

The Shofar

TEMPLE BETH EL

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Nisan—Tammuz 5781 / April—June 2021

An affiliated congregation of the
Union for Reform Judaism since 1950

*Bequests, both large and small, have played a vital role at Temple Beth El.
Please consider Temple Beth El in your will.*

Rabbi's Message

Over this past year, we have all been emotionally on a rollercoaster. Our lives have been topsy-turvy. We have moments when we feel up and moments when we feel down. At times, it seems to take our breath away. Now as spring begins to hearken, we realize that there may be an end of the difficulties and tragedies of COVID on the horizon. As more of us are able to take advantage of the vaccines and begin to interact, we will realize how much we accomplished and how much we missed. Already at Temple we have begun conversations about our eventual opening up the Temple building. We look forward to that day in what we hope will be the not to distant future.

As I reflect on this in the face of Jewish holidays that we both commemorate and celebrate in the spring, I too recognize the rollercoaster of Jewish life. At one moment we will solemnly commemorate the Holocaust. The loss of so many millions is hard to comprehend. We know how the loss of so many Americans due to COVID is likewise hard to comprehend. Yet we also know that *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*, the celebration of the independence of the modern state of Israel, brings joy and light out of the darkness. So it is with life itself. We all have moments of sadness and reflection and moments of joy. Hopefully, for all of us, the joy lifts us from the sadness and points us to pressing purpose. We have been imaginative and actually expanded our Temple offerings over these difficult months. We look ahead with joy to new opportunities to touch each other's lives and become evermore a "family of families".

As there may be setbacks learning more about the variant forms in which COVID manifests itself, so similarly we take heart in the creative ways we problem solve and move forward. It is always been that way in Jewish history and here we are. Alive. Vibrating. Creating. Positive. May the months ahead bring us all together with happiness and joy.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Norm

President's Message

I want to begin by thanking all of you for continuing to keep our congregation thriving during this age of COVID-19. While we have all become pros at Zoom services, Zoom Religious School, Zoom *sedarim*, and the like, we certainly look forward to the time when we can physically be together in our building. Our Reopening Committee is hard at work discussing all of the minutiae that will make it possible and safe to meet in person once again. We look forward to formally rededicating our building and

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President's Message

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celebrating the journey we have all taken as a congregation through trying times. Please stay tuned for more information regarding the exciting future of our Temple!

These next few months bring to us a variety of opportunities for reflection. We begin with the solemn remembrance of *Yom Hashoah* wherein we contemplate the horrors of the Holocaust, so that we can say “never again”. We honor the fallen during *Yom Hazikaron*, but quickly transition to celebrate Israel’s independence on *Yom HaAtzma’ut*. In May, we celebrate the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai on *Shavuot*. Moments of solemn reflection will be sprinkled with celebration and *simcha*; perhaps these coming months are a microcosm of the past year or so. We have all been faced with sadness and difficulty, but have found joy in our community, our relationships with one another, and in the warmth of what Rabbi Norm would call our Temple “family of families”.

It is this family mentality that has kept Temple Beth El during the past year. Your ability to be flexible and to adapt with creativity and patience has enabled us to not only maintain our congregation, but to grow it. The Jewish people have always possessed the unique ability to find novel methods of maintaining traditions and existence amidst a changing and sometimes difficult world. I am proud to see the same ancient resiliency play out in real time within our own congregation.

Again, thank you for your continued support. We need you, our beloved congregants, to enable Temple Beth El to move forward into the future that is so bright. May you be safe, healthy, and happy.

L'Shalom,

Josh Gray

Linda North



On May 31, 2019, I converted to Judaism after several years of being a member of Temple Beth El. I first joined to be able to better participate in the religious life and activities of my grandsons, my daughter and her husband. However, I grew to love my participation in the practice of Judaism and found a spiritual home in the beliefs and values of Judaism.

As an active member of the Temple, when asked by Barbara Rosoff to be a Temple Board Member, I immediately agreed. I have found that being a board member gives me a voice in Temple decisions that are made. As situations and members change within the Temple community, my goal is to offer my support in meeting the needs of the Temple community and insure that we grow in a

direction that will give our Children and grandchildren a place to worship with the love, support and guidance in the future.

Welcome New Members!

Rebecca & Justin Spraragen

Rena Bernstein

Karen & Brian Daniels



Helene Richman & Lee Davidow

Grant Cooper

Erin Boland & Toby Goldstein



April 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>Until further notice, all services, classes and events are scheduled through Zoom.</p> <p>Meeting room link: https://zoom.us/j/2878429114 The meeting ID# is: 287-842-9114</p>				1	2 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	3 10:30 a.m. Adult Ed: Selections from the Pirke Avot with Rabbi Norm
4	5	6 7:00 p.m. Women in the Torah with Rebecca Charhon	7	8 7:00 p.m. Yom HaShoah Service Yom HaShoah 	9 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	10 10:30 a.m. Creating Midrash Study Group with Heather Mendel 7:00 p.m. Sabeeha Rehman & Walter Ruby Lecture
11 10:00 a.m. Temple Synagogue Religious School	12	13 11:00 a.m. Book Club Discussion (<i>Great Alone</i> by Kristin Hannah)	14 Yom HaZikaron	15 Yom HaAtzma'ut	16 6:15 p.m. Family Service	17 10:30 a.m. Torah Study with Rabbi Norm
18 10:00 a.m. Temple Synagogue Religious School	19	20	21 Administrative Professionals Day 	22	23 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	24 10:30 a.m. Sofia Rice Bat Mitzvah
25	26	27 7:00 p.m. Temple Board Meeting	28	29	30 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	

