

Temple Israel



Celebrating 50 Years

the BULLETIN

January/February 2018

Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5778



Purim Celebrations February 28, 2018



See Page 7 for details of our Temple Purim Celebration

Worship Schedule

Holiday	Dates	Times	
SHABBAT	Friday January 5 Saturday, January 6	6:15 pm 10:15 am	Kabbalat Shabbat Service Shabbat Service, Parsha Shemot
SHABBAT	Thursday, January 11 Friday, January 12 Saturday, January 13	7:30 am 6:15 pm 7:00 pm 10:15 am	Morning Minyan Kabbalat Shabbat Service Bring your Own Dinner Shabbat Service, Parsha Va'eira
SHABBAT	Thursday, January 18 Friday, January 19 Saturday, January 20	7:30 am 6:15 pm 10:15 am	Morning Minyan Bat Mitzvah Alexa Leitman Kabbalat Shabbat Service Shabbat Service, Parsha Bo
SHABBAT	Thursday, January 25 Friday, January 26 Saturday, January 27	7:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 10:15 am	Morning Minyan TOTally Shabbat Kabbalat Shabbat Service Shabbat Service, Parsha Beshalach Shabbat Shira
SHABBAT	Friday, February 2 Saturday, February 3	6:15 pm 10:15 am	Kabbalat Shabbat Service Shabbat Service, Parsha Yitro
SHABBAT	Thursday, February 8 Friday, February 9 Saturday, February 10	7:30 am 6:15 pm 7:00 pm 10:15 am	Morning Minyan Kabbalat Shabbat Service Bring your Own Dinner Shabbat Service, Parsha Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim
SHABBAT	Friday, February 16 Saturday, February 17	6:15 pm 10:15 am	Kabbalat Shabbat Service Shabbat Service, Parsha Terumah
SHABBAT	Thursday, February 22 Friday, February 23 Saturday, February 24	7:30 am 6:15 pm 10:15 am	Morning Minyan Kabbalat Shabbat Service Shabbat Service, Parsha Tetzaveh Shabbat Zachor
PURIM See Page 7	Wednesday, February 28	4:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	TIRS Purim Program TIRS Purim Reading/Spiel Purim Dinner Adult Megillah Reading with ORH
SHABBAT	Friday, March 2 Saturday, March 3	6:15 pm 10:15 am	Kabbalat Shabbat Service Shabbat Service, Parsha Ki Tissa

From the Pulpit

New Temple training program for immigrants aims to further Reform Judaism core value of social justice



Imagine the incredible experience of celebrating Shabbat worship with 6,000 participants, with the voices of thousands of Reform Jews filling a convention centre with such wonderful energy and spirit!

That's what I experienced as I recently attended the Union for Reform Judaism's Biennial convention, the largest biennial in our 175-year-old history.

Throughout the event, we heard from many Jewish and non-Jewish leaders who helped articulate the vision of our movement, of which social justice has always been a core value.

On the first evening of the convention we heard from Reverend Dr. William J. Barber, a Protestant minister and political leader in North Carolina, and a member of the national board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Dr. Barber, along with our Reform Movement's leaders, is starting a grass roots campaign to address the systemic issues of poverty. While poverty has many root causes, and many of the ones that Rev. Barber spoke about are unique to the American community, his central message is just as important for us as Canadians: "We must demand a moral agenda," said Rev. Barber, "an agenda that says there are issues that are not about left versus right and Republican versus Democrat.

"Pro-labour, anti-poverty, anti-racist policy are moral issues. Living wages and guaranteed income for the poor are moral issues. Transitioning away from fossil fuels and guaranteeing labor rights and affordable housing, these are moral issues. Fair policies for immigrants are moral issues."

For Temple Israel, social justice has always been a moral issue, and our decision to adopt a Syrian refugee family was a moral decision. In support of that decision, we have been awarded a grant by the Ontario ministry of Citizenship and Immigration to run a 10-12 week training program for new immigrants and refugees. The program will help train them on how to effectively work in Canada's multicultural/multi-faith workforce. Our goal is that the program will help dispel commonly held prejudices and stereotypes.

But we need your help to make this training program a success. We need volunteers to help welcome participants, organize activities and make sure the weekly sessions run smoothly.

Continued page 4

President's Message



As I am writing this message to you, my first as your president, we are just a short time away from the secular New Year. For most of us this is a time when we each take stock, make plans and promises. We reflect on where we stand and where we are headed. Temple Israel and its leaders will certainly do the same.

I am pleased to serve as president of Temple Israel. I feel privileged to follow in the footsteps of great leaders and I will do my best to emulate them.

Temple Israel is a vibrant, caring community with an amazing array of talented people. Let's use those talents.

Temple is a committee based organization. Volunteers are our lifeblood, both as committee members and committee chairs. Upcoming bulletins and weekly updates will highlight various committees, their roles, responsibilities, and activities. I look forward to working with you in the months and years to come. Please remember that without you, there is no us.

If you have ideas as to how to make Temple better, please send them to me at president@templeisraelottawa.ca. Be prepared to commit time and effort to move things forward. The words "someone should" need to be replaced by "I'm prepared to do". It is true that many hands make light work.

Let me tell you about a few initiatives on the horizon. A revival of Temple Israel Sisterhood is under way, under the leadership of Janet Cohen. On November 28th, Sisterz'n the Hood (their new name) held their first formal program with over 30 women in attendance. We look forward to hearing about more ideas and future programs from the Sisterz.

A successful November workshop on fundraising and future Temple plans was attended by Board members and several past presidents. This workshop was facilitated by consultants with extensive experience and expertise in fundraising and project management, particularly for faith based communities such as ours. A big Thank You to Patsy Royer for her leadership and initiative on this file. Participants discussed ways to position Temple for future success, including related infrastructure and facilities. More information on the Board Renovation Vision Project will be coming over the next few months.

We are awaiting the finalization of several significant bequests. Portions of these bequests will be used to pay down the mortgage and to support the Board Renovation Vision Project.

I'm counting on your help and that of our strong Executive and Board. Our professional staff are at the core, ensuring that day to day activities are handled in a competent, efficient manner while providing leadership,
(continued page 4)

If you are interested in learning more about this project, please give me a call or write an email.

