



B'nai Israel Reform Temple Bulletin

**Happy
Chanukah!**



Rabbi Rosenthal's Message

The Midrash state that in creation, shabbat came before God to say, "every day of the week has a companion, Sunday has Monday, Tuesday has Wednesday and so on. But I have no partner. God responds, 'The Jewish people will be your partner.'"

And so, we are.

One of my favorite times of the week is Shabbat. No matter how frustrating the week has been, how much prep time it takes to get there, there is something very uplifting about being together, singing, and offering blessings.

Each Friday, our family always sits down for a quick shabbat dinner, making sure to sing blessings over the candles, wine and challah. I love to watch my kids get into the simple melodies and sing along. And no matter how good or bad the week has been, we take a moment to offer personal blessings and we each share a moment of gratitude.

Shabbat joy continues once I get to Synagogue and I get to see all of you, whether online or in person. Each week, the Cantor weaves in kavanah and spirit through music and the prayerbook that roots us in traditional readings and allows for new interpretations each week.

It's remarkable; every shabbat I feel a lifted sense of community and of happiness, like a special shabbat glow.

And it continues to the next day when we get to celebrate a young person becoming a b'nai mitzvah, a child of the commandments, or participate in study – asking the questions that you never get to ask on a regular basis. What was God thinking when giving Joseph the power to interpret dreams? Does God think? Do we have the chutzpa to even ask such a question?

If you ever have wondered, why it is I wanted to be a Rabbi, there you have it. I love every second of it. I love the joy, the community, the songs, and the flexibility and beauty of the rituals.

And so, I encourage you to find a little extra joy in shabbat, the holiday that often gets less attention because it comes every week, but which deserves our commitment and love – simply because it does come every week.

One of the best ways to make it special is to add some separation between the rest of the week and Shabbat. It can be something simple, easy, and concrete.

Some folks find joy in a simple meal with friends, a special dessert, turning off your phone during shabbat, a walk in the park, or a conversation about the Torah portion of the week. There are countless ways to make shabbat our partner, and to commit to making it special each week. I hope to continue to hear more about how you make shabbat special and meaningful each week, and I pray that you too may find your own shabbat glow this month and beyond.

Ritual Committee

At the moment, the Ritual Committee is busy firming up the plans for the in-person community Menorah Lightings taking place on the first night of Hanukkah, Sunday, November 28th. We are also asking for volunteers to accompany us in bringing Hanukkah to the residents of the various local Assisted Living communities. If you are able to give an hour of your time on Monday, November 29th – Thursday, December 2nd, please contact Sandy Weber at ritual@bnai-israel.org or call the Temple office.

Our next event will be a Tu B'Shevat celebration and Shabbat service on Friday, January 14, 2022.

From the Ritual Committee to you and your families—a very joyous and light-filled Hanukkah!!

Sandy Weber



President's Message

Paul Fink



Eternal Vigilance

Dear Temple Families,

The quote "Eternal vigilance is the price we pay for liberty" is often attributed to President Jefferson.

While I think it was used mostly in the context of military preparedness and the protection of our then fledgling democracy, it also needs to be applied to the operation of our beloved B'nai Israel Reform Temple. We need to be good stewards of our buildings and finances lest the buildings deteriorate, or our funds dissipate. In addition, we need to be vigilant about stopping the spread of COVID-19 in our sanctuary and school, so that people can be free to learn and worship without fear of sickness. Lastly, we need to protect the people who attend our services from fear and intimidation both in person and online.

Many of you have heard that there was a vicious and unsettling "Zoom Bombing" of our Interfaith Thanksgiving Religious Service on November 7th. Hate speech and inappropriate images were made by individuals in an attempt to create fear and disrupt the service. Fortunately, Jeannette Berman was able to contain the damage and evict the individuals within minutes, and Rabbi Rosenthal addressed the issue by reminding all participants that this is one of the most important reasons why the faiths must work together in combatting hatred.

Eternal vigilance means that we must now be more careful about how we publicize our online services, classes, and events. New protocols are being tested to increase security while still being as welcoming and inclusive as possible. Please make sure that you are on the Temple's email list, by signing up on the website, and please check your weekly emails for details regarding how to sign into the services. Better yet, if you are fully vaccinated, please join us in person. While many people cannot risk attending services in person, most should feel comfortable with the check-ins and masking.

Change "Pajama Shabbat" back to "In Person Shabbat," and let's worship together whenever possible!

I hope that you're having a very pleasant Hanukkah, and that many of you will be able to enjoy some time off at the end of the month.

