

THE SHOFAR

TEMPLE BETH EL OF ONEONTA'S MONTHLY BULLETIN



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It wasn't if, but when and where. On Wednesday evening, May 20th, two staffers at the Israeli embassy in Washington, DC., Sarah Milgrim and Yaron Lischinsky were coming out of an event for young diplomats and professionals at the Capital Jewish Museum when they were assassinated by a gunman who then yelled, "Free, free Palestine!" There is a lot that could be said. I could talk about the fact that they were a bi-religious couple; Mr. Lischinsky, an Israeli citizen, was in fact Christian though of late had been identifying more as Jewish, as his mother was Christian. Ms. Milgrim was Jewish. They were both very much pro-peace and searching for a way to end the violence. They were two weeks away from being engaged; Mr. Lischinsky had bought a ring and was planning on proposing in a trip they were scheduled to take to Israel within two weeks.

Sarah's mother, once she knew that her daughter's cell phone locator app showed that she was at the site, said she knew, before she received a call from Israel's ambassador to the U.N. to inform her and extend his and Israel's condolences.

Their assassin, Elias Rodriguez, appears to have been willing to shoot anyone at this Jewish Museum event.

There will be the usual handwringing, temporary increases in security at sites and events, and then something like this will happen again.

One tries to make some sense out of all this. Maybe someone else can, but I can't. All I can say is that we need to be better to ourselves and each other because maybe that's all we will have going forward.

Richard J. Sternberg, M.D. 607-222-7019



ONEGS

If you would like to sponsor an Oneg to celebrate a simcha or in honor or in memory of someone, please CALL or TEXT Faye Munson at (607) 434-3911. PLEASE DO NOT SEND EMAILS.

TODA RABA

Thank you to Viktoria Rom for the donation to TBE in memory of her mother, Svetlana Rom, and grandparents, Lidya Menkhin and Boris Menkhin. Thank you to Alice Lichtenstein for quickly organizing a kaddish for the Jewish Museum shooting victims.

OUR COMMUNITY

We wish Bayla Richards refuah shlema, a full and speedy recovery.



Annual Community Picnic

The TBE Community Picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 8 from 12:00 - 3:00 pm** at the Upper Wilber Park Pavilion near the playground. The entrance is from Center Street in Oneonta. We will supply kosher hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, mustard, and ketchup. Please bring a vegetarian side dish to share. It will be a fleischig (meat) meal so do not include any dairy ingredients. We have the permit, we have the plan and now let's hope for good weather! Please RSVP to Faye Munson by phone (607)-434-3911; either call and leave a message or text, and let her know what you plan to bring, and whether you can come early to help set up or stay to help clean up.

Temple Beth El 90th Anniversary Celebration Planned

In the fall of 1935, eight Jewish families were invited to the home of Mr. Benjamin Krohn to meet with Rabbi Joshua Cohen of Temple Beth El in Utica. All those attending this gathering felt that it was time to formally organize into a religious group. The result of this meeting: The Oneonta Jewish Community became a reality. Temple Beth El has continued to grow as our spiritual home, a place to shape our families' Jewish lives. Temple Beth El's mission is to teach Judaism by example and by precept: through worship, learning, and community activities. The synagogue has continued to offer religious services, children's education, adult study groups, music programs, for members, non-members, students of the four surrounding colleges, and to visitors from out of town.

This year is Temple Beth El's 90th anniversary. In celebrating our anniversary, we want to commemorate our commitment to keep alive our history, our traditions, and our faith. We will honor those who have worked to encourage Judaism in our community and salute those who presently fight for our Judaism and set an example for our children. The tentative date for the anniversary celebration will be October 26, 2025. We are currently forming a committee to develop plans and direct the celebration. Please reach out if you are interested or simply have ideas for how this celebration should be structured.

Toda Raba, Merle merlemyerson@gmail.com



THE PRIESTLY BENEDICTION CONJURES UP UNIVERSAL EMOTIONS



Cantor Green

The Priestly Benediction of this year's June 7 Torah portion, Naso, conjures universal emotions. The reciting of this blessing is one of my earliest childhood memories. When I was 6 years old, I went to High Holy Day services with my grandfather and father in a small Orthodox synagogue in Pittsburgh. I remember my grandfather telling me: "Don't look at them, the Kohanim reciting the blessing on the Bemah. It will bring you bad luck." Of course, being 6 years old, I had to look. What I saw were a bunch of old men muttering some

Hebrew while covering their heads with their Tallit and flashing the "V" sign between their third and fourth fingers. It was rather scary stuff for a kid in the early 1960's.

