

The Shofar



Tevet & Shevat 5779 / January 2019

TEMPLE BETH EL

3 Marion Avenue
Glens Falls, New York 12801
(518) 792-4364
Office@GlensFallsTemple.com
www.GlensFallsTemple.com

An affiliated congregation of the
Union for Reform Judaism since 1950

Rabbi's Message:

From the Darkness, Let there be Light

January places us in the heart of winter. It is cold outside. The days seem short as darkness descends all too early. Many travel to warmer climates. Yet, darkness also gives us time to restore ourselves. We need darkness so that we can rejoice in the light.

As it happens, this January we find the coincidence of *Tu BiSh'vat* and Martin Luther King, Jr Day. *Tu BiSh'vat* seems strange in January. It is the new year of the trees. Yet in the heart of winter the ground is cold and frozen. It would seem not a time for planting new saplings and trees. Symbolically, just as light comes forth from darkness, the idea of new growth coming out of winter gives us hope and encouragement. Martin Luther King, Jr. day does the same. In the darkness of our world and national political climate, we are inspired to be hopeful. The Jewish national anthem of *Hatikva* – the hope – is more than symbolic. It is real.

As we begin our secular new year, we are hopeful that new growth, new life, and optimism will emerge and give us courage to create together a better world of mutual trust and respect.

May 2019 be a wonderful year for us all.

Rabbi Norm

Introduction to Judaism Class

Following the Pittsburgh tragedy and our recent gathering at the synagogue, I would like to offer to our members and the community-at-large a free Introduction to Judaism class. This class will meet on Sundays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. **(please note the time change!)**, following Temple Religious School. It is my hope that these discussions, which will cover Jewish history, thought and actions, will be of value to the general community as well as our own congregation. We anticipate beginning on Sunday, January 6th.

In order to determine that we have enough people to warrant this class, please give Katie in the Temple office a call and let her know that you are planning to attend. It is my belief that this class will provide a way to help those in the community-at-large know who we are and what we believe. Please help spread the word, to help obviate ignorance and prejudice in a positive way.

Rabbi Norm

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
January Family Service	2
January Calendar	3
Temple Religious School	4-5
Did You Know?	5
Would You Like to Make Art?	5
Temple Security	6
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King	6
Spirituality Matters	7
Contributions	8
Thank You and Kol HaKovod	8
Condolences	8
We Remember	9
Happy Birthday	10
Oneg Appreciation	10
Mi Shebeirach	10



President's Message

As Jews, we observed “our” New Year in the Fall. During the Days of Awe we reviewed our actions of the past year, asked for repentance and made resolutions. Now we get to do it again at the approach of January, the beginning of the secular year. Again, we look back and look ahead.

Looking back, we had a full year at Temple. We celebrated holy days, holidays, festivals and monthly Family Shabbat services. We shared the *simcha* of Jonah Levin's Bar Mitzvah, the placement of Elaine Sobel's name on our Mitzvah Plaque, *Sukkot*, and seders. We ate latkes and participated in the joy of Hanukkah twice - at our Family Shabbat/Hanukkah party and Latke Fest. And each month we participated in a Shabbat family service and had “*kvelling*” rights as the TRS students led us in song and prayer. In the warmth of August we joined with the families of Shaaray Tefila at a Jewish Community picnic at Haviland's Cove. And sadly, we mourned the loss of members of our own Jewish community and those in Pittsburgh. We comforted each other; and, we were comforted by the outpouring of support of the Glens Falls community at the Community Gathering at Shaaray Tefila, led by Rabbi Mendel, in which members of both congregations and area churches participated.

Looking ahead, what do we see? I envision continued growth for our TRS students as they participate in Temple life and the Jewish community. I look forward to *B'nai Mitzvot* and celebrations of festivals: *Tu B'Shvat* in January, *Purim* in February, *Pesach* in April and *Yom HaShoah* in May. Rabbi Mendel will continue Tuesday classes and will offer “Introduction to Judaism” to the Glens Falls community. What do you see? This is not a rhetorical question. What are your ideas? In the coming year, tell us your ideas about how we can all make our ideas become reality. I urge everyone to be a part of the continuing creative religious and social life of Temple Beth El.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you for all you have done for Temple Beth El in the past. We look forward to hearing your ideas, working with you in the year ahead and of course, seeing your participation at Temple.

