

sh'vat 5775 / February 2015

Temple Beth El, 3 Marion Avenue, Glens Falls, New York 12801 (518) 792-4364 * Office@GlensFallsTemple.com * www.GlensFallsTemple.com Affiliate member of the Union for Reform Judaism since 1950

REFORM JUDAISM AND THE WORLD

[During the course of the new Jewish year 5775, as Temple Beth El celebrates its 90th anniversary, I would like to share with our congregants a series of reflections on the organizations of the Reform Jewish movement in North America. This month of *sh'vat/* February, I will focus on Reform Judaism as the movement affects the Jewish world in countries other than the USA or Canada.]

Last month, when the entire civilized world was shocked by the murders perpetrated in Paris by two extremist brothers, it was possible to detect a slight bias in the news coverage, especially in European media. The anti-Semitism of both men could not be overlooked; they had made their hatred of Jews abundantly clear. The four Jewish victims who had perished in the standoff at the kosher deli in a Paris suburb, were targeted by the terrorists for no other reason than their ethnicity and religion. Many anti-Jewish observers justified or excused the attacks because of Israel's policies or because of the War on Terrorism's targeting of sites in Muslim lands.

David ben Gurion, the Zionist leader, founder of the Jewish state and Israel's first prime minister, is quoted as declaring, "It does not matter what the nations say, rather what the Jews do." Just so, the organs and organizations of the Reform Jewish movement are dedicated to carrying out those defenses and actions which tend to blunt the hostility of anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist propagandists. Reform Judaism can boast a number of auxiliaries and bodies which act to protect Israel (both the people and the nation-state) from our enemies. Those groups are: the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), the North American Reform Zionist organization (ARZA), and the Israel Religious Action Center in Jerusalem. All three groups offer a reasonable alternative to ultra-Orthodox or chauvinist voices which do not reflect the best thinking in Jewry.

Since Lily Montague and other British liberal Jews founded the World Union during the 1920s, the WUPJ has grown to support Reform congregations in 45 countries. If you visit the World Union web page, you can read the report of Stephane Bender, the president of the Progressive Movement in France, and how he participated in the international million-person march for tolerance in Paris on the Sunday after the notorious attacks. (<u>http://wupj.org/News/NewsItem.asp?ContentID=921</u>)

ARZA was in the news during the latter half of January because of their campaign for seats in the World Zionist Organization (WZO). Although it has been almost thirty years since I participated in a WZO election, I can still recall the excitement of being part of a Diaspora effort to shape the course of Judaism in the Jewish state in a more pluralistic direction.

The headquarters of the WUPJ is located at our movement's center in Jerusalem at Beit Shmuel (next door to the King David Hotel!). Naturally, the largest section of the World Union outside the US and Canada is the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ). The Reform movement in the Jewish state has grown substantially since I first conducted a research project for the late Moshe Davis at the Hebrew University during the early 1980s. Back when I was a student in the *ulpan* [intensive immersion course in modern Israeli language and culture] at the HUC-JIR Jerusalem campus, TeLeM (the name of the Reform movement in Israel back then) claimed about 17 congregations. Now, our Israeli counterparts can boast over 40 congregations, stretching from Nahariya in the north to Kibbutz Lotan in the Negev.

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President's Message

A lot has happened since my message for the January issue of the *Shofar*, and I will try to cover all the important events. But first, I hope everyone is off to a safe, happy, and healthy secular new year.

As you know, this year of 5775/2015 marks the 90th anniversary of our Congregation and our building, and we intend to celebrate in everything we do. During the year, we will have several dedication and rededication ceremonies. The Organizing Committee has begun planning two special events to mark the anniversary. **Save the dates: May 16, 2015, and August 2, 2015.** On the August date, which co-incides with the 90th anniversary of the laying of the Temple cornerstone, we will have a family-friendly, casual, community event that everyone will want to attend.

On January 16, we welcomed the members and choir of the Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church of Glens Falls for the fifth annual Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Shabbat. This well-attended, inspirational, Civil Rights service, followed by a Board-sponsored Oneg, honored the work and memory of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and of Reverend King, recalling their 1965 march together from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in support of voting rights. Our speaker, whose visit was arranged by the Church, was Dr. Dexter Criss of SUNY Plattsburgh. We are reminded that there is a great deal at stake, and much to do, to ensure freedom for all people, everywhere.

The following evening, January 17, 2015, Cafe Beth El presented a lively performance by the John Lawrence Trio, a guitar, keyboard, and vocal ensemble equally adept at pop, country, folk, R & B, and rock tunes. The audience enjoyed Jack Hellman's homemade felafels along with the performance.

