



The June 2012 Shofar

Temple Beth El, 3 Marion Avenue, Glens Falls, New York 12801
(518) 792-4364 * tbeqfny@gmail.com * www.TempleBethEl-gfny.com
Affiliate member of the URJ since 1950

Annual Congregational Meeting*

Tuesday, June 19 at 7 p.m.

The proposed slate

President

Steve Adler

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Barbara Rosoff

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Jack Hellman

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Kathy Naftaly

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* Prior to the Congregational Meeting, you will receive the meeting agenda via the USPS mail.

Mitzvah Day

Sunday, June 10 at 11 a.m.

(Please note the time change from previous articles.)

It's time to clean up and spruce up the cemetery. It honors the memory and contribution of all members of our community. We will also have a special ceremony for the respectful burial of old prayer books. See the Rabbi's Message, page 2.

Bring a picnic lunch and water to drink.

Also bring along supplies and tools for outdoor work, such as:

- a rake
- work clothes
- gloves
- a bucket
- hand trimmers

If you would like to participate or have any questions, please call Jeff Hill at 793-2595.

Tree of Life

A leaf on the Tree of life makes a lovely graduation, fathers day or birthday gift. You don't have to gift wrap it or deliver it.

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Rabbi's Message

Traditionally a *Torah* or books which contain the name of God and were no longer fit for use were buried (frequently with a scholar) or set aside in a safe place. This was done in order to prevent the desecration or erasure of the name of God.

For a long time, Jewish communities set aside a room in their synagogue exclusively for this purpose, and called that space the *genizah*. The Talmud stipulates that all sacred writings (scrolls of Torah, Prophets, and Writings) should be preserved in a place where they cannot be destroyed. Though this idea was originally closely tied to a prohibition from ever erasing God's name, Maimonides ruled that holy books, such as the Talmud and Midrash, should be retired to the *genizah* as well, even though they do not contain God's name. Anything from a worn-out *siddur* to a contract written in Hebrew would be put in the *genizah* when it was no longer useful, and often ritual objects, such as a *tallit* or a *lulav*, were added as well.

Today, most synagogues have a closet or a box where they collect used papers and ritual objects that are considered sacred. The general rule is that anything dealing with sacred subjects should be placed in a *genizah*, rather than thrown out. An Israeli newspaper, though written in Hebrew, would not need to go in a *genizah*, but a *megillah* that had been damaged would.

Please join us for *Mitzvah* Day—June 10th where we will beautify and clean up our cemetery followed by burial of some of our sacred books. This is a very moving and special deed that I hope you all can perform with us. I encourage our young families, adolescents and all segments of our community to show our support, beautify our cemetery and perform the sacred deed of burial.

Looking forward to seeing you then!

Rabbi Matt Durbin

Dedication of "Illumination"

Please join us early for the Shabbat service Friday evening, June 15, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., when we will dedicate "Illumination," a magnificent stained glass window designed and created for the Temple by our member, Scott Wodicka, as a donation in memory of his father, Charles David Wodicka. We will enjoy a "pre-neg" of *hors d'oeuvre* before the 7:00 p.m. service.

Scott, an accomplished artist, began to work in stained glass about 15 years ago, when his wife, Camille, was touring on weekends with a musical group. He took adult education classes at BOCES in Saratoga Springs and continued to study the craft on his own. Having a stressful career with little opportunity to exercise his creativity, Scott welcomed the creative outlet of an art form requiring focus and precision.

After designing and creating a number of pieces, several of which grace his and Camille's Queensbury home, Scott decided he wanted to make a special work of art in stained glass for the Temple. Searching for inspiration, he found a black-and-white photograph of a rabbi holding a Torah aloft. This formed the basis for the design of "Illumination."

Scott's father, Charles David Wodicka, passed away in 2009, while Scott was beginning to think about donating a piece of art to the Temple. Charles Wodicka, reared in difficult circumstances in Hell's Kitchen in New York City, was a man who worked with his hands and worked hard all his life. Scott honors his memory in donating the work of his hands.

Following the dedication and Shabbat service, please join us for an Oneg Shabbat hosted by friends of Scott and Camille in appreciation of his gift. If you wish to bring a dessert item, please contact Katie in the Temple office.