If you are interested in reading or viewing the addresses from the Reform Biennial in full, and I encourage you to do that, they can be found on the URJ's web site - <https://urj.org/blog/2017/12/11/reliving-urj-biennial-speeches-video-and-more>

Creating a society that understands, appreciates and can effectively work together is a moral issue! Come join the effort to make our world a better place.

Shalom,

Rabbi S. Robert Morais



Temple is please to announce our new Junior Youth Group advisor is Sophie Giaccone.

Watch our website and weekly emails for upcoming events for kids in Grades 6-8.

guidance and support to our congregation and its committees over a wide range of programs.

Among my areas of focus are fiscal prudence, fundraising and philanthropy, upgrading and maintaining our facilities, security and accessibility, and making Temple Israel the place where Jewish life happens in Ottawa.

In closing, one phrase that you'll hear periodically from me is "Abraham Lincoln", meaning "You can't please all of the people all of the time". Please keep that in mind as we continue to move this sacred community forward. Together we can do great things.

Ellen and I hope that you enjoyed a happy Chanukah and wish you a healthy, happy New Year.

Stephen Asherman
President

Celebrating a milestone, simcha or a special event?

If you would like to make a donation in honour of this occasion, please see our website, contact our volunteers (see TIOF page 10 or Temple information page 11) or the office and we will make it easy for you!

Condolences

Condolences are extended to the families of:

Abraham Gencher

Beloved brother of Rita Mortimer

Jane McKeague

Beloved mother of Paul McKeague (Katya Feder)

Josephine Mary Izenberg

Beloved mother of Judy Snider (Jeremy Wallis)

Estelle Weiss

Beloved mother of Ron Weiss (Debbie Halton Weiss)

Ruth Shane

Jacques Bencheton

Carole McGeough

Beloved mother of Joe (Alanna) McGeough

Michael Feldman

Beloved husband of Tanya Feldman

May their memory forever be a blessing.





TOTally Shabbat

Temple Israel
מִצְדֵּי הַיָּם
Celebrating 50 Years

Celebrate Shabbat with music, movement and stories for families with children ages 6 & under

Mark your calendars!
The next two will be Jan. 26th and Feb. 23rd at 5:30 pm.

With Rabbi Morais and Morah Sue, TIRS Principal

6:00 pm Join us for a family-friendly dinner (usually pasta)

RSVP required by the Thursday before 613-224-1802 x 5 or reception@templeisraelottawa.com

School News



Our school enrollment has continued to grow. When I became the Principal of TIRS 2.5 years ago, we had 67 students in our school. This year, I am proud to say that we have 88 students enrolled. In addition, we have 1 pre-K student now and two starting in January. We also have 6 students in our Conversational Hebrew class on Monday nights. This class was offered for Grade 11 and up so I consider it part of TIRS but have not included the

students among the 88. As it happens, all of the students are adults.

Grades 5 and 6 are now using the P2G curriculum called "Friends Across the Sea" that I introduced last year. TIRS and OJCS are part of a Canadian partnership with schools in northern Israel. This fall, TIRS was matched with a school on Kibbutz Amir. Their Grades 3-6 students study English with our teacher contact. Our kids were so excited to receive their first letters from their new pen pals on November 12th (delivered by Barbara Crook). We hope this will be the beginning of a very long partnership.

Noa Gil who is this year's Shinshinit (an Israeli teen taking a gap year between high school and IDF service) at TIRS for the school year and at Temple Israel. She volunteers on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings as well as attending Shabbat services 2-3 weeks of the month. At TIRS Noa has created lessons that teach our students an Israeli perspective on holidays, lingo used by young people, and about the lives of key Israeli figures such as Yitzchak Rabin. Occasionally, the other Ottawa Shinshin, Idan Ben-Ari, also attends on Monday evenings and for special occasions. On Shabbat mornings, Noa delivers a "D'var Yisrael," where she talks about Israeli current events. Noa has never experienced a congregation like ours and has attended even on her weeks off. Recently, her father visited her for just 48 hours. She insisted that he come to services with her. She told me that she described Temple Israel to him as a "living congregation."

Grade 6 kicked off another year of TIRS leading/participating in Kabbalat Shabbat dinner services. They are very important as they bring multiple generations and non-member families whose children attend TIRS to Temple Israel. When our students lead, it is generally of the highest attended Friday nights of those months. Granted it was the TI Chanukah celebration, but 150-160 people attended the Dec. 15th dinner service when our Kindergarten class participated.

Grade 7 will lead a Shabbat morning service on January 20th. From that point on, students will begin attending services with some regularity in preparation for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

In October, TIRS students in Grades 3-6 were invited to attend the Brit Millah for Morah Ranit's baby, Gidon (Gideon). Leave it to Ranit to never miss a teachable

moment!

In November, Grades 7-12 had private tour of the National Holocaust Monument followed by a talk given by Kati Morrison, a survivor living in Ottawa. Thank you to Mark Holzman for arranging the tour and Lisa Rossman for arranging the speaker.

On Dec. 16th, Grades 7-12 volunteered at "In From the Cold" at Parkdale United Church. TIRS has been serving at least one meal per year for many years. It is such a great opportunity for our students. This year, we partnered with OMJS's Grade 7 class. Creating partnerships is a very important way for TIRS.

On Dec. 17th, TIRS held its first Chanukah Maccabee Olympics Program for Families was fantastic! Special thanks to Morah Sigal, Catherine Derri and Jasmine Albagli for creating such an amazing program! Also a big thank you to all of our parent volunteers.

We continue to teach our students (who are not all Temple members) that we are all part of a big family of Jewish people coming together to learn about Judaism. Our students have many opportunities for volunteerism, tikkun olam (repairing the world / social action), tzedakah (charity) and gemilut chasadim (acts of loving kindness). We learn to pray together, study together and have fun together as one big community.

Reminder: Classes resume on Monday, January 8th. Happy 2018 to everyone!