**May 2021**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>Until further notice, all services, classes and events are scheduled through Zoom.</p> <p>Meeting room link: https://zoom.us/j/2878429114 The meeting ID# is: 287-842-9114</p>						<p>1 10:30 a.m. Adult Ed: Selections from the Pirke Avot with Rabbi Norm</p>
<p>2 10:00 a.m. Temple Synagogue Religious School</p>		<p>4 7:00 p.m. Women in the Torah with Rebecca Charhon</p>			<p>7 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service</p>	<p>8 10:30 a.m. Creating Midrash Study Group with Heather Mendel</p>
<p>9 Mother's Day</p> 					<p>14 6:15 p.m. Family Service</p>	<p>15 10:30 a.m. Torah Study with Rabbi Norm</p>
<p>16 10:00 a.m. Temple Synagogue Religious School 12:30 p.m. Cemetery Clean Up</p>	<p>17 Shavuot</p>				<p>21 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service</p>	<p>22 10:30 a.m. Torah Discussion Group with Josh Gray / Naftali Rottenstreich</p>
<p>23 10:00 a.m. Temple Synagogue Religious School</p>		<p>25 7:00 p.m. Temple Board Meeting</p>			<p>28 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service</p>	
	<p>31 Memorial Day</p> 					



June 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 7:00 p.m. Women in the Torah with Rebecca Charhon	2	3	4 6:15 p.m. Family Service	5 10:30 a.m. Adult Ed: Selections from the Pirke Avot with Rabbi Norm
6 Temple Synagogue Religious School	7	8	9	10	11 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	12 10:30 a.m. Creating Midrash Study Group with Heather Mendel
13	14	15 Deadline for Submitting Articles for the July—September issue of <i>The Shofar</i>	16	17	18 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	19 10:30 a.m. Torah Study with Rabbi Norm
20 Father's Day 	21	22 7:00 p.m. Temple Board Meeting	23	24	25 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	26 10:30 a.m. Torah Discussion Group with Josh Gray / Naftali Rottenstreich
27	28	29	30	Until further notice, all services, classes and events are scheduled through Zoom. Meeting room link: https://zoom.us/j/2878429114 The meeting ID# is: 287-842-9114		



The Patience of our Temple

I recently stopped into the Temple to leave something for Katie and to retrieve an item from the library upstairs, where, until a year ago, I taught a weekly after-school art class to an imaginative and enthusiastic group of elementary students, in my DragonWing Arts classes.

The Temple was still, quiet, and waiting. The poem *The Patience of Ordinary Things* by Pat Schneider (reprinted below), my favorite reading from the High Holy Day prayer book, immediately came to mind.

THE PATIENCE OF ORDINARY THINGS



*It is a kind of love, is it not
How the cup holds the tea,
How the chair stands sturdy and foursquare,
How the floor receives the bottoms of shoes
Or toes. How soles of feet know
Where they're supposed to be.
I've been thinking about the patience
Of ordinary things, how clothes
Wait respectfully in closets
And soap dries quietly in the dish,
And towels drink the wet
From the skin of the back.
And the lovely repetition of stairs.
And what is more generous than a window?*



For a year now, the Temple has been waiting patiently to resume normal life and welcome us back. I'm sure our beloved Temple building misses the lively voices of the children in Sunday school, as well as the children who participate in Sara Rice's kids' yoga and my DragonWing Arts classes. Our Temple continues to wait patiently for the return of the comforting sounds of prayer on Friday nights and holidays, the intelligent conversations that take place in book club, meetings and classes, the rhythms of the music and movement of the USA Dance and Tango Fusion groups, the inviting smells of something yummy wafting from the kitchen, and the friendly voices of people of all ages socializing, catching up, and sharing stories and friendship. And I'm sure the Temple office longs for Katie's warm smile and friendly voice. The *bema* misses the rich voice and reassuring words of our Rabbi, and the ark longs to be open and for the Torah inside to be opened and its words to be shared.

It's easy to get impatient, especially now. We have grown weary of a full year of attending meetings and classes and services and school and other gatherings only on Zoom. We have become frustrated by a year of cancelled travel and vacation plans. We long to visit face-to-face and hug tight our family and friends not within our pandemic "bubble." We crave outings to listen to live music, see a play, visit an art museum, eat in a restaurant, or peruse the library, and we are fatigued by the solitude of the pandemic. By now, many of us have been vaccinated and are beginning to feel invincible, especially impatient to welcome back "normal" life. Maybe, until we are sure it is safe, we would do well to remind ourselves of how patient and uncomplaining our Temple has been while waiting for the warmth of humanity to return inside its walls. Perhaps we should re-read the words of the poem and think about how we can apply the quiet gentle message in our own lives, and find the gifts that have been given to us by this year of "life-on-hold".

For myself, I know I look forward to the day when I open the door of the Temple, hear voices and laughter, and see smiles. Until then, I will wait patiently, retreat to my art studio, and paint. What will you do?

Phyllis Brown



Yom HaShoah – Light a Yellow Candle to Remember Those Who Perished

The year 2021 is the 76th anniversary since Nazi concentration camps were liberated, and the Holocaust that claimed six million Jewish lives came to an end. To ensure that the six million did not die in vain and that the Holocaust never happens again, Temple Beth El will join Jews and others throughout North America by participating in the *Yom HaShoah* Yellow Candle Program.

As the years pass, the memories of those who fell victim to the ultimate hate crime must not diminish. That is why we are encouraging your family and every family in Temple Beth El to light just one Yellow Candle on the night of Thursday, April 8, 2021. This year we will be celebrating at Temple Beth El at 7:00 pm via Zoom. When each family lights a Yellow Candle, it increases the awareness of the Holocaust and perpetuate our commitment to our people.

The memory is important because the number of Holocaust survivors is diminishing with each passing day. As we lose this precious link, those who deny the Holocaust ever happened gain strength. Sadly, 20% of all high school students lack any knowledge of the Holocaust.

Yom HaShoah candles are a highly visible symbol for keeping the flame alive. Their color recalls the badges Jews were forced to wear in Nazi-occupied Europe, but their flame inspires hope that we can yet make our world a tolerant place to live.

