



## Rabbi's Message: In the Shadow of a King

"Great men are almost always bad men," was an observation offered by the 19th-century English Catholic, Lord Acton. Perhaps we live in an era in which greatness is confounded with goodness. Fortunately, history has preserved the memory of great figures also blessed with goodness. Later this month, on Monday, January 16, 2017, the USA will observe a national holiday which enshrines the legacy of such a personage when we mark the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The renowned civil rights icon will also be memorialized during 2017 on the 49th anniversary of his assassination on a Memphis hotel balcony in April of 1968. As the event itself recedes from the horizon of living recollection, it is crucial that the Jewish community in America remain dedicated to conserving Dr. King's legacy at an historical juncture when the decades-long struggle for universal voting rights may see its hard-won gains imperiled by a renewed wave of racial intolerance.

We in the Reform Jewish Movement may claim a special stake in the battle for racial justice because of the documented achievements of the Religious Action Center of the Union for Reform Judaism. It was the late Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, erstwhile president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (the UAHC, predecessor of the URJ), who supervised the draft of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in the very offices of the RAC on Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, DC.

In view of alarming instances of voter suppression which targeted minorities in several states during the fall elections, the Reform Movement's leaders were vocal and active in working on behalf of voter protection. My colleagues in the Central Conference of American Rabbis travelled down to Georgia in the same spirit of the Freedom Riders and the volunteers who risked their lives to promote voter registration during Freedom Summer in the Deep South more than fifty years ago.

Living here in the North Country, very distant from the nation's capital and the centers of power, we in our small Jewish community may be limited in what we may contribute to the cause of human and civil rights, but that fact does not constrain us from accomplishing what we can realistically do for those suffering from systematic oppression. The violence protested by the Black Lives Matter movement, along with tropes of racism and xenophobia which marred the last election campaign, should inspire Jews to respond with renewed dedication to the hallowed cause of social justice.

Our local opportunity to respond to the prophetic call of Dr. King's "I have a dream" speech will come later this month when Temple Beth El hosts anew our annual Martin

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## *Rabbi's Message: In the Shadow of a King*

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Luther King, Jr. / Abraham Joshua Heschel Shabbat with our partners at the Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. Leonard Oates, on Friday, January 13, at 7:00 pm. As we have done on prior such observances, music and readings from the canon of the Civil Rights movement will be important features of the liturgy. Then two days later, on Sunday afternoon, the annual MLK Day March will take place from City Hall to Christ Church United Methodist, 54 Bay Street, for an observance. This latter event, which I attended for the first time last year, involves a significant presence from youth choirs from around the city.

As we join our neighbors and fellow Americans in honoring the great legacy of the civil rights icon, let us recall that we march in the shadow of the King.

*Rabbi Jeffrey N. Ronald*

## *Condolences*

Thomas F. ("Tom") Metzner, of New Windsor, NY, passed away on December 11, 2016, at the age of 89, following a long illness. He was the younger son of Herman and Jeanette Metzner, founding members of Temple Beth El. Tom was born on January 21, 1927, and attended Glens Falls schools and the Temple Beth El religious school. After military service in Germany in 1945-1946, he went to college on the G.I. Bill and became a social worker, working with troubled youth during a long career. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Sally, and his older brother, Henry. He is survived by three daughters, Robin Augello of Baldwinsville, NY; Debra Metzner, of New Windsor; and Lauren (Bruce) Jurgens, of Littleton, MA; and four grandchildren. Also surviving are his nieces and nephew, Judith Shepherd of Glens Falls, NY; Paula Metzner, of Niskayuna, NY; and Richard Metzner, of Dallas, TX. Funeral services were conducted on December 14, 2016, at Temple Beth Jacob, in Newburgh, NY.

## *Latke Fest*

The **6th Annual Latke Fest** was our most successful yet. Almost 200 people sampled latkes, danced to klezmer music and enjoyed the company of the Glens Falls community.

The committee would like to thank all of our cooks, bakers, salad makers, eaters and volunteers for all of their hard work. Thank you to our sponsors: Hannaford, Jacob and Toney's, Lake George Olive Oil Co. and Signarama Santa Rosa.