Thank you to all the volunteers who pitch in to make these events successful for our community.

We continue to mourn the passing of Dr. Orel Friedman, in December, 2014. The death of any member is a great loss for the Temple, as we are a close community. With Dr. Friedman's passing, we lost a leader, mentor, and friend who was an active member of this Congregation for more than 60 of his 101 years. I want to thank all the Temple members who participated in the final tribute to this special man. We have received a gracious letter of thanks from Orel's son, Victor, on behalf of the Friedman family.

Earlier in 2014, we lost another member who was especially beloved in our Temple community; his impact on the Congregation will also continue for many years. Ralph Leinoff and his late wife, Lillian, had moved to Queensbury in retirement and joined Temple Beth El, where they became enthusiastic participants and volunteers in our activities. After Lillian passed away, Ralph continued to share his talents with the Congregation, sponsoring Onegs, introducing us to musical programs, displaying his art, running a "Shabbat Shuttle" for his neighbors at The Glen at Hiland Meadows, and making quiet donations to the Congregation, including the video monitor in the "Bubble" Room. In January, Temple Beth El received very substantial donations from each of Ralph's sons, Larry and Stuart Leinoff, to honor his memory and help realize his vision for the Congregation, the Temple building, and the Temple Beth El Cemetery in Moreau, where Ralph is buried with Lillian, near their daughter-in-law, Linda. While these funds will not be available for use in our operating budget, part of the gift will be used to make the Sanctuary more comfortable and the Cemetery more beautiful, with the remainder of the money invested as endowment to help secure the Temple's future. Your Board of Trustees is planning a suitable, permanent memorial to regognize these gifts and the extraordinary generosity of the Leinoff family.

Matt Levin

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT		
I 9:15 a.m. Religious School 11 a.m. Religious School <i>tu</i> <i>bish'vat seder</i>	2	3	4 10:30 a.m. Yiddish for Beginners class with Rabbi Ronald tu bish'vat	5	6 6 p.m. Family Service / Potluck Dinner / Oneg hosted by the Levin Family in celebration of Jonah's birthday	7 10:30 a.m. Torah Study		
8 9:15 a.m. Religious School 12 p.m. Community Luncheon See p. 7	9	10 10 a.m. Book Club (<u>All The</u> <u>Light We Cannot</u> <u>See</u> by Anthony Doerr) <i>See p. 11</i> 12 p.m. Ritual/Pulpit Committee Meeting	11 10:30 a.m. Yiddish for Beginners class with Rabbi Ronald	12	13 7 p.m. Shabbat Service / Oneg	14 10:30 a.m. Torah Study		
15 No Religious School	16 Presidents' Day	17 Shofar Deadline	18 10:30 a.m. Yiddish for Beginners class with Rabbi Ronald	19	20 7 p.m. Shabbat Service / Oneg hosted by the Rosoff Family in celebration of Mattea's birthday and their 43rd wedding anniversary	21 10:30 a.m. Torah Study		
22 No Religious School	23	24	25 10:30 a.m. Yiddish for Beginners class with Rabbi Ronald	26	27 7 p.m. Shabbat Service / Oneg	28 10:30 a.m. Torah Study		



REFORM JUDAISM AND THE WORLD

(Continued from Page 1)

Last-but-not-least, one of the most dynamic and exciting examples of *shittuf pe'ulah* (coordination) between the American and Israeli sides of the Reform movement is the Israel Religious Action Center, which has been operating in Jerusalem for over a decade. Affiliated with its Washington counterpart (now headed by a new URJ director for social justice, Rabbi Jonah Pesner) IRAC has championed the rights of the Women of the Wall, LGBT civil liberties, and religious pluralism inside the Jewish community of Israel as well as the legal defense of various minorities in the Jewish state. Anat Hoffman's brilliantly written dispatches from IRAC make for exciting reading and are easy to subscribe to (The Pluralist at IRAC.org.) Perhaps because of the bold initiatives of the Progressive Jewish movement in Israel, a plurality of Israelis now identify as Reform over those who identify as Orthodox (34% to 23%).

To be candid, the organizations of Jewry are only as strong as the Jews who populate them. The growth of Reform Judaism on six continents can only continue if all the million or so members of the movement (out of the 12 million Jews in world) continue to take a vital interest in the future of liberal Judaism.