Therefore, we are requesting that you contact Katie Weaver at the Temple (518-792-4364 or office@glensfallstemple.com) for additional information and to make arrangements to pick up your candle(s) and make a *tzedakah* donation of \$18 (or more) per candle. Please make your check payable to Temple Beth El Brotherhood.

Shalom,
Sandy Searleman,
Yom HaShoah Candle Chairperson, April, 2021



Interview with Leah Sachs

Ellen: Hi Leah, tell me about yourself.

Leah: Well, I grew up in Stamford, Connecticut. We were members of a large Orthodox congregation. I attended public school and attended Sunday and Tuesday Religious School every week. I have two brothers and one sister, and we had a large and close family in Stamford.

Ellen: Does your family live close by now?

Leah: My parents live in Rhode Island. My sister and younger brother live in Connecticut and my older brother lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ellen: Oh, I've always wanted to visit Atlanta. Have you been down there?

Leah: Yes, we've been down a few times. We went down for my niece's *Bat Mitzvah* a few years ago. They have a beautiful synagogue. They had an amazing *kiddush* after the service everyone attended. There really was a huge sense of community.

Ellen: So how did you end up living in upstate New York?

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Interview with Leah Sachs

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Leah: I went to the University of Rhode Island, where I majored in Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design. I met my children's father there. His family has a business in the Hadley/Lake Luzerne area, so we moved up here. I had several interesting jobs in Human Resources, working in employee benefits, workers' compensation and safety training. I work well with people. I enjoyed helping employees with problems and anything else I could assist with. I try to be the good voice of reason.

Ellen: Please tell me about your two daughters.

Leah: Lucy is ten and Molly is nine. Lucy loves to read so much that I sometimes almost have to take books from her so she'll pay attention. Molly is my free-spirit, animal-loving kind girl. They are so similar and different in so many ways. I was lucky enough to be a stay-at-home mom for several years. When they started elementary school, I volunteered at their school and joined the PTSA. I've been the PTSA Vice-President for four years now. I started substitute teaching and then was hired as a Teaching Assistant.

Ellen: Do you teach virtually or in person?

Leah: In person, wearing a mask all day.

Ellen: That must be very challenging.

Leah: Yes, it is challenging for me and my students. We do go outside and take mask breaks. I try to encourage my students to be productive and not spend all day on their screens. For me, the best part of teaching is helping them reach that "aha moment" when they understand a new concept or idea.

Ellen: How did you happen to join Temple Beth El?

Leah: Funny story... I actually met Rabbi Rose Durbin at an infant swim class at the Y! We got to talking and I asked her what she did for a living and she told me, "I'm a Rabbi." She invited me to come to services and I ended up joining, although not until several years later! Religion is very important to me, not just *the* laws and customs but the traditions. My girls love meeting new people, especially sharing something different with other Jewish kids. They feel proud to be Jewish and love it when I come into their public school classroom and make a presentation about Jewish holidays or recipes.

Ellen: Why did you join the Temple Board?

Leah: I saw how much I learned from being on my children's PTSA Board. Making connections with other Temple members is important to me. Even though I joined the Temple several years ago, I still feel new. When Rebecca asked me if I would be interested, I was. I thought that by joining the Temple Board I would learn how the Temple is run; about its basic operations. Even simple things like learning that the Temple roof needs to be shoveled. I'm also learning about the history of the Temple and the connections of the different families. I think that joining the board has connected me to the people, to the congregation and to the building itself.

Ellen: Well, we're very glad you did. Thank you for this interview and for the opportunity to learn about each other!

Ellen Katz





Who is Karen Marks?

I was born, raised and educated in the fabulous borough of Brooklyn and I have been told, by some, that I have even retained a bit of an accent. I have also had a very varied and interesting career.

In 1966, after a year of teaching first grade in a very poor neighborhood of Brooklyn, my husband, 3 month old son Ross and I moved to Glens Falls.

We purchased a linen supply company in South Glens Falls at that time. After that was sold, we owned restaurants in Lake George, Glens Falls, and Albany. Additionally, we had a business of leasing small refrigerators to college students throughout the Northeast.

After a divorce, now with two sons, Ross and Jonathan, I decided that I wanted to go back to school. I have always wanted to be a doctor, but with small children to raise, that was not possible, so I went to SUNY Adirondack and became a registered nurse. I am proud to say that as a nurse I developed the same-day admission in-patient surgical program at Glens Falls hospital. Prior to this program, all patients requiring several days in the hospital after surgery came into the hospital the day before their planned procedure. I spent the rest of my nursing career teaching patients about anticipated outcomes of their surgery. I retired from the hospital after twenty years doing a job that I loved.

My family joined Temple Beth El shortly after moving to Glens Falls. One of the factors that was so important to me at that time was that I wanted my children to learn about Judaism and being Jewish in a non-Jewish world. Growing up in Brooklyn, I thought the world was as Jewish as Brooklyn was in the “olden days”. Temple Beth El has been a huge part of my life since those days. My sons had their *Bar Mitzvahs* and Confirmations at our Temple and I had my *Bat Mitzvah* there at the young age of 36.

I have been on the Temple Board for more years than I can remember. I have spent all of this time as the co-treasurer or treasurer. In the last few years, I have been blessed to work with Katie, also affectionately known as Princess Katie. One of the best things that I have done at Temple is that Lois Hellman and I were wise enough to have hired her! It is my job as treasurer to create a yearly budget, give monthly reports and to make recommendations to our board related to our financial situation. For many years all the work was done without the valuable assistance of our administrative assistant, but now I am able to oversee most of the work, and collegially oversee and review this job with Katie. I have loved working on this board and hope to continue to make a contribution to Jewish life in Glens Falls.



Karen Marks

Book Club

The next book we will be reading for the book club is The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. All are welcome to join us.

Katie will send the information needed to join this meeting as we get closer to the date.