This year's winner of the **Golden Latke** was two-time cook Jason Brechko. Second Place went to Rebecca Charhon and family (Mad Martha's Crew), and the Temple Religious School's "Latke Lovers" took home the prize for best condiment.

Photos of the event can be seen here: [www.facebook.com/pg/TempleBethElGlensFalls/photos/](http://www.facebook.com/pg/TempleBethElGlensFalls/photos/). If you have more photos, please send them to [latkefest@glensfallstemple.com](mailto:latkefest@glensfallstemple.com) to share.

## *President's Message*

Karen and I wish everyone a **Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays**, and a **Happy New Year!**

Temple is on the verge of a new and challenging venture. Thank you for your input, for your hard work, and for your trust.

Shalom,

*Steve Adler*

Temple President





## Temple Religious School

The month of December was a busy month for Temple Religious School. The December 4<sup>th</sup> Bagels and Blankets Community Mitzvah Project and December 11<sup>th</sup> Latke Fest and the TRS Bake Sale were each a GREAT success! Thank you to all of the students, parents, grandparents, teachers, Rabbi Ronald and TBE congregants and Jewish community members and friends for their participation in making these events so successful!

A special thanks to Matt Levin for organizing our TRS Latke Fest cooking team. He certainly went above and beyond by gathering the kids at 7:30 AM to make latkes! Congratulations to our students for placing second in the condiments category. It was great to see so many of our TRS kids (and some of their friends) involved with this event. Let's not forget our TRS teachers Sara Rice and Rebecca Charhon, along with Religious School alumnae Sara Friedman and Debbie Sheerer who organized this amazing event!

Our appreciation also goes to Ellen and Bruce Katz, Jeff Levy and Sharla Etkin-Ives for staffing our TRS Bake Sale table at the Latke Fest. Sharla could also be found helping out in the kitchen throughout the day, as she often does at Temple events, and individually wrapped many of the baked goods for our sale. No small task!!! Ellen deserves recognition for her fabulous homemade Hanukkah lollipops and the coveted chocolate menorah that was raffled off that day. Many thanks to TBE member David Coleman, owner of Fawn Ridge Pottery, for the beautiful ceramic Hanukkah plate he donated as a raffle item for our sale. Temple Religious School raised \$270 that day, thanks to all of these people and the many others that donated the delicious home baked goods for our sale!

Our December 4<sup>th</sup> "Bagels and Blankets" program brought together different generations of our Jewish community and friends with our Temple Religious School students for a delicious pot luck dairy luncheon and a wonderful Mitzvah Project. Approximately 60 people turned out that day to complete 17 no-sew fringe tied fleece blankets with decorative tags, to be donated to the Glens Falls Domestic Violence Project. These will be given to children who receive services from our local domestic violence agency so they will have something soft, warm and comforting to call their own. Good food, good company and the opportunity to be part of this good deed of loving kindness provided a wonderful experience for those who attended this event! It was a nice twist to see our young people instructing our 'older' folks on how to make these blankets. Many thanks to Scott Schwartz for organizing the food for the brunch and to our bagel slicers, the Hellmans and the Adlers!

Our blanket-making is an ongoing project and we appreciate the many people who donated blanket kits for this project, as well as those who are continuing to work on blankets at home. Our appreciation goes to Judy Shepherd and Lois Hellman who provided monetary donations that have helped to keep our blanket stock replenished. We still have kits available if anyone would like to pick one up to complete at home. Arrangements can be made by calling or emailing TRS Director Christine Levy ([cmlevy@iname.com](mailto:cmlevy@iname.com) or 518-796-8808) or the Temple Office.



