	January 2025 1 Tevet – 1 Shevat <i>“The Community Synagogue in Southern Saratoga County”</i> <i>Founded in 1974</i>	
	688 Clifton Park Center Road	Clifton Park, NY

Message from Rabbi Ami

Leading into the secular New Year... Power & Influence

I have learned so much from Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z”l. Allow me to expose you to his incredible pedagogy regarding power vs. influence as we go into the new year.

“ We can see this by a simple thought-experiment. Imagine you have total power, and then you decide to share it with nine others. You now have one-tenth of the power with which you began. Imagine, by contrast, that you have a certain measure of influence, and now you share it with nine others. How much do you have left? Not less. In fact, more. Initially there was only one of you; now there are ten. Your influence has spread. Power operates by division, influence by multiplication. With power, the more we share, the less we have. With influence, the more we share, the more we have.”

In 2025 let’s hope for peace, unity, love, happiness, and community.

Rabbi Ami Monson

Message from the Oval Office

Congregation Beth Shalom has ushered in our new year with a flurry of activities. The High Holiday services were spiritual, meaningful, and participatory. Thank you to our High Holiday committee and to Rabbi Segal. Already, we are talking about High Holiday services for 2025 and how we can make services even more participatory. Yom Kippur ended on a high note, as we joined together with friends and family, to our wonderful “break-fast” prepared by our own Linda Russell.

Sukkot was celebrated with “Pizza In The Hut” which was coordinated by Annie Friedman and Sandy Rubin. Rabbi Ami showed participants the tradition of shaking the lulav and several people participated. A delicious pizza lunch was served in our Sukkah along with salad and desserts! The weather was absolutely perfect even though Sukkot fell towards the end of October – what could be better?

For our annual Veterans Day Commemoration, retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel, Lance Wang, was our speaker who discussed what it was like being one of the only Jewish soldiers in his division. The event was very well attended and a delicious brunch followed. Thank you to Larry Friedman, Steve Gellman, Annie Friedman, Sandy Rubin, and Linda Russell for organizing this program. I apologize if I left out anyone.

Now it is December and Chanukah is around the corner. We are looking forward to an amazing concert titled, “When Chanukah Meets Klezmer” sponsored by Saratoga Jewish Community Arts.

Continued on next page

As part of our Social Action Initiative, Congregation Beth Shalom donated six Thanksgiving baskets to Captain along with additional food for the 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, our members were extremely generous with the donations.

Save the date of Saturday, January 25th! Congregation Beth Shalom will be co-sponsoring the film "Irena's Vow" as part of the Schenectady Jewish Film Festival. Rabbi Ami will be leading the post film discussion. This will be held at the Schenectady JCC.

On a more serious note, our security officers have been doing an amazing job in keeping us safe at services every week since October 7, 2023. They are all very professional and are really concerned about our safety. Some of us have gotten to know them personally and they know many of us. We are so grateful to the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department and at the same time are dismayed that we need this protection. This protection also comes with a financial cost and in the next few months you will hear from the board as to how we can continue to pay for these necessary services.

Can you believe that Congregation Beth Shalom is celebrating its 50th Anniversary? On June 22nd, 2025, we will be having our Golden Anniversary Gala. Times have certainly changed over the past 50 years, but Beth Shalom has stood the test of time and hopefully will continue to be the center of Jewish life in Clifton Park for many more years.

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy 2025!

Linda

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



On Tuesdays, we meet 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 on:

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

SCRIP 2025



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. 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)

As you must know by now you can go on to Raise Right and place an order yourself. You just need to get our code so that we get credit for the sale.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023 - 2024

President.....Linda Gellman 518-441-0383
VP Administration..... Linda Russell 518-371-3641
VP Membership Colleen Silverman 518-371-0555
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Reyut..... Carol Davis &
Sandy Rybaltowski
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Partnership Sandy Rubin and
Anne Friedman
Adult Prayer Education Group.....Brenda Sugarman
.....
WebSteve 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.

Inside this bulletin

- 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.





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, – your Cemetery Committee





Next Hadassah Book Review in January

Date: Monday, January 20th

Time: 1:00 PM

Book The Secret Book of Flora Lee by Patty Callahan Henry

Hosted on: Zoom and in person at Congregation Beth Shalom

Reading ahead



PEACE & HOPE

CLIFTON PARK PODIATRY

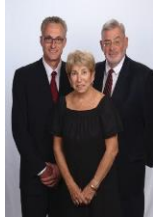
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Remember that special date with either a leaf or an acorn or even a stone on our **Tree of Life**. Congregants and interested public may celebrate a mitzvah (happy occasion) or commemorate a memory by purchasing one or more of the following:

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

IT'S WINTER AGAIN

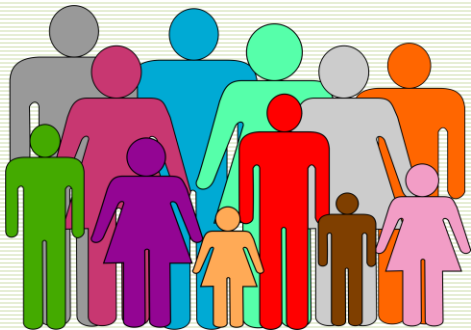
Please join us for all the exciting Events that Congregation Beth Shalom has to offer.