The "V" they formed I later learned was to form the Hebrew letter "shin" standing for the first letter of one of the words for God. Traditionally, all descendants of the Priestly class, the Kohanim, did this as part of the ritual before reciting the Priestly Benediction. The Mishnah describes the blessing as given by the priests in the Temple from an elevated platform called the "Duchan." Even with the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 ACE, the tradition is still practiced to this very day during the High Holy Days. The blessing has also become universal to be said at all life cycle events. As a cantor I have recited this blessing for weddings, funerals, B'nai mitzvah, brit, and at the bedsides of terminally ill patients. For many, it creates a wide range of emotions. Think about the words that are being recited during an individual's or families' personal life events. It can be quite powerful. The first line deals more with the physical world like having a home, food and clothing. The second line deals more with addressing emotional needs. The third line addresses our deepening of our relationship with God. In essence, the prayer is gradually guiding you from your physical needs to the ultimate spiritual connection.

Rabbi Kushner concludes by suggesting that this is truly a "sacred relationship, panimel panim, face to face" with God. Rabbi Citrin goes a step further suggesting the words trigger emotions when we feel most alive and present. "Hearing the Birkat HaKohanim can trigger intimate memories for all of us, both good and bad." Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel may have said it best: "It takes three things for a sense of significant being: God, a soul and a moment. Just to live is holy. The blessing extends the significance to our existence, building moments in our daily lives that touch eternity." Read and think about this blessing and what emotions it creates for your own life's history and experiences:

*May God bless you and keep you
 May God's presence shine upon you and be gracious to you
 May God's presence be with you and give you peace*

It is my wish that as you reflect upon this blessing from this Torah portion, that you find it meaningful and uplifting.

HEBREW SCHOOL TZEDAKAH PROJECT BY ROGER CHAUVERON

The Hebrew School Tzedakah (Righteousness) Project is under way. The children are raising money and encouraging donations of non-perishable food items to sponsor a meal at the Oneonta soup kitchen, "Your Safe Haven."

The children will also spread the word about volunteer opportunities to serve the meal there. They have already started making phone calls and are having delightful conversations with temple members. Support for the project is growing in the way of financial donations, food donations, and volunteer sign-ups.

Six adult volunteers are needed for food service. The date will be determined when a full crew has volunteered. Everyone supporting the effort is encouraged to trace their hand on the poster in the Temple hallway to show that congregants and students are working "hand-in-hand".

Please contact Roger Chauveron for more information. 305-903-0424.



MEMBERSHIP BY ALICE LICHTENSTEIN



Great News!! You can now apply for Membership to Temple Beth El through an online, interactive Membership Application form. No need for downloading, printing, or mailing! The website is www.tbeoneonta.org

You can also pay your Membership Dues online—and make donations online as well. Every drop in the bucket counts and is tax deductible!



WHEN YOU SEND MAIL TO TEMPLE BETH EL

Please address all mail to Temple Beth El to our post office box (PO Box 383, Oneonta, NY 13820) and not to the physical building.

And please direct your mail to the "Attention of" the Treasurer, President, or other Officer or Committee Chair, on the envelope. Thank you.

TOUR ISRAEL WITH CANTOR GREEN

Join Cantor Green for a 10-day tour of Israel, February 26 to March 8, 2026. The cost per person is \$5,925, which includes plane fare and ground package. An email will be sent to you with details of itinerary and flight reservations. I look forward to sharing with you a once in a lifetime experience in our Jewish homeland.

See the following brochure for detailed information.

February 27 -
March 9, 2026

Where Ancient
Stories Come
Alive!