**January 2017**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> No Intro to Yiddish No Beginner Hebrew	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service / oneg	<b>7</b> 10:30 a.m. Torah Study at Casa Ronald
<b>8</b> 9:15 a.m. Religious School	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 a.m. Book Club (When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi)  7:00 p.m. Ritual / Pulpit Committee Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m. Intro to Yiddish  7:00 p.m. Beginner Hebrew	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00 p.m. King / Heschel Shabbat Service with Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church / oneg	<b>14</b> 10:30 a.m. Torah Study at Casa Ronald
<b>15</b> 3:00 p.m. Martin Luther King, Jr., observance / City Hall	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King, Jr., Day observed	<b>17</b> Deadline for the February issue of the Shofar	<b>18</b> 9:30 a.m. Intro to Yiddish  7:00 p.m. Beginner Hebrew	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00 p.m. Family Service / Potluck Dinner / oneg	<b>21</b> 10:30 a.m. Torah Study at Casa Ronald
<b>22</b> 9:15 a.m. Religious School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 p.m. Temple Board Meeting	<b>25</b> 9:30 a.m. Intro to Yiddish  7:00 p.m. Beginner Hebrew	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service / oneg	<b>28</b> No Torah Study
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				





## Contributions

### GENERAL FUND

*In Memory of Eugene Pearl:*

**Helene Rudnick**

*In Memory of Gladys Schultz:*

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*In Memory of Janet & Silas Berkowitz:*

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## Chai Society Breakfast Program

**Title:** Reflections on Avivah Zornberg, Biblical and Literary Scholar

**Speaker:** Bernice Mennis, Professor Emerita of English Literature at Union Institute and University

**Date/Time:**

Sunday, February 19, 2017  
at 9:30 a.m.

**Place:**

Ralph and Lillian Leinoff  
Community Room



Avivah Zornberg  
Credit: Danka Cooper

**Summary:** Avivah Zornberg is a Biblical Scholar and teacher who, as one reviewer writes, has "that rare sensibility capable of explaining, exploring and deepening our sense of what it means to be a human being of faith in a world as fractured and fragmentary as ours." Weaving Midrashic readings with literary, philosophical, and psychological understanding, Zornberg explores stories in Genesis and Exodus, revealing ever-deepening layers of trauma, silence, mystery, and meaning, making the written text come alive. In this talk, Professor Mennis will touch only on the beginning of what moved her so deeply in Zornberg's work.

In conjunction with this program, a full breakfast will be served beginning at 9 a.m.

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**Latke Fest snapshots!**



## We Remember

Mourners *Kaddish* for the following individuals will be recited in Temple on the noted dates:

### January 6

\*Samuel Armour, \*Walter Cohen, Anna Fogel, \*Blossom Friedman, Ella Friedman, Jean Kmiecik, Bertha Hess Lieberman, \*Louis Nachman, Max Nuzzenbaum, \*Morris Wasserman, Dr. Samuel Waterman, \*Sarah Wolf

### January 13

Charles S. Drew, \*Moses Murray Fallas, \*William Feigenbaum, Catherine Ginsburg, \*Anne G. Jacobson, Louis Lazarus, Rebecca Proller, Alvin Rudnick, Izabella Savarin, \*Seymour Segal, \*Sheldon Tucker, \*Berdie Yafa

### January 20

\*Joseph Bittman, Avraham Charhon, Irving Comora, Herbert Creager, \*Jacob Fagelman, \*Mary Gartner, \*Dr. Jacques Grunblatt, Maya Helmstetter, Julius Leinoff, \*Marion Weinman Leopold, Mannie Lieberman, \*Meyer Lunchick, \*Helen Marcus, \*Louis Mauer, Donald Miller, Morris Miller, Louis Perlman, Lillian Prail

### January 27

Nathan Barry, \*Ruth Didakow, \*William Erlanger, Lillian Hattem, \*Arthur Hecht, Beverly Helman, Rose Leinoff, Mildred Miller, Bayla Schectman, \*Minnie Spero Susman, Gertrude Swartz, Henry Wallace, \*Samuel Weissman