L'shalom,

Paul

Religious School News

The Religious School Family Sabbath Service for Grade 5 will be on December 10th at 7:15 pm so please come and worship with your entire family at this very special service!



We will be celebrating Chanukah in the Religious School on December 4th in our individual classrooms. Each student will be making a menorah to bring home, and will be playing various games with their classmates. They will end the morning lighting the menorah and singing Chanukah songs with the Cantor.



****Attention Saturday Religious School parents:** Each school day ends with a Service in the Sanctuary. This is part of the Religious School day and attendance is required. All vaccinated parents are encouraged to attend and participate in this Service with the students.**



In case of emergency school closings or delayed openings, announcements will be made by email. We will move to our Google Classrooms for live instruction.

Parents: Please check your email regularly for announcements of upcoming events and any missed assignments as this is our primary method of communication. If we do not have your current email address and you have not been receiving correspondences, please email us at school@bnai-israel.org with your current email address.

Please continue to bring in tzedakah, \$ A Week and food for outreach!



Thanks, Joel Silverman



Mazel
Tov!

Faith & Ira Abramowitz on the birth of grandson number two **Ryder Reign Gebler** on October 31 weighing in at 6 lb 14 oz . **Nicole** and **Adam** and Big brother **Daniel** all very excited.

Carissa & Michael Eskenazi-McGibney and **Robin & John McGibney** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter and granddaughter
Ava McGibney

Torah and Haftarah Readings

December 4th:
December 11th:
December 18th:
December 25th:

Genesis ch. 41 vs. 1 through ch. 44 vs. 17
Genesis ch. 44 vs. 18 through ch. 47 vs. 27
Genesis ch. 47 vs. 28 through ch. 50 vs. 26
Exodus ch. 1 vs. 1 through ch. 6 vs. 1

Zechariah ch. 4 vss. 1 through 7
Ezekiel ch. 37 vss. 15 through 28
I Kings ch. 2 vss. 1 through 12
Isaiah ch. 27 vss. 6 through 28;
ch. 29 vss. 22 through 23



HAPPY CHANUKAH!



B'nai Israel is looking for part time custodial services which would include Friday nights and Saturday mornings **on an as-needed basis**. Please refer interested parties to president@bnai-israel.org.

Visit website to Register!

“Oh, I Have to visit a sick person?” Oh, I need to make a Shiva call? The “What to do” to be there for others in need!”

Rabbi Moss will be providing Zoom classes on January 12th and 26th at 7:30 pm. He will share the various do's and not do's when visiting those who are ill or in mourning and will offer some of the rituals and customs involved with these aspects of our lives that so many feel uncomfortable with or just don't know what to do. The first session will deal with visiting the sick and the second with funerals and mourning.





2021-2022

ADULT ED TORAH STUDY

Dates:

- December 11 - vayigash
- December 18 - vayechi
- January 22 - yitro
- January 29 - mishpatim
- February 5 - terumah
- March 12 - vayikra
- March 26 - shmini
- April 2 - tza'ava
- May 7 - kedoshim
- June 4 - bamidbar

Saturdays starting at 10:00 am with Torah Study & Adult Ed. Dates are subject to change.

Please watch weekly emails for additional information.

CONTACT RABBI ROSENTHAL
WITH ANY QUESTIONS



Sisterhood Newsletter

From the Sisterhood President:

Winter has come. It is cold and it gets dark so early. It feels strange that Chanukkah is over. I must apologize for not hosting an in-person children's Chanukah party for the second year in a row, but we are following our Temple's new Covid protocols. We are having an online activity for the children at the beginning of December. Hopefully, next year our lives can get back on track.

I am excited that the children's Covid vaccine is finally here. I hope that you are as enthusiastic as me. Now our children and our families will have greater protection from Covid, and our lives will gradually return to normal. I hope that making the decision to get your children immunized will be an easy one for you.

On December 14, Sisterhood will be hosting an evening of fun. We will be having an in person Secret Gift Swap. To participate you need to bring a wrapped, new present to the meeting that is worth \$18.00. It will be run like a White Elephant/Gift Exchange. Personally, I have never been to one, but I hear that they are great fun. I am looking forward to a good laugh with my Sisters.

We are planning another interesting meeting for January 18, and this evening will be open to all Temple members and friends. We are having a speaker from the Jewish Genealogy Society. It is also in person, but in case of inclement weather, we will hold the meeting on Zoom.

For those of you who play Mah Jongg, don't forget that Sisterhood sells MJ cards. Please look for the link to their purchase in the bulletin. We will be selling new cards through mid-January.