*Sue Potechin
TIRS Principal*



Decorating Sufganiyot

Purim 101

Customs and Rituals

In the Book of Esther, we read that Purim is a time for “feasting and merrymaking,” as well as for “sending gifts to one another and presents to the poor” (Esther 9:22). In addition to reading the M’gillah (Book of Esther), celebrants dress in costumes, have festive parties, perform “Purim-spiels,” silly theatrical adaptations of the story of the M’gillah, send baskets of food (mishloach manot) to friends, and give gifts to the poor (matanot l’evyonim).

Hamantaschen

Hamantaschen (Yiddish for Haman’s pockets) are three-cornered pastries filled with poppy seeds (mohn in Yiddish), fruit preserves, chocolate, or other ingredients that are traditionally eaten on Purim. In Israel during the weeks leading up to Purim, the aroma of freshly baked hamantaschen can be smelled on every block. Their triangular shape is thought to be reminiscent of Haman’s hat or ears.



Costumes

As part of the carnival-like atmosphere of Purim, many children and adults wear costumes. Some attribute this tradition to the fact that Esther initially “masked” her Jewish identity. Now a vibrant and widely practiced custom, some choose to dress as characters from the Purim story, while others select Jewish heroes from throughout history.

In Israel, the celebrations are especially extravagant and exciting. People of all ages take to the streets, rejoicing with parades, parties, costumes and carnivals. The parade through the streets of Tel Aviv is known to be especially wild. At the Kotel (the Western Wall) volunteers for Women of the Wall read Megillat Esther in the women’s section.



In the Synagogue

The Megillah (scroll) most often refers to Megillat Esther (The Scroll of Esther) which also is known as the “Book of Esther.” According to the Talmud, “The study of Torah is interrupted for the reading of the Megillah.” Maimonides, a 12th century sage and rabbi, teaches, “The reading of the Megillah certainly supersedes all other mitzvot.”

Traditionally, the Book of Esther is read at both evening and morning services on Purim—both in North America and in Israel. A number of customs are associated with the reading. Haman, the enemy of the Jews in this story, is associated with all those who have tried to destroy the Jewish people throughout history. Therefore, we make loud noises—verbally or with noisemakers—at every mention of Haman’s name in order to drown it out. Derived from the Polish word meaning “rattle,” a grogger

is the noisemaker used to drown out the name of Haman during the reading of the Megillah. Beginning in the 13th century, Jews throughout Europe sounded the grogger as a part of their Purim celebrations.

A Purimspiel (pronounced shpeel, rhymes with “reel”) is a humorous skit presented on Purim. Most parody the story of the Book of Esther, but it also is common for participants to take the opportunity to poke some gentle fun at themselves and their idiosyncrasies. Some congregations run an adults-only event for Purim, too.

At Home

Mishloach manot are gifts of food that friends (and prospective new friends!) exchange on Purim. Often presented in baskets, most mishloach manot include hamantaschen, the traditional three-sided pastry eaten on Purim, but may also include a wide variety of foods and treats. These gifts are frequently referred to by their Yiddish name, shalachmanos.


Jewish families make mishloach manot baskets at home and distribute them to friends. Many families also make hamantaschen to include in these baskets and to enjoy at home. Check out these creative ideas for making your own.

Matanot l’evyonim (gifts to the poor) are gifts given at this season to those in need so that they, too, can celebrate Purim with a special meal. Many families have committed to participating in this important social justice aspect of the holiday.

Source: The Jewish Home (Revised Edition) by Daniel B. Syme

Erev Shabbat Service
4th Friday of each month
at 6:30 pm

Mark your calendars!
The next 2 services will be
on January 26 and
February 23, 2018

 Temple Israel
בית ישראל

Join us each month on a musical adventure! These services may introduce different music, preview an upcoming concert, or participate with a musical guest.

Temple Celebrations



Temple Israel



Erev Purim,

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

4:30-6:00 pm at TIRS for Children & Young Families

6:00 Persian Purim Feast 7:00 pm Megillah & Program

A joint program with Or Haneshamah!

Family Program

4:30 - 5:30 pm Purim Program for Families

5:30 - 6:00 pm Abbreviated Megillah and Purim Shpiel



Seudat Purim (Dinner)

6:00 pm Persian Purim Feast. Choice of Shwarma or Falafel dinner.

Cost: Adults \$18 / Children \$10



The Ganzeh (Whole) Megillah

7:00 pm Megillah Reading and Purim Schpiel with OrH.

Bring your favourite libation to share



RSVP for dinner only to Cathy in the TI office no later than February 26th.



Installation of new Board of Directors at Temple Annual Meeting

Left to Right: Rabbi Morais, Deidre Butler, Miriam Burke, Tamara Taub, Margot Montgomery, Steve Asherman, Patsy Royer, Pam Cogan, Tonya Pomerantz, Christine Kessler, David Cotsman & Sharon Behrendt. Missing: Dar Blue, Sarah Casteel, Heather Evenchick and Steve Mendelsohn.

Temple Celebrations



January Anniversaries

Nathalie Thibault-Garber & Richard Garber
Susan & Brian Gold
Heidi Garcia Leon & Mario Rodriguez
Verena & Benjamin Shapiro
Judy Snider & Jeremy Wallis
Bobbi & Rick Soderstom

February Anniversaries

Marjorie & Elliot Berman
Heather & Gary Cohen
Bruce Handel & Nicole Menard
Amalia & Stanley Winer



Mazel Tov to Julie and Hillel Taub on the birth of their grandson Rowan Shlomo in Vancouver

Mazel Tov to Cynthia Powell on the birth of her grandson Baily Meridian Powell.

SIDDURIM DONATIONS



In observance of the yahrzeit of
Benjamin Julius Rabnowitz
Andrea Grossman

Shabbat Oneg

Temple Shabbat Oneg is a wonderful time to catch up with friends and maybe meet some new ones.

Did you know that you can help sponsor an Oneg?

Some good reasons to sponsor a kiddush lunch or oneg Shabbat:

- It's your birthday, or your friend's or your pet's etc.
- It's an anniversary of a special event
- In memory of a loved one
- To celebrate special event
- Because you are a swell person who likes to support your favorite synagogue

Your sponsorship helps to offset the cost of providing the weekly basics and more.

Kiddush sponsors are thanked in our newsletter unless you choose to remain anonymous.

