



Rabbi's Message



Photo Credit: Justine Cooper

In recent months in the news, we've seen a spate of anti-semitic attacks in New York City (including Brooklyn) and New Jersey. In November three cars were burned in Midwood, with anti-semitic graffiti spray-painted on benches and vehicles nearby. In January more anti-semitic graffiti appeared on apartment and garage doors. Even more frightening, synagogues in New Jersey have been fire-bombed, including one in which the rabbi and his family lived, and they were at home at the time. Fortunately, the only injury was a minor burn sustained by the rabbi.

How are we to react when we hear news of such crimes, especially so close to home? It is always unsettling to hear of attacks aimed at a group we identify with. For Jews, swastikas, broken shop windows, and attacks with fire can set off even more fearful reactions because of our recent history. The vandalism of cars and benches in November took place the day after the anniversary of Kristallnacht, and Jews can hardly fail to make the association. The "night of broken glass" in 1938 in Germany and Austria, when hundreds of Jewish businesses and synagogues were vandalized or destroyed, was a coordinated, large-scale act of violence against Jews that foreshadowed the dark days to come. The Holocaust, the attempt to totally wipe out the Jews of Europe, very nearly succeeded and did destroy the Jewish civilization that had grown over 1000 years in Eastern Europe.

The Holocaust has left deep scars on American Jewry. It created a legacy of insecurity and fear that still affects us. When we read of spray-painted swastikas and violent attacks on synagogues and Jewish businesses, we often can't help connecting it in our minds to early attacks on Jews in Europe, and worrying about an escalation here.

But it is very important for us to remember that we do not live in Germany in 1938. During Kristallnacht, the Germany authorities watched and did nothing. Today, incidents of anti-semitic vandalism are not ignored in that way. Police respond quickly, and politicians—some of whom are Jewish, but not all—denounce the attacks. CNN reported that Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey said of the attacks on synagogues there, "I will not stand for it, and we will summon all necessary law enforcement resources to identify and prosecute those responsible."

(Rabbi's Message continued p. 2)

Shabbat Services



February 3rd & 4th

Friday Evening	Oneg Following Services	8:30 PM
	<i>Tu B'Shevat Seder</i>	
Saturday Morning		10:00 AM

February 10th & 11th

Friday Evening	Oneg Following Services	8:30 PM
Saturday Morning		11:15 AM

February 17th & 18th

Friday Evening	Oneg Following Services	8:30 PM
No Saturday Morning Services		

February 24th & 25th

Friday Evening	Oneg Following Services	8:30 PM
No Saturday Morning Services		

March 2nd & 3th

	<i>Shabbat Across America</i>	
Friday Evening	Oneg Following Services	8:30 PM
Saturday Morning		11:15 AM

Rabbi's Message (Continued)

As reported by the Southern Policy Law Center's Hatewatch, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, in a report on recent attacks, said they "are an insult to all New Yorkers," Stringer said. "We need to send a message to those who commit such crimes that this behavior is unacceptable and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. New York City prides itself on diversity and tolerance." Many other politicians have also made statements condemning the attacks and promising action by law enforcement.

The FBI is investigating in New Jersey, and the Hate Crimes Task Force in New York City. An arrest was made in the firebombing of the synagogue that was also the home of the rabbi and his family, and an arrest was made in Brooklyn related to anti-semitic graffiti on doors. The latter arrest was of a Jewish man who was in a business dispute with his mother—her door and doors of friends of hers were targets.

Hatewatch also reported that Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, executive vice president of the New York Board of Rabbis, said, "There's no panic here, but we feel concern. We're also hearing concern from leaders of other faiths. We have strong interfaith relationships here in New York, and people of other religions stand with us all the time."

It is clear that there is neither coordination of these incidents, nor is there apathy on the part of law enforcement, government, or people of other faiths. We live in a time and place when anti-semitic violence is not approved or tolerated by the majority of our fellow citizens, Jewish or not. Yes, there is still anti-semitism in this country. Yes, there are still anti-semites. Very important, however, is that there is no governmental support for anti-semitic violence. Quite the opposite.