As we prepare to celebrate the 15th day of the Hebrew month of *sh'vat*, Jewish arbor day, in early February, I am reminded of that midrash which compares the Jewish people to a pile of walnuts: one cannot be moved without jostling its neighbors. The events in Europe, Israel and around world Jewry recall the words of the Blessing for the New Moon, *kol yisra'eil haveirim*, all of Jewry is bound together in a common future.

Happy tu bish'vat,

Rabbi Jeffrey N. Ronald

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Temple Beth El History *"Life, Thy Most Precious Gift"*

[This is the last excerpt from Ella Cline's final volume of Temple Beth El history, covering the period from October, 1938, through May, 1942. She called it, "Life, Thy Most Precious Gift."]

[In May, 1942, there were "plans for an active summer."] But since January 16, 1942, the Congregation has had no rabbi, a condition we have tried our utmost to avoid ever since we organized. On that day, Rabbi Minsker conducted his farewell service here, told us that for many years his great ambition had been to be a Chaplain in the United States



Army and that he was resigning to realize his ambition. We had a large attendance that Friday, a reception in the Home Room after services, gifts and good wishes for our rabbi, refreshments for all.

Since then, members of the Congregation have conducted services with a fair attendance. One service was conducted by the Youth Group; at one, the Boy Scouts assisted the men; at another, members of the Sisterhood were assisted by Girl Scouts. Twice, we have had guest rabbis. Some of our amateur rabbinical efforts have been so well received, the professional rabbis may find it even harder going here than before – for our record shows clearly that we are an extremely critical congregation

Mrs. Barber, assisted by Mrs. Little, have taken charge of the Sunday School. The Youth Group continues its varied activities, supervised by Mrs. Kohn.

The Jewish scene here has changed considerably in the past three-and-a-half years. The Jewish population has increased to two hundred families, or more. To the already existing organizations have been added an active and growing Hadassah, now three years old. Conservative services are being held for the second year in the Hebrew Community Center, conducted by the rabbi maintained by the Sara Tafila, the most Orthodox organization here, as well as the oldest.

Beth-El plans to engage a rabbi for the High Holydays services who may continue for the year. But to continue changing rabbis and struggling financially and for attendance at services, as we have in the past twenty years, is getting to be heartbreaking, as well as discouraging. This Congregation was bravely and hopefully formed to benefit all peoples, mainly by benefiting the Jews in this immediate vicinity. There must be found a way to bring the people for whom this Temple was built to make use of it, to bring life into it. The task may prove hard, but the responsibility is heavy. We must find the knowledge, the strength, the ability to discover why our Temple, now the only house for Jewish worship here, stands empty and lifeless so much of the time, when the Temple should be as a magnet for the majority of Jews here. Until such an adjustment is made – no one at present knows exactly how or when – our second act of perplexity, our anxieties, our feeling of frustration, of working hard but getting nowhere, must continue.

Many people have helped in the building and maintenance of this Temple. In many cases, those who gave less made greater sacrifices than those who gave much. Each was repaid many times in the knowledge of a good deed done, in honor, for each donation, large or small. Let our good work bear fruit. Let us resolve to find a way that life may fill this noble edifice, that it become in fact a house of worship for many people.

Respectfully submitted,

Ella Cline, Historian May 11, 1942

בית לל



Torah Portions

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February 7 vitro Ex. 18:1-20:23 Pr. Is. 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6

February 14 mishpatim-shekalim Ex. 21:1-24:18; 30:11-16 Pr. II Kings 12:1-17

February 21 terumah Ex. 25:1-27:19 Pr. I Kings 5:26-6:13

February 28 tetzeveh-zachor Ex. 27:20-30:10 Deut. 25:17-19 Pr. I Sam 15:2-34

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The Shofar

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90th Anniversary Trivia Questions

These questions are adapted from a History Trivia Contest featured at Latke Fest on December 14, 2014. Answers on page 11.

1. When was the first Reform religious service in Glens Falls?

2. Which of the following people was <u>not</u> an original member of Temple Beth El: Sarah Marks, Dave Chesler, Adele Hoffman, Orel Friedman, Rose Ginsburg?

- 3. When was the first congregational Passover Seder?
- 4. Before the Temple building was constructed, where did our Congregation meet?
- 5. When was the first Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth El?
- 6. Before this building was constructed, where was our Torah kept during services?
- 7. When was the Temple's first Confirmation service?
- 8. One of our first members owned and published a newspaper. What was its name?
- 9. When was the Temple choir started?
- 10. Why is the Eternal Light (ner tamid) in our Sanctuary blue, rather than white?
- 11. Who was the first girl to celebrate a Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth El?

