



January Bulletin 2024

22 Shevat – 20 Adar I 5784

*“The Community Synagogue in Southern Saratoga County”*

*Founded in 1974*

688 Clifton Park Center  
Road

Clifton Park, NY

518-371-0608

### **Message from Rabbi Monson**

#### **EMBRACING THE U.S. HOLIDAY SEASON AS A JEWISH PERSON**

**Jewish kids and Christmas: For some parents, this combination can seem like a proverbial minefield of challenges presented to us each winter. The secular world, it seems, becomes infinitely less so as Christmas decorations, commercials, and episodes of beloved kids shows proliferate.**

**For interfaith families, which celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas, this time can be especially fraught. My own 6 year old son is obsessed with the Grinch, and he and I sit and watch the animated movie over and over again.**

**Must this bring on holiday anxiety? Perhaps for those in interfaith marriages, or where a parent or both parents have converted to Judaism, they are presented with a real inner dilemma. At times, my friends who are in interfaith relationships feel obligated to place a huge amount of pressure to make Hanukkah more fun, festive, and memorable for their children.**

**Even when I was in high school (and I went to Jewish Day School) I had friends' parents who had a Chanukah Bush. Is it ok to still have a tree in ones home and celebrate both holidays? All of this can be very confusing, and when it comes to winter holidays, it can cause feelings of resentment and competition.**

**What's the answer? Do what you feel is right for your family. It is not easy to be an American Jew in today's world.**

**Message from the Oval Office**  
**Message From Linda In The Oval Office**

Since my last article for the Congregation Beth Shalom bulletin, the world has changed. Israel is at war and antisemitism is rampant. Beth Shalom has answered the call to support a battalion of Israeli soldiers, a member of which has a personal connection to Rabbi Ami. Thank you to Peter Rosenfeld for organizing a fund drive to purchase necessary supplies for these soldiers. In addition, we were also able to supply about two weeks' worth of hot meals for soldiers. Thank you for your generous donations!

On the home front, we found it necessary to ramp up security for our synagogue. A big thank you goes out to the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department! They have gone above and beyond to assure that our synagogue remains a safe and welcoming place to congregate. We have also installed a Ring Doorbell and have two panic buttons which I sincerely hope that we will never have to use. All of these security measures enable us to attend services and special events. We need to continue to show support for each other and continue moving forward with our programs.

Speaking of programs, as of this writing, Chanukah is just ending, and we can rejoice knowing that we had an incredibly successful Chanukah Concert. Thank you to Saratoga Jewish Community Arts and the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York for their sponsorship. Beth Shalom provided the venue for this performance, and we received rave reviews from all who attended. Guests commented on how friendly everyone was, the musicians loved the performance space, and the gift bags were a big hit! It was a totally joyous evening – something we all need right now. Thank you to all who volunteered to make this event the success that it was!

Our Partnership, formerly Sisterhood and Men's Club, has been very busy these past few months. Our Veterans Day program featured a very interesting talk and Power Point presentation from Lieutenant Tiffany Peruolo. She discussed her experiences in the army, why she decided to enlist, and what it is like to be a female Jewish soldier. Tiffany even joined us the following Friday evening to join us for services! A delicious brunch followed the presentation. Thank you to Larry Friedman, Annie Friedman, Les Miller, Sandy Rubin, Steve Gellman, Linda Russell, and Cindy Barnett for organizing this program and brunch. Apologies if I left anyone out.

As part of Tikkun Olam, Congregation Beth Shalom donated four Thanksgiving baskets to Captain along with additional food for their food pantry. We also participated in Captain's Adopt-A-Child where we provided a young boy with his "wish list" items for Christmas. Again, members of Congregation Beth Shalom were extremely generous with their donations.

Continued from page 2

We are looking forward to many fun and educational programs in the coming months including a presentation by Dr. James Hershberg on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Hershberg is a history professor at George Washington University as well as a nephew of Phyllis and Lew Morrison. He is a leading scholar on Cold War history and the Manhattan Project. There has been an increased interest in this topic especially after the release of the movie "Oppenheimer." Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Wishing all of you a Happy and Healthy 2024!

Linda

**From the desk of Morah Tziporah..**

Please mark your calendar for  
Shabbat morning, January 27th  
for a Shabbat morning Torah service

Please continue to attend our  
Friday evening services  
as well as Sunday morning Torah study.  
The appropriate passwords  
are posted weekly.

B'shalom,

FLO Miller

# SCRIP 2023



SCRIP The list includes hundreds of businesses nationwide—retail stores, supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, rental cars, pharmacies, movie theaters, i-tunes, Amazon... to name just a few.



VENEZIA'S Enjoy great pizza, salad, eggplant, and other delicious food – dine-in or take-out.

Please contact Jackie for additional information or to place an order. 518-371-0608 or [congregationbethshalomcp@gmail.com](mailto:congregationbethshalomcp@gmail.com). Why not ask about our **Venezia gift certificates**. They can be purchased in any amount you want. There is no expiration date on the certificates.