I end this article with wishes and blessings for a happy, healthy, and safe New Year filled with many good things. Happy 2022!

Stephanie Plewka



More from *Sisterhood*



A Sisterhood poem for the new year,
from "*A Gift of Prayer*," Women of
Reform Judaism, UAHC Press, 2001

ME
MY FAMILY
THE JEWISH PEOPLE
AND TORAH, A TREE OF LIFE
ROOTS HOLDING ON TO THE PAST
BRANCHES REACHING TO THE FUTURE
LEAVES DANCING LIKE CHILDREN
GROWING AND CHANGING
WITH THE SEASONS
TEACHING:
PEACE
CARING
SHARING
TOLERANCE
UNDERSTANDING
FROM PARENT TO CHILD
FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

B'nai Israel Reform Temple Sisterhood presents

"The Three Great Myths of Jewish Genealogy"

with Speaker Chuck Weinstein

(Past president of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island
and current Vice President of the Genealogy Federation of Long Island)

Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 7:30 pm



All Temple members and friends welcome

Long Island Duck Fundraising—How Did We Do?

Joel Silverman

The final tally for the 2021 Long Island Ducks baseball season is in. As noted in last month's bulletin, B'nai Israel volunteers dealt with a variety of difficulties throughout the season to come through for us with concession commissions and tips for a total of \$13,936 in the bank! We thank every Ducks volunteer and every Temple volunteer, for what they do year-round, year after year!

A variety of volunteer opportunities are always available and we will be recruiting for a larger crew of Ducks volunteers for next season and set our sights even higher.

Donations & Contributions

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors for their contributions to B'nai Israel Reform Temple:

High Holyday Bookplates

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Ronne Kinzer
Ronne Kinzer
Ronne Kinzer

In memory of Steven Sonkin
In memory of Marc Kinzer
In memory of Rebecca Jacobs
In memory of Ivan H. Jacobs

thank
you!

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

April & Peter Steckle

Donation

Music Fund

Dennis Cohn
Arthur Plutzer
Efrat & Daniel Bolze

In honor of the wedding of Roberta & Jerry Stein
Yahrzeit for Ann Plutzer, may her memory be for a blessing
Donation

Help-A-Family

Rochelle & Gerald Slochevsky

Donation

Religious School

Alice & Mike Lambert
Cynthi & Barry Wilans

Donation
Donation

To make a donation online please visit

bnai-israel.org/donations

We are selling Grocery Store Food Cards!

Contact Rich Lindner (516) 641-8050
or the Temple Office to purchase.

Consider donating food cards to the Temple's
Outreach Committee to help others in our
community who are in need of some assistance.

Cards can be delivered to you!



BOOKPLATE SALE

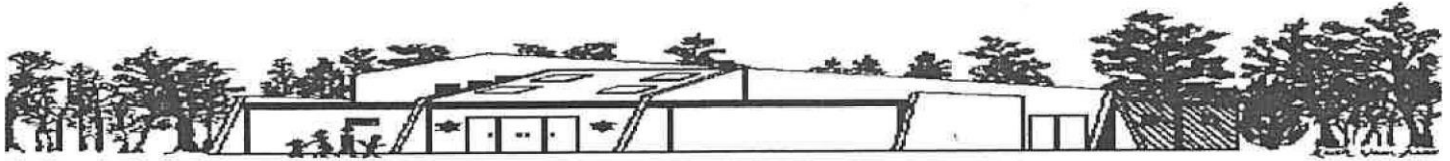
Honor and Remember Your Loved Ones



There is an opportunity to place a bookplate in each of our new High Holy Day prayerbooks honoring or memorializing a loved one or friend. If you would like to order bookplates please visit our website or [click here to order online and pay by credit card](#). The cost for the first bookplate is \$36.00. Each additional bookplate is \$18.00

For updates visit bnai-israel.org and see the weekly emails. December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Assisted Living Visits - See Sandy Weber to volunteer	2 Assisted Living Visits - See Sandy Weber to volunteer Chair Yoga Fundraising Committee 10:00 am 8:00 pm	3 8:00 pm 9:30 pm Shabbat Service Hanukkah Gift Shop	4 10:00 am Religious School celebrating Chanukah today! Morning Service with Bat Mitzvah of Ava McGibney
5	6	7 7:30 pm Sisterhood Board Meeting	8	9 10:00 am Chair Yoga	10 7:15 pm Family Service & Religious School Sabbath for Grade 5	11 10:00 am Torah Study & Adult Ed (vaygash)
12	13 7:30 pm Finance Committee	14 7:00 pm Sisterhood Secret Gift Swap	15 Bulletin Deadline	16 10:00 am 8:00 pm Chair Yoga Temple Board Meeting	17 7:00 pm 8:00 pm Tot Shabbat Shabbat Service	18 10:00 am Torah Study & Adult Ed (vayechei)
19 8:00 am Blood Drive	20	21	22	23 10:00 am Chair Yoga	24 8:00 pm Shabbat Service	25
26	27	28	29	30 10:00 am Chair Yoga	31 7:30 pm Musical Shabbat	