Happy reading,

Karen Marks





Spirituality Matters

A year like no other!!!! March 2020 we were together in Glens Falls. March 2021 we are still together—our venue may have moved from Marion Ave to an ever-expansive zoom-room, but we are together, and possibly more aware, more appreciative of being part of a loving, supportive family of families in ways we could not have imaged possible. So many lives lost, businesses gone, prospects questioned. And yet at the same time, we cannot forget the heroism of the millions who kept life going under dire circumstances, even at the cost of their own family lives and tragically sometimes at the cost of their lives. Essential workers indeed!!!

Who would have ever believed that everything would come to a standstill— and we adjusted? We can truly ask ourselves ‘how AM I one year later?’ What is the new normal going to look like? Some have described the past year as being sent back to our rooms for a while to think about what we have done— and there is much to consider. Just as no-one could have foresee what this past year would turn out to be, perhaps we should all make note of we think the next year will be. What will we be saying a year from now as we look back on 2021?

On a personal level, will the hug of a friend ever have seemed to so sweet? Will going out for a meal with extended family or friends ever be unappreciated again? Probably— if we are unchanged by what we have experienced, we could start taking it all for granted once again. I hope not.

On a communal level, what are we individually going to do about the ongoing pandemic of American racism and white supremacy that has been active in the shadows and has now stepped into the spotlight for the scourge that it is? What about global climate change and the individual small ways we can make a difference if we so choose to? To what are we willing to commit?

A Temple, we know, is a gathering place for worship, for study and for community. We have managed all three via technology— a blessing indeed. We study together, we converse, we sing and we pray. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks taught: “I pray, therefore I am not alone”. I am connected to Divinity and to the world in which I have a part to play. What is prayer? It has been said that gratitude, rather than request, is prayer in its the truest form.

Jean Shinoda Bolen teaches: "Gratitude is something we have inside that rises to the surface when something in particular invites it out. Gratitude is a wonderful spiritual practice . . . Every time you breathe an “ahhhh “or savor a moment, a thank-you for being alive is rising from your soul to fill your heart. . . ., it’s about the beauty of seeing the geese flying overhead, but it’s more: it’s a thank-you to these geese, to nature, to the creator. And even more than this, it’s a thank-you that I am here.” To which we can say *Hineini*— in spite of all, I am not alone. I have a place in the universe.

L’shalom,

Heather Mendel

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!!



Torah Portions

April 3
Seventh Day Pesach

April 10
Shemini
Lev. 9:1-11:47
Pr. II Sam. 6:1-7:17

April 17
Tazri'a-Metzora
Lev. 12:1-15:33
Pr. II KIns 7:3-20

April 24
Acharei Mote-Kedoshim
Lev. 16:1-20:27
Pr. Amos 9:7-15

May 1
Emor
Lev. 21:1-24:23
Pr. Ez. 44:15-31

May 8
Be-Har-Be-Chukotai
Lev. 25:1-27:34
Pr. Jer. 16:19-17:14

May 15
Be-Midbar
Num. 1:1-4:20
Pr. Hosea 2:1-22

May 22
Nasso
Num. 4:21-7:89
Pr. Judges 13:2-25

May 29
Be-Ha'alotcha
Num. 8:1-12:16
Pr. Zech. 2:14-4:7

June 5
Shelach
Num. 13:1-15:41
Pr. Josh. 2:1-24

June 12
Korach
Num. 16:1-18:32
Pr. I Sam. 11:14-12:22

June 19
Chukat
Num. 19:1-22:1
Pr. Judges 11:1-33

June 26
Balak
Num. 22:2-25:9
Pr. Micah 5:6-6:8

Women in the Torah

All are welcome to the Women in the Torah discussions lead by Rebecca Charhon and held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm on Zoom. We can't wait to see you there!

We are so thrilled to explore the voices of these women as we look for additional meaning behind the text. We have begun using two books, *The Five Books of Miriam* and *The Women's Torah Commentary*.

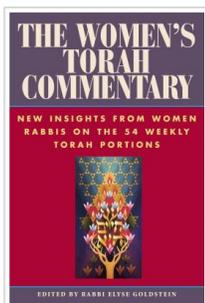
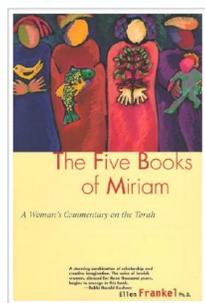
Additional sources will be weaved in every month as we highlight the stories of these important Jewish Women from the past and the lessons they can share with us today.

Rebecca and Linda North began meeting occasionally following Linda's Bat Mitzvah last year to study Torah and enjoy the camaraderie and partnership found in reading the text and uncovering deeper significance within it. This time was used to connect the stories to themes of modern life as well as to discover

specifically the role of Women in the Torah as well as to share and connect spiritually. What began as a study partnership or *chavruta* between friends has been expanded out to include all community members. We are excited to hear your thoughts, ideas and individual commentary and stories from your present and past.

RSVP's are not required but welcome!

For any questions, please contact Rebecca at School@glensfallstemple.com or text or call 518-248-4692.



**Contributions****GENERAL FUND**

In Memory of Edith Katz:
Ellen & Bruce Katz

General Donation:
Marta Flaum
Daniel Lewis

In Memory of Harris Lustig:
Richard Lustig

In Memory of Jane Weiskopf Reisman:
Richard Reisman

In Memory of Louise Binns:
Carol Meyer

In Memory of Edie Rudnick:
Judith Metzner Shepherd

In Memory of Kenneth Reisman:
Judith Metzner Shepherd

In Honor of Lena Gray's Naming:
Judith Metzner Shepherd

In Memory of Abe Siegel:
Gilda & Mike Siegel

In Memory of Fred Siegel:
Gilda & Mike Siegel

In Memory of Leonore Comora:
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In Memory of Sandy Katz:
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Dale Tracy & Jerry Starr
Katie Weaver

In Memory of George Sosin:
Martha & Sandy Searleman

GENERAL FUND

In Honor of Beth McDonnell's Birthday:
Martha & Sandy Searleman

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In Honor of Gilda & Mike Siegel's Anniversary:
Linda & Bruce North

In Memory of Hilda Grunblatt:
Ellen Grunblatt

In Memory of Victor Friedman:
Linda & Bruce North
Judith Metzner Shepherd

In Memory of Peggy Chanis:
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Contributions

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In Honor of Rabbi Norm's Birthday:
Judith Metzner Shepherd

In Honor of Mattea Rice's Birthday:
Judith Metzner Shepherd

2020-21 FUNDRAISING APPEAL

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In Memory of Jack Hellman:
Jeff, Chris & Elizabeth Levy

TSRS FUND

General Donation:
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Temple-Synagogue Religious School

Shalom Temple Family! TSRS has been busy. As always, we are learning as well as having fun in Jewish education during each and every session.

