



B'nai Israel Reform Temple Bulletin



Rabbi Rosenthal's Message

Many Jewish holidays are about transforming normal occurrences into something holy, something spiritual. Here at B'nai Israel Reform Temple, we continue that tradition and make it our own. We take existing holidays and themes, and honor and bless the individuals and events in a way that is meaningful for our community. Some examples include honoring our Ducks volunteers for their contributions, sending off our snowbirds to a warmer climate with a special blessing, or our special services related to Memorial Day Shabbat, Yom Ha'atzmaut – Israeli Independence Day and Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Memorial Day. Each celebration, special blessing and commemoration has a meaningful place in my heart. In addition to these important moments, January brings forward one theme that holds particular resonance and importance with me,

Shabbat Tzedek.

Shabbat Tzedek is the Shabbat that falls around Dr. Martin Luther King Day Jr. and honors his work and legacy in the struggle for racial justice. It is also a time to remind ourselves of the deeply rooted Jewish values that compel us to do more in our efforts not only to oppose racism, but also actively seek to dismantle the institutions and knowledge that help create it.

As I think about this, I am reminded of several sacred texts that lift up this antiracist ideal: Our Exodus story and the importance of being freed from slavery. And then there is the Jewish text that reminds us that we are all created *B'tzelem Elohim* (Genesis 1:27), in God's image, or the famous text from Leviticus 19:17-18 which tells us, "Do not hate a fellow human in your heart... You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your fellow. Love the stranger as yourself: I am the Eternal." In Deuteronomy 16:20 we find the words, "*Tzedek tzedek tirdof*, justice justice you shall pursue." Each of these texts raises up the notion that we have an obligation to make our world more tolerant and loving.

In our North American home, there is still a lot of work to accomplish. Black men and boys are 2.5 times more likely to die during a police encounter than their white counterparts. And in the day and age in which hate crimes are increasing, over half are related to hatred against people of color/diverse ancestry.

Beyond these startling statistics, which might feel removed from our direct experience and difficult to change, we do have the ability to focus on internal introspection. Many of us benefit from white privilege, or the unrecognized set of benefits and advantages that come about because of being white. This is a concept that I am doing my best to learn more and more about. And the more I explore it, the more I have come to feel that the more that I can take privilege into account the more I can help to dismantle a system that hurts us all. When I look at flesh colored hose or makeup and see that it reflects my skin color, or when I take part in the ability to live easily in a multitude of neighborhoods and areas, or when I know that an official will give me respect and hear my voice I am taking advantage of white privilege. Simply being aware of this helps me to understand the extent of racism in our society and to be more thoughtful about my choices, actions and words.

Another helpful and educational activity I have started, is to listen to the stories and experiences of Jews of Color. There is a powerful set of interviews called, "Wholly Jewish" in which Black, biracial and multiracial Jews share their experiences and insights in their own words. It is powerful to hear and learn from them. Check them out for yourself here: <https://reformjudaism.org/beliefs-practices/racial-equity-diversity-inclusion/celebrate-black-history-month-these-11-interviews-black-biracial-and-multiracial-jews>.

However we choose to engage in this work, I know in my heart of hearts that every bit helps and engages us in the sacred task of making our world more kind, tolerant, and just.

I hope that you will join us on Shabbat Tzedek. This year it will take place on January 13th, 2023 and will also feature and honor our Religious School students.

Hope to see you there!

President's Message

Seth Berman



It is hard to fathom but the year 2023 is upon us! Being of the Jewish faith we have the joy of celebrating not one but two New Years. We celebrate both differently of course. For one we have apples and honey and the other champagne. One we celebrate with friends and family by going to shul and praying and the other we gather at a house or restaurant and count down the time to midnight.

For me the biggest difference is one we begin to repent for the sins we committed and the other we make resolutions for the coming year. It's a prepay versus postpay system.

Consider this my "New Years Appeal". When you finalize your resolutions consider naming B'nai Israel in yours. Commit to not only attending services more or additional programming but to also being more involved. You might ask what I mean. It really is simple and Rabbi keeps reminding me of this. There is more to just attending. When you are there talk to someone you don't know

for a bit. Maybe you will make a new friend. Having friends at the temple is great but you don't need to do everything at the temple. Go for coffee with some friends. Have dinner out. Friendships grow stronger the more diverse they become.