Happy New Year to all, with a Thank You to the Board, Katie “The Princess” Weaver and you, our families and friends of Temple Beth El for your support this past year and in the new year.

Barbara Rosoff

January Family Service & Dairy Potluck Dinner

Please join us on **Friday, January 4th at 6:15 p.m.** for a Family Service, followed by a dairy potluck dinner.

Please call or e-mail Katie in the Temple Office to let her know what “ready-to-serve,” dish you will be bringing to share.

Desserts are not needed! The Oneg will be hosted by Bonnie Abrams in memory of Annette Socher.

There are staples that we frequently run out of at potluck dinners. If you like to purchase supplies that are needed for potluck dinners, please contact Katie in the Temple office.

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





January 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 Temple Office Closed	2	3	4 6:15 p.m. Family Service / Dairy Potluck Dinner / Oneg hosted by Bonnie Abrams IMO Annette Socher	5
6 9:00 a.m. Temple Religious School 12:30 p.m. Intro to Judaism class	7	8 11:30 a.m. Book Club at Zou Restaurant (Warlight by Michael Ondaatje)	9	10	11 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service / Oneg hosted by Amanda Kukle IMO the Congregation's New Year's Resolutions	12
13	14	15 Shofar Deadline	16	17	18 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service / Oneg	19
20 4:00 p.m. Annual Celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King	21 Tu BiSh'vat Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Temple Office Closed	22 2:30 p.m. A Glimpse into Genesis class 7:00 p.m. Temple Board Meeting	23	24	25 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service / Oneg	26
27 9:00 a.m. Temple Religious School 12:30 p.m. Intro to Judaism class	28	29	30	31		



Temple Religious School

Happy New Year to all! It is so hard to believe that 2018 is behind us. It truly flew by in the TRS world. We had a fantastic first half of the 2018-2019 year at TRS with so much excitement from the children, and new programs to highlight such as "Stamp your way through Israel." In this program the students looked at stamps from Israel's past and present and explained to their classmates and then the rest of the school what the history was behind them was and why it was meaningful to them as individuals. Stamps of former Prime Minister Golda Meir and Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon were very popular.

Each class has a special place in my heart and they continue to amaze me. Our younger students are eager to learn and constantly take in everything possible. They love to bring in and read Jewish books. They are always writing notes in their workbooks for possible ideas for plays and stories from the Jewish themes and holidays we discuss. They wrote their first musical, "Hanukkah the Musical," was produced by TRS student Lucy Herberick. The music director was fellow TRS student Mattea Rice. The musical production was performed at the Hanukkah Family Service and Potluck Supper at the Temple on December 7th.

Prior to Thanksgiving, our middle grade students explored the meaning of the Hebrew phrase *todah robah* (thank you very much) and created a posting on their wall with everything they are thankful for. These students led the school in sweet potato latke making and explored Jewish music by watching scenes from Fiddler on the Roof. In the spring, they will have the opportunity to create a new Jewish board game for our school. Our students enjoy learning and doing research. If anyone has gently used iPads they are willing to donate for our kids to use, please contact me.

Some of our older students are getting ready for their *Bar Mitzvahs*, and we are excited for those very special milestones. The older students have explored themes such as Jewish people coming to America as immigrants, and music in biblical times. I discovered their willingness to take on any challenge when I asked them, with only 45 minutes of class time, to create "Hanukkah Family Feud," formulating questions and answers for the entire school.

Our hard-working teen aides Charlie Gartner, Ethan Hill, and Jonah Levin are willing to do most any task, taking on organizational projects including cleaning the art room, working with our youngest on Hebrew lessons, and creating a plan to redecorate the hallway of our school (beginning in 2019). An upcoming project is the organization of our Temple archives. As always, Ethan continues to take photographs that we plan to showcase at an end-of-year TRS art gallery. I look forward to continuing to see our teens shine and thrive!

In the Spring, we will have Israeli Dancing, a clay project with Temple member David Coleman, and the students will lead their very first completely student-run Family Service. There is so much to look forward to!

Sara Rice and Sharla Etkin-Ives continue to inspire their students. The Rabbi is a guiding light willing to tackle even the toughest Jewish questions from our students. Katie Weaver is our behind the scenes "guru" for everything Temple related. Debbie Sheerer is a frequent volunteer at TRS and enhances our program by teaching our students new songs. Matt Levin led our TRS team at the Latke Fest as in previous years. I would like to thank each of them for their dedication to TRS.