It's hard to pull together in just a few paragraphs the accomplishments that the TSRS students have made and the hard work the teachers and rabbis have put into our program.

We remain on Zoom and although in different households, the school time as a larger group and breakout rooms in smaller classes give the students both an opportunity to share their perspectives and teach each other as well as having team building and learning within smaller units.

The last few months have revolved around holidays as we celebrated *Tu B'Shvat*, Purim and most recently Passover.

Some of the highlights from the last few months were found within the standard lesson times with activities that were always "outside the box". One activity allowed us to compare the journey a tree takes in growth to the journey we take in Torah reading and Torah study, during *Tu B'Shvat*. Another lesson encouraged us to be reporters as we interviewed characters from the Purim story and we dug deep into the story and its meaning. And yet another asked how we could brainstorm a way to tell the Passover story in 10 words to share its most meaningful content. We also had a *Hamantaschen* baking class lead by Sharla and her sous chef Tanis and we held a chocolate Seder to celebrate Passover in a unique and fun way.

We have continued to look at Jewish literature and find connections to both our faith and to our lives personally.

We remain committed to having all of our students, young and older have a presence at each month's Shabbat Family service, whether it is a reading, prayers or shared poem with a parent.

Our youngest children (lovingly called the "little ones") have their own dedicated time to begin to learn Hebrew, sharing lots of singing, doing Jewish crafts and exploring Judaism and every holiday with stories and puppets.

The older students in TSRS have continued to learn new prayers with Rabbi Norm and he keeps us smiling with Jewish tales from the past and his great sense of humor. Student Rabbi Joey continues to impress us while asking us to look within ourselves and find new meaning from holidays and messages from life, Torah and Judaism in general. Our Hebrew program strives to give our students the ability to read the words and find the meaning in them through prayers and everyday life.

[Continued on Page 14]



Temple-Synagogue Religious School

[Continued from Page13]

We are looking forward to Sofia Rice's Bat Mitzvah as she has worked so hard and accomplished so much. It has been my honor to work very closely with her and the Rice family as we prepare for the ceremony. We continue to train and prepare Isaac Goldstein for his big day at the end of the summer.

I will be bringing in author Dori Weinstein to share with us sections of her book, Hoopla Under the Huppah, as we continue to learn about Jewish life cycle events. In addition, we will have a local artist do Jewish mosaic art with us.

We will continue to honor our connection to Israel as we celebrate Israeli culture, cook together once more (this time Israeli salad and falafel) and bring out the Israeli flags for our family service, in celebration of *Yom Ha'atzmaut* and *Yom Yerushalaim*.

Thank you for taking the time to support us, read about what we have done in the classrooms and join us during our monthly family services. Your support means the world to the TSRS team of teachers and students. Stay tuned for more to come!

All the best,

Rebecca Charhon



Sofia Rice

My name is Sofia Rice and I will be having my Bat Mitzvah on April 24th. I am excited to have my Bat Mitzvah because I get to show my friends and family what I have been working on with many months of studying, singing and prayers to get me ready. My family has been part of Temple Beth El for five generations. My great great grandmother helped lay the cornerstone of the building

All Bar and Bat Mitzvah students have to do a community Mitzvah project. A Mitzvah is a good deed. Doing a Mitzvah project is important because this special time in my life is the time where there is a switch from child to adult in Judaism. Even though I won't really be an adult, doing a Mitzvah project is a way for me to show this change as I start to become more responsible for my actions.

For my Bat Mitzvah project, I will be making a video including some of my friends with me. They can write a poem, sing, or play an instrument. The video will go to Fort Hudson nursing home for the residents. At the nursing home the residents are not allowed to see their families because of the pandemic so the video is to make them happy. Fort Hudson will have their own TV channel and my video will be scheduled at a certain time of day for the residents to enjoy. The TV channel that Fort Hudson has will also have church services, yoga, and sing-alongs. This project is really exciting for me because my friends and I will be able to make them feel less lonely.

I hope everyone joins me on Zoom April 24th as I become a Bat Mitzvah.





Have You Ever Considered Zonta?

Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Our vision is a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. Our local club, Zonta Club of Glens Falls, is an active group of women and men in the community. Our members encourage young women to continue their education and older women to return to school with our scholarships and awards. Grants are provided to local organizations that support women and girls, such as "The Uniquely You Boutique" at Glens Falls Hospital, the Women's Dental Program through the Family Service Association of Glens Falls, Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, The Wait House Homeless Pregnancy and Parenting Program, Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Project, Wiawaka Center for Women and Homefront Development Corporation among others. Currently our club is also working with Habitat for Humanity to help families in need.

We actively give time and effort to our fundraising to make these grants possible. In a year without COVID we have held a Country Faire in June each year for the past 59 years at the foot of the Travelers Building where artisans and vendors sell an array of items and treasures. We also organize a yearly Women's Golf Tournament which started in 2001. Over 100 women golfers enjoy a day of golf, raffles, a silent auction, networking and fun. We also work on a Fall Craft Show in September in conjunction with the Annual Adirondack Balloon Festival at Floyd Bennett Airport. Our vendors offer a variety of craft items and balloon souvenirs. Overall, more than \$30,000 is raised annually to support our Zonta programs.