*(\*name appears on yahrzeit plaque in the sanctuary)*

## Torah Portions

### January 7

*Va-Yigash*

Gen. 44:18-47:27

Pr. Ez. 37:15-28

### January 14

*Va-Yechi*

Gen. 47:28-50:26

Pr. I Kings 2:1-12

### January 21

*Shemot*

Ex. 1:1-6:1

Pr. Is. 27:6-28:13;  
29:22-23

### January 28

*Va-Era*

Ex. 6:2-9:35

Num. 28:9-15

Pr. Is. 66:1-24



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## TEMPLE HISTORY

### *Milton Klein, Jaxton Manufacturing Corporation, and the Tree Of Life*



The “Tree of Life” is an important symbol in Judaism, from its first mention in our Bible as a centerpiece of the Garden of Eden, to the end of the Torah service, where it is identified with the sacred Law itself. In many synagogues, a Tree of Life is erected as a piece of art, with leaves bearing the names of living family members of financial donors. Usually, the structures are purchased from national suppliers of synagogue goods. The Tree of Life in the Temple Beth El Home Room, however, was custom-designed by a member of our Congregation and custom-made in Glens Falls.

Born in Albany, New York, in 1910, Milton Klein bought a sawmill on Cooper Street in Glens Falls at the beginning of World War II. In 1950, with a partner, he started the Jaxton Manufacturing Corp. in the building. After a short time, Klein bought his partner's share of the business. Jaxton Manufacturing Corp. made hand-made, wooden serving pieces and giftware from walnut, ceramic, and other materials. The line included elaborate food-warmers, cheese boards, and carving sets, as well as battery-operated pendulum wall-clocks and other gifts. Milton Klein designed many of these items himself and received a number of patents. The items were sold in retail stores throughout the U.S. The “Georges Briard” line was sold in elite shops, including the flagship Neiman-Marcus store in Dallas, Texas, where some customers mistook the cheese trays for exclusive French imports. (“Georges Briard” was really Yasha Broido, a Jewish immigrant who worked for a Jaxton sub-contractor.) The business was extremely successful in the 1960's and 1970's, but Klein closed down the company in 1992, because walnut was becoming impossible to obtain, and the business could no longer compete with mass-produced imports. Klein died in 1999.

Milton Klein was an active member of Temple Beth El, generous with his time and money. He served as an officer and trustee of the Congregation and chaired the campaign that raised \$250,000 for a major addition to the Temple building in the mid-1960's. In his travels, he liked to visit other synagogues and saw a Tree of Life in a Reform temple. He decided to create and donate a Tree of Life as a fundraiser for Temple Beth El. Temple members were encouraged to honor their children and other loved ones with leaves that could be purchased with payments spread over as much as five years. Klein designed the Tree himself, and it was hand-made of walnut by his wife's brother, Al Elson. Klein's youngest child, now in his sixties, remembers helping to make the leaves.

In recent years, two Temple members adopted the Tree of Life as a project to ensure that it remains as relevant to our Congregation as it was at its installation. Martha Searleman has painstakingly cleaned the leaves and name-plates, arranged them to highlight families with an ongoing connection to Temple Beth El, and made an alphabetical list of the names. Artist Phyllis Brown created an illustration of the Tree of Life, with numbered sections. The list and the illustration hang near the Tree and provide a cross-reference so that visitors to the Temple Home Room can easily locate their own names and the names of relatives and friends.

A few leaves are still available on the Temple's Tree of Life. Now, it requires only a small contribution to honor a family member or friend with a personalized leaf on this living artifact of Temple Beth El.

Judith Metzner Shepherd, *Historian*

[The source for historical information in this column is an interview with Michael Klein in May, 2016, except for the incident in Dallas, a personal observation of this writer.]



## Happy Birthday!

Donna Futia (1/1)  
 Robert Kafin (1/1)  
 Jonathan Segan (1/2)  
 Lacey Tucker (1/4)  
 Phil Naftaly (1/5)  
 Aaron O'Brien (1/5)  
 Kenneth Schwartz (1/7)  
 Scott Wodicka (1/8)  
 Julia Wolfeld (1/8 – 7 years old!)  
 Glennis Swinson (1/8)  
 Benjamin Brown (1/11)  
 Daniel Katz (1/13)  
 Diana Miriam Cahan  
 (1/21 – 1 year old!)  
 Tom O'Brien, Jr. (1/24)  
 Matthew Brender (1/27)  
 Sidney Hellman (1/27)  
 Michele Schwartz (1/28)



Thank you to the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York for their generous support of Temple Beth El and Temple Religious School.