[Continued on Page 5]



Temple Religious School

[Continued from Page 4]

We can't wait to bring you all the latest TRS news in 2019. At our monthly Family Services, we enjoy sharing what is happening in our school, and we encourage your attendance as well as that of your friends and extended family.

Have a happy and healthy new year and enjoy every moment!

All the best,

Rebecca Charhon

TRS Director



Did You Know?



Did you know that when you make a donation to Temple, you are not only sharing your joys and sorrows with your fellow congregants and friends, you are also helping Temple Beth El meet its funding needs? Please consider making donations in memory of a loved one, to send get well wishes to those on our healing list, in honor of a birthday, anniversary, etc.

We thank you for your continued support!!

Shopping? Use Amazon Smile!

Support Temple Beth El every time you shop online at Amazon! Go to smile.amazon.com to set up your Smile account and choose Temple Beth El as a recipient. There are a few other Temple Beth El's out there, so be sure you choose the right one. When you shop, you will need to go to www.smile.amazon.com each time so that your charity of choice gets credited. It's an easy way to support Temple, and we thank you!



Would You Like to Make Art?

There's been interest expressed in having some sort of an adult art-making opportunity at the Temple. Being creative is a fun way to fight the gloom of winter, but first we need to know your preferences. Perhaps you'd enjoy a relaxing crafting afternoon, or a paint & sip night? Or maybe you'd prefer a daytime art class every couple of weeks? What kind of art-making opportunity would bring you to the Temple? Please email Phyllis Brown at plbrown3@yahoo.com or contact Katie in the Temple office, and let us know your interests. Be specific, please!





Temple Security

The Temple Beth El Board is committed to increasing security at our building. After the tragic events in Pittsburgh, a security committee was formed. We have so far completed the following:

- The Warren County Sheriff's Office has inspected the building and provided a risk assessment.
- Based upon the risk assessment, we met with, and have received quotes from, security companies and contractors to make our facility safer.
- Temple Beth El hosted a Civilian Response to an Active Shooter Event conducted by Undersheriff Shawn Lamouree. (For some basic information regarding Active Shooter Training, a six-minute video created by the City of Houston, TX, has a lot of useful information and is recommended by the Jewish Federation to those who missed the training: <http://www.readyhouston.tx.gov/suspicious-activity/videos-and-resources/>)
- We researched available grants and registered Temple Beth El with the State Department of Homeland Security so we are ready to apply for grants when they become available.
- We worked with the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York on security concerns and potential grants.
- We communicated with the Glens Falls Police Department concerning services and events.

We have also begun taking immediate action on items that we can do at no cost to our congregation, such as labeling rooms, creating maps (thanks to our resident artist/architect team, Phyllis and Dan Brown), and adding detectors.

You will start hearing announcements about emergency exits at services, and we ask that you familiarize yourself with all the available exits when you're in Temple.

Together, we will do all that we can to make Temple a safe space for our members and visitors from the community, while remaining an open and welcoming congregation. If you have any questions, please contact Katie in the Temple office (Office@GlensFallsTemple.com or 518-792-4364).

Sincerely,

Katie Weaver, Susan Fox, Amanda Kukle and Rebecca Charhon
Security Committee

Annual Celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

Theme: Celebrating the Dream through the Arts

Location: Christ Church United Methodist, 54 Bay Street, Glens Falls

Date: Sunday, January 20th, 2019

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Reverend Leonard A. Oates

Faith Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, Glens Falls



Spirituality Matters

Following a lunar calendar, the Jewish community is still impacted by the solar cycle. In South Africa, we were taught that mid-season occurred with an equinox or a solstice on the 21st of April, June, September and December. Here in the United States, we are taught that seasons begin with these celestial events (despite weeks and sometimes a month or two of snow and freezing weather at the end of the calendar year, or heat and humidity that may have started in May.)

Whether December 21st is the start or the middle of the winter in the northern hemisphere, all religious and spiritual traditions celebrate the return of light in the heart of darkness. We all want to know, be the darkness literal or metaphoric, that light will return. Each tradition has its own celebration. For the Jewish community, like our other festivals, life-changing themes are connected to stories of our history. I like to look at the seasonal and mystical connections to our cycle of festivals as well.

