

THE SHOFAR

TEMPLE BETH EL OF ONEONTA'S MONTHLY BULLETIN

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT

Dear TBE Congregants,

At the recent Trustees' meeting our President, Richard Sternberg, resigned because of health reasons. We all wish him Refuah Shlemah. As approved by the Board pursuant to the by-laws, I have assumed the position of President in the interim until the next election.

We are seeking candidates for President from our community. The term is for one year. The Board holds regular monthly meetings on Zoom. If you have an interest in serving or would like more information, please notify our Board Secretary, Amy Zoltick, by email at amysays@gmail.com.

Lois Chernin has assumed the office of Treasurer following Roger Chauveron's resignation.

We thank Richard and Roger for their commitment and wish them the best.

Ron Feldstein



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 Irene and Rick Weinberg for their donation to TBE in memory of Ezra Ben Avraham (Vinnie DeNigris.)
- Our annual TBE Picnic was a huge success! Over 50 congregants and guests were in attendance on June 8th. The weather was perfect and the level of kibbitzing was extraordinary. Many thanks go to Grill-man Stan Fox, and to Faye Munson and the Sisterhood for setting up.

Ron Feldstein

A Moment to Reflect

For those of you who have been in Israel during the attacks by Iran or who have family or friends who have been there during this frightening time, we hope you and they have remained safe.



Cantor David Green is on hiatus for the summer.

A Call to Support Our Hebrew School

From Ohad Shem-Tov, Director of the Hebrew School

As we prepare for the coming school year, I want to extend a heartfelt invitation to all members of our congregation to take part in the life and growth of our Hebrew School. Whether or not you have children in the program, your involvement can make a meaningful impact.

We are currently seeking:

- **Teachers** for regular Sunday morning sessions (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- **Substitute teachers** who can be available as needed
- **Supporters** who can be present during school hours to help create a safe and welcoming environment
- **Guest lecturers** to offer one-time talks in your area of expertise, especially related to Jewish culture, history, Hebrew, or tradition
- **Volunteers with experience in education or Hebrew language**

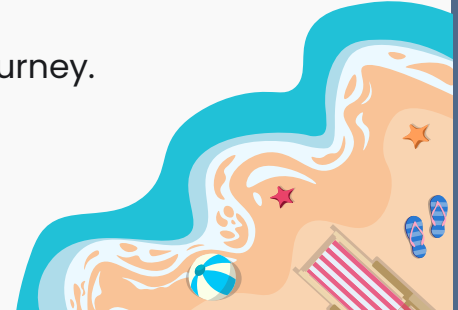
During the month of July, we will be preparing and forming the curriculum and study plan for the coming school year. Any help or involvement is welcome and appreciated.

If you know of Jewish families with children in the area, please connect them with me—we'd love to welcome them into our community.

You can reach me at **ohad@tbeoneonta.org** or by phone at **484-489-0360**.

Thank you so much for supporting our children and their Jewish journey.

Warmly, Ohad Shem-Tov, PhD



POEMS BY MY FATHER

by Ohad Shem-Tov

Dido (S. Didovsky) is an Israeli poet, married and a father of four (Ohad, Hila, Amit, and Naama). He has published four books of poetry.

Awards and Honors:

- Haaretz Short Story Prize, 2002
- Short Speculative Fiction Prize, 2010
- ACUM Anonymous Poetry Prize in memory of Natan Yonatan, 2010 (ACUM – The Israeli Authors', Composers' and Music Publishers' Society Ltd.)
- Prime Minister's Prize for Hebrew Writers in memory of Levi Eshkol, 2015

TRANSLATED POEMS / DIDO (S. DIDOVSKI) ©ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

At a house of worship of another god
 In which I don't believe
 As I don't believe in mine
 I think from whence shall my help come
 In front of all these gods,
 Mine and the other

August, 2006 PANAGIA CHRYSORROGIATISSA Cyprus



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.