Thanks to our past Oneg/Kiddush sponsors:

Patsy & Georges Royer in honour of their 40th wedding anniversary.

B'nai Mitzvah



Thursday January 18, 2018

ALEXA LEITMAN

Daughter of Sherri Katz & Mitch Leitman

In honour of her Bat Mitzvah, Alexa will donate to Jewish Family Services

Is your child born in 2006?

We are now booking Bar/Bat dates through the end of December 2019.

If the answer is yes, and you have not yet booked a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, please contact Heather at execdir@templeisraelottawa.com to request an application form. Complete information will be provided and requirements noted on the application form.

Temple Programs

BOOKS & Bagels

Please join us at Temple for a bagel breakfast at 9:30 a.m. followed by the book review and discussion. Pre-registration is not required, nor is it necessary to have read the book to enjoy the session. There is no charge but a voluntary donation to cover the cost of breakfast is appreciated.



Sunday March 4, 2017 - *Judas* by Amos Oz, Deborah Saginur to review.

Most books are available through the Ottawa Public Library and the Greenberg Families Library at the JCC. The Malca Pass Library and the Temple Israel Library also carry some of these titles. For more information please contact Shayla Mindell at shaylamindell@

rogers.com or call 613-594-4556.



Temple Morning Minyanaires

Morning Minyan

Join us SEMI monthly for our Thursday morning Minyan

We begin at 7:30am and conclude by 8:15 am. Those who wish to leave immediately may do so and start their day with a strong boost of Torah and prayer.

Those who need a caffeine boost, a bagel and a little conversation, can stick around and ease into the morning

The next minyans will be held:
January 11, 18 & 25
February 8 & 22

FROSTY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

SPRING BOARDS

MAR. 23-25, 2018

FROSTY IS HOSTING



70+ youth from the northeast lakes region who will gather together to elect the future teen leaders of the region, watch song leader auditions and spend Shabbat together.

DRIVERS



Help us drive teens from their host homes and bring them to and from Temple Israel daily (Friday pm, Saturday am and pm, Sunday am).

HOST FAMILIES



Help us house teens. They only need a cushy space on your floor. They will bring their own sleeping bags and pillows.

EXTRA HANDS (MEALS)



We need help with cooking, setting up and cleaning up after meals. While you're helping, come and join in on the fun.

COME TOGETHER.



Let's show our young Jewish leaders how much we support them and their commitment to Jewish life.

INTERESTED? QUESTIONS? CONTACT LISA ROSSMAN:
lisarossman@hotmail.com

A Tribute to Leonard Cohen



On Sunday, November 12, Angus Smith participated in a special memorial evening to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Leonard Cohen at All Saints Westboro Anglican Church. The memorial included live music and singing and a time for quiet reflection. Angus eulogized Leonard Cohen from a Jewish perspective and led the attendees (who included a minyan from Temple Israel) in saying Kaddish.

Every Jew has a secret name, a Hebrew name.

Actually, most Jews will tell you their Hebrew if you ask them. But mainly they are known only to other Jews and are invoked for ceremonial and liturgical purposes.

Our parents give us our Hebrew names. But I believe that, really, they are bestowed on us by G-d. And because of that, I believe that if we pay attention, a Hebrew name can tell us a lot about the person who bears it.

Leonard Cohen's Hebrew name is Eliezer ben Nisan ha'Kohen. When we parse it, we find that Eliezer means "G-d is my help." And ben Nisan means "son of Nisan." That tells us who his father was. But Nisan isn't just another man's name. It is the month in which Passover falls, the month in which we relive the experience of the Exodus, when we were redeemed from slavery in Egypt and set on the path to the land that G-d promised us. And finally there is that ha'Kohen. It means "priest." But not just a priest; the priest, in the most ancient sense of the word: one who serves G-d in the holiest place of all.

In Judaism, we have long tradition of prophecy. For Jews (as for Christians), a prophet is not a soothsayer, not someone who divines the future in chicken entrails. That's a little too close to idolatry for our taste. For us, prophecy is a function of a direct relationship with the Divine, although there is nothing supernatural about our prophets. G-d may choose them and they may speak in G-d's voice; but the prophets themselves – disputatious, sullen, baffled, lazy, ill-tempered – are entirely human.

Cohen's name, his secret chord, seems to speak of a special relationship with G-d and of a unique connection to the deep, almost atavistic, memories that the Jewish people carry around with them. Is this man, Eliezer the Priest, a prophet? Perhaps that is going too far. But certainly there is a prophetic voice at work there, one that recalls, echoes and amplifies the voices of our Prophets from long ago. "I am," as he himself says,

"the little Jew who wrote the Bible."

In speaking for G-d, Prophets warn us of the consequences of turning away from our covenant with G-d. They point to the hypocrisy inherent in empty ritual, of defining faith merely by its habits and customs. They call out the venal and the corrupt who would recreate the bondage of Pharaoh. Like Jeremiah, prophesying doom as the Babylonians hammered at the very gates of Jerusalem, they bear witness to great cataclysm, to the end, apparently, of history. Here's Isaiah, excoriating Judea for the apostasy that has led to the ravages of Assyrian invasion and occupation:

Hear, O heavens and give ear, O earth,
For the Lord has spoken:
"I reared children and brought them up –
And they have rebelled against Me!

Ah, sinful nation!
People laden with iniquity!
Brood of evil-doers!
Depraved children!
They have forsaken the Lord,
Spurned the Holy One of Israel,
Turned their backs [on him].

Your land is a waste,
Your cities burnt down;
Before your eyes the yield of your soil
Is consumed by strangers;
A wasteland like Sodom overthrown."

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Think back to some of the music and poetry that we have just heard. In "The Future" we find ourselves in a world so corrupted, so decayed, that even the tyrants are lonely because "there is no one left to torture."

Your servant here, he has been told
To say it clear, to say it cold:
It's over, it ain't going
any further...
And now the wheels of heaven stop
you feel the devil's riding crop
Get ready for the future:
it is murder.

...The blizzard of the world
Has crossed the threshold
And it has overturned
the order of the soul
When they said REPENT
I wonder what they meant

This is Cohen speaking in a voice that recalls that G-d whose murderous rage at the spectacle of the people dancing before the Golden Calf almost ended our story before it really got started.