Shavuot and Ice Cream on the Bike Trail

Join us for a Shabbat morning service on June 2, 2012, at 11:00 a.m., at 250 Ridge Street, near the Bike Trail entrance. We will celebrate Shabbat and *Shavuot*, the time of the first fruits and the giving of the Torah, with a brief service, followed by a short walk to the Coopers Cave ice cream stand, where we can purchase appropriate dairy treats! (Rain location: Temple Beth El.)



CHAI SOCIETY PROGRAM

Topic: "Blue in America"

Presenter: William Martin

Date and Time: Sunday, June 3 @ 1:30 pm

Summary: This talk will explore how the Blues came to be the heart of American music. Even though the emphasis in the presentation will be historical, according to the speaker, there will be as much playing and as little "jabbering" as possible.

Coffee, tea, and dessert will be served right before this event.

President's Message

At the Family Shabbat service in May, I found my answers. I had that moment of "Of course! Now I know why." My questions went back to June of 2010 when I accepted the responsibility of Temple president. My answers were right in front of my eyes in June of 2012.

Here they were, our Temple children, gathered on the Bima, beneath the Rabbi's sheltering Tallit, receiving his Shabbat blessing. Here they were, the future of Temple Beth El and of Reform Judaism. They are the "kids" we have watched grow from "toddler-age" to "teen-age" and now helping the younger children and setting an example. Here were the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of generations of Temple Beth El members - OUR children. Here were my answers.

At that moment, with absolute clarity, I understood my role in Temple Beth El. Wiping away a tear of "naches," I turned to my daughter and whispered: "Now I know why."

Thank you all for your confidence in me and the Board of Trustees these past two years. Thank you to our departing board members, Phyllis Brown and Mike Seidel. Your experience and help were invaluable. Welcome to our newest Board members, Sue Lieberman and Matt Levin. Thank you for saying "yes." As our next president and Board assume their awesome responsibilities, I know you will continue your encouragement, counsel, and support. I know why.

Barbara Rosoff

TSRS Update

The TSRS held two special events during the months of March and April: a model Passover *seder* and a community luncheon honoring Harrie Bobbin. Although our model *seder* for students and families did not include a full meal, we had complete *seder* plates and plenty of dessert to give everyone a taste for the holiday. At the end of March, the TSRS was very pleased to honor Harrie Bobbin with a community luncheon and by adding her name to the Rabbi Richard J. Sobel Distinguished Service plaque. Harrie spent over a decade teaching the youngest children in our Jewish community, helping to start them on the path of Jewish education. As Rabbi Marmon said, "Children just love Harrie Bobbin."

Classes ended for the year with a graduation ceremony on Mother's Day, however we still had two upcoming events to look forward to: our annual bus trip and the 17th annual Jack Lebowitz Young People's Picnic. The bus trip was to The Jewish Children's Museum in Brooklyn, NY during the end of May. The museum specializes in Jewish education from Kindergarten through 8th grade, and they are currently having a special exhibit on creating Torah scrolls. The end of the year picnic is on June 3rd from 11-4 at the Ridin'-Hy Ranch in Warrensburg. Funding for our picnic is once again sponsored by a very generous contribution from the Lebowitz family. We always have a great time at the ranch with barbecue, swimming, games, horseback riding, and many other fun activities. Please RSVP to me at tsrsdirector@gmail.com if you are interesting in attending.