Join us for a Friday evening Shabbat Service and listen to the wonderful sermon from Rabbi Ami Monson.

On Sundays once a month Rabbi Ami has his Torah Tidbits group. Is there something you have always wanted to know from the scrolls, Rabbi Ami will have the answer or he will find out for you.

Congregation Beth Shalom is more than a place of worship, it is a family. It is our family where people come to Worship, get together, and catch up with our friends on what is happening in our lives,

Remember, everyone is welcome at Congregation Beth Shalom



Well here it is January 2025, and our snow birds have deserted us for the warmth of the south. Those of us that are still here will just have to enjoy all the events the synagogue has to offer.

I am sure most of you have already heard that I will be leaving the synagogue, my home for the past 21 years, at the end of June. I can't even imagine how much I will miss my friends and family. All of you have become my family.

When I first came here, I was so afraid of everything and everyone. I knew nothing about the Jewish faith. Over the years I have learned a lot about Judaism. Heck I even know the difference between the yahrzeit and mishaberach list. My biggest challenge was learning how to say the words correctly. I can now honestly say, I still say them wrong!

Over the years, I have made some wonderful friends. I have been told that now I will be able to go to monthly luncheons with my lady friends. YEA!!!!

Mike will be staying on as your cleaning and handy man. I guess he isn't quite ready to begin this new chapter in his life.

The past 20 years have passed so quickly. It seems like yesterday I was sitting across from Gloria Kupferman and Fred Pineau, shaking like a leaf. I remember saying to myself after I got back in my car, "Are you crazy? Why did you accept a job you know nothing about?" Let me tell all of you, I learned fast.

My first job was to clean out the hall closet. Clean it! Heck I couldn't even open the door. There were so many boxes in there and I had to go through every one of them. I don't know how, but I did it.

God bless and keep us safe as long as there is life on this earth.

Jackie

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

What better way to remember loved ones than to have a plaque placed on our memorial wall in their memory?



Partnership Report

Happy New Year to everyone from Partnership. We've had a busy first half of the year. We started with Break the Fast. We then went on to Pizza in the Hut for Sukkot. We next shared sponsorship with the synagogue for our annual Veterans Day Brunch. We ended the first half of the year with our Chanukkah party (Brunch).

This year we were able to delivered seven Thanksgiving baskets to CAPTAIN. We also were able to deliver gifts for the 7 year old boy we adopted through the "Adopt a Child" program, also run by CAPTAIN. As you can see, we had a very busy first half of the year.

We have many more things in mind for the rest of the year, so keep reading the weekly announcements.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for their support and generosity. We truly ae a family, ready not only to have fun but also to help where needed.

Your Partnership co-chairs,

Sandy Rubin, Annie Friedman, Bob Silverman and Dave Clayman

HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO OUR CONGREGATION
2025



File:Krispy Kreme Doughnuts IPG -

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.

Congregation Beth Shalom graciously accepts these donations

In memory of Joyce Savage & Sam Savage by Howard Savage
In memory of Julio Baytelman by Pola Dobry
In memory of Jacob & Millie Levy by Joseph Levy.
In memory of Senta Wheeler by Toby Elman
In memory of Frida Gutman by Sharon Schoenberg
In memory of Jack & Rose Calderon by Martin Calderon
In memory of Robert Kohan by Colleen K, Silverman & Robert Silverman & Carol Kohan
In memory of Howard Michel by Paul Michel
In memory of Ethel Ackerman by Phyllis & Lewis Morrison
In memory of Myrna Barmash & Sylvia & Melvin Weissman by Diane W. Silverman
In memory of Esther, Sara Farbman & Joel Cooperman by Miriam Cooperman
In memory of Carl Blanchard by Doris Calderon
In memory of Fredrick Lowenberg by Elaine & Bob Lowenberg
In memory of Rina Berkowski by Nancy Ostrov
In memory of Sally Shapiro & Yetta Kupferman by Gloria & Mike Kupferman
In memory of Irving Kleid by Michelle Rafael
In memory of Sarah Yanovitz by Elaine & Bob Lowenberg

The following made donations in Memory of Michael Sheehan:

Richard & Raylene Jacobs-, Brenda Sugarman, Barbara Bergman, Linda & Steve Gellman, Sandra Rubin,

The following purchased a plaque in memory of Lance Michel:

James & Donna Masi, William Van Evera, Bill & Patricia Saskowicz, R Viller, Richard & Elisa Pepe, Craig & Barbara Sargent

The following made donations in memory of Lance Michel

Linda & Steve Gellman, Wendy & Greg Pyle, Sandra Rubin, Doris & Martin Calderon,

If I missed anyone's donation please let me know and it will go into our next bulletin. I apologize for any errors listed.

Jackie