Just Leaving) Your Legacy: Your Stuff, Your Resources, Your Stories, Your Values”

**Saturday, February 29**

10 am Shabbat morning service:

Dvar Torah: “Bringing Your Gifts”

**Lunch following services** (reservation required)

“You Get By With a Little Help from Your Friends”

**Sunday, March 1**

9 am Minyan

“Woman Rabbis Transformed American Judaism!”

Book signing following services

Reservation form is on the other side.
Community Concert to Usher in Purim!
Come in Costume!
presented by Ithaca Area United Jewish Community, Temple Beth El, Congregation Tikkun v’Or
Sunday, March 8, 2020
3:00PM EDT
Children are free, Adults (ages 12 and up) are $5
For more information call: Marjorie at 607-257-9924
Community School of Music and Arts, Hamblin Hall
330 East State Street
Ithaca NY 14850

Come and enjoy Rick’s unique blend of pop, radio-friendly music with Hebrew, Jewish text, and social responsibility.
Schedule of Services:  Friday, 8 PM    Saturday, 10 AM unless otherwise announced.  Weekday Services Monday through Friday at 7:30 AM.  Sunday and legal holidays at 9 AM

Looking for Torah readers and service leaders -- experienced or new!  Sign up at tinyurl.com/tbereaders.  Small chunks available.

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Directory Assistance Please note the following changes:

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<td>110 Bella Vista Dr.</td>
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<th>Betsy &amp; David Schlesinger</th>
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<td>607-266-0536</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gale Halpern 607-351-5000</td>
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<th>Dana &amp; Linda Mandel</th>
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<td>8847 State Rt 90N</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Ferry, NY 13081</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:danaevanmandel@gmail.com">danaevanmandel@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:lmandel79@hotmail.com">lmandel79@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<th>Amy &amp; Christine Rebera</th>
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<tr>
<td>19 Foot Hill Rd.</td>
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<td>Freeville, NY 13068</td>
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<td>(Amy) 607-342-2043</td>
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<td>(Christine) 607-342-6666</td>
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<td>Please add <a href="mailto:maggiep32@hotmail.com">maggiep32@hotmail.com</a> in addition to Jerry’s email address</td>
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| Corinne Stern: | (607) 279-3512 |
|----------------|
| rabbi-glass@tbeithaca.org |

Condolences

We express our condolences to:

Cathy Currier & Ted Bronsnick, grandmother of Yossi and Hannah, and great-grandmother of Isaac Bronsnick

Harold Scheraga, on the recent death of his wife, Miriam Scheraga;

Barry and Marcia Strauss on the death of Barry’s mother, Diane Strauss;

Iva Lesky and Todd Olson on the death of Iva’s beloved mother, Ginger Lesky;

May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing.

May the Source of Peace send peace to those who mourn and comfort to all who are bereaved.
It is a mitzvah to hear the *megillah* read twice on Purim, once in the evening, and once in the morning. Services at TBE are Monday evening, March 9th @ 7:00 and Tuesday morning, March 10th @ 7:30. All are urged to come in costume.

It is a mitzvah to send “Purim baskets” of food to friends and neighbors on Purim. Each plate or basket should include at least two different kinds of foods and at least two such baskets should be given.

Few holidays are without their special opportunities for giving tzedakah. On Purim the tzedakah is called *matanot l’evyonim*, gifts to the poor. We will be giving our *matanot l’evyonim* money and food contributions to ACT’s Kitchen Cupboard – please bring them along.

In the afternoon of Purim there is a special Purim meal, and there is a special section in the *birkat hamazon* to add for Purim.
Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! 

A Rabbinic Proclamation

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! 

All Jewish residents of Ithaca are herewith, hereby and henceforth solemnly commanded to appear in person at the Sanctuary for a publique assemblage, to celebrate the sacred and solemn feast of the ADLOYADA in abstinence and mirth and in uncontrolled restraint on the 14th of Adar, otherwise known as PURIM.