Zonta Club Foundation of Glens Falls is a 501(c)3 organization which supports the mission of our club. If you would like to learn more about Zonta Club of Glens Falls, or make a donation to support our causes, please visit <https://www.zontaclubofglensfalls.org>.

I have been a member of Zonta Club of Glens Falls for the past 10 years and have found it to be a very rewarding experience; it is an organization that I am very proud to be a member of. Have you ever considered becoming a member of Zonta Club of Glens Falls? Please contact me at bettygancher@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Betty Gancher

(518) 248-4692



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: Elizabeth Bennett, Daniel Bongino, Daniel Brown, Diane Browne-Sterdt, Jonathan Chanis, Sam Chanis, Elaine Charhon, Jack Choppa, Jason Clapper, Barbara DeAvila, Tom Ford, Catherine Gericke, Ellen Goldberg, Lois Hellman, Darlene Johnson, Elizabeth Levy, Jacqueline Lizzote, Baylee Meyers, Linda Miller, Phyliss Miller, Terry Monroe, Jessica Panebianco, Jamie Marie Parisi, Dean Rehak, Nancy Reimann, Matthew Rivera, Bob Savarin, Emma Schneerson, Jenny Sharp, Joel Sher, Gail Shuster, Leonard Skootsky, Francis Smith, Maximus Adler Snedeker, Lois Stark, Mary Verrigni, Barbara Weiner, Jessica Winquist

Condolences

Kenneth Reisman passed away on Monday, December 21, 2020 at the age of 70. Survivors include his wife Beth (Mozeson) Reisman; father of Phillip and Daniel Reisman; brother of Richard Reisman and his late wife Jane; uncle of Michael Reisman, Alyssa Nason & her husband Michael, Pamela Mozeson & Joe Nagy, Marc Mozeson and the late Joel Mozeson, and great-uncle of Knox and Daisy Nason.

Alexander "Sandy" Katz passed away on Sunday, January 17, 2021 at the age of 79. Sandy is survived by his wife, Angela Katz; daughter, Elissa Valenti; and grandchildren, Max and Sasha.

Jack Hellman passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, February 8, 2021 at the age of 83. Survivors include his wife, Lois; sister, Baylee Meyers of Alabama; sons, Sidney (Lina) of Saratoga Springs, Jonathan (Nancy) of Wynantskill; grandchildren (Nathaniel, Noah, Jazlyn, Mary, and Goldie); and godchild Elizabeth.

Victor James Friedman passed away on Sunday, February 14, 2021 at the age of 69 following a long illness. Victor is survived by his wife, April (Campbell) Friedman; three children, Edward (Tahsia), David, and Katharyn (Talesha); and three grandchildren, Sophia, Norah, and Vanessa. He is also survived by his brothers Samuel (Linda) and Elliot (Gail), and cousins, nieces, and nephews. Victor is predeceased by his brother Jack (Patricia).

We Remember

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

April 2

William Aronson, *Isaac Avrin, Harriet Cohen, Edward Aaron Friedman, *Arthur Gold, Susan Gotters, Eric Krantz, Ernest Krulik, H. Robert Marks, Max Miller, *Erna Kolb Neuberger, *Julius Neuberger, Harry Socher

April 9

*Beatrice A. Bassock, Hyman Berkowitz, Thomas J. Brown, Terry Fortune, *Joseph Frieber, *Charles Friedman, *Cindy Ginsburg, *Leonard Leopold, *Sara Moskowitz, Adolph Ochs, *Abe Ovitz, May Silk

April 16

Pamela Brown Barker, *Fannie Bittman, Mark Chanis, Marcia Lillian Cohen, Charles Daniels, *Evelyn Friedman, *Moey Leo Friedman, Robert Goodman, Ann Grablow, Herman Green, Jack Harrell, Salo Hellenberg, Sidney Hellman, *Cecelia Jacoby, Meta London Merkel, Lewis Swartz, Martin Weitsen

April 23

Adele Arnstein, Evelyn "Honey" Baird, Hannah Diskin Berkowitz, *Charles Gelman, Nathan Goodman, Stephen Hertz, Goldie Heyman, *Milton Klein, *Gilbert Kuh, Bessie Metzner, Betty Monahan, *Louise Y. Pearl, *Sam Schwartz, *Howard Serlin, Sherman Smith

April 30

Emilia Ales, *Guttel Aronson, Evelyn Babcock, Mariella Cohen, Joseph R. Feger, James Gruber, David Hirsch, Rose Jutkovitz, Lillian Levy, *Meyer Lowe, Sadie Newmark, Hannah Pritikin, Julius Seidman, Isador Silberman, Solly Silver, *Sam Wallach, *Dr. Saul Yafa

May 7

Regina Charhon, * Sarah Donnenberg, *Joseph Gordon, Joseph Kasriel, Tillie Lazarus, *Joseph Arthur Leopold, Beatrice Levy, *Harry Lustig, Herbert Muller, Margaret Ofner, Micky Schultz, *Ida Sovetts, Betty Stewart, Edward Wasserman

[Continued on Page 17]



We Remember

[Continued from Page 16]

May 14

Stella Chanin, Sol Charhon, *Lester Erlanger, *Ann Krohn Fields, Nancy Gancher, Michael Ginsburg, Hannah Goldstein, Marie Gruber, Bernard Jaffee, *Bessie Kohn, *Florence Zinn Krantz, *Mary Levin, Grace Muller, *Minna F. Wein, Joseph Werblow

May 21

*Jennie Bassock, Arthur Blitman, Sandra Lee Campbell, Savino Cipri, *Jennie Erlanger, *Audrey Joseph Gartner, *Regina Katz Goldberger, *Alfred Kohn, *Lillian Leibman, *Ralph Leinoff, Gussie Million, Max Newmark, *George Schectman, Sam Silk, Abraham Steinberg, Janet Ruth Wein, Lillian Weitsen

