



February 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

Different Ways to Interpret The Ten Commandments

A Rabbi once shared a story with me at a conference. It was about a person who wandered into his synagogue to ask G-d for forgiveness, repent, and pray. The sanctuary happened to feature an art piece with the Ten Commandments written out. Though the man was familiar with them from childhood, his altered mindset produced an unexpected effect during this particular encounter.

“You shall not commit adultery.”

The man had. But that wasn't what struck him. It was that he suddenly saw a different way of reading it. What if it wasn't a command? What if the author wasn't demanding holiness, but instead listing behaviors that might slip away naturally if the reader could just be free of the pain and shame driving their actions? And what if he was being asked to let go?

This story made me think so much about all the different ways we can interpret or carry out the Ten Commandments, or even all of the Six Hundred and Thirteen Commandments.

Through my learning I discovered that during the Second Temple Period of Judaism, a few clever rabbis had figured out that you could reduce the Ten Commandments to just two:

1. Love God with all you have.
2. Love your neighbor as yourself.

Perhaps we should do as the Ethics of The Fathers tells us, "To Say Little and Do Much." In other words, we need not be wordy, just obedient and honor G-d's Commandments.

Message from the Oval Office

Message From Linda

I am so impressed with the way this congregation continues to move forward! For Friday evening Kabbalat Services, we have had at least a minyan every week. Even on a frigid evening, a couple of weeks ago, attendance was amazing. On January 27th, which was Shabbat Shiirah, Flo conducted services and chanted “Song of The Sea” from our Holocaust Torah. Thank you, Flo, for your wonderful job! Since that date was around the time of Tu B’Shevat, we celebrated the New Year of The Trees with a special kiddush which was representative of the Seven Species. We had a wonderful turnout for this event and plan on making this an annual tradition! Thank you to Annie Friedman, Sandy Rubin, and Linda Russell for preparing this festive kiddush.

Speaking of Kiddushim, if you would like to honor a loved one, celebrate a simcha, or just because, please contact Sandy Rubin at (518) 877-7878 or email her at:

sgr1rubin@aol.com. The general cost for a basic Friday evening kiddush is \$40 and for a Saturday morning kiddush is \$50. This is subject to change and will be determined by your selection of food items. The partnership (Sisterhood and Men’s Club) has been paying for kiddushim from their own account for a few years now. By sponsoring a kiddush, not only will you be offsetting their costs but also performing a mitzvah! If you will be sponsoring a kiddush, it will be announced in the weekly newsletter.

Brenda Sugarman began a new study group a couple of months ago titled, “What Are We Saying When We Are Praying” which has become an overwhelming success! This study group is focused on the prayers we recite during Kabbalat Shabbat services, and we delve into their meanings. Our discussions have branched out to some of our own personal experiences and interpretations which allows for a very interesting, educational, and fun experience. Please join us at our next meeting at Brenda’s home at 4 Mystic Lane, Clifton Park, on Tuesday, February 13th at 2 pm. Please contact Brenda ahead of time by emailing her at magistras4@aol.com or calling her at (518) 371- 2572.

We have many talented and intelligent congregants who are always thinking “out of the box”. If any of you have ideas to form a study group, synagogue book club, get together for games, service projects, programs, etc. please share your ideas with me. Working together, we CAN make things happen!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Linda

From the desk of Morah Tziporah..

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, 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. You won't need to wonder too 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)!

Fig Preserves Cake

from Baked by Scratch (<https://bakefromscratch.com>)

Makes 1 (9-inch) cake

Ingredients

- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup (160 grams) whole buttermilk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (160 grams) fig preserves
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (113 grams) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup (200 grams) granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs (100 grams)
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups (188 grams) all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon (2.5 grams) baking soda
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon kosher salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (57 grams) chopped toasted pecans
- Lemon Cream Glaze (recipe follows)
- Garnish: fresh figs

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Spray a 9-inch round cake pan with baking spray with flour.
2. In the container of a blender, place buttermilk and preserves; process until combined. Set aside.
3. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat butter and sugar at medium speed until fluffy, 3 to 4 minutes, stopping to scrape sides of bowl. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
4. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon. Reduce mixer speed to low. Gradually add flour mixture to butter mixture alternately with buttermilk mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture, beating just until combined after each addition. Stir in pecans. Spoon batter into prepared pan.
5. Bake until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean, about 35 minutes. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove from pan and let cool completely on a wire rack. Spread Lemon Cream Glaze onto cake. Garnish with figs, if desired.

Lemon Cream Glaze

Makes about 1 cup

Ingredients

- 2 cups (240 grams) confectioners' sugar
- 6 tablespoons (90 grams) heavy whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons (30 grams) fresh lemon juice

Instructions

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together confectioners' sugar, cream, and lemon juice until smooth. Use immediately.

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 15th of the month prior to publication. Please email your articles to 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@nycap.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 February

Date: Monday, February, 19th

Time: 1:00 PM

Book: Kantika, by Elizabeth Graver.

Hosted on: Zoom and in person at Congregation Beth Shalom





PEACE & HOPE

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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:

- 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 by the 15th 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

February Birthdays

Feb., 10 Barbara Bergman
18 Robert Lowenberg



There are no anniversaries in February

MAZEL TOV



**Thank
you!**

I am sure you will agree this has been the craziest winter. Of course I love the warmer weather and no snow.

We lost two wonderful congregants in the past two months. First we lost long time member Judie Nauman, and then we lost Mannie Safer. Both will be greatly missed.