Following close upon successfully concluding the reading of the sacred, secret scroll in the ancient tradition, and after seeing your saintly and learned spiritual leaders make utter fools of themselves, there will take place a sumptuous yet meager feast of celebration, consisting of fruit-filled pockets, drink, and other goodies...

Yours will be the loss if you do not attend. The details regarding the above-mentioned gathering will appear elsewhere in this chronicle.

BE HAPPY IT’S ADAR!!!
Enriching Jewish Community!
IAUJC Annual Campaign Party

We invite you to dine with us, celebrate our successes and jump-start our 2020 campaign

Sunday, March 29, 2020, 5:00 - 7:30
Cornell Biotech Building - Main Floor

We will honor two outstanding community members:
Gale Halpern and Rita Melen

Telling Our History -- Speaking about the Holocaust in Ithaca Area Schools

Reception & Dinner by 104 West! Cornell Kosher Catering
$60 per person/ $25 per student - RSVP and payment in advance by March 18th by return mail in the enclosed envelope or online at https://iaujc.org/tickets

Tribute gifts in honor of Gale and Rita may also be made via mail or online.

Contact us if cost is an obstacle to your participation or if you need help getting to the event. Write to marjorie@iaujc.org or call 257-9924.
Free parking at Hoy Road/Schoellkopf Garage
Accessible drop off area at Biotech Building
Childcare may be available depending on interest. Let us know.
The Immigrant Bond and Legal Defense Fund

A community project of the TCIRC Tompkins County Immigrant Rights Coalition and its Rapid Response Network Working Group to help local immigrants who cannot afford bond and legal costs associated with their immigration detention process.

Undocumented immigrants are being taken away from their families and communities and held in detention while they await a resolution on their case. In detention, they endure degrading conditions for weeks, months, or years.

We see the Fund as supporting the immediate legal needs of immigrants going through detention issues, so that they can return to their neighborhoods and families as they wait for trial.

The Fund is also part of the broader advocacy strategy of the TCIRC to identify (and share about) trustworthy, accessible legal representation immigrants who are facing legal proceedings in immigration and criminal courts, or are detained, and facing other types of abuses which are exacerbated by their immigration status.

Immigrant detention has deep and damaging economic and health effects on individuals as well on their broad communities.

**Mission of the Immigrant Legal Defense Fund:**

- To increase access to due process within the immigration justice system by providing bond funds and additional legal support to immigrants detained by ICE;

- To reunite detained immigrants with their community who cares and relies on them and who are also impacted by the trauma of detention.

**Goal of the Immigrant Legal Defense Fund:**

- To break down barriers to fair court proceedings for vulnerable immigrants who otherwise would not be able to post bond fees and access legal support. People who get out of detention on bond and get legal representation usually have a better chance to obtain a path to relief from deportation.

- The hope is that with adequate support, individuals are better able to pursue the possible options available to them, whether that means pursuing legal relief in the United States or a pathway back to their country of origin following release from detention.

**Donations:** If you are interested in donating to the fund, please send donations to

TC Immigrant Rights Coalition  
PO Box 6855  
Ithaca NY 14851

Designate “bond fund” on the memo.

**To read more:** [http://www.tcimmigrants.com](http://www.tcimmigrants.com)
Benjamin and Rachel Siegel Campership Fund

This fund is to provide a stipend annually of $500 for a young person’s attendance at a Jewish camp, conference, convention, travel program, or educational Jewish experience.

The stipend will be available to young Jewish women and men of the greater Ithaca Jewish community, including Tompkins County and adjoining counties, who are approximately between the ages of 13 and 21. Applications from Temple members will be considered on an equal basis with non-members. Preference is to be given to a young person who would find it financially difficult to attend.