If it is **SCRIP** you want, the list includes hundreds of businesses nationwide—retail stores, supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, rental cars, pharmacies, movie theaters, i-tunes, Amazon, to name just a few. Just ask and we will get them for you at no extra cost to you.

Please, help support our synagogue by buying SCRIP.  
For every card that you purchase we get a percentage of it.

**There is something new coming to our Scrip program. Keep watching the announcements and the bulletin to see what it is. I'm sure you will be as excited as I am. Don't worry you won't need to worry to much longer. Our new president is busy trying to make things so much easier for all of us.**

**Keep up the good work Linda (Gellman)**

## **Sisterhood/Men's Club Partnership**

Hi to everybody from The Partnership,

We've been very busy starting from The High Holy Days. We sponsored Break the Fast, lunch in the sukkah, Thanksgiving baskets for Captain families, and we adopted a child through Captain for Christmas. We also partnered with the Synagogue for the Veteran's day lunch. We're starting to plan for the rest of the year. As always suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Sandy, Annie, & Les

## Jamie Geller's Seven-Species Harvest Chicken For Tu B'shvat

- 2 onions, chopped
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons [Jamie Geller Hawajj for Coffee](#) (a Yemenite spice blend for coffee)
- 2 chickens, cut into eighths
- ½ cup (65 g) flour
- 1 cup dried whole figs
- 1 cup (240 g) dried whole dates
- 1 cup (240 mL) white wine
- 1 cup (240 mL) pomegranate juice
- (200 g) barley
- 2 cups (475 mL) chicken stock
- 1 cup (230 g) almonds or pecans (optional)
- Salt and pepper, to taste

### PREPARATION

Sauté onions in olive oil in a large pot. Add hawajj for coffee.

Toss chicken in a bowl with flour, then add chicken to pot and brown on all sides. (This may need to be done in shifts, according to the size of your pot.)

Return all chicken pieces to the pot and add figs, dates, wine, pomegranate juice, barley, chicken stock, and nuts. Cook 45–60 minutes or until chicken has cooked through. Serve with couscous.

President's message  
 Partnership News  
 Cantorial Assistant's news  
 Birthdays  
 Anniversaries  
 Donations  
 Yahrzeits  
 Happenings around the community

Be sure to check out our bulletin sponsors' ads

**There is always something happening at Congregation Beth Shalom.**

Did you know that we have an advanced Mah Jongg group that meets at CBS every Wednesday at 12 noon.. If you're interested please call Barbara Lazarow at 518-877-5468. Special tip: these players are fast and not for the weak at heart.



**EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023 - 2024**

President.....	Linda Gellman	518-441-0383
VP Administration.....	Linda Russell	518-371-3641
VP Membership	Colleen Silverman	518-371-0555
Treasurer.....	Miriam Cooperman	518-383-0066
Recording Secretary.....	Linda Russell (temp)	
Past President	David Clayman	518-399-9206

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

		Wendy Pyle	2025
Fern Hayden	2024	Betsy Knorr	2025
Barbara Lazarow	2024	Mark Cury	2025

**BOARD OF ADVISORS**

**Appointed Board members**

Cemetery.....	Barbara Lazarow, Colleen Kohan, Silverman and Lynne Margolius
House.....	David Clayman
Israeli Affairs.....	BJ Rosenfeld
Publicity.....	Wendy Pyle
Reyut.....	Carol Davis & Sandy Rybaltowski
Ritual.....	Flo Miller
Partnership .....	Sandy Rubin and Friedman
Social Action.....	Michael Weitzman
Web .....	Steve Hayden
COEJL.....	Lew Morrison
Listserv.....	Jackie Pajak
Bulletin.....	Jackie Pajak & Linda Russell

The deadline for all articles for the bulletin is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. Please email your articles to [congregationbethshalomcp@gmail.com](mailto:congregationbethshalomcp@gmail.com) or you can drop them off at the synagogue office.

Purchasing a plaque you can call the synagogue office 371-0608 and speak with Jackie. The cost for each plaque is \$250.00

Remember that special date with either a leaf or an acorn or even a stone on our Tree of Life. Congregants and interested public may celebrate a mitzvah (happy occasion) or commemorate a memory by purchasing one or more of the following:



Stones - \$1500



Leaf \$180



Acorns \$500

For further information regarding purchasing a leaf, acorn or stone for the Tree of Life, please contact Jackie at 371-0608 or e-mail her at [cbshalom@nvcap.rr.com](mailto:cbshalom@nvcap.rr.com)



**Did you know you can make donations to the Cemetery Fund at Beth Shalom?**

Your cemetery committee is presently looking into refurbishing the many headstones that are in dire need of repairs.

On a recent visit to the cemetery, it was noticed that there are over 25 headstones that need our attention. If you have a loved one, or know of someone who has a loved one buried here, it will be a “mitzvah” to help us in this endeavor.