We should feel concern when these things happen, just as we feel concern about violence toward anyone in our city or elsewhere. We should continue to expect our politicians and police to condemn and investigate swiftly and diligently, and we should make sure that they do. We should continue to build relationships with people of other faiths and people of no faith, and to fight anti-semitic ideas through education. But we should also recognize that we are not on a slippery slope toward another Holocaust. We are not helpless victims in this country, at this time. We do not need to feel or act like victims.

May we appreciate the blessings of living when and where we do, and may we use the privileges that we have as free, fully-empowered American citizens to address injustice where it continues to exist toward anyone in our community, our country, and our world. I look forward to seeing you at temple.

Rabbi Heidi Hoover

New York Landmarks Conservancy Awards Consulting Grant to Temple Beth Emeth

Next year, the Temple building will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of the original cornerstone, which occurred on July 20, 1913. It took less than a year to construct the main sanctuary building, which was dedicated on April 26, 1914. The total cost was \$40,000. A century later, our building is long overdue for structural repairs and upgrading. Restoration of the roof is the first order of business. At the same time, we will need to replace the outdated air conditioning system that sits on the roof, the footings for which have actually penetrated the roof in some places, making it the primary source of some of the leaks that have periodically plagued the building. In 2011 the Temple applied to the New York Landmarks Conservancy's Sacred Sites consulting grant program for a matching grant to hire consultants to investigate the condition of the roof, identify the source of the leaks, and devise an economical and effective approach to undertake its restoration. The Landmarks Conservancy awarded the Temple a \$4,000 matching grant to begin this planning work, and the Temple retained the services of Walter Sedovic Architects, specialists in the preservation and restoration of historically significant buildings to lead the work. Walter Sedovic and Jill Gotthelf, principals in the firm led the acclaimed restoration of the Eldridge Street Synagogue on the Lower East Side of Manhattan as well as many other well known national building treasures. After several visits the architects identified the primary sources of the leaks and oversaw an emergency repair and stabilization program that successfully brought a welcome end to the leaks, if temporarily. With the leaks stopped, the architects began the process of developing a scope of work to guide the long term restoration plan. While small in dollar amount, the Landmarks grant provided an enormous boost to our long term plans for restoring the roof.

Now the Temple is actively pursuing a grant with the New York Landmarks Conservancy for the next phase of our work under the auspices of its newly-launched [Jewish Heritage Fund Grants](#) grant program for historic synagogues. The program provides congregations with financial aid for exterior restoration projects. Priority is given to essential repairs to the primary worship building. Highest consideration is given to projects such as roofing and drainage system repairs, masonry repointing and restoration, structural repairs, and stained glass window repair and restoration, precisely the areas of greatest need at Temple Beth Emeth. All of the Sacred Sites grant programs require matching funds. Thus, if we are awarded the grant, we will need to launch a major fundraising campaign to start the construction work. We look forward to developing a productive relationship with the Landmarks Conservancy as it considers the benefits of our grant application, the historic significance of our building, and the fundraising capacity of our Congregation.

Gordon Berlin

President's Message



I had just come home from one medical procedure or another but woke up on Saturday, December 3rd with great clarity. Not just clarity but an urgency as well. I had to go my barber and get a haircut and shave and then in the car called Nancy and said I had to go to Temple, where I had not been for quite a while.

When I arrived I saw a group of people in the sanctuary. Curious, I went in and there was our intern, Lizz Goldstein, leading a Tot Shabbat with at least ten pre-school children. Their parents made a small crowd.

I went downstairs and dropped in on Shifra's class to thank them for their giant get well card. The class was busy, the kids engaged. Next stop was Hazel's class and there too our older students were actively engaged in discussion. Finally, I walked into the banquet hall and there was Rabbi Heidi leading a Torah class of about 25 adults.