Jeannette and I wish you a ~~l'Shana Tova~~ happy and safe New Year.

Seth C. Berman

Temple Security – From the President

I was contacted recently by a Temple member who expressed concern to me about increases in antisemitism and active threats to the Jewish community. The question was whether we were "closing our eyes" to the situation.

If one congregant was asking the question I can guess that more than one have it. Although the threat is "officially" considered remote by the SCPD, Temple leadership, the entire Board of Trustees, the Security Committee and our Clergy have remained "on-top" of the security situation in recent years and have escalated our efforts consistent with the increasing concern.

We are enrolled and active participants in a security program sponsored by UJA/JCRC specifically to provide security expertise and training to Jewish organizations. Through that initiative the Board has received training from a former Israeli/El Al security manager and a retired FBI anti-terrorism agent, as well as locally by the SCPD. Security visits from all three agencies have provided on-site advice to the Security Committee and their advice has been taken seriously.

Our physical security has been a high priority and endorsed during those security visits. We have 29 video cameras to monitor and record activity 24 hours a day inside and outside across our property. They can be monitored remotely and, in an emergency, directly by the SCPD. Outdoor lighting was upgraded, and door locks have been replaced with a hi-tech electronic system with access afforded by key cards monitored, activated, or deactivated remotely on demand.

Unfortunately, due to security concerns we now monitor and restrict Temple access. Doors always remain locked except shortly before services or events, and at those times entry is screened by Temple volunteers. Entrance is limited to those who are personally recognized or who cross-check with the membership roster or guest lists provided in advance. Temple sponsored events (outside of services) we are requesting RSVP's so that we can have a list to look at. Where we can't identify visitors in advance, at the Interfaith Thanksgiving service for example, we do take an additional step of hiring armed security.

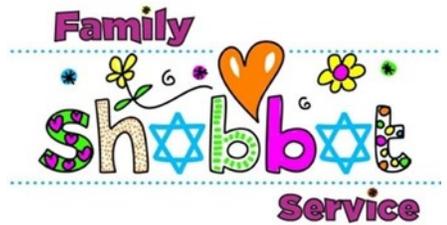
Finally I am in frequent contact with the Commander of the SCPD 5th Precinct, and he with me, to discuss any and every potential issue or concern.

For some, all this may not be enough, but we continue to monitor the security situation and stay in contact with the professionals who offer their expertise and advice. We will continue to do so and respond to their recommendations for the foreseeable future.

Seth C. Berman

Religious School News

The Religious School Shabbat Service for Grades PK-6 is **January 13th 2023 at 7:15 pm**. Students will be active participants in the service! Please come and worship with your entire family at this very special service!



Please bring nonperishable food for the food pantry.



The Library is OPEN!! It is very organized we encourage you and your children to borrow books!

In case of emergency school closings or delayed openings announcements will be made by email.

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!

PreK/Kindergarten Religious school class celebrate Hannukah.



Outreach Report

Alice Lambert



As we're looking forward to Chanukah with all the family get-togethers and latkes to eat, I'm also thinking about 2023 just around the corner. With the arrival of winter and cold weather, there are many people in our local communities who are suffering; fuel prices are very high, rents are being raised, and food prices are also going up.

Please consider making a donation to the "Outreach Fund" to help us, help others as requests come in. Sometimes it is an individual family that needs our help, and sometimes it is another organization that is reaching out to us, because we have been able to help them in the past.

As always, donations of non-perishable food items are greatly appreciated. Whenever you come to Temple or Religious School, your donations can be put into the brown bins in the Temple lobby. If you are unable to carry heavy bags of groceries, gift cards to supermarkets or pharmacies are extremely helpful.

If you, or someone you know within our congregational community, is in need of our help, please contact me and we'll see what we can do. All requests and records are kept strictly confidential.

Thank you. I wish everyone a safe, healthy, and peaceful 2023.



Michele & Allen Kaminsky on the birth of their granddaughter, **Jordan Bailey**, on 11/20/2022, 6 lbs. 2 oz.

Lisa Rubin on the occasion of her daughter, **Ryleigh**, becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Do you have good news to share?
Please let us know.