In my book, **Dancing in the Footsteps of Eve**, I look at the pagan connection to Nature out of which Judaism evolved in the Middle East. *Tu Bish'vat* (New year of The Trees) in late winter heralds the new growth; today, many congregations celebrate a *Tu Bish'vat Seder*— an awareness of the birth-death-rebirth cycle of the natural world. Passover commemorates a myth of redemption in keeping with the liberation and renewal of the life-force. *Shavuot*, one of the three Nature festivals that were times of pilgrimage to ancient Jerusalem, has its roots in the joyful celebration of summer. Tradition has added the festival of receiving the Ten Commandments. In the fall, Judaism's original main *Chag* was *Sukkot* (booths/temporary shelters) rather than *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*. *Sukkot* offers an invitation to dwell out in Nature for a week to acknowledge the transitory quality of life. In the northern hemisphere, this festival acknowledges that the natural world prepares for the wane of creative energies as the darkness of the lengthening nights approach. In the southern hemisphere, all festivals are celebrated on the same dates but occur during opposite seasons.

Having just celebrated Hanukkah (the holiday of a thousand spellings!) what does Kabbalah teach us? The balance of light and darkness is the basis to this mystical wisdom tradition. Everything, we are told, contains a spark of Divinity; it is our task to raise these sparks, and gather them together once again which brings wholeness, completion and peace to our fractured world— *tikkun olam*, a healing of the world. How do we do that? By awakening in consciousness ourselves and then extending this awareness to others through acts of kindness, celebrating our differences as well as our similitude and deeply appreciating the natural world - the *Gan Eden* (Garden of Eden) in which we find ourselves.

L'shalom,

Heather Mendel

REMINDER: *The Shofar* needs YOU!

Whether you have a question for the 'Ask the Rabbi' column, or want to *kvell* about exciting news, offer congratulations to someone, or write a book review, we'd love your input, your words. Please help us keep ***The Shofar*** relevant and interesting!



Contributions

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In Memory of Dr. Orel Friedman:

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In Memory of Rabbi Richard Sobel:

Elaine Sobel

Health and Happiness to Helene Rudnick in her new Home:

Judith Metzner Shepherd

Thank you and Kol HaKovod

Thank you to all who helped organize and present our Shabbat/Hanukkah dinner. More than 75 Temple members and guests joined the Rabbi, the TRS students staff and parents for services, dinner, songs and a Hanukkah-themed skit.

Temple was again a center of celebration for the annual Latke Fest. Thank you to all who organized and worked to present this always popular, always successful event. Our visitors enjoyed music, games, kids' activities and of course, the tasting of latkes and condiments to finally vote on who would receive the coveted "Golden Latke" and "Best Condiment" awards.

Kol HaKovod to all our organizers and volunteers who work so diligently for Temple Beth El.

Condolences

Temple Beth El member Philip Gordon, passed away on May 26, 2018, at the age of 91. Phil was predeceased by his sons Allan Richard Gordon and Robert Carey Gordon. Survivors include his wife Erma Gordon, and his step-children, Howard, Jacob, and Sarah.

Nettie Furman, mother of Temple Beth El member Aaron Furman, passed away on November 25, 2018 at the age of 96. She was born on May 12, 1922 in Montreal, Quebec. Nettie was predeceased by her husband, Charles Furman. Survivors include her children, Elaine Cooke, Aaron (Barbara) Furman, and Donald Furman; grandchildren, Shana Graham and Seth Furman; her sister, Eleanor Kaplan; and brother, Rabbi Mordi Daitchman.



Torah Portions

January 5

Va-Era

Ex. 6:2-9:35

Pr. Ez. 28:25-29:21

January 12

Bo

Ex. 10:1-13:16

Pr. Jer. 46:13-28

January 19

Be-Shallach-Shirah

Ex. 13:17-17:16

Pr. Judges 4:4-5:31

January 26

Yitro

Ex. 18:1-20:23

Pr. Is. 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6



We Remember

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

January 4

Nathan Barry, Avraham Charhon, *Walter Cohen, *William Erlanger, Ella Friedman, Jean Kmiecik, Rose Leinoff, *Louis Nachman, *Morris Wasserman, *Sarah Wolf

January 11

*Samuel Armour, *Ruth Didakow, *Moses Murray Fallas, *William Feigenbaum, *Anne G. Jacobson, Louis Lazarus, Izabella Savarin, Bayla Schectman, *Herman Silver, *Sheldon Tucker, Dr. Samuel Waterman, *Berdie Yafa