Israel Tour Highlights

Old Jaffa – Ancient alleys, art, and coastal charm

Peres Center – Innovation, peace, and Israeli vision

Independence Trail & Carmel Market – History, flavor, and Tel Aviv energy

Graffiti Tour – Street art in the shadow of October 7

ANU & Caesarea – Jewish story meets Roman grandeur

Golan Heights & Mt. Bental – Views, history, and resilience

Druze Lunch & Winery – Hospitality, culture, and local flavors

Azizo Lavender Farm – Fragrant fields and Galilee vistas

Tsfat – Mysticism, art, and spiritual beauty

Jerusalem Arrival – Mt. of Olives and Shehecheyanu blessing

City of David & National Library – From ancient roots to modern voices

Old City & Yad Vashem – Heart of heritage and remembrance

Nir Oz & Nova Site – Honoring October 7 with reflection and strength

Masada & Ein Gedi – Heroic heights and desert oasis

Experience the Spirit of Israel on a 10-day tour
With Cantor David Green!

DETAILS OF THE TRIP ARE....

FLIGHT: Round Trip Flight from USA to Israel.

HOTELS: First Class Hotels:
2 nights on the shore of the Mediterranean
3 nights on the shore of Galilee.
4 nights in Jerusalem.

TOURING: Touring the sites of Israel in a comfortable private bus with a Biblically-knowledgeable tour guide.

INCLUDED:

- Hotels; portage at hotels & airports
- Deluxe private motor coach, and group airport transfers
- Expert government-licensed English speaking tour guide
- Tips and Gratuities
- Entry to all tour sites and activities, headsets
- Full Israeli breakfast & dinner daily
- Private farewell dinner at the hotel.

EXCLUDED:

- Airfare
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Meals not mentioned above
- Travel and/or medical insurance (required)
- Any other item not mentioned above

See enclosed itinerary and registration page.

TOUR ISRAEL WITH CANTOR GREEN

ITINERARY

Day 1 – February 27, 2026

Arrival at Ben Gurion airport and drive to Jaffa for a walking tour of the old Jaffa City. Check in to your hotel. Dinner at the hotel. Dinner and overnight: Tel Aviv hotel

Day 2 – February 28, 2026

Breakfast at the hotel.

Peres Center for Peace and Innovation: Discover the spirit of Israel through the legacy of Shimon Peres—where peace, technology, and Jewish values meet. Overlooking the sea in Jaffa, the Peres Center offers an inspiring journey through Israeli innovation, showcasing groundbreaking achievements and powerful peace initiatives. A thought-provoking and uplifting experience that connects past, present, and future.



Walk along Independence Trail: Stroll through the heart of Tel Aviv and follow the golden trail where Israel's modern history began. From the Declaration of Independence at Dizengoff House to hidden gems of the first Hebrew city, this guided walk blends heritage, culture, and the pioneering spirit that shaped a nation.

Carmel Market – Taste, Explore, Wander: Explore Tel Aviv's bustling Carmel Market with a tour and your personal **Shuk Bite card**—your passport to sample delicious local treats. Soak up the atmosphere, meet vendors, and enjoy free time to wander, taste, and discover the market's magic on your own.

Graffiti Tour – Art in the Shadow of October 7: Walk the streets where walls speak louder than words. This powerful graffiti tour reveals how Israeli artists have responded to the events of October 7—through raw, moving, and defiant street art. A journey through pain, resilience, unity, and hope, captured in color on the walls of Tel Aviv and Florentin. Dinner on own. Overnight: Tel Aviv

Day 3 – March 1, 2026

Breakfast at the hotel & check out

ANU Museum – The Story of the Jewish People: Step into the rich, diverse, and ever-evolving story of the

Jewish people at ANU Museum in Tel Aviv. Through cutting-edge exhibits and powerful narratives, discover the global Jewish experience—from ancient roots to modern identity, from exile to innovation—all under one roof.

Caesarea – A Walk Through Time: Step into history with a peaceful stroll through the ancient port city of Caesarea. Marvel at the remnants of Roman grandeur—mighty aqueducts, grand theaters, and sun-drenched shores—where the past meets the present in breathtaking harmony.

Acre – A City of Cultures and Legends: Wander through the historic streets of Acre, where ancient Crusader walls, vibrant markets, and the scent of spices fill the air. Explore this UNESCO World Heritage site, where Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Crusader histories intertwine, offering a unique glimpse into centuries of shared heritage. Proceed to Tiberias & check in to your hotel. Dinner and overnight: Tiberias.