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Jay Tuller
Sandy Weber
Adrienne Wilber
Gary Young

October 14, 2021

Re: COVID-19 Precautions for ALL B'nai Israel Services, Events, and Meetings

Dear B'nai Israel Families,

In order to best protect our members and guests, the Temple Board of Trustees is continuing to keep a close eye on the COVID-19 pandemic. The following new procedures have been adopted, and will be effective on November 1st:

1. **Proof of vaccinations (or documentation of negative test results within 72 hours) will be required for persons 12 years of age or over at all services, meetings, or events.**
2. **Masks will continue to be required and properly worn for persons over the age of 2.**
3. **All persons must sign-in at services and have their temperature taken.**
4. **The Board is committed to continue streaming services for the indefinite future, for anyone who prefers to participate in this way.**
5. **There will be no food served or onegs until further notice.**
6. **A letter will be forthcoming regarding procedures for the Religious School.**

We have the list of people who previously provided vaccination information to the Temple and are in the process of making a streamlined procedure to reduce congestion at the door.

Please help us to comply with these requirements by following the instructions of Temple clergy, staff, and volunteers.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me, Rabbi Rosenthal, or any of the other Temple trustees.

Thank you!

Paul Fink
President



Have you been
reading
our weekly
emails?

It's the best way to stay up to date on what's
happening at BIRT! Visit our website to sign up.



December 3rd

*Harry Bergman
Frances Brilliant
*Murray Burg
*Hyman Cassuto
*Fredrick S. Erdman
*Belle Fels
*Rose Cohn Fink
*Irving Fisher
Murray Fishman
*Ruth Fishman
*Daniel Friedman
*Stanley Garfinkel
*Jayson Benjamin Giles
*Rose Ginsburg
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*Rosalind Lebensfeld
*Anita Naomi Lebowitz
*Roselle Lesser
Daniel Levy
*Deborah Levy
*Ruth Lewinson
*Mjr. David N. Lewis
Ronald Lewis
*Bertram Lipton
*Richard Luckow
*Barbara Markowitz
*Lillian Millheiser
David Niemetz
Joseph Pearl
Bruce Plewka
*Irene Rosen
*Jennnie Ross
*Barnett Rubin
*Freda Rubinsky
*Bella Salth
*Al Saffren
Eugene Scher
*Paul Sperling
Ida Sztulzaft
*Isidore Tepner
*David Weisberg
*Henry Wilson
*Alex Winograd
*Sheila Wolberg
*Morton Zick

December 10th

*Louis Abramowitz
*Gilbert Bartfeld
Ethel Clark Beit
*Anna Blumberg
*Violet Chalom
*Philip Cooper
*Jeanette Davidoff
*Sally Gurewitz Feingold
*Emanuel Ferber
*Selma F. Fink
*Nathaniel Flink
Michael Fox
*Betty Frankel
*Anne Franklin
*Harold Gelman
*David Gottesman
*Lena Harris
Fred Havemeyer
Alexander Hochheiser
*Sidney Hoffman
*Anna Kanuk
*Carol Korten
Bess Leibowitz
Charles Levy
*Robert Litvin
*Helen Marks
*Joseph Mattes
*David Mendick
*Dr. Morris Miller
*Sylvia Newfield
*Murray Newman
*Ida Paskin
*Samuel Precker
Joel Rosen
*Joseph Max Rosen
Florence Schoenberg
*Gloria Schreiber
*Jean Schwartzman
Bernard Shapiro
Dorothy Siegel
*Victims Pan-Am
Flight 103
*Manuel Voit
*Donald S. Weiss
*Pearl Wilans
*Jack Wilansky
*George Wunderlich