I want to send out a big thank you to Linda Gellman for taking over my duties while I was out. While I am talking about Linga Gellman let's give her a big congratulations for being our choice to be honored at Mensches and Mimosas this year. I am sure everyone will agree with me that she is a go getter. She is behind a lot of changes here at Beth Shalom. She is a ball of fire. I hope she decides to take the president's position for another year. There are still so many other things to be done, that you will agree she is the person to see that they are completed,

We are still collecting money to help out the Israeli soldiers. In this bulletin there is a list of congregants who have already given to this cause. It is an ongoing Mitzvah. 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

Marilyn & Curt Auerbach

Miriam Cooperman

Linda & Stephen Gellman

Leonard Chodosh

Adrian Kivort

**Colleen Kohan Silverman & Robert
Silverman**

Brenda Sugarman

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM GRACEOUSLY ACCEPTS THESE DONATIONS:

General

**Greg & Wendy Pyle in memory of Rita & George Pyle, Anita & Mannie Lieberman,
Donna Juhasz**

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Stephen & Linda Gellman in memory of Debbie Blumenthal Crane

Cemetery

Colleen Kohan Silverman & Robert Silverman in memory of Edith Kohan

DATE	CONGREGANT	DECEASED	RELATIONSHIP
Feb 2 Shevat 23	Carol Davis	Ben Davis	father
2 23	Robert Lowenberg	Louis Lowenberg	uncle
3 24	Michael Kupferman	Solomon Shapiro	grandfather
4 25	Linda Gellman	Malcolm Blumenthal	father
4 25	Miriam Cooperman	Rebecca Vertillo	Mother in law
7 28	Colleen Kohan Silverman	Edith Kohan	mother in law
7 28	Carol Kohan	Edith Kohan	mother
9 30	Toby Elman	Abraham Elman	father in law
9 30	Donna Kopf	Muriel Gelband	mother
9 30	Barbara Lazarow	Ida Lazarow	mother in law
9 30	Lynne Margolius	Ida Lazarow	mother
16 Adar 1 7	Michelle Birbaum	Edward Birbaum	brother
18 9	Linda Gellman	Marcia Blumenthal	mother
21 12	David Clayman	Rita Clayman	mother
25 16	Laurence Shapiro	Asher Hurwitz	uncle
26 17	Michael Kupferman	Eva Kupferman	mother
29 20	Mark Silverman	Elsie Silverman	mother
29 20	Brenda Sugarman	Bernard Sugarman	brother

May their memories always be a blessing

What Are We Saying When We Are Praying? A New Discussion Group from Brenda Sugarman



On Tuesday, we met at Brenda's home to continue our discussion of the prayers we say for Kabbalat Shabbat. This week we looked into the meaning of V'shamru, and read various translations and interpretations of this prayer. Basically, this prayer describes the meaning of Shabbat and has an upbeat melody. Participants also discussed various ways in which people observe Shabbat.

Please join us for our next meeting to continue our discussion.

Date: Tuesday, February 13th

Time: 2 pm

Place: 4 Mystic Lane, Clifton Park

Please, bring a siddur with you.

If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Brenda at: magistras4@aol.com

Partnership Report

It's a new year and your Beth Shalom Partnership is ready and raring to provide programs of interest to all.

Future programs

2/11 Assist in whatever ways necessary with the Jewish Cultural program. This is not sponsored by us or the synagogue. Beth Shalom is just the venue for the event,

3/11 Phil Barrett

4/11 Talk by the Morrison's nephew about the Oppenheimer Project

4/12 Kiddush in honor of Rabbi's son's Bar Mitzvah

4/21 Chocolate Seder

6/09 Brunch celebrating those of us who made it through the winter

It's that time of the year once again to pay your Partnership dues. If you haven't already done so, we are asking for your support so we can continue to have programs, provide refreshments, and keep the kitchen stocked and in working order. Dues are only \$36 per person, \$72 per couple.

The Partnership of Beth Shalom is one of the primary service arms of our synagogue. We create, coordinate, and participate in social events that are

entertaining and/or educational. We also contribute manpower and financial support to synagogue events as needed based on availability of volunteers and funds.

Sponsorship of these activities has been welcomed and appreciated by the congregation, Board of Directors, and those who have attended the various functions, so why are we contacting you? Our Partnership wants to continue sponsoring the recurring and additional activities for the coming year. We are also financially responsible for anything pertaining to the kitchen, such as repairs and supplies. We cannot function at a meaningful level without sufficient funding to meet our costs. Our only funding is through membership dues. We need your financial support. Remember dues are only \$36 per person for the year. Joining the Partnership will be good for our congregation and good for you. Your participation is an opportunity for you to make friends, make a difference, and make our synagogue stronger.

Please fill out the short form below, cut it off and mail it back to us along with your check to: Congregation Beth Shalom

**Attn: Partnership
688 Clifton Park Center Rd,
Clifton Park, NY 12065**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Optional extra donation: _____ **(tax deductible)**

Sandy, Annie and Les

SPONSOR A KIDDUSH OR AN ONEG

Do you have a special event coming up that you would like to share with your family, friends, and synagogue family? Why not sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush? Sponsoring a Kiddush is honoring, celebrating, memorializing, and congratulating any individual/s or event. A Kiddush is a wonderful way to bring people together and begin to celebrate the Sabbath too. For more information you can call the synagogue office and speak to Jackie at 371-0608 or call Linda Russell at 371-3641.

A Friday night kiddush is a donation of \$40 and a Saturday morning Oneg is a donation of \$50. This is to cover the cost of the food we put out.



File:Krispy Kreme Doughnuts IPG -