This is the voice of a prophet – a baffled King, perhaps –

who somehow intuitively that only meaningful repentance can save us from ourselves, but who also fears that we have strayed so far from G-d and G-d's promise to us that even repentance has ceased to have any meaning.

It's grim, as terrifying as the nightmare vision of the "white man dancing" evoked in the same song, but it holds each one of us to account, obliging us to examine our own complicity in the wreckage of the world that we find ourselves in.

And then there's the Prophet in mourning, the one lying in a bed so empty that it contains nothing but the moon's sweat, agonizing over children who play hidden away in an attic.

There's a concert hall in Vienna
where your mouth had a thousand reviews.
There's a bar where the boys have stopped talking.
They've been sentenced to death by the blues.
Ah, but who is it climbs to your picture
with a garland of freshly cut tears?
...take this waltz, it's been dying for years.

Everybody knows, as Cohen might say, about Vienna, where we played in the Philharmonic until they turned on us and the concert halls and the opera houses became the antechambers of oblivion. Everybody knows that when the boys in the bar stopped talking, they put on their black uniforms and they came for us. We were the ones who ended up sentenced to death.

There are echoes here of the Prophet in a dialogue with G-d, like Abraham bargaining for the lives of the righteous of Sodom and Gomorrah. And the conversation is not pretty. "Everybody knows," the Prophet again seems to be saying, "Everybody knows that the ship was sinking, everybody knows that the mark of death was upon us, so where were you? Why did you abandon us?"

It's the question that every Jew has asked of G-d, whether they admit or not. We are, after all, Israel, the people who wrestle with G-d. But this time, maybe, just maybe, G-d answers through his prophet. "I am weeping," says G-d, "I am weeping because in the face of pure evil, even I am powerless. Like you, all I can do is remember."

Many of us struggle with a peculiarly modernist notion, rooted to some degree in the late 20th century preoccupation with self-actualization, that faith is but one component of a fulfilled life. Cohen's prophetic vision is a repudiation of that comfortable understanding of faith. I believe that it is that striving towards something much deeper in our relationship with the Divine that is the essence of what touches us in Cohen's music.

Cohen does not turn away from the sadness, the fear that underlies faith; he is not afraid of the tradition of deep lamentation that runs through and defines Judaism and, indeed, Christianity. "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" cries the dying Jesus, a recurring figure in Cohen's oeuvre, "My G-d, my G-d, why have you forsaken me?" Faith is not necessarily meant to comfort us. Some-

times it is meant to provoke the deepest discomfort. G-d always expects more of us. Do more, says G-d, rise to yourself. Fulfil My expectations. That is the unwritten contractual obligation that lies at the heart of our Covenant.

This said, I am not totally sure that Cohen himself would have been comfortable having the mantle of a prophet thrust upon him in this pre-emptory manner. Eliezer the Priest is also Eliezer ben Nisan, a Jewish guy from Montreal, "a lazy bastard living in a suit" as he once delightedly characterized himself. Eliezer ben Nisan loves this life and he loves his appetites.

As a Jew, he revels in the sensuality and the intimacy of physical love which, for Jews, is largely decoupled from sin. Not for nothing did Joni Mitchell dismiss him as a "boudoir poet." He touches Suzanne's perfect body; he drinks her tea and eats the oranges that come all the way from China.

In the rock and roll rave-up "Never Any Good" he ruefully confesses to an ex-lover that he was "some kind of tourist in your bed, looking at the view." But even in these moments of pure earthliness, the baffled King composing hallelujah is never far. In mid-verse, Cohen shifts abruptly from the profane to the sacred and uses language seemingly lifted from the Song of Songs to tell the same woman that, "I can't forget where my lips have been, those holy hills, that deep ravine..."

It even turns out that Cohen, the avatar of existential darkness, is actually one of the great humorists of contemporary music, revelling in a form of ironic self-deprecation that is peculiarly Jewish. "I was born like this, I had no choice," smirks the Shekly Green of St. Denis Street, "I was born with the gift of a golden voice."

At the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we prepare ourselves for the possibility of death. In the old days, we even attended Yom Kippur services clothed in our funeral raiment. We recite a medieval liturgical poem called Un'tanneh Tokef, which translates as "Let Us Speak of Wonder."

On Rosh Hashanah will be inscribed and on Yom Kippur will be sealed – how many will pass from the earth and how many will be created; who will live and who will die; who will die after a long life and who before his time; who by water and who by fire, who by sword and who by beast, who by famine and who by thirst, who by upheaval and who by plague, who by strangling and who by stoning. Who will rest and who will wander, who will live in harmony and who will be harried, who will enjoy tranquility and who will suffer, who will be impoverished and who will be enriched, who will be degraded and who will be exalted. But Repentance, Prayer, and Charity annul the severe Decree."

You all recognize this of course, because "Who By Fire" – arguably one of Cohen's most enduring compositions – is based on it almost word for word, albeit with some updates for the contemporary world: "Who in her lonely

slip? Who by barbiturate?" But in Cohen's version, Eliezer ben Nisan, the kibitzer in the cheap seats at the back of the synagogue, gives voice to what so many of us wonder (or should wonder) as we stand on Yom Kippur morning and recite Un'tanneh Tokef: "And who shall I say is calling?"

Really, who or what is it that ultimately calls for us; who or what is it that decides that our time has come? We all give lip service to the repentance, prayer and charity that supposedly annul the severe decree, but how many of us actually make the connection between repentance, prayer and charity and our relationship with the Divine? And, really, does G-d care about my repentance? When my name is erased from the book of life, will it be G-d who calls for me, or will it be only myself that I have to face? A prophetic voice perhaps, this Eliezer ben Nisan, but also our Jewish id, bedeviling and discomfiting us at every turn.

Leonard Cohen wrestled with G-d right up until the very end of his life. The title song of *You Want It Darker*, Cohen's final album released less than three weeks before his death, features a soaring cantorial voice and a brief evocation of Kaddish, the prayer for the dead that affirms G-d's sovereignty.