We love to have more reasons to say Mazel Tov!

Dynamic Chair Yoga with Bonnie Rubell

Dynamic Chair Yoga is an intermediate level yoga class held at our Temple every Thursday morning at 10:30 am.

This is an active yoga class for fit seniors who want to start or continue their yoga practices. This class presents modifications for many yoga poses. Students choose the modifications which work best for them. This is a Hatha chair approach aimed at building body strength for balance and flexibility for life activities such as walking, hiking, travel, dog walking, kayaking and more. Special therapeutic exercises on the Yoga mat will address typical age-related physical changes and conditions. Senior Yoga is strengthening, therapeutic and protective for body and mind. It's also social and fun. This class is also appropriate for all ages who want to get back to an exercise program after a long break.



Torah and Haftarah Readings

January 7th: Genesis ch. 47 vs. 28 through ch. 50 vs. 26
I Kings ch. 2 vss. 1 through 12

January 14th: Exodus ch. 1 vs. 1 through ch. 6 vs. 1
Isaiah ch. 27 vs. 6 through ch. 28 vs. 13; ch. 29 vss. 22 through 23

January 21st: Exodus ch. 6 vs. 2 through ch. 9 vs. 35
Ezekiel ch. 28 vs. 25 through ch. 29 vs. 21

January 28th: Exodus ch. 10 vs. 1 through ch. 13 vs. 16
Jeremiah ch. 46 vss. 13 through 28

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!



Share a **SIMCHA** Sponsor an **ONEG**

Let everyone celebrate with you for your Birthday, Anniversary,
Graduation, or any simcha you would like to share.

Contact the Temple Office for Details

B'NAI ISRAEL REFORM TEMPLE

SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, January 27

Dinner at 7pm (doors open at 6:30pm/open seating)

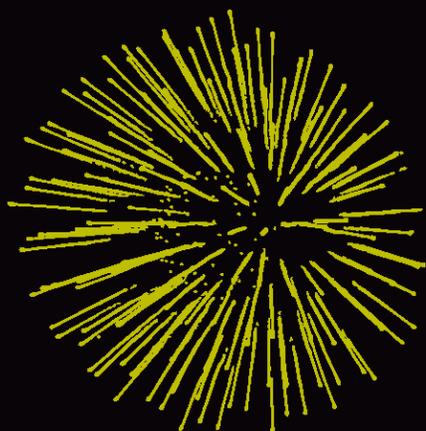
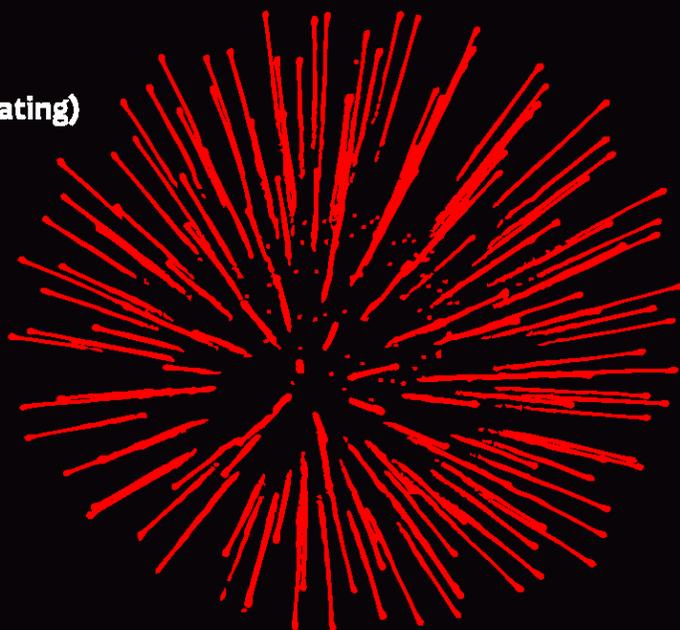
Service at 8pm

Temple member adult \$15

Temple member child \$7.50 (12 & under)

Non-member adult \$25

Non-member child \$12.50 (12 & under)



*Let's welcome the
new year together!*



**Glatt Kosher Caterers of ShopRite Country Pointe, Plainview
Salad, Rolls, Fried Chicken, Sweet/Sour Meatballs,
String Beans, Rice, Soft Drinks**