Adam Fine, TSRS Director



Torah Portions

June 2

Naso

Pent. Num. 4:21-7:89

Pr. Judges 13:2-25

June 9

Behalotecha

Pent. Num. 8:1-12:16

Pr. Zach. 2:14-4:7

June 16

Shelach

Pent. Num. 13:1-15:41

Pr. Josh. 2:1-24

June 23

Korach

Pent. Num. 16:1-22:1

Pr. I Sam. 11:14-12:22

June 30

Chukkat

Pent. Num. 19:1-22:1

Pr. Judges 11:1-33

10 Minutes of Torah

Sign up to receive a one-page e-mail each day on a topic of Jewish interest. It only takes **10 minutes a day** to get started on a lifelong journey. Spend 10 minutes a day — and before you know it you'll have completed 100 hours of Torah study! All you need to do is find ten minutes a day to "do Torah." Reform Jews committed to having Judaism in their daily lives are encouraged to participate in 10 minutes a day of personal connection to a Jewish text, issue or topic. For example: Monday—Reform Voices of Torah; Tuesday—The Rhythm of Jewish Time; Wednesday—Israel Connection; Thursday—Delving into *Tfilah*; Friday—Reform Judaism Q&A. Select all five days or any combination. Each weekday morning, an e-mail will be delivered to your inbox for you to study at your convenience. Sign up for 10 Minutes of Torah by visiting: www.urj.org/learning/torah/ten. Take your study of 10 Minutes of Torah to the next level by signing up for *Eilu V'eilu*.

"Who among us is so busy that he cannot spend 10 minutes a day in the study of a Jewish text? Just 10 minutes? Such a commitment would enable us to meet our Jewish obligation to make Jewish study a fixed occurrence. If we make time to answer our cell phones a dozen times a day and to check our email five times an hour, surely we can find 10 minutes to contemplate sacred words that nourish the soul." -- Rabbi Eric Yoffie, November 8, 2003, 13 Cheshvan 5764

Appreciation

To the congregation of Temple Beth El for hosting an Oneg in May in honor of the Temple Board of Trustees.

To Rabbi Durbin for hosting an Oneg in May in celebration of Ellie Rae's first birthday!

Book Club

Here are the next selections for our book club:

June 12: The Arrogant Years by Lucette Lagnado

Sep. 11: The Greater Journey by David McCullough

Oct. 9: Still Alice by Lisa Genova

Nov. 13: In the Garden of Beasts by Erik Larson

Happy reading,

Karen



Get Well Soon

Dan Baker, Donald Bartlett, Ronald Binns, Elaine Faller, Linda Friedman, Victor Friedman, Alan Gartner, Dawn Gideon, Diann Gordon, Jacqueline Gordon, Mark Grunblatt, Seth Gutman, Ilene Hartung, Mike Jucowics, Shirley Kanofsky, Paula Knight, Elizabeth Levy, Jeff Levy, Sandra Lewis, Anita Lieberman, Harold Luria, Betty Maloney, Leonard Meyers, Richard Muller, Suzanne Murphy, Zafar Naqvi, Paul Offricht, Jessica Panebianco, Leo Ritter, Edie Rudnick, Bob Savarin, Sonny Segan, David Setzer, Frank Sheridan, Alfred Supe, Judy Supe, Katie Weaver, Carol Wells, Jared Winchell, Sylvia Wodicka



Home Shopping Event

Congratulations and thanks to Jennifer Nadler. This very successful event (featuring 27 vendors) was held on Sunday, May 6th in our "homeroom" and bubble room." It was conceptualized, organized and managed by Jennifer. Jennifer recruited vendors, planned the use of space, arranged for advertising. It was a simple enough idea but one that we had never even thought about before Jennifer made the proposal. Her dad, Jack Toney and children staffed the table for products from Jacobs and Toney, food specialty store in Warrensburg.

The variety of products available for purchase was impressive. The vendors were pleased with the set up and attendance (compared with similar events in other venues). Where else could you shop for candles, spa products, sauces and beef jerky, kitchen tools, make-up, jewelry, maple products, party favors, cupcakes, dipped strawberries and more in a four hour period and under one roof? There was even a vendor who provides gift baskets and custom decor for weddings, showers and *bar* or *bat mitzvahs*. The following is a complete list of vendors at the event:

J&B Greetings (Julius Beaton)
Jacobs & Toney, LLC (Jack Toney & Jennifer Nadler)
BeautiControl Spa (Carol Lowry)
Mary Kay (Lynne Browne)
Shush Shoes (Robin Young)
Tastefully Simple (Deborah Corrigan)
Organo Gold Gourmet Coffee (John Lullen)
Lindt Chocolate (Suzi Chaplan)
Avon (Linda Miller)
Rivers Edge (Kerri Simon)
Pampered Chef (Stephanie LaFond)
Valley Road Maple Farm, LLC (Ralph Senecal)
Collignon Photography (Becky Collignon)
Stomach Cakes (Laura Allison)
Minky Mink Boutique (Shanna McTiernan)
Initials, Inc. (Lisa Greenwald)
Thirty-One (Lori Milton)
Silpada (Beth Young)
Partylite (Shannon Cass)
Arbonne (Carolyn Trzaskos)
Ambit Energy (Deborah Sherrange)
Saratoga Paint and Sip Studio (Catherine Willis Hover)
Love is on Lake George (Katherine Miller)
Custom Creations (Cyndie Wade-Wood)
Berrylicious Bouquets (Shannon Allitt)
Viva La Diva Fashions (Christopher Scoville)
Cascade of Elegance (Nancy Phillips)

It was a good day for shoppers and vendors alike. Participants are looking forward to a repeat event in the Fall, as will many Temple members and other shoppers.



Contributions

GENERAL FUND

Robin Temple

In honor of Diane Martin

Levy Family

In honor of Diane Martin

Jonathan & Dale Nemer

In honor of Diane Martin

Eleanor Elliott

In memory of Sari Erlanger

Eleanor Elliott

In honor of Diane Martin

Charlotte & Dan Corey

In memory of Sari Helen Glasser Erlanger

Barbara Garber & Family

In honor of Ralph Leinoff saying Kaddish for Elliott Garber

Donald Schwartz

In memory of Sari Erlanger

Cheryl Tucker

In honor of Ellie Rae Durbin's 1st birthday

Cheryl Tucker

In memory of Howard Serlin

Sunny Buchman

In memory of Sari Erlanger

Dave, Sue, & Molly Lieberman

In celebration of Ellie Rae's birthday

Judith Metzner Shepherd

In celebration of Ellie Rae's birthday

Barbara Goldberg Brumer & Lewis Goldberg

In memory of Dora Goldberg

Sandy & Martha Searleman

In honor of Diane Martin

Ruth Lichtman

In honor of Diane Martin

Ruth Lichtman

In memory of Sari Erlanger

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Bruce & Ellen Katz

In honor of Diane Martin

Blossom Bittman

In memory of Sari Erlanger

Paul & Ann Silk

In honor of Ellie Durbin's first birthday

Paul & Ann Silk

In memory of Lillian Weitsen

Paul & Ann Silk

In memory of Sam Silk

Deena Gill

In honor of Eliana Durbin's first birthday

KITCHEN FUND

Arnold Slawsby

In memory of Eileen Slawsby

Thank You

Since Passover, I have been suffering from severely ulcerated corneas and have been seen by ophthalmologists many times and treated with antibiotics. I want to thank all the synagogue and temple members (and also my non-jewish friends and neighbors) for their demonstrations of caring: follow-up phone-calls for updates on the eye situation, cards and notes, and offers to help; as well as those who have helped me get food, and errands done. G-d bless you and your loved ones!

Valerie Hope



JUNE 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 7 p.m. Shabbat Service	2 11 a.m. Shavuot and Ice Cream
3 11 a.m. Annual Jack Lebowitz Young People's Picnic 1:30 p.m. Chai Society Program (Bill Martin)	4	5	6	7	8 7 p.m. Shabbat Service	9 10:30 a.m. Torah Study
10 11 a.m. Mitzvah Day and burial of prayer books	11	12 10 a.m. Book Club (The Arrogant Years: One Girl's Search for Her Lost Youth from Cairo to Brooklyn) 12 p.m. Ritual / Pulpit Committee	13	14	15 6 p.m. Dedication of "Illumination" "pre-neg" 7 p.m. Shabbat service / Oneg in appreciation of Scott Wodicka Shofar Deadline	16 10:30 a.m. Torah Study
17	18	19 7 p.m. Annual Congregational and Budget Meeting	20	21	22 7 p.m. Shabbat Service / Oneg hosted by the Healey / Cohen families	23 10:30 a.m. Torah Study
24	25	26 7 p.m. Temple Board	27	28	29 7 p.m. Shabbat Service	30 10:30 a.m. Torah Study



Temple Beth El History

[Following is an excerpt from the early history of Temple Beth El, written by Ella Cline. "Our Ideals" is the chapter for 1933-1934.]