Magnified, sanctified, be thy holy name
Vilified, crucified, in the human frame
A million candles burning for the help that never came
You want it darker

Hineni, hineni
I'm ready, my lord

With language and imagery that transcends religious profession, Cohen once again asks G-d, not about presence, but about absence. G-d demands so much of us, perhaps too much. Then at crucial moments, usually when we need it most, G-d's presence is all too easily withdrawn.

But here's the conundrum that Cohen seems to be putting before us: If you have to ask G-d why G-d is absent, then the clear implication is that G-d exists and is present at least some of the time. And if that's true, then perhaps G-d does love us after all.

Hineni – "Here I am" – is not a particularly common Hebrew word. In fact it occurs only eight times in the five books that make up the Torah, usually at some pivotal moment. It implies a deep spiritual presence, a readiness. When G-d calls Abraham before the Akeda – the binding of Isaac – Abraham answers "Hineni" – "Here I am." before he even knows what G-d wants. When G-d addresses Moses from the burning bush, Moses answers "Hineni" – "Here I am." Somehow, despite his shock, Moses understands that he is in the presence of G-d.

Cohen's "Hineni, hineni" is not about being ready for death. It is an acknowledgement that G-d calls each of us for something even if, like Moses, we try desperately to extricate ourselves. *You Want It Darker* is not Cohen's Requiem Mass. It is an acceptance, however

reserved, that G-d moves, sometimes ineffably, in this world and in this life.

Hineni, says the poet. Here I am.

Hineni, says G-d. Here I am.
Love, mortal and divine, is truly the only engine of survival.



A Leaf has been donated on the Past President's Tree of Life

**In appreciation to Patsy Royer
by Temple Israel**

**In memory of Laura Spergel
by Alan & Julie Spergel, Brian &
Kippy Spergel, Brenda & Ray
Ryan and Mark & Marla Spergel**

CITY VIEW
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Starting at
\$1850/month

**Ottawa's First Affordable
Retirement Community!**

www.cityviewretirement.com
613-857-3879

Temple Israel Ottawa Foundation

In Our Hands, Our Future
Mark Klyman President • Annette Paquin

To support one of these funds with a donation,
call Bobbi Soderstrom 613 230-5865 or
email foundation@templeisraelottawa.ca

Endowment Funds: Abbey; Remy & Alain Albagli; Anne and Howard Alper; Bercovitch; Gale Blank; B'nai Mitzvah Fund; Bradbury/Klyman; Evelyne Dreyfus; Shlomo Feldberg Memorial; Finkelstein/Scales; Hugo & Gretl Keren Fischer; Freeman/Burgess Family; Joseph Ginsberg; Brian and Susan Gold; Halpern; Halton/Weiss; Haltetrecht-Matte; Holzman; Lepine/Lyons; Levitan; Maddams/Weiner; Maslove; Miller/Saïpe; Salamon/Moon; Shentow; Singer; Sokoloff/Sabourin; Spergel; Spunt/Mendel; Steingarten; Taub; Friends of Temple Israel; Friends of T.I.(O).F.; Anne-Laure Levain Viner Memorial; Gary & Debra Viner; Family:Wall; Walsh/Rosenkrantz .

FREEMAN/BURGESS FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND **40th Anniversary of Patsy and Georges Royer**

Martin Freeman and Joanne Burgess

In Memory of Estelle Weiss

Martin Freeman and Joanne Burgess

HALPERN ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Estelle Weiss

Hannah and Gerald Halpern

In Memory of Carole Elaine McGeough

Hannah and Gerald Halpern

MASLOVE ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov on Bat Mitzvah of Marilyn Takefman

Marsha and Allan Maslove

Mazel Tov to Leslie and Mel Springman on Bar Mitzvah of Aiden Solomon

Marsha and Allan Maslove

SINGER ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov to Aron Spector, Fran Klodawsky, Noah and Gabe

Margo and Frank Rosen

In Memory of Valerie Simmons

Margo and Frank Rosen

Mazel Tov to Brian and Susan Gold on the birth of their granddaughter

Margo and Frank Rosen

GARY AND DEBRA VINER ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Valerie Simmons

Gary and Debra Viner

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Gary and Heather Cohen

Gary and Debra Viner

In Memory of Estelle Weiss

Gary and Debra Viner

WALSH/ROSENKRANTZ FAMILY FUND

For the wonderful care of the Ghattas Family

Lewis Leikin

Shalom Temple families. I wanted to give the congregation an update on what FROSTY has been up to. In November, our friends at Temple Har Zion and Temple Kol Ami (Thornhill, ON) hosted the second NFTY-NEL event of the year: Fall Kallah. This weekend focused on activities and workshops that encouraged positive social change. Whether it was writing chesed cards to isolated seniors, baking muffins for the homeless or learning about services for Holocaust survivors – FROSTY members and I learned about new ways on how we can give back to our community.

To keep the momentum going, FROSTY organized an impromptu bowling outing at the beginning of December. It was an afternoon full of laughter, fun and friendly competition. We left tired but in good spirits and with a couple of new friends.

Time is flying by and 2018 is just in a few of weeks. With that in mind, FROSTY is diligently working on an amazing Chanukah program to wrap up 2017 and is actively reaching out to teens to join in on the fun.

Until next time... we hope you all have a Happy Hanukah.

Lisa Rossman
FROSTY Advisor



Temple Donations

Temple donation cards are a lovely way to wish someone mazel tov, celebrate a birth, extend condolences, and for any and all occasions.

Please choose from one of various funds for Temple Israel; Bernard Pearl Landscaping; Capital; CCRJ Camp George; Library; Joseph Ginsberg Educational; Liturgical Resource Library; Outreach; Pentateuch Prayerbook; Piano; Rabbi's Discretionary; Rabbi Steven Garten Fund for Jewish Living and Education; Dr. Imre Rosenberg Memorial; Social Action; Potechin Accessibility Fund; Sylvia Goldblatt Leadership Youth Development; Temple Israel; Youth Scholarship

Please note: donations are \$18 minimum. Tax receipts are given.

A package of 10 cards/envelopes may also be purchased for you to send yourself. Please contact the office to arrange, cost is \$175 for the package. A tax receipt is given for this donation. If you provide card details to the office, the information will be included in our bulletin.