RSVP by January 12

see following page for details



————— . —————

Shabbat Dinner ***January 27, 2023***
RSVP by Tues, Jan 17

- * Call the office (631) 563-1660 and use a charge
- * Go to Temple website <https://bnai-israel.org/> and use a charge
- * Fill out form and send with a check to Bnai Israel Reform Temple, 67 Oakdale Bohemia Road, Oakdale, NY 11769

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

___ Temple members adults @ \$15 pp for a total of \$ _____

___ Temple member children (under 12) @ \$7.50 pp for a total of \$ _____

___ Non-member adults @ \$25 pp for a total of \$ _____

___ Non-member children (under 12) @ \$12.50 pp for a total of \$ _____

Check total of \$ _____

————— . —————

Happy New Year

Hope all is well and everyone had a Happy Chanukah. Sisterhood has been busy. The Chanukah Boutique was a great success as always, thanks to all of the parents and little shoppers buying their holiday items. The Children's Chanukah Party was well attended. The latkes were crisp and delicious, thanks to all of the "sisters" who came down early to cut, shred and fry this holiday treat. The DJ at the party had the kids jumpin' with music and games. Everyone loved the Sisterhood Gift exchange; great gifts were won among the laughter and fun.

Check out the three great January activities we have planned! →

We are trying to arrange different programs that will attract all of the different members of our temple community. Please join us for these fun and interesting events. Call or text if you have an idea for a future meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

*Thea Gunther,
Sisterhood President*

JAN 2023



SISTERHOOD

SUN, JAN 8 **BINGO**

Our 2nd BINGO for Charity
Doors open at 1pm
Proceeds for Sharing a Meal,
Sayville Soup Kitchen

TUE, JAN 17 **BOOK TALK**

7pm
Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on
the Power of Friendships, by
Nina Totenberg

SUN, JAN 29 **LILITH SALON**

11am
Informal discussions on articles
from Lilith Magazine, a Jewish,
women's magazine.
Contact Natalie Berhumoglu
@ nberhumoglu@aol.com
to get copies

**B'nai Israel Reform Temple
Sisterhood**

invites you to

Bingo for Charity

Sunday, Jan 8

doors open at 1:00pm
games start at 1:30pm

**\$20 per/person
50/50**

to benefit

**Sharing A Meal
Sayville Soup Kitchen**

(guests must be accompanied by Temple member)

Please bring non-perishable food/toiletry items
for donation



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.

Donations & Contributions

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

Help-A-Family

Rochelle & Gerald Slochevsky	Donation
Toby Bolson	In loving memory of my father-in-law Robert Bolson
Ada & Nadine Singer	In memory of our fathers Abraham Sloane & Joseph Singer
Toby Bolson	In memory of my mother Bess Leibowitz

General Fund

Donald Johnson	In thanks for a beautiful Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and for being welcoming
Debby Lazen	Mazel Tov to Edith Gross on your trip to Israel
Debby Lazen	Get well Sharon Eckhaus

Ethan William Snair Memorial Fund

Gammie	In loving memory of my beloved grandson Ethan William
Grandma	In loving memory of my grandson Ethan William Snair

Ira Rosenfeld Memorial Scholarship Fund

Alice & Mike Lambert	In memory of Lorraine Levy
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To make a donation online please visit bnai-israel.org/donations

thank
you!

January 2023 - Please see website and weekly email for updates, changes, and corrections.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2 No Religious School	3 7pm Sisterhood Board Meeting	4	5 10:30am Chair Yoga 7pm Board of Ed 8pm Fundraising Committee	6 8pm Shabbat Service	7 9:30am School 1-6
8 1 pm Bingo for Charity	9 6:30 pm School 7&9 7pm School HS	10 Bulletin Deadline 7pm Membership Committee	11	12 10:30am Chair Yoga	13 7:15 pm Family Service & Shabbat Tzedek & School Sabbath grades PreK to 6	14 9:30am School PreK/K and 3-6
15	16 No Religious School 7:30pm Finance Committee	17 7pm Sisterhood Book Discussion	18	19 10:30am Chair Yoga 8pm Temple Board Meeting	20 7pm Kid-ish Shabbat 8pm Shabbat Service	21 9:30am School 1-6 3pm Afternoon Service with Ryleigh Rubin Bat Mitzvah
22	23 6:30 pm School 7&8	24	25	26 10:30am Chair Yoga	27 7pm Shabbat Dinner (RSVP required) 8pm Shabbat Service	28 9:30am School PreK/K and 3-6 10am Torah Study 11am Adult Education
29 11 am Lilith Salon	30 6:30 pm School 7&9	31				