Barbara Lazarow, Colleen Kohan Silverman, Lynne Margolius – your Cemetery Committee





## Next Hadassah Book Review in January

**Date:** Monday, January 22

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Book:** Only the Beautiful by Susan Meissner

**Hosted on:** Zoom and in person at Congregation Beth Shalom



**PEACE & HOPE**



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**Leaves - \$180**

**Acorns - \$500**

**Stones - \$1500**

For further information regarding purchasing a leaf, acorn or stone for the **Tree of Life**, please contact Jackie at 371-0608



*Is there something you would like to see published in the Beth Shalom bulletin? All you need to do is e-mail your article or news to [congregationbethshalomcp@gmail.com](mailto:congregationbethshalomcp@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month of publication.*

*We are always open to new ideas to spark the interest of our readers. We do ask that you keep your article short and to the point.*

*Please be advised that all articles are printed at the discretion of the bulletin editor.*



**BULLETIN**

## September Birthdays

Jan. 14 Cijndy Barnett  
14 Jo-Ann Levy  
18 Linda Gellman  
22 Miriam Cooperman



*There are no anniversaries in January*

## **MAZEL TOV**



# Thank You!

First of all, I want to wish everyone a **HAPPY NEW YEAR.** Here we are in the year 2024. Who would have thought I would still be here at Beth Shalom? I know I surely didn't. All of the holidays are behind us for a short time.

As most of you already know, I hate snow. In fact, I hate the color white. Thank GOD, so far so good with the white, cold stuff falling. I am so ready for spring,

We have been busy here at Beth Shalom, what with the Welcome Back brunch for our Snow Birds, and then the Veterans Day program and brunch, and the Hanukkah Concert.

I don't need to go on. You get the idea.

As most of you know, I have been having problems with my back for the past couple of months. After 4 years of living with terrible pain they finally discovered I have spinal stenosis, and if that wasn't enough, I got sciatica in November. That is the reason for my bent posture.

We have been collecting money to help out the Israeli soldiers. In this bulletin there is a list of congregants who have already given to this cause. This is an ongoing Mitzva. And there is time to add your name to this list.

May GOD bless and keep us safe FOR as long as there is life on this earth.

*Jackie*

True friends  
aren't the ones  
who make your  
problems disappear  
  
They're the ones who  
won't disappear  
when you're  
facing problems.



**DONATIONS TO ISRAEL**

**Peter & BJ Rosenfeld**

**Mark & Nancy Cury**

**Barry & Karen Hamerling**

**Lou & Phyllis Morrison**

**Robert & Elaine Lowenberg**

**John & Sandy Rybaltowski**

**Brenda Sugarman**

**Jill Rosenfeld**

**Barbara Bergman**

**Carol Davis**

**Mike & Gloria Kupferman**

**Sandy Rubin**

**Linda Russell**

**CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM GRACEOUSLY ACCEPTS THESE DONATIONS:**

**General**

**Ricardo & Pola Dobry In memory of Anita Marklevich  
Daniel & Debi Huber & Anne Ross in memory of Herbert Ross  
Lewis & Phyllis Morrison in memory of Amanda Morrison  
Lewis & Phyllis Morrison in memory of Jack Morrison  
Howard Savage in memory of Sam Abramowitz  
Jeffrey & Paula Snyder in memory of David Tyman  
Joyce Toub in memory of Esther Silverstein  
Toby Elman in memory of Annabelle Elman Scher  
Dan & Debi Huber in memory of Dorothy Huber**

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

**Toby Elman in memory of Louis Scher  
Richard & Raylene Jacobs in memory of Joseph Levine  
Richard & Raylene Jacobs in memory of Samuel Jacobs  
Robert & Colleen (Kohan) Silverman in memory of Edward Casey  
Robert & Colleen (Kohan) Silverman in memory of Fred Silverman  
Robert & Colleen (Kohan) Silverman in memory of Hy Kohan  
Robert & Colleen (Kohan) Silverman in memory of Kay Wixson**

**Cemetery**

**Michelle Rafael in memory of Irving Kleid**

**Reyut**

Jan	2	Tevet	21	Mark Cury	Theodore Cury	father
	2		21	Florence Miller	Mollie Segal	mother
	2		21	Elaine Lowenberg	Morris Yanovitz	father
	4		23	Fern Hayden	Leona Salkind	grandmother
	8		27	Phyllis Morrison	William Ackerman	father
	10		29	Raylene Jacobs	Ann Shapiro Levine	mother
	12	Shevat	2	Bruce Kopf	Bernard Kopf	father
	12		2	Anne Ross	Benjamin Krever	father
	15		5	Fern Hayden	Bernard Weisenfreund	father
	16		6	Leslie Miller	Simon Miller	uncle
	17		7	Lewis Morrison	Jeanette Morrison	mother
	17		7	Nancy Cury	Leo Samen	father
	17		7	Toby Elman	Esther Gellman Scher	mother
	19		9	Karen Hamerling	Marcella Lichter	mother
	20		10	Wendy Pyle	Mannie Lieberman	father
	20		10	Sandra Rybaltowski	Samuel Simon	brother
	23		13	Barbara Geizer	Bernard Geizer	husband
	25		15	Barbara Bergman	Richard Bergman	husband
	27		17	Howard Savage	Fayge Abramowitz	mother-in-law
	27		17	Linda Gellman	Debra Blumenthal Crane	sister
	29		19	Debi Huber	Sanford Ross	brother

May their memories always be a blessing