You can also call or email **Sandy Bennett** (sb@templeisraelottawa.ca 613-270-9567) or **Diane Parkin** (dp@templeisraelottawa.ca or 613-729-9163) and they will send out a card on your behalf.

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Ruth Shane

Christine Eisenhower

In memory of Valerie Simmons

Marilyn Binder

ONEG FUND

Anne & Howard Alper

PIANO FUND

In memory of Laura Spengel

Ray & Brenda Ryan, Alan & Julie Spengel, Mark & Marla Spengel & Brian & Kippy Spengel

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Garten on receiving the Raoul Wallenberg Citation

AC & Marc Dolgin

In observance of the yahrzeit of Benjamin Julius Rabnowitz

Andrea Grossman

POTECHIN ACCESSIBILITY FUND

In observance of the yahrzeit of Aaron Kamins

Mark Kamins & Sue Potechin

In memory of Andy Levine's mother

Sue Potechin, Mark Kamins, Shira, Jack, Joel Robin, Sam & Maya

Aunt Bessie Kamins

Mazal Tov to Debra & Gary Viner on Lauren's marriage

Mark Kamins & Sue Potechin, Sam & Maya

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Morais

The Werk family

Tanya Feldman

In memory of Valerie Simmons

Ezra Miller

Wishing Heather & Gary Cohen a speedy recovery

Jeanette & Arnold Finkelstein

Ezra Miller

RABBI GARTEN FUND FOR JEWISH LIVING AND EDUCATION

Speedy recovery to Joel Morgan

David Michaelson

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Garten on receiving the Raoul Wallenberg Citation

Sara Shabsove

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Ruth Shane

Dena Speevak & Ted Cooke

Carol Silcoff

Fran Klodawsky & Aaron Spector

Lynne Hoffman

Susan Schacter & Patrick Bradley

David Nozick

Happy Special Birthday to Sheila Baslaw

Sandy & Al Bennett

Mazal Tov to Fran Klodawsky & Aron Spector on Noah receiving his PHD.

Toby & Joel Yan

TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND

In appreciation

Rachel Lawless

Francine Schlessinger

Wishing speedy recovery to Heather & Gary Cohen

Molly & Mark Blacher

Miriam Salamon & Bob Moon

In memory of Valerie Simmons

Miriam Salamon & Bob Moon



Put your business card size ad in the Temple Israel Bulletin, only \$180 for six issues. Please contact the office at 613-224-1802 for information.

Temple Programs

המרכז הרפואי שערי צדק (ע"ר) מסונף לביה"ס לרפואה של האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
SHAARE ZEDEK MEDICAL CENTER, Jerusalem Affiliated with the Hebrew University School of Medicine, Jerusalem



Jerusalem, Thursday 9th November 2017

Dear friends from the Temple Israel Quilters Ottawa Canada,



As always you have blessed us once again with the most exquisite handmade and "lovemade" for our little precious babies.

As you can see from the attached photo even the little ones within the NICU who are not in an incubator but in a warm bed also get to enjoy your colorful handy work.

There are no words that can truly express our appreciation towards your kindness and commitment to send us over and over again these beautiful little treasures!

Thank you!

As always, with love from Jerusalem,
Audrey Gross, Guest Relations
Resource Development & Public Affairs

web designer



Debbie Holzman

www.holzman.ca

debbie@holzman.ca


Sunday January 21st at 1pm
Temple Israel

Special showing of the
classic film.

Come dressed as your
favourite character

**"Fiddler
on the Roof"
Sing-Along**

Temple Israel
עץ החיים
Jewish life happens here

 **Carleton
UNIVERSITY**
Max and Tessie Zelikovitz
Centre for Jewish Studies

Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit: Remembering on the Anniversary of a Death

Lighting candles and saying Kaddish each year in memory of a loved one. Yahrzeit is a Yiddish word meaning anniversary of a death. It is the yearly anniversary of a loved one's death. Jews observe yahrzeit at home by lighting a special long-burning candle in memory of the deceased and at Temple yahrzeit is observed by reciting the Mourner's Kaddish at services. The names of those observing yahrzeit during the preceeding week are read at our services on Friday nights and Saturdays.

In addition to lighting yahrzeit candle many individuals chose to make a donation to mark the observance of a yahrzeit. If you would like to make a donation to Temple or sponsor a Kiddush in observance of a loved one, please contact the office.

January 5 - 6 Shemot

Maxwell Allister
Alan Leslie Bernstein
Abram Isaac Bolker
Olga Engel
Alan Evenchick
Leib Finkelstein
Arnold Fradkin
Arthur Gottdank
Gustav Hecht
Margot Hoexter
Jessie Kalin
Bluma Klodawski
Mose Korn
Alex McKeague
Nicholas Michelson
Major Migie
Chaim Miller
Yetta Pearl
Bert Phillips
Arthur Ramsay
June Rybak
Abraham Saslove
Becky Schrier
Sybil Smith
Aaron Sobel
Jack Thomas
Jack Weinberg
Leo Weiner
Saamario Wolfson

January 12 - 13 Va'era

Estelle Barkun
Maurice David Brownstein
Goodman Cohen
Joseph Griffin
Max Gross
Harry Halpern
Steffi Halton
Teena Hendelman
John Holzman
Frieda Lillian Lauterman
Frank Loves
Adidi Lukusa
Stanely Maddams
Caroline Murphy
Joseph Schrier
Linda Marcia Silverman
Jay Sokoloff
Eva Waldman
Lillian Webber
Max Webber

January 19-20 Bo

Remy Albagli
Zelda Bliss Rabinowitz
Henry Irving Bolker
Naim Corin
Moe Feldman
Florence Finberg
Aline Gagnon
Harold Garten
Gerald Gilman
Israel Clarke Kaplan
Haroun Sasson Khazzam
Dahlia Kuwayti
Helen Maslove
Goldie Moraff
Helen Parkin
Myrna Evelyn Potechin
Benjamin Rappaport
Otto Weisz