February 2023 - Please see website and weekly email for updates, changes, and corrections.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 10:30am Chair Yoga 7pm Board of Ed 8pm Fundraising Committee	3 8pm Tu Bishvat Service	4 9:30am School 1-6
5	6 6:30 pm School 7&8 7pm School HS	7 7pm Sisterhood Board Meeting	8	9 10:30am Chair Yoga	10 Bulletin Deadline 7:15pm Family Service & Scout Shabbat	11 9:30am School PreK/K and 3-6 10am Torah Study 11am Adult Education
12	13 6:30 pm School 7&9 7:30pm Finance Committee	14	15	16 10:30am Chair Yoga 8pm Temple Board Meeting	17 No Kid-ish Shabbat this month 8pm Shabbat Service	18 9:30am School 1-6
19	20 No Religious School	21 7pm Sisterhood Meet- ing: Yoga with a Jewish Twist	22	23 10:30am Chair Yoga	24 8pm Shabbat Service	25 No Religious School
26	27 6:30 pm School 7&8	28				



Yahrzeits

January 6

- *Joseph Abuelo
- Naomi Aronson
- *Regina Barb
- *Robert Bard
- *Abner N. Berenblatt
- *Jack Bermowitz
- *Jack Bloshinsky
- *Sara Bonsey
- Debra Cernieux
- *Helen Cernieux
- Phyllis Cooper
- Murray Fine
- *Sylvia Fineberg
- Howard Fisher
- Eileen Garber
- *Milton Ginsburg
- *Ethel Goldenberg
- *Louis Goldstein
- *Harry Harfe
- Herbert Haselkorn
- *Albert H. Holmes
- *Pearl Jackson
- Harry Kaplan
- Eleanor Lesch Kelly
- Abe Krasner
- *Harry Lefkowitz
- Alec McKeefry
- Mort Mihlstin
- *Bruce P. Mowbray
- *Albert Nemo
- *Shirley Pollack
- *Abraham Pomerantz
- *Jacob Moshe Rivilis
- *Dorothy Rosenberg
- *Sophie Rosenberg
- *Jacob Rosenzweig
- *Samuel B. Rosenthal
- *Florence Rubin
- *Phyllis Rubin
- Martin Saltus
- *Harry A. Samuels
- Jeanette Sass
- Muriel Schechtel
- *Jack Schneider
- Sam Shayer
- *Samuel Singer
- *Neil Stickler
- *Norman Teplitz
- *Harold Travin
- *Edna Ullman
- Lynette Wagner
- *Rose Wasserman

- *Esther Wiener
- *Ruth Zuckerman

January 13

- *Jennie Abramowitz
- *Harry Adoff
- *Gershon Altman
- *Helmut Altman
- *Martha Altman
- Samuel Ballin
- *Harry Berman
- *Linda Burg
- Irving Crone
- Anne Dachinger
- *Louis Epstein
- Pauline Ehrlich
- *Renee Fishman
- *Marvin Freedman
- *Sarah Gaba
- *Yetta Goldsmith
- *Bessie Goldstein
- *Mary Gottlieb
- *Anna Greenberg
- *Victoria Greenspan
- *Anne Serra Haines
- Stanley Hellin
- *Seymour Israel
- *Samuel Karmelin
- *Henrietta Kaufman
- Ed Kersch
- *Betty Lentin
- *Karen Levine
- *Samuel Luria
- *Trudy Neckameyer
- *Henry Neidish
- *Leah Persoff
- Ben Pettick
- *Nathan Pollack
- *Rosalie Rock
- *Simha Sabah
- *Joseph Saunders
- *Ben Scherr
- *Frank Schwartz
- Abraham Seltzer
- *Carl Siegal
- *Rose Sobel
- *Lizette Temple
- *Joseph Terry
- *Barbara Truocchio
- *Benjamin Weiss
- *Theodore Wenacur