[Rabbi Bertram Stein had organized a program of lectures and entertainment for the Temple youth, and "the young folk seemed to be having such a good time that their elders were growing a bit jealous."]

So – our rabbi organized a class in European Drama which met every Monday afternoon in the Louis Brown room of the Crandall Free Library. Anyone interested in European drama was welcome. This class was well attended.

Another venture was Sisterhood Night. The Friday evening in November before Mrs. Jacobson and Miss Goldstein were to leave us for Orlando, Florida, the entire services were conducted by women. Mother Jacobson, Vilma Gelman, Jeanette Metzner and Ida Shulman read the services; Ella Cline delivered the sermon. Her subject was: *Why I Come to Temple*. Her argument was that she came for spiritual growth and to find reassurance that life was worth living, and that that was the reason most people came.

And the Friday after in this Temple was not as it had been ever before the Friday after Mother Jacobson and her sister had gone on their yearly holiday in the Southland. Always before only a few lonely "posts" and "pillars" came. And were we lonely – but not this Friday. Oh, no!

Rabbi Stein had announced that Youth Night would follow Sisterhood Night with a sermon on *The Dreams of Youth* dedicated to the young people of this vicinity. Instead of some eight or ten lonely congregants, the chapel was crowded with eager young men and women. When our president, Dr. Maslon, came late, he exclaimed as he sought a place to sit down, "Is this New Year, or what?"

The year gained in interest by the occasional visitor who addressed us from our pulpit. The Rev. Dr. Charles Otis Judkins spoke to us on October 20th. He stressed the great and burning injustice of racial hatreds. He begged us, implored us, not to lose hope. As if we Jews ever did, or could, lose hope and courage. This was his last message to us in our Temple. He died suddenly the following January. His loss was mourned by many in every denomination. The Methodist Church lost an able, a liberal leader; we a sincere friend.

Rabbi Hyman Golden, leader of the Hebrew Community activities, spoke from our pulpit on December 26th on *Jewish Ethics* and again on March 23rd on *Legal Aspects of the Bible*. His talk each time was enlightening and instructive. He showed to us the very roots of our strength.

We had still another very interesting speaker, this time a retired Presbyterian minister. The Rev. John R. Ellis spoke to us on January 12th. His subject was *Job and Some of His Modern Comforters*. Many wished to hear him again. He spoke again, this time in the Hebrew Community Building* on *What the Jew Has Done for Civilization*. He reviewed the history of the Jew, told of his hardships and of his spiritual triumphs. At Rabbi Stein's suggestion, the Jewish Brotherhood had this lecture printed in booklet form so that its just summation could be read by many who had not heard the lecture. It was published with a foreword by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and was dedicated to the memory of Charles Otis Judkins. A thousand booklets were printed and distributed.

BLESSINGS IN A BAG-\$18!

Wait until you see these sets of prayer cards, perfect for your home or a little gift. The attractive, colorful cards offer guidance and blessings for the celebration of Shabbat, holidays, and special events such as affixing a *mezuzah*. Available at the Temple office or the Judaica Shop!

TASTEFUL TRADITIONS

Copies of the new Temple Beth cookbook, *Tasteful Traditions*, with historical notes, are available from the Judaica Shop or the Temple office. The price of \$13 includes sales tax, and for \$5.00 more, we will ship it anywhere in the United States. You'll want one for your own family and extras to tuck into a gift package!