Day 4 – March 2, 2026 - Purim begins at sundown

Mt. Bental: Stand atop Mount Bental, a historic peak in the Golan Heights, offering panoramic views of Israel, Syria, and the surrounding region. Explore the remnants of military bunkers while reflecting on the strategic significance of this site, where history and beauty blend. It's a place to connect with the land and ponder the resilience of Israel, especially in light of recent challenges.

Tour of Golan Heights: Explore the rugged terrain of the Golan Heights! Traverse winding trails and historical battlegrounds, while soaking in breathtaking views of the region's beauty. Along the way, we'll reflect on Israel's resilience, particularly in light of recent challenges, as we experience the raw strength and spirit of the land.

Druze hospitality & lunch: Experience the warmth of Druze hospitality with a delicious, home-cooked meal in a Druze village. Savor traditional dishes, full of fresh ingredients and rich flavors, while learning about the unique culture and traditions of this welcoming community. It's a perfect opportunity to share in the spirit of connection, tradition, and friendship.

Boutique winery including tastings: Enjoy a guided tour of the vineyards, learn about the winemaking process, and indulge in a wine tasting experience that reflects the essence of Israel's agricultural richness. A perfect way to relax and appreciate the flavors of the land.

Dinner and overnight: Tiberias.

TOUR ISRAEL WITH CANTOR GREEN

Day 5 - March 3, 2026 - Purim ends at nightfall

Visit Azizo: Nestled in Moshav Kanaf, Azizo Lavender offers a serene retreat amidst blooming lavender fields with panoramic views of the Sea of Galilee. Explore the farm's distillation process, sample lavender-infused products like honey and liqueur, and enjoy a lavender cappuccino at the café. A perfect stop for relaxation and unique local flavors.

Tsfat – Mysticism, Art, and Spirituality: Step into the mystical city of Tsfat, where ancient Kabbalistic teachings blend with vibrant artist galleries and cobblestone streets. Explore the city's spiritual heart, visit its centuries-old synagogues, and experience the creative energy that has made Tsfat a hub of Jewish mysticism and artistic expression. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight: Tiberias

Day 6 – March 4, 2026

Breakfast & check out. Drive to Jerusalem **Shehecheyanu** at Mt. of Olives

City of David: Step into the heart of ancient Jerusalem at the **City of David**, where stones speak of kings, prophets, and centuries of Jewish heritage. Walk through underground tunnels, stand by sacred springs, and trace the footsteps of history in this living archaeological wonder.

National library: Enter a world where history, heritage, and imagination live on the shelves. At the **National Library of Israel**, explore treasures of Jewish thought, rare manuscripts, and modern voices that shape our collective story—past, present, and future—all under one striking, light-filled roof in the heart of Jerusalem. Check in to your hotel. Dinner at the hotel. Dinner and overnight: Jerusalem.

Day 7 – March 5, 2026

Old City of Jerusalem tour



Yad Vashem: At **Yad Vashem**, the Holocaust memorial and museum, we walk a path of remembrance—honoring the six million, hearing the voices of survivors, and bearing witness to the resilience of the Jewish spirit. A powerful, soul-stirring experience that connects past to present

with unwavering purpose. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight: Jerusalem.

Day 8 – March 6, 2026

Visit Kibbutz Nir Oz: Step into the story of **Kibbutz Nir Oz**, a peaceful community turned symbol of unimaginable loss and enduring strength. Here, in the Gaza Envelope, we pause to honor the lives shattered and the spirit that refuses to break. Through guided reflection and respectful presence, we bear witness to the events of **October 7**, drawing strength from the courage of survivors and the commitment to rebuild what was taken. A visit that leaves no one unchanged.

Nova Festival: At the edge of a quiet field near Re'im, we pause at the site of the **Nova music festival**, once a place of joy, unity, and celebration. On **October 7**, that spirit was shattered. Today, it stands as a haunting reminder of lives lost and innocence stolen. Meet a survivor to hear their testimonial. Alumim lunch at the Kibbutz dining room.

Tkuma A powerful stop that connects us to the soul of Israel's southern spirit. Dinner on own. Overnight: Jerusalem.