January 20

- *Ida Abramowitz
- Renee Byan
- Joan Meyer Cimino
- *Muriel Cohen
- *Glenn Steven Friedman
- *Max Gelband
- *David Gluck
- Sylvia Goldbaum
- Morton Goldberg
- *Linda Sue Gray
- Seymour Gross
- *Lajos Gutman
- Martha Herzfeld
- *Joe Kaplan
- Louis Klinger
- Shirley Klinger
- *Sigo Lack
- *Henry Lazen
- *Pearl Levine
- *Ruth Levine
- *Dorothy K. Levy
- Sidney Lowenberg
- Hyman Malkin
- Joseph Marrapodi
- *Lila R. Morrison
- *Audrey Neidish
- *Harold Perkal
- *Eugene Rassell
- *Al Roth
- *Robert Roth
- *Jacob Ryskind
- *Morris Salth
- *Louis Schneider
- *Jacob Schuchman
- Ida Skolnick
- Walter Sprague
- Ethel Stein
- Sam Stulzaft
- Phyllis Taitz
- *Shirley Tieman
- *Libby Toback
- *Harry Weber
- *Lena Weinstein
- *Ruth S. Weiss
- *Jacob Zimmerman

- *Hannah Deckinger
- Michael Feuer
- *Gertrude Frankel
- *Morris Gelbert
- *Celia Geller
- Florence Goldberg
- *Norman Green
- *Annie B. Grushoff
- *James F. Interlicchio
- *Teri Irthum
- Judith Katz
- *Rita Leibowitz
- Zonia Lesser
- Charles Meyer
- *Samuel Ringle
- *Eli Rosen
- *Dora Rosenberg
- *Joseph Rubin
- *Bernard Schuster
- Faye Schwenk
- Sam Spergel
- Betty Stone
- *Susan Topf
- *Florence Weiman
- *Liane West
- *Rosalie Wetzler

January 27

- *Albert Abrams
- Robert Atkins
- *Charles Cohen
- *Gus Cohen
- *Elsie E. Cole

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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

Website
Email

www.bnai-israel.org
office@bnai-israel.org

Clergy

Rabbi Jessica Rosenthal (928) 925-3279 rabbi@bnai-israel.org
Cantor Ilana Plutzer cantor@bnai-israel.org
Rabbi Emeritus Dr. Steven Moss rabbiemeritus@bnai-israel.org

Temple Office

Karen Smollins

Custodian

Charlene Minier
Ken Greenberg

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Brotherhood: Gil Sacks, Sisterhood: Ellyn Harris, School: Paige Sacks

Legal Representative:

Steven Taitz

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.

Committees, Groups, and other individuals to know...

Choir Director, Roselyn Selmanoff

Sisterhood President, Thea Gunther sisterhood@bnai-israel.org

Brotherhood President, Gil Sacks brotherhood@bnai-israel.org

Membership membership@bnai-israel.org

Ritual Committee `ritual@bnai-israel.org

Donations Committee donations@bnai-israel.org

Landscaping Lesli Vohwinkel (305) 927-7847 lvohwinkel@gmail.com

Outreach, Alice Lambert (631) 589-1375 lambert1@optonline.net

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

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.

Lessing's Caterers

(631) 277-7800
(631) 581-0022

Mitzvah Caterers of Plainview

(516) 938-1310
(516) 351-0661

Woodbury Kosher

(516) 681-7766

Zan's Kosher Caterers

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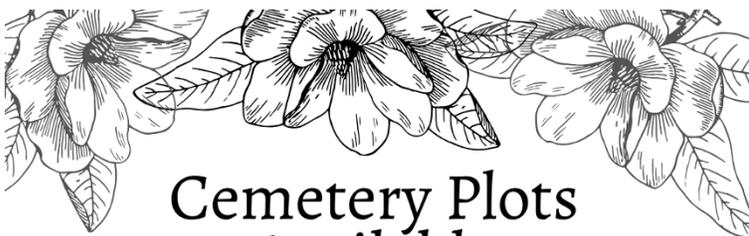
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