The fund is administered by Temple Beth-El members, by means of a committee. The committee shall select a young person to receive a stipend, and shall decide if the applicant’s choice of a Jewish program is appropriate for funding by the Benjamin M. Siegel Memorial Fund, as an experience that could enhance and enrich the young person’s Jewish identity.

Applicants are to write a brief (2 pages or less) essay explaining what they hope to get out of the experience, and what they hope to contribute to it. Each applicant is also to indicate to what degree this subsidy is financially important or essential to his/her ability to attend this program. Applicants should be sent to the Temple office no later than January 15th.

The fund will be administered with some flexibility, so that it can be split among more than one qualified applicant, or held over for the next year, if such a choice seems indicated.

This fund, originally established by Rachel Siegel in memory of her beloved husband, Benjamin Siegel, now serves as a fitting memorial to them both. Their memories abide with us as a lasting blessing.

---

The Jonathan Zall Memorial Israel Study Fund

This fund has been established to provide a scholarship of $750 toward tuition, an application fee, or similar costs for a young person wishing to travel to Israel for study or as part of an organized peer group tour. The goal of the fund is to help young people who are interested in Israel develop their love of the country.

The candidate shall be chosen from the greater Ithaca Jewish community with preference given to members of Temple Beth-El and their children. Students from Cornell University and Ithaca College are also eligible. Priority will be given to those going to Israel to study at the college or graduate level.

The fund will be administered by a committee of Temple Beth-El members. The stipend will be awarded annually if the committee determines that an applicant meeting the fund’s goals has applied. Applicants should submit their requests to the Temple Beth-El office, in writing, no later than March 15th. It should include information to assist the committee in determining the applicant’s interest in Israel.

We are grateful to the late Mollie and Bob Zall, of blessed memory, who established this fund as a memorial to their beloved son, Jonathan.
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*May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing*
## February Shevat Adar

### Temple Beth-El

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<tr>
<td>9:15a, Torah Study</td>
<td>10a, Service, Zeminot singing after Kiddush</td>
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### MARCH

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<tr>
<td>10a, Service Singing Shabbat</td>
<td>7:30p, Evening of Jewish storytelling and Poetry</td>
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<td>Shabbat Shirah</td>
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### Tu Bi'Shevat

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<td>10a, Service</td>
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### President's Day

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<tr>
<td>10a, Service w/ R.I.R. Rabbi Laura Geller, Congregational Kiddush Luncheon to follow in social hall RSVP only.</td>
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**FAST OF ESTHER MEGILLAH READING**

**PURIM**

**SHUSHAN PURIM**

**VAYIKRA**

**VAYAKHIL PEKUDEI SHABBAT HACHODESH**

**ROSHI CHODESH!**

---

*Temple Beth-El*

402 N. Tega St.

Ithaca, NY 14850

607-273-3773

betithaca.org
The Southern Cayuga School District is one of eleven U.S. sites with the honor and privilege of nurturing the Anne Frank horse chestnut sapling, a direct descendent of the tree that Anne Frank wrote about in her famous diaries during the holocaust of WWII.

The Southern Cayuga Anne Frank Tree Project offers quality student and community programming throughout the year. Please join us in our efforts to build a strong and caring community. Visit us online to learn more: sccsannefranktree.org or facebook.com/SCFrankTree

The mission of the Southern Cayuga Ann Frank Tree Project is to educate and empower children to use their thoughts, words and deeds to cultivate and promote understanding, tolerance and justice within our community and in our society as a whole.
Temple Beth-El
402 N. Tioga St.
Ithaca, NY 14850

Change Service Requested

SISTERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH-EL

JUDAICA SHOP

OPEN DURING TEMPLE OFFICE HOURS...BY APPOINTMENT...SPECIAL ORDERS!! KIPPOT, JEWELRY, TALLITOT, BOOKS

THE PROFIT FROM THE GIFT SHOP GOES TO HELP SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR TEMPLE, RABBI FELIX ABER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, AND SISTERHOOD