Day 9 – March 7, 2026

Masada: Rise above the Judean Desert to the ancient stronghold of **Masada**, where stones whisper stories of bravery and unwavering spirit. Walk among the ruins of King Herod's palace and stand where Jewish rebels made their final stand for freedom. With sweeping views of the Dead Sea, this mountaintop tells a timeless tale of courage and conviction.

Ein Gedi: Discover the lush oasis of **Ein Gedi**, where waterfalls flow between desert cliffs and ancient trails lead to hidden springs. Once a refuge for King David, today it's a sanctuary of natural wonder and quiet reflection—an unforgettable blend of history, wildlife, and serene landscapes. Back to Jerusalem. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight: Jerusalem.



Day 10 – March 8, 2026

Transfer to the airport for your flight back home.

MEN'S CLUB BY STEVE FEUER

The next Men's Club breakfast will be on Sunday June 29th, at 10 a.m. instead of the third Sunday of the month, which is Father's Day.

SISTERHOOD BY FAYE MUNSON

The next Sisterhood meeting will be held on Sunday, June 8 th at 10:15 am, at the upper pavilion in Wilber Park. The entrance is accessible from Center Street, Oneonta. We will hold elections and plan events for the coming year. The candidates are Faye Munson for President, Stephanie Bauer for Vice President, Merle Myerson for Secretary, and Hollie Jaffe for Treasurer. We welcome new members to Sisterhood.

YARZHEITS**May 30 – June 5 (3 – 9 Sivan)**

David Jaffe.
Esther Feldstein
Shep Friedman

June 13 – 19 (17 – 23 Sivan)

Frances Gelbsman
Edith Wilk
Robert George Bauer

June 6-12 (10-16 Sivan)

David Alan Relethford
Charles Hertzendorf
Peggy Schiffman Marcus
Irwin Gooen

June 20-June 26 (24 – 30 Sivan)

Rose Chai Levin

May their names always be remembered for a blessing

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

In the event of a rabbinic emergency, or in the case of an urgent need, please contact Temple Beth El's President, Richard Sternberg, at 607-222-7019 or tbeoneonta@gmail.com. In the event of a death, please contact Steven Feuer at 607-434-2538.



GOOD NEWS ISRAEL

Please recommend **www.verygoodnewsisrael.blogspot.com** to any individuals who you think need to know about the good work that Israel does.



DONATIONS FOR ISRAEL – SAVE A LIFE IN IN ISRAEL THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY

Your donation ensures Magen David Adom's 33,000 paramedics, EMTs, first responders, and first-aid providers – volunteers and staff – have the training, equipment, and medical supplies they need to treat all injured and ill people in Israel. Donate today: www.afmda.org

Please consider making additional donations to support Israel. From United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism:

- [Jewish Funders Network](#)
- [Support Masorti's Emergency War Campaign – Masorti Foundation](#)
- [Donations from USA](#)
- [Donations from International](#)
- [Jewish Federation of North America](#)



TORAH PARASHAS IN JUNE

June 7 – Naso – (Numbers 4:21–7:89) “Naso” means “Count!” There is a count of able men who will carry the Tabernacle. (The total was 8,580 men.) The laws of the Nazir are given – to not drink wine, to not cut their hair, and have no contact with a dead body. (Samson was a Nazirite.) Aaron and his sons learn how to bless the people. The heads of the 12 tribes bring gifts to the altar.

June 14 – Behaalotecha – (Numbers 8:1–12:16) “Behaalotecha” means “When you raise”. G-d tells Moses to have Aaron raise light in the menorah. The people leave Mt. Sinai and soon tire of the constant diet of manna, demanding meat. Moses picks 70 elders to help him deal with the people’s issues.

June 21 – Shlach – (Numbers 13:1–15:41) “Shlach” means “Send”. G-d tells Moses to send scouts to look over the land, one to represent each tribe. They were gone for 40 days and came back, ten of them saying the land was “flowing with milk and honey” but that the people were giants and cannibals. Caleb told Moses the Israelites could take them.

June 28 – Korach – (Numbers 16:1–18:32) Korach leads a rebellion against Moses’ leadership. The earth swallows him up.