January 18

*Joseph Bittman, Irving Comora, Herbert Creager, *Dr. Jacques Grunblatt, *Marion Weinman Leopold, Mannie Lieberman, *Helen Marcus, *Louis Mauer, *Seymour Segan

January 25

Joseph Bittman, Leonore Comora, *Jacob Fagelman, *Arthur Hecht, *Meyer Lunchick, Abe Siegel, *Harry Sobel, *Minnie Spero Susman

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

Tu BiSh'vat History

Taken in part from urj.org / Source: The Jewish Home (Revised Edition) by Daniel B. Syme

Although the celebration of *Tu BiSh'vat* has a long and varied history, the theme most commonly ascribed to the holiday today is the environment. It is considered a festival of nature, full of wonder, joy, and thankfulness for God's creation in anticipation of the renewal of the natural world. During this festival, Jews recall the sacred obligation to care for God's world, and the responsibility to share the fruits of God's earth with all.

Tu BiSh'vat falls at the beginning of spring in Israel, when the winter rains subside and the pink and white blossoms of the almond trees begin to bud. It is for this reason that almonds and other fruits and nuts native to the Land of Israel - barley, dates, figs, grapes, pomegranates, olives, and wheat - are commonly eaten during the *Tu BiSh'vat* seder.





Happy Birthday!

- Donna Futia (1/1)
- Robert Kafin (1/1)
- Lacey Tucker (1/4)
- Aaron O'Brien (1/5)
- Phil Naftaly (1/5)
- Gary Poster (1/5)
- Kenneth Schwartz (1/7)
- Glennis Swinson (1/8)
- Scott Wodicka (1/8)
- Julia Wolfeld
(1/8 – 9 years old!)
- Leah Namour (1/8)
- Benjamin Brown (1/11)
- Daniel Katz (1/13)
- Diana Cahan
(1/21 – 3 years old!)
- Rachel Coleman (1/21)
- Tom O'Brien, Jr. (1/24)
- Michael Rhodes (1/24)
- Matthew Brender (1/27)
- Sidney Hellman (1/27)
- Michele Schwartz (1/28)
- Martin Wasserman (1/29)



Photos for The Shofar?

Many of you have snapped photos at a Temple event. *The Shofar* needs photos to enhance our publication, and would be happy to share what you can provide. Phone photos are fine!



Oneg Appreciation

Karen Marks & Steve Adler
in memory of Lydia Adler

Lois & Jack Hellman
in honor of Helene Rudnick

Lois & Jack Hellman
in memory of Mary Cohen Hellman

Bill Brender
in memory of Edward Brender



Book Club

Our next meeting will be on January 8, 2019 to discuss Warlight by Michael Ondaatje. We will meet at Zou Restaurant at 11:30 am.

Our book for March 12, 2019 is Escape from Slavery by Francis Bok. Time and place will be decided at our January meeting.

Happy reading,

Karen Marks Adler



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: Vanessa Bishop, Sam Chanis, Jo Ann Daigle, Victor Friedman, Catherine Gericke, Ellen Goldberg, David Hafele, Valerie Hope, Janis Inglis, Edith Katz, Gloria Klein, Krista Klock, Isobel Krulik, Arthur Leinoff, Elizabeth Levy, Mark Lipschitz, Baylee Meyers, Linda Miller, Phyliss Miller, Sylvia Miltch, Terry Monroe, Jessica Panebianco, Edie Rudnick, Bob Savarin, Alan Siller, Claire Siller, Kristen Temple, Joseph Verrigni, Mary Verrigni, Barbara Dev Zimmerman



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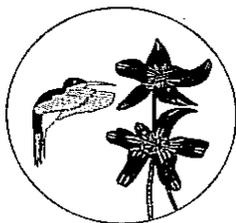
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*Temple's rabbi and president will be
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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

One Washington Street

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Phone (518) 792-2117





Temple Beth El

3 Marion Avenue
Glens Falls, New York
12801-2813

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Rabbi Norman T. Mendel

Phone: 518-792-4364
Fax: 518-792-4336
office@glensfallstemple.com
www.GlensFallsTemple.com

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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 Administrator, Katie Weaver, well in advance of the desired publication date. The deadline for each issue (usually the 15th 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, reservations, or 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 15!**