May 28

*Sidney A. Adler, *Melvin Becker, Joan Ruth Berger, Louisa Buyer, *Philip Gordon, *Lillian Kaufman, Harry Kirschenbaum, *Harriet Nisoff, Lee William Sanford, Keva Schectman, *David Schulman, Buby Schultz, *Daniel W. Sovetts, *Dr. Morris Yaffee

June 4

*Adolph Bronne, *Frieda Bronne, Hattie Cohen, Sidney Colb, Minna Slater, *Leonard Handen, *Phyllis Wolf Movish, Louise Nystrom, Irving Poster, Victor Rosenfeld, Jay Rutstein, *Max Schwartz, Nettie Slawsby, Mollie Stewart, Bessie Wein

June 11

*Janet Berkowitz, *Ruth Brender, *Helen Bronne, Morris A. Caplan, Abe Corton, Phyla Feldman, *Martin A. Ginsburg, Sydelle Goldberg, Jack Joseph, Anthony Miller, Anne Persk, Dr. Joseph Persk, Martha Schiffman, *Max H. Segal, Helen Silverstein, Max Wein

June 18

Henry Ales, Josephine Codispoti, Eleanor Katz, Frances Kmiecik, *Benjamin Schwager, Jill Yanklowitz Shannon, Fannie Brooks Solomon, Bella Stichman, Saul Strassman, *Maxine Wasserman, *George Wein

June 25

Howard Berg, *Lillian Bronne, *Ella Cline, William Cohn, Julius Finklestein, *Thomas Finklestein, Roberta Freedmansteuer, Florence M. Ginsburg, *Dora Hellenberg, *Isaac Kaplan, Victor Maslon, Dora Metzner, Lolly Moses, *Hattie L. Pawel, Alice Poster, *Myrna Poster, *Nathan Proller, *Ida Schips, Louis Seidman, *Alvin Silver, Hannah Silverstein, *Meyer Sovetts, *Anne Stabins, George Taubman, Dr. Stephen Tucker, *Shoshannah Wasserman, Garson Yaffee

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

Photos for The Shofar?

Many of you have snapped photos at a Temple events before, but what about photos of you and your family during our virtual events? Or maybe photos of Jewish celebrations or events during this time away from our physical building?

The Shofar welcomes your photos to enhance our publication, and would be happy to share what you can provide. Phone photos are fine! We will crop and edit as needed. *Thanks!*





Temple Beth El's Chai Society Zoom Lecture

Featuring:

Sabeeha Rehman and Walter Ruby

Saturday, April 10, 2021

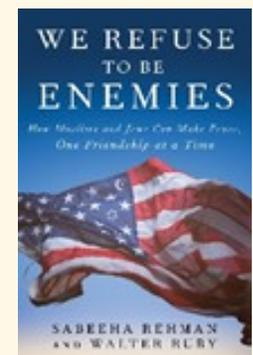
7:00 p.m.

Meeting room link: <https://zoom.us/j/2878429114>

The meeting ID# is: 287-842-9114

RSVP to Katie Weaver (office@glensfallstemple.com or 518-792-4364)

Refuse to Be Enemies. How Muslims and Jews Can Make Peace, One Friendship at a Time.



We Refuse to Be Enemies is a manifesto by two American citizens, a Muslim woman and Jewish man, concerned with the rise of intolerance and bigotry in our country. Together Rehman and Ruby have spent decades doing interfaith work and nurturing cooperation among communities. They have learned that, through face-to-face encounters, people of all backgrounds can come to know the Other as a fellow human being and turn her or him into a trusted friend. In this book, they share their experience and guidance.

Growing up in Pakistan before she immigrated to the United States, Sabeeha never met a Jew, and her view was colored by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In his youth, Walter never met a Muslim, and his opinion was shaped by Leon Uris's *Exodus*. Yet together they have formed a friendship and collaboration. Tapping their own life stories and entering into dialogue within the book, they explain how they have found commonalities between their respective faiths and discuss shared principles and lessons, how their perceptions of the Other have evolved, and the pushback they faced. They wrestle with the two elephants in the room: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and polarizing material in the histories and holy texts of Judaism and Islam. And they share their vision for reconciliation, offering concrete principles for building an alliance in support of religious freedom and human rights.



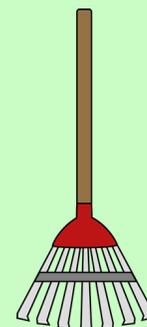
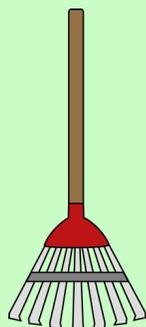
Cemetery Spring Clean Up Day!

Sunday, May 16 at 12:30 p.m.

Join in for an afternoon of fun.

And it's a mitzvah!

Please bring a rake, gloves, and dress appropriately.
Masks must be worn if not socially distanced.



Where Reform Jews Observe & Celebrate Judaism in Paris

This article was submitted by long time Temple friend Valerie Hope

When COVID is no longer a threat, visit Paris. Attend Shabbat and holiday services. Jewish cultural events and programs are abundant. Paris has one of the largest Jewish populations in the world. Of course, French is spoken, however a lot of English and Hebrew, too.

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) is the international umbrella organization for the various branches of Reform, Liberal and Progressive Judaism (as well as the separate Reconstructionist Judaism). The (WUPJ) exists in 40 countries with 1,275 affiliated synagogues. The (WUPJ) was established in London in 1926 as the Union of all Progressive (also Liberal or Reform) Movements. The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) is the largest member organization of the (WUPJ). Temple Beth El, Glens Falls, New York, is a member of the URJ.

The oldest Reform Jewish house of worship in Paris, was inaugurated in 1907. Located at 24 *rue Copernic*, in the 16th District, its official name is "*Union liberale israelite de France (ULIF)*." It is familiarly known as the "*Rue Copernic Synagogue*." It was a founding member of "*l' Assemblée du Judaisme Liberal pour la France (AJL)*," and is a member of the (WUPJ).