ADS

MONSER BROS. TIRE SALES, INC.
 376 CHESTNUT STREET
 ONEONTA, NY 13820
 PHONE: (607) 432-4390
 1-800-352-1818

JEFF GELBSMAN
 MANAGER



MICHELIN



THE PEACHIN GROUP, LLC
 BUSINESS AND TAX ADVISORY SERVICES

peachinggroup.com
 email@peachinggroup.com

426 Chestnut Street
 Oneonta, NY 13820

Tel: (607) 432-5314
 Fax: (607) 432-6124

ANDREW PURITZ
 ATTORNEY @ LAW
 189 MAIN STREET, SUITE 103
 ONEONTA, NY 13820
 OFFICE: (607) 432-0943 • CELL: (607) 287-2839
 ANDREW.PURITZ.LAW.OFFICE@GMAIL.COM

CRIMINAL DEFENSE SINCE 1979

If you or someone you love is in trouble...
"YOU BETTER TALK TO THE LAWYER"



Steven Z. Feuer
 Attorney at Law

23 Ford Avenue
 Oneonta, NY 13820
 Website: stevenfeuerlaw.com
 Email: Steven@stevenfeuerlaw.com

607-432-0108
 (fax) 607-432-0965

Bernadette Winters Bell, LMSW
 bwintersbell@gmail.com

Life, Loss & Grief Therapist

50 Dietz St Suite M
 Oneonta NY 13820
 607.376.6732



From Heartache to Healing and Hope



"I am here holding the hope for you until you can hold it for yourself." -BWB



Find us on Apple Podcasts & Spotify

audio and video formats at
 fromheartachetohealingandhope.com

with host
 Bernadette Winters Bell,
 LMSW, PLLC

Producer:
 Beatrice Georgiadis
 607-522-8659

SARA TISCH
 >>> MARKETING & DESIGN

Web Design | Social Media | Print & Digital
 www.saratischmarketing.com

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ADVERTISERS

For information about placing an ad, including pricing, please contact Hollie Jaffe at
 hjaffe@hotmail.com

ADS

100,000 Patient Opinions Can't Be Wrong

BEAUTYRX
SKINCARE
BY DR. SCHULTZ.

*delivering to you the more radiant, healthier, and
younger looking skin you've always wanted*

learn more by visiting beautyrx.com or calling 855.BEAUTY.RX

THANKS, DR. NEAL SCHULTZ!

Purchase any products from BeautyRX. The profits from all purchases from Temple members will be donated to the Temple. Just go to www.beautyrx.com redeem it by applying code "tbeth" in the shopping cart or checkout page. Or call 1-855-beautyrx - that's 1-855-232- 8897

THE SHOFAR

Published by Temple Beth El

83 Chestnut Street
PO Box 383
Oneonta, NY 13820
607/432-5522 (Synagogue)
www.templebetheloneonta.org

OFFICERS

President: Roger Sternberg
Vice-President: Lois Chernin
Secretary: Amy Zoltick
Treasurer: Roger Chauveron
Past President: Phyllis Sherman

TRUSTEES

Stephanie Bauer
Steven Feuer
Alice Lichtenstein
Ron Feldstein
Stan Fox
Eileen Pollack

Shofar Editor: Hollie Jaffe
Religious School Director: Lois Chernin
Men's Club President: Steven Feuer
Sisterhood President: Fayemala Munson
Shofar Text Editor: Hollie Jaffe
Shofar Design: Sara Tisch

Save the dates:

June 6	7 pm	Friday night service - Cantor Green
June 7	9:30 am	Torah Study with Cantor Green
June 8	10:15 pm	Sisterhood annual meeting in Wilber Park, Oneonta. See page 5
June 8	12 – 3 pm	Annual TBE picnic at Wilber Park See page 3 for more information, including RSVP.
June 29	10:00 am	Men's Club Breakfast (Not the 3 rd Sunday of the month)

Shabbat times:

Fri. June 6	Light Shabbat candles at 8:19 pm
Fri. June 13	Light Shabbat candles at 8:23 pm
Fri. June 20	Light Shabbat candles at 8:25 pm
Fri. June 27	Light Shabbat candles at 8:26 pm

Hebrew School is over until the fall.

Temple Beth El
PO Box 383
Oneonta, NY 13820