Temple-Synagogue Jewish Community Dairy Potluck Luncheon

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Temple Religious School

It has been a busy time at Temple Religious School as we wrap up the year 2014 and begin 2015. Using the holidays as a way to delve into the core concepts of Judaism's truths and values, we developed an understanding of our history and the meaning of old traditions. Students learned how to use their unique talents to make new contributions to society as Jews. Our students have been finding many ways to incorporate the values of being a caring community during this time, including recognizing the need for *derech eretz*, behaving in a kind and caring manner, so we do not hurt the feelings of others. This led to students signing "STOP THE BULLYING" pledge cards and an awareness that it is important to do the right thing, even when it isn't easy or popular.

Students participated in preparing free Hanukkah Kits that included menorahs, candles, blessings and background information about the celebration of Hanukkah. Canvas bags were decorated by the students for distributing these items, including dreidels, game playing instructions, Tootsie Rolls for game pieces, gelt and Hanukkah cookies for prizes. Other items included in the bag were recipes for potato pancakes and fried donuts, a copy of the latest Temple Shofar and the Temple Jewish Calendar. An article in <u>The Chronicle</u> was used to offer these free Hanukkah Kits. Five families, unaffiliated with Temple Beth El, requested them. Hopefully, these kits will be the beginning of new relationships with these families and Temple Beth El.

Students also learned about making holidays more about giving than getting, while developing a sense of g'milut hasadim, doing good deeds for others. They continued working on the Fleece Blanket Project for children that receive services from the Glens Falls Domestic Violence Project. TRS has continued to collect food for the local food pantry throughout the school year. Several TRS families also took part in helping out at the Open Door Kitchen during the month of December and worked there Christmas day to keep free meals available for the holiday. Other families found personal ways to incorporate this value into their family celebrations.

Some of the older students participated in the annual Temple Beth El Latke Fest as a TRS team with Matt Levin as their mentor. Elizabeth Levy, TRS Teacher, and Chris Levy, TRS Director, also participated. The youngest TRS students, Mattea and Sofia Rice, helped their dad who was voted this year's Latke Fest winner! The TRS bake sale that was held that day, in combination with raffle ticket sales for 4 free hockey tickets and the January 3rd Adirondack Flames Hockey Fundraiser, raised \$264 for the Temple Religious School. TRS will use this money to continue to support a variety of community service projects. The winner of the autographed hockey stick was Tia Chimiak. The four free hockey tickets were won by the Wolfield family. The Friday, December 19th Temple Beth El Hanukkah Dinner was well attended by TRS families. The DJ, sponsored by Temple Religious School and the Jewish Federation of NENY, was a fun addition for all to enjoy at this celebration.

As TRS students entered 2015, they learned about *tikkun olam* and justice as they compared the values of Judaism that coincide with the teachings learned on the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students made bookmarks that were distributed at the Friday, January 16th Temple Beth El Shabbat Service to celebrate the relationship of Judaism and the ideals of Dr. King. The bookmarks contain a famous quote from Dr. King and the Hebrew words, *"tzedek, tzedek, tirdof . . .* justice, justice, you shall pursue!"

In keeping with the Jewish value of *bal tashhit*, caring for the environment, in December students made their own dreidels from recycled milk cartons and pencils. This is a theme that will continue in the coming month as students learn about *tu bish'vat*, celebrated the first week in February. Our activities will include learning about the conservation of natural resources in both Israel and the United States. A family-friendly TRS *tu bish'vat seder* will be held at 11:00 AM on Sunday, February 1st. The students in Rabbi Ronald's class will participate in the Friday, February 6th Family Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM, to also celebrate *tu bish'vat*. TRS students and staff look forward to seeing many Temple members and Religious School families and friends at this service.

Shalom,

Christine Levy TRS Director





We Remember

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

February 6

*Louis Brown, Rose Charnow, *Phyllis Feigenbaum, Rita Housman, *Abraham Kohn, *Samuel Kohn, *Babette Metzner, Hyman Proller, Nathan Rosoff, Robert Siegel, *Samuel Slater, *Harry Sobel, Phillip Stogel, Leatt Taubman

February 13

Sadie Barondess, Edward Buyer, Guglielmo D'Amico, Louis Feigenbaum, *Anna Maslon, *Henry Pawel, George Pfeiffer, *Rose Sollosy Rabhan, Faye Schlesinger, Abe Siegel, Fred Siegel, *Louisa Sommer, Etta Wein, *Isidore Winer, *Beulah Yanklowitz