January 26-27 Beshalach

Anne Abrams
William Asherman
Joseph Dolgin
Joseph Gibson
Mary Goodwin
Amalie Grosser
Martin Grumach
Eileen Holley
Dora Kaufman
Esther Malka Portugal
Mary Potechin
Jack Rachlis
Mikhail Rogov
Martin A Schwartz
Robert Spergel
Jack Waldman
Frank Weinstein
Isidore Zackon

February 2-3 Yitro

Sarah Debora Avram
Elsie Baker
Bernice Berkowitz
Jacob Chochinov
Emma Fairhurst
John Ginsburg
Norman Green
Hella Hecht
Igor Livshits
Maurice Miller
Helga Ron
Izzie Rosenberg

February 2-3 (contd)

Louis Sacks
Tillie Schneider
Irwin Singer
Norma Strum
Mark Tomiuk
Hilda Van Straten
Abraham Wexler
Berthold Wolff;

February 9-10 Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim

Tauba Chochinov
Charles Fine
Hugo Fischer
Clara Pagurek Fishbain
Andrew Fodor
Harvey Hacker
Marsha Henault
Leon Leckie
Harry Lyons (Lubetsky)
Anne Taller Saslove
Morris John Spergel
Sylvia Blake Van Praagh
Ethel Wallace
Ida Weinstein
Issie Werk
Shirley Winer

February 16-17 Terumah

Ely Braileanu
Mina Dover-Cohen
Samuel Frankel
Sarah Gross
Roselle Hock
George Karlin
Solomon Lebofsky
Sylvia Margosches Haltrecht
Theresa Mortimer
Simon Reisman
Barney Ross
Herbert Rothschild
Evelyn Scales
Etta Pleet Schleifer
Paul Shore
Sherman Shore
Joseph Stein
Isaac Stern
Anne Sternberg
Robert Sully
Leon Weiss
Philip Whiteside

February 23-24 Tetzaveh Shabbat Zachor

Marie Albagli
Harry Baker
Rachel Chait
Frances Ena Cook
Joseph Fine
Lily Garber
Sylvia Garber-Easdown
Ruth Gold
Murray Goldenblatt
Wilma Gordon
Jacob Kummermann
Sadie Labovitch
Myriam C. Marshall
Elliot Moraff
Anne O'Neil
Esther Padolsky
Samuel Paul
Samuel Schrier
Serafima Shapiro
Alvyn Jules Shiller
Sam Silburt
Berta Sonnino
Vivian Spilg

March 2-3 Ki Tissa

Lawrence Adams
Steve Angel
Michael Bambiger
Hyman Barkun
Edward Cohen
Shlomo Feldberg
Eva Fine
Harold Sydney Freeman
Alicia Grumach
Roy Martin Horovitch
Meta Kasproicz
Baruch Lubell
Leonna Merson
Rose Morris
Sophie Ruth Noble
Harold Pearl
David Polowin
Benjamin Shapiro
Samuel Sokoloff
Fanny Stern
Hersz Szajnfarber
Sara Weinberg
Chadvereh Wolch

Calendar

JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 14 Tevet	2 15 Tevet	3 16 Tevet Talmud Class	4 17 Tevet	5 18 Tevet Kabbalat Shabbat	6 19 Tevet Torah Study Shabbat Services
7 20 Tevet NO SCHOOL	8 21 Tevet TIRS	9 22 Tevet	10 23 Tevet Talmud Class TIRS	11 24 Tevet Morning Minyan	12 25 Tevet Kabbalat Shabbat Bring your Own Dinner	13 26 Tevet Torah Study Shabbat Services
14 27 Tevet TIRS	15 28 Tevet TIRS	16 29 Tevet	17 1 Shevat NO Talmud Class TIRS	18 2 Shevat Morning Minyan Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Leitman	19 3 Shevat Kabbalat Shabbat	20 4 Shevat Torah Study Shabbat Services
21 5 Shevat TIRS Sing Along Fiddler See page 15	22 6 Shevat TIRS	23 7 Shevat	24 8 Shevat Talmud Class TIRS	25 9 Shevat Morning Minyan	26 10 Shevat TOTally Shabbat	27 11 Shevat Torah Study Shabbat Services
28 12 Shevat TIRS	29 13 Shevat TIRS	30 14 Shevat	31 15 Shevat NO Talmud Class TIRS TU B'SHEVAT			

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Temple Israel Ottawa is a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community that welcomes all who seek spiritual connection through the sacred values of Torah, prayer, learning, music, Gemilut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness), Tzedakah (Charity) and Tikkun Olam (healing the world).

As an active member of the Union for Reform Judaism, Temple is linked to the Reform movement in North America, Israel and around the world.

Calendar

FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 16 Shevat	2 17 Shevat Kabbalat Shabbat	3 18 Shevat Torah Study Shabbat Services
4 19 Shevat TIRS	5 20 Shevat TIRS	6 21 Shevat	7 22 Shevat TIRS	8 23 Shevat Morning Minyan	9 24 Shevat Kabbalat Shabbat Bring your Own Dinner	10 25 Shevat Torah Study Shabbat Services
11 26 Shevat TIRS	12 27 Shevat TIRS	13 28 Shevat	14 29 Shevat TIRS	15 30 Shevat	16 1 Adar Kabbalat Shabbat	17 2 Adar Torah Study Shabbat Services
18 3 Adar NO SCHOOL	19 4 Adar NO SCHOOL	20 5 Adar	21 6 Adar TIRS	22 7 Adar Morning Minyan	23 8 Adar TOTally Shabbat	24 9 Adar Torah Study Shabbat Services
25 10 Adar TIRS	26 11 Adar TIRS	27 12 Adar	28 13 Adar TIRS PURIM See page 7			

Contact us:

Temple Israel - 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, Ont K2C 1N2

Tel: 613-224-1802 Fax: 613-224-0707

Website: www.templeisraelottawa.ca

Senior Rabbi: S. Robert Morais
rabbimorais@templeisraelottawa.com

Rabbi Emeritus: Steven H. Garten
rabbishg@templeisraelottawa.com

Executive Director: Heather Parker Cohen
execdir@templeisraelottawa.com

Administration Officer: Cathy Loves
cathy@templeisraelottawa.com

TIRS Principal : Sue Potechin
tirs@templeisraelottawa.ca