## Welcome New Members

Susan Fox &  
 Naftali Rottenstreich

## Oneg Appreciation

Bonnie Abrams in memory of  
 Harry & Annette Socher  
 Karen Marks & Steve Adler in  
 memory of Lydia Adler  
 Lois & Jack Hellman in memory  
 of Mary Hellman  
 David Coleman in memory of  
 Sharon Coleman  
 Chris Levy and the Temple  
 Religious School  
 in celebration of Hanukkah

## Book Club

These are the books that our Book Club will be reading for the next three months. Our meeting starts at 10:00 am at the Temple on the second Tuesday of the month. Please join us for a lively discussion.

Tuesday, January 10, 2017:  
When Breath Becomes Air  
 by Paul Kalanithi

Tuesday, February 14, 2017:  
My Name is Lucy Barton  
 by Elizabeth Strout

Tuesday, March 14, 2017:  
Kabul Beauty School  
 by Deborah Rodriguez

*Karen Marks Adler*  
 karojo41@gmail.com



## Mi Shebeirach

These comforting words can be said on behalf of those who are ill. Whether friends or loved ones are struggling with physical, emotional or spiritual challenges, this prayer speaks to our desire for their healing.

*May the one who blessed our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, bless and heal those who are ill [names]. May the Blessed Holy One be filled with compassion for their health to be restored and their strength to be revived. May God swiftly send them a complete renewal of body and spirit, and let us say, Amen.*

Please include in your healing prayers: Marcus Berg, Michael Berg, Vanessa Bishop, Patricia Brie, Mitch Frasier, Janet Friedman, Victor Friedman, Jacqueline Gordon, Diane Grant, Valerie Hope, Josh Israel, Michael Israel, William B. Johnson, Sheldon Kramer, Elizabeth Levy, Jeff Levy, Mark Lipschitz, Linda Miller, Phyliss Miller, Ed Miltch, Sylvia Miltch, Richard Muller, Ian Quillinan, Carol Leibman Rosenthal, Edie Rudnick, Bob Savarin, Jennifer Schultz, Hilda Schwartz, Joel Schwartz, Philip Sterdt, Harlan Steuer, Tammy Whitty, DeAnna Williams, Bonnie Yanklowitz





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*Temple's rabbi and president will be  
 ex-officio members of all committees.*

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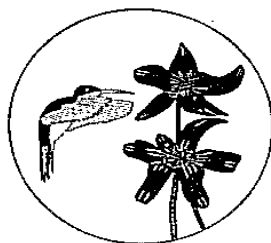
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*Temple Beth El welcomes unaffiliated,  
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traditional families and individuals.*

### The *Shofar*

Editors:

*Phyllis Brown*

*Judith Metzner Shepherd*

*Lois Hellman, Emerita*

Editorial Assistant:

*Katie Weaver*

## Writing for the *Shofar*? Think Ahead!

Writing something for the *Shofar*? REMEMBER YOUR DEADLINES. Articles and announcements for the *Shofar* should be sent to the Temple Administrative Assistant, Katie Weaver, well in advance of the desired publication date. The deadline for each issue (usually the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the preceding month) is shown on the Calendar page, but your article should arrive as early as possible. The *Shofar* is published before the first day of each month, and PUBLICATION WILL NOT BE DELAYED for late articles and announcements.

Remember: If your article will be timed to coincide with a holiday or event, you will want it to appear at least as early as the issue preceding the event. And if you are asking for volunteers, for reservations, or for advance ticket or merchandise purchases, your article or announcement may need to appear several months in advance. Even for something that is several months away, it is never too early to submit an announcement to get the *Shofar* readers to “save the date”!

The Editors welcome letters and other reader contributions. E-mail submission (Office@GlensFallsTemple.com) is preferred. Submit your article as an e-mail message or as an attachment. If you lack internet access, you may deliver or mail your submission to the attention of Katie Weaver at Temple Beth El, 3 Marion Avenue, Glens Falls, NY 12801, timed to arrive prior to the deadline.

**The deadline for getting articles to Katie for the February issue  
of the *Shofar* is Tuesday, January 17!**