A bird at the tip of the tree
Clings to a leaf, sways with the winds
Behind him the valley, in the background the hills:
In this spot I write my poetry

Clouds above the dove
Here's a wing, a feather floats,
And the nest is far away

A dusty olive tree:
Lots of armies passed here
And the rain clouds are still far away.
I'll rest here for a while

The empty pit amidst the square
Takes the people's glances down to earth
As if they stood beside a family grave

Bebelplatz, Berlin, 2008, The memorial monument to the Book Burning in Berlin
on May 10th, 1933

THE FIELD

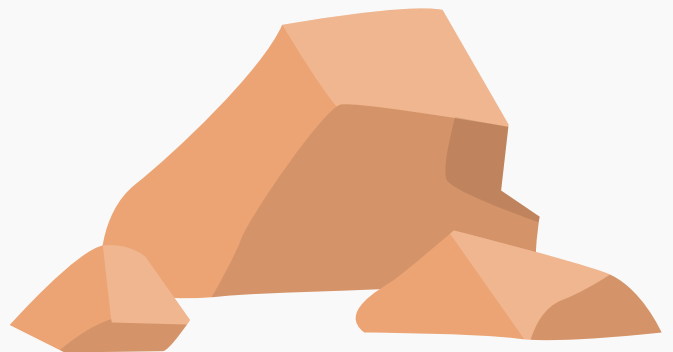
We endured the dry season,
wallowing in puddles of dust.

We crossed the desert,
a long-standing pool of hopes.

At the crossroads, God was waiting,
broken and crushed, curled up and wretched,
worthy of mercy.

There are things time does not color:

From time to time, a murderer will prevail.
A Prime Minister at a private royal feast,
and just plain citizens for appetizers and dessert.



And what can this field do, alone,
beneath all this sky?
It will lie down on its back, a tuft of wheat on its belly,
and wait for rain.

THREE VARIATIONS ON HAIKU

Gleis 17, Berlin, Germany

1
Cold august morning.
My sword is placed in front of me.
Herds of people are coming up
I must be ready

2
Cold august morning.
My hands are empty.
Herds of people are coming up the path
In the background the commotion of the trains

3
Cold august morning.
My face is stuck to the glass.
Herds of people are coming up the path
The order of the world has not changed

A row of palm trees on a traffic island:
A scent of desert in the big city,
Days when I settled for little.

POLAND, JUNE 2001

Traveling under semi-false identity
exploring washrooms and houses in the area
secret agent who came to expose his feelings.

Cobweb netting hangs above the street.
Grid of air framing the bad and the good
filling up the sky.

Here they cut the green grass with no concern,
with that casual slackness of the rich: whatever happens
The grass will grow again.

Even before you learn the elements of your body and how everything functions
the soul that breathes with you already knows
There are things that have no answers

At the dawn of this century the light is not yet complete.
The steaming blood doesn't evaporate
and Cain still walks around in the field.

We board the train, disembark, board another one
on the road all the time, sleeping on a bench, awake in the boxcar
Clearly there are more people, no one is the last person.



Adult Learning

Book discussion group and Torah study group will resume in the fall

Lost and Found

Two lovely trivets were found during clean-up at the picnic.
Please contact Hollie Jaffe at hjjaffe@hotmail.com to claim them.



MEN'S CLUB BY STEVE FEUER

Men's Club will hold breakfasts this summer on July 20th and August 17th, at 10 a.m.

SISTERHOOD BY FAYE MUNSON

The annual Sisterhood meeting was held on June 8 th. Plans for events were made, and Sisterhood members will receive information by email. We welcome all Temple Beth El women to join Sisterhood. Please contact Faye Munson for information. Fayemala27@gmail.com

YARZHEITS**July 4 – 10 (8 – 14 Tammuz)**

Sara Louise Elfenbein Reis

August 1 – 7 (7 – 13 Av)

Samuel Cohen
Sadie Puritz

August 22 – 28 (28 Av – 4 Elul)

Cynthia Puritz
Sarah Cohen

July 25–31 (29 Tammuz – 6 Av)

Emanuel Levine

August 8–June 14 (14 – 20 Av)

Frieda Weingold
Barbara "Bambii" Brody

August 29–Sept 4 (5 – 11 Elul)

Phillip Granett

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 Interim President, Ron Feldstein, at 607-988-7455 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.