The "*Movement Juif Liberal de France (MJLF)*," was founded in 1977, at 11 *rue Gaston de Caillavet*, in the 15th District. Later it branched out to 24 *rue du Surmelin*, 20th District. It too, is a member of the (AJL), and the (WUPJ).

From September 2019, the (ULIF) and the (MJLF) fused.

All brands of Judaism (including the Orthodox, the Conservative "*Masorti*," as well as non- Jews), come together at "*Le centre communautaire de Paris*," also known as "*l' Espace Culturel et Universitaire juif d' Europe (ECUJE)*," 119 *rue Lafayette*, 10th District; and "*L' Espace Rachi*," 39 *rue Broca*, 5th District.

"*Le Musee d' art et d' histoire du Judaisme*," situated in the "*Hotel de Saint- Aignan*, 71 *rue du Temple*, 3rd District, finally opened in 1998. This project took 13 years to be realized.

The "*Bibliotheque de l' Alliance Israelite Universelle (AIU)*," has one of the finest collections of Judaica in the world. From 1860 it was at 45 *rue la Bruyere*, 9th District; relocated recently to 6 *bis rue Michel Ange* 16th District.

Comments and questions welcome!

Valerie Hope

parriefr2@yahoo.com



Happy Birthday!

Justin Wodicka (4/1)
 Henry Gartner (4/1)
 Florence Handen (4/3)
 Mattilyn Brender (4/5)
 Clarissa Miller (4/6)
 Samuel Satenstein (4/8)
 Elizabeth Finkelstein (4/8)
 Hazel Winquist
 (4/9 – 2 years old!)
 Mason Flatley (4/9)
 Tom O'Brien (4/11)
 Sharla Etkin-Ives (4/12)
 Jessica Winquist (4/17)
 Joel Friedman (4/20)
 Boaz Cahan
 (4/22 – 3 years old!)
 Jonathan Weaver (4/24)
 Deborah Berke (4/25)
 Lois Hellman (4/25)
 Andrew Lyon (4/29)
 Deirdre Hill (4/30)

Beth Reed (5/3)
 Brian Wasserman (5/5)
 Isabelle Reed
 (5/6 – 7 years old!)
 Frann Flatley (5/10)
 Lucy Herberick
 (5/12 – 11 years old!)
 Meredith Rosoff (5/13)
 Alyssa Reisman (5/16)
 Emily Hall (5/24)
 Jeffrey Hill (5/26)
 Naftali Rottenstreich (5/28)
 Levi Lustgarten
 (5/31 – 3 years old!)
 Sofia Rice
 (5/31 – 13 years old!)
 Suzanne Seay (5/31)
 Bruce North (5/31)

Jonathan Marks (6/1)
 Gilda Siegel (6/6)
 Austen Schips (6/7)
 Ezekiel Reed
 (6/7 – 5 years old!)
 Benjamin Handen (6/14)
 Nancy Hellman (6/14)
 Lina Hellman (6/18)
 Xavier Marks
 (6/18 – 12 years old!)
 Katie Flatley (6/18)
 Molly Herberick
 (6/19 – 10 years old!)
 Sara Friedman (6/21)
 Alexandra Nemer (6/24)
 Dale Nemer (6/24)
 Philip Berke (6/25)
 David Handen (6/25)
 David Friedman (6/28)



Amazon Smile Available in Amazon Shopping App!

Good news! **AmazonSmile** customers can now support Temple Beth El in the Amazon shopping app on smart phones. Simply follow these instructions to turn on **AmazonSmile** and start generating donations:

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device.
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings.'
3. Tap '**AmazonSmile**' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

There are a few other Temple Beth El's out there, so be sure you choose the right one. It's an easy way to support Temple, and we thank you!



Happy Anniversary!!

Debbie & Bill Sheerer (4/12 – 7 years)
 Ann & John Hall (4/16)
 Rachel Gartner & Suzanne Seay (4/21 – 31 years)
 Rebecca & Albert Charhon (5/21 – 21 years)
 Katie & Chris Weaver (6/1 – 19 years)
 Deirdre & Jeff Hill (6/10 – 26 years)
 Camille & Scott Wodicka (6/10 – 43 years)
 Ellen & Bruce Katz (6/17 – 48 years)
 Carol & Bob Kafin (6/20 – 56 years)
 Linda & Bruce North (6/20 – 51 years)
 Dale Tracy & Jerry Starr (6/27 – 11 years)
 Frann & Tim Flatley (6/28 – 31 years)



Officers & Board of Trustees

President: Josh Gray
Past President: Barbara Rosoff
Vice President: Sara Friedman
Treasurer: Karen Marks
Religious School Director:
Rebecca Charhon
Trustees:
William Brender
Jeffrey Hill
Ellen Katz
Amanda Kukle
Linda North
Leah Sachs
Sanford Searleman
Judith Metzner Shepherd

Committees

Cemetery Chair: Michael Seidel
Fundraising Co-Chairs: Susan Fox &
Sara Friedman
History Chair: Judith Metzner Shepherd
House Chair: Jeffrey Hill
Reopening Chair: Sara Friedman
Ritual/Pulpit Chair: Ellen Katz
Security Co-Chairs: Katie Weaver &
Susan Fox

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

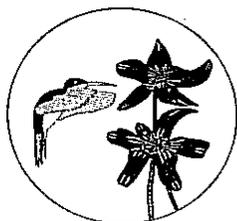


Thank you to the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York for their generous support of Temple Beth El and Temple Religious School.

REMINDER: *The Shofar* needs YOU!

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

Seidel Claims Service



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Temple Beth El welcomes unaffiliated,
traditional, intermarried & non-
traditional families and individuals.

The Shofar

Editor: *Phyllis Brown*
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 is shown on the calendar page, but your article should arrive as early as possible. *The Shofar* 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 as early as possible. 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
July, August and September issue of *The Shofar*
is Tuesday, June 15!**