December 17th

*Max Abramowitz
Blanche Alt
Mac Bergman
*Sarah Butler
*Gertrude Candeloro
Judith Curran
*Ludwig G. Dellova
*Doris Frankel
*Tillie Frankel
*William H. Freistadt
*Vivian Friedlander
*Dr. Abram Goldsher
*Loretta Green
*Max Green
*Sarah Halpern
Thomas Hanwright
*Jennie Helfer
*Dr. Moses Robert
Hoffman
*Ethel Karnick
*Belle Katz
*Samuel Klein
*Henry Kolodkin
Kalman Kolotkin
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*Sidney Mirrer
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*Ceilia Peare
Lester Persky
*Fanny Rose Richardson
*Fannie Rosenzweig
*Louis Schreiber
*Katy Schwartz
Harry Seltzer
Herman Solodar
Elaine R. Stein
*Neil Stickler
*Ira Sandford Strully
*Frank Benjamin Turoff
*Hilda Warshaw
*Samuel Weiman
*Manny Weinberg
*Frieda Wenacur

December 24th

*Dr. Manuel L. Adler
Edith Blake
Leonard Cohen
*William Cohen
*Marcia Lauren Del Mese
*Louis Edelman
*S. Raymond Engel
*Sylvia Etkin
*Samuel Fels
Joel C. Fink
*Flight 12/21/88 Victims
of Pan Am
*Aaron Gerb
*David Seymour Ginsburg
*Daniel Howard Goldsher
*Arthur Goldstein
*Joseph Goldstein
*Leonard Goldstein
Dorothy Goodman
*Louis Gordon
*Raymond Hake
Elyse Levy Insler
*Sol Kamilar
Marvin Kaminsky
*Shelby Ruth Kaplan
Jerome Kaye
*Lawrence Kirschbaum
Irving Kolotkin
*Benjamin Lavendar
*Bernard Lazen
*Herman Lazarus
*Frances Leventhal
*Linda M. Lieberman
Sally Lux
*Harry Marcus
*Albert Marks
*Barbe Maxwell
Nathan Meister
*Frances Mennen
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Abraham Perlman
*Nathan Pollack
*Harold G. Pulling
*Lena Romm
*Rose Rosen
*Samuel Rosenbaum
Lillian Rosner
*Hilda Schneider
*Dr. Gerald J. Specter
*Louise Stalder
*Minnie Stotsky
Ruth Tesman
*Carolyn Tillis Voit
Melvyn Wadler
*Murray Warshaw
*Judith Weber
*Sylvia Weiner
Lillian Weiss

Sarah Wenowsky
*Jacob Wexler
*Theodore Zimmerman
*Edith Mildred Zuckerberg

December 31st

*Elizabeth Avergun
*Samuel Benofsky
*Max Berger
*Samuel Berger
Sarah Berkman
*Jack Bloshinsky
*Dorene Blumenthal
*Edward Blumenthal
*David Blutreich
*Paul Bolkin
*Sarah Brody
*Barbara Capon
Nik Ericson
Gertrude Fishman
*Murray Gainsburg
Robert Glick
*Mildred Gold
*Thea Gold
*Pearl Jackson
Henry Jaffe
*Sylvia Kabalkin
*David Katz
Sara King
*Rose Krauss
*Florence Labiak
*Generose Leibowitz
*Gladys Levine
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*Harris Morganlander
*Ira Moss
*Albert Nemo
*Shirley Peresmik
*Ella Rakieten
*Carl V. Richardson
*Al Roth
*Pearl Rothbart
*Anne White Rothenberg
*Emil Rothman
*Florence Rubin
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SOMEONE IS SICK OR IF THERE
IS A DEATH IN THE FAMILY**

so that the Temple can
extend its assistance.
Before making any funeral
arrangements, please call.

See Temple Directory
for phone numbers.

Temple Directory

67 Oakdale, Bohemia Road, Oakdale, NY 11769
Phone (631) 563-1660 **Fax** (631) 563-9816

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Cantor Ilana Plutzer		cantor@bnai-israel.org
Rabbi Emeritus Dr. Steven Moss		rabbiemeritus@bnai-israel.org

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Jeannette Berman (631) 775-6147	webmaster@bnai-israel.org

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Karen Smollins

Religious School

Chairperson, Alice Lambert
(631) 589-1375

Religious School Office
(631) 563-1663
school@bnai-israel.org

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Scheduling
Fran Baker
(631) 567-1537

Advertising

To place a Business Card sized advertisement please contact the office. Space is limited.

Temple Caterers

B'nai Israel is limited to these caterers for any celebration in the Temple Social Hall. Please see Kitchen Committee with any questions or requests.

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(631) 581-0022

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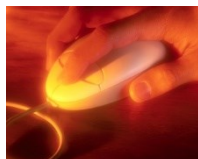
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