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- [Jewish Federation of North America](#)



TORAH PARASHOT FOR JULY & AUGUST

July 5 – Chukat – (Numbers 19:1-22:1) “Chukat” is a law for which there is no rationale. Here it is the command to sacrifice a perfect red heifer.

July 12 – Balak – (Numbers 22:2-25:9) “Balak” is the king of Moab. He tells his priest Balaam to curse the Israelites. Balaam tries, but his donkey stops him and Balaam blesses Israel instead.

July 19 – Pinchas – (Numbers 25:10-30:1) “Pinchas” killed an Israelite who consorted with a Midianite. The five daughters of Zelophehad petition Moses for the land belonging to their father, who died without sons; G-d agrees and incorporates it into the Torah’s laws of inheritance.

July 26 – Matot-Masei – Matot-Masei is a double portion. “Matot” (Numbers 30:2 – 32:42) means “tribes”. Two (and a half) tribes ask Moses if they can move east of the Jordan River where the land is better for their cattle. Moses agrees if they first help in the battle to win all the land. “Masei” (Numbers 33:1-36:13) means “journeys”. G-d tells Moses to drive out the people in the promised land and to destroy their idols and then tells him which tribes get which land. Each tribe will contribute to support of the Levites.

August 2 – Devarim – (Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22) “Devarim” are “words”. Moses speaks to the Israelites, recounting their history, warning them not to sin, reminding them that G-d promised them the land of Canaan as they are about to conquer it.

August 9 – Va’etchanan – (Deuteronomy 3:23- 7:11) “Va’etchanan” means “I pleaded”. Moses tells the people how he pleaded with G-d to be allowed to go into the land and tells them to be faithful to G-d, and reiterates the 10 commandments and the Sh’ma.

August 16 – Eikev – (Deuteronomy 7:12 – 11:25) “Eikev” can mean “Because” or “If you listen” or “As a result”, depending on your source. Moses tells the people to listen to G-d’s commands and they will win their fight for the land and that when they are in the land they must continue to obey G-d. They learn of the richness of the land – the seven species (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and date honey), but that G-d can withhold rain if they don’t keep the commandments.

August 23 – Re’eh – (Deuteronomy 11:26 – 16:17) “Re’eh” is the command “See!” Moses says to the people “See”, that there is a blessing or a curse, depending on whether you keep the commandments.

August 30 – Shoftim – (Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9) “Shoftim” are “judges”. This is Moses’ last speech before he dies. The people were constantly asking Moses to resolve disputes and he was exhausted. His father-in-law Jethro, a Midianite priest, advises him to get help, and so he appoints judges. The parashah says: “Justice, justice shall you pursue, so that you may live and take possession of the land which God, your God, is giving you.” Justice is so important, it is mentioned twice. Ritual and Mizvot are important, but most important is justice.

ADS

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THE SHOFAR

Published by Temple Beth El

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Shofar Editor: Hollie Jaffe
Men's Club President: Steven Feuer
Sisterhood President: Fayemala Munson
Shofar Design: Sara Tisch

Save the dates:

July 18 7 pm	Erev Shabbat service led by Faye Munson with d'var Torah by Merle Myerson
July 20 10 am	Men's Club breakfast
August date <u>TBA</u>	Erev Shabbat service led by Hollie Jaffe with d'var Torah by Steve Feuer. An email will be sent with the date for the service.
August 17 10 am	Men's Club breakfast

Shabbat times:

Fri. July 4	Light Shabbat candles at 8:25 pm
Fri. July 11	Light Shabbat candles at 8:22 pm
Fri. July 18	Light Shabbat candles at 8:18 pm
Fri. July 25	Light Shabbat candles at 8:12 pm
Fri. August 1	Light Shabbat candles at 8:04 pm
Fri. August 8	Light Shabbat candles at 7:56 pm
Fri. August 15	Light Shabbat candles at 7:46 pm
Fri. August 22	Light Shabbat candles at 7:35 pm
Fri. August 29	Light Shabbat candles at 7:24 pm

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