February 20

*Sharon Barclay, *Sophia Cline, *Sadie Esner, Saul Goldfarb, Miriam Jacobson, Donald Levy, *Emanuel Pawel, Philip Sovetts

February 27

Alan Bessen, Isadore Cohen, A. William Cohn, Anna Goldstein, Otto Heller, Libbie Levin, *Moses Metzner, *Dr. Abraham Reed, Max Stichman, Charles Alfred Togut, Melvina Wieder, Barnet Zackowitz

(*name appears on yahrzeit plaque in the sanctuary)

Appreciation

To Salomon & Elaine Charhon for hosting an Oneg in January in memory of Avraham Charhon.

To the Temple Board for sponsoring an Oneg in January in honor of Temple's annual Rabbi Heschel / Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat Service.



Get Well Soon

Steve Adler, Amy Austin, Kayra Balente, Ronald Binns, Patricia Brie, Hans Cherney, Mia Corton, Elliott Friedman, Janet Friedman, Victor Friedman, Alan Gartner, Jacqueline Gordon, Mark Grunblatt, Edith Katz, Sheldon Kramer, Howard Krantz, Christine Levy, Elizabeth Levy, Jeffrey Levy, Mark Lipschitz, Diane Martin, Ed Miltch, Sylvia Miltch, Dolly Morrisey, Richard Muller, Jessica Panebianco, Edie Rudnick, Bob Savarin, Jane Stuebing, Carole Wells, Jody Wexler

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Happy Birthday!

Denise Jackson (2/3), Beth McDonnell (2/5), Elizabeth Solomon (2/9), Dale Tracy (2/11), Tammy Kafin Taylor (2/12), Louise Binns (2/14), Samuel Marks (2/16), Lisa DeLuca (2/17), Don Schwartz (2/17), Jonah Levin (2/18 – 10 years old!), Kathy Naftaly (2/19), Mitch Corton (2/20), Jonathan Nemer (2/23), Mattea Rice (2/26 – 5 years old!), Jared Brender (2/26), Layla McDonnell (2/27 – 11 years old!), Deena Gill (2/27)

Book Club

Here is the list of all of our next adventures in literature . . .

February 10: <u>All The Light We Cannot See</u> by Anthony Doerr

March 10: The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay

April 14: <u>The Boys In The Boat</u> by Daniel James Brown

May 11: Arcadia by Lauren Groff

June 09: Half Broke Horses by Jeannette Walls

Happy reading,

Karen Marks Adler

Happy Anniversary!

Mike & Gilda Siegel (2/9 – 63 years) Dan & Phyllis Brown (2/13 – 27 years) Robert & Barbara Rosoff (2/20 – 43 years)

90th Anniversary Trivia Answers

- 1. High Holy Days, 1922
- 2. Orel Friedman
- 3. April, 1925

4. In a hall on the third floor of a men's clothing store

5. June, 1927

6. A china cabinet borrowed from a furniture store

- 7. June, 1924
- 8. The New York Times
- 9. 1937

10. During World War II, cities on the East and West coasts observed blackout procedures so that lights could not be seen at night by enemy pilots in the event of an attack. We changed it then and never restored its original appearance.

11. Beverly Friedman, daughter of Blossom and Orel Friedman

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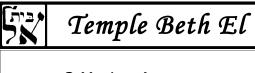
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The Shofar

Editors: Phyllis Brown Lois Hellman Judith Metzner Shepherd Editorial Assistant: Katie Weaver

Writing for the *Shofar*? Think Ahead!

Writing something for the *Shofar*? REMEMBER YOUR DEADLINES. Articles and announcements for the *Shofar* should be sent to the Temple Administrative Assistant, Katie Weaver, well in advance of the desired publication date. The deadline for each issue (usually the 15th day of the preceding month) is shown on the Calendar page, but your article should arrive as early as possible. The *Shofar* is published before the first day of each month, and PUBLICATION WILL NOT BE DELAYED for late articles and announcements.

Remember: If your article will be timed to coincide with a holiday or event, you will want it to appear at least as early as the issue preceding the event. And if you are asking for volunteers, for reservations, or for advance ticket or merchandise purchases, your article or announcement may need to appear several months in advance. Even for something that is several months away, it is never too early to submit an announcement to get the *Shofar* readers to "save the date"!

The Editors welcome letters and other reader contributions. E-mail submission (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 March issue of the *Shofar* is Tuesday, February 17!