We Remember

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

June 1

Melvin Becker, John Brunnell, Louisa Buyer, Hattie Cohen, *Jennie Erlanger, *Lillian Kaufman, Harry Kirschenbaum, *Harriet Nisoff, Jay Rutstein, Abraham Steinberg, Mollie Stewart, Bessie Wein, Dr. Morris Yaffee

June 8

Joan Ruth Berger, *Adolph Bronne, *Frieda Bronne, Sidney Colb, Minna Slater Feldman, Phyla Feldman, *Leonard Handen, Anthony Miller, *Phyllis Wolf Movish, Anne Persk, Dr. Joseph Persk, Irving Poster, Victor Rosenfeld, Keva Schectman, Irving Schorr, *Max Schwartz, Nettie Slawsby, Max Wein

June 15

Henry Ales, *Janet Berkowitz, *Helen Bronne, Morris A. Caplan, Josephine Codispoti, *Martin A. Ginsburg, Eleanor Katz, Frances Kmiecik, *Max H. Segal, Jill Yanklowitz Shannon, Helen Silverstein, Bella Stichman, Saul Strassman

June 22

*Ruth Brender, *Lillian Bronne, Abe Corton, *Thomas Finklestein, Sydelle Goldberg, Jack Joseph, Victor Maslon, Dora Metzner, Samuel Morris, *Hattie L. Pawel, Alice Poster, Martha Schiffman, *Ida Schips, *Benjamin Schwager, *Meyer Sovetts, *Anne Stabins, *Shoshannah Wasserman, *George Wein, Garson Yaffee

June 29

Ruth Borotzky, Fannie Brooks-Solomon, *Ella Cline, William Cohn, Julius Finklestein, Florence M. Ginsburg, *Louis B. Ginsburg, *Rose M. Ginsburg, *Isaac Kaplan, *Ruth Harriet Marks, *Shirley May Pilnick, *Myrna Poster, *Nathan Proller, Frank Schulman, *Dr. Stephen Tucker

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

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- History Chair, Judith Metzner Shepherd
- House Chair, Larry Silver

Rabbi Durbin and President Barbara Rosoff will be ex-officio members of all committees.



Happy Anniversary!

Christopher and Katherine Weaver (6/1 – 10 years)

Jeffrey and Deirdre Hill (6/10 – 17 years)

Scott and Camille Wodicka (6/10 – 34 years)

Sheldon and Louise Binns (6/12 – 63 years)

Jack and Lois Hellman (6/16 – 49 years)

Bruce and Ellen Katz (6/17 – 39 years)

Robert and Carol Kafin (6/20 – 47 years)

Ross and Karen Marks (6/25 – 13 years)

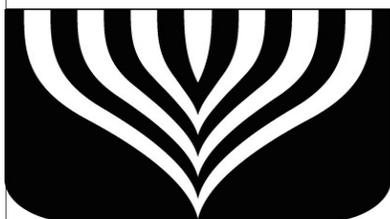
Tim and Frann Flatley (6/28 – 22 years)

Welcome New Members

Trina Healey, Joshua Cohen, Jezabella Cohen, and Gavriella Cohen

Happy Birthday!

Jonathan Marks (6/1), Gilda Siegel (6/6), Elena Silverberg (6/9), Benjamin Handen (6/14), Nancy Hellman (6/14), Larry Leinoff (6/16), Lina Hellman (6/18), Xavier Marks (6/18 – 3 years old!), Doris Cohen (6/18), Katie Flatley (6/18), Sara Friedman (6/21), Alexandra Wieder (6/24), Kathryn Wieder (6/24), Dale Nemer (6/24), David Handen (6/25)



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- * A commitment to *klal Yisrael*, the entirety of the Jewish people, with special focus on the people and the state of Israel, and on world Jewry, particularly on the needs of Progressive congregations everywhere
- * A community-focused religion that honors the personal autonomy of the individual and the institutional autonomy of the congregation, within a framework of egalitarianism and inclusiveness



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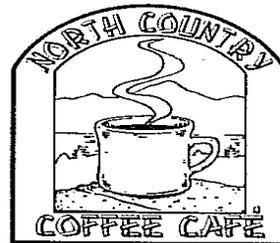
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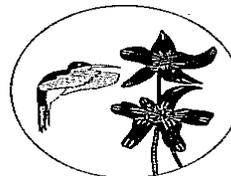
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The Shofar

Editor, Lois Hellman

Assistant Editor,
Judith Metzner Shepherd

Admin. Assistant / 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 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, 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 (tbegefny@gmail.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, to arrive prior to the deadline.

**The deadline for getting articles to Katie for the July/August issue
of *The Shofar* is Friday, June 15!**