The building was alive and vibrating with activity. I drove home in tears (yes private investigators shed tears too) realizing what has been worked on so diligently and nurtured the last two years had come to fruition.

It has been a long time since Temple required a weekly calendar to catalogue the almost daily extra programming that has been instituted. The programming has been set up for you. Now it is up to you to take advantage of it all.

On another note, Nancy and I are very appreciative of all your prayers and best wishes. Rest assured your notes, e-mails and calls have a very positive effect on our lives.

Lawrence Frost

Centennial Reflections

Here are a couple of facts in Temple Beth Emeth history during the month of February.

February 2, 1912 - Temple's first Rabbi, Samuel J. Levinson, holds his first service at the Savoy Hall, 854 Flatbush Avenue. His salary is \$500 per year, part time. The following year, his salary is increased to \$1,800 a year, full time.

February 1924 - Women were not considered members of the congregation from the beginning in 1911. A petition is sent to Mr. Phillips, the President of the congregation, to allow women to become members and to be on the Board of Trustees as well. This change eventually took place in October of the same year, 1924.

February 9, 1934 - NYC gets the coldest temperature in its history, -15° below zero. (A little weather history.)

Ron Schweiger

Candlelighting



Friday, February 3	4:57 PM
Friday, February 10	5:07 PM
Friday, February 17	5:15 PM
Friday, February 24	5:24 PM
Friday, March 2	5:32 PM



Join with Hundreds of Synagogues in Celebrating a Special Shabbat Dinner and Service

Friday, March 2nd

Dinner 6:30 PM

Services 8:30 PM

Member of the Month

Natalie Friedlander



Natalie and Werner Friedlander

It is fitting that we celebrate the one-year anniversary of our member profiles with a little bio about someone whom we should all get to meet.

Natalie Friedlander, a retired social worker who worked for 38 years with disabled children and their families, was born in Manhattan but is a Brooklynite thru and thru. She graduated from Lafayette High School (Bonus points: Who are the two left handed major league pitchers – one Jewish - who graduated from Lafayette?), Brooklyn College and the Boston University School of Social Work where she received her MSW.

After college, she traveled in France with a French pen pal and became fluent in the language.

As many in our congregation know, Natalie is married to Werner (our Torah presenter on Erev Shabbat, our Torah reader on the High Holy Days and our “official counter of the omer”) who has an incredible story of his own to tell. They met at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in Manhattan in 1957 and tied the knot the next year.

Natalie says that she really did not have a formal religious background. “Werner taught me all I know.” With a teacher like that, who needs a textbook?

The Friedlander’s were originally members of Progressive Synagogue. As Natalie puts it, they joined because “the services were what we were used to and the people and the Rabbi (Rabbi Theodore Lewis) were very friendly.” She served on the Board at Progressive and worked to improve summer attendance and arranged for the summer Onegs. After the mergers, she continued to help out at TBEV’OPSZ by doing the High Holy Day pledge follow-up calls and was our immediate past coordinator of ushers (between Ellen Block and Bob Pandolfo whom she suggested as her replacement). She enjoys talking with our Friday night attendees at the Onegs, watching the children during Saturday morning services and attends the Sisterhood brunch/lectures whenever possible.

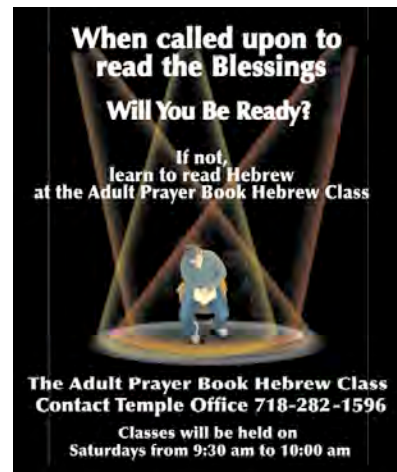
Both she and Werner are avid travelers with trips to Canada, France, England, Germany, Israel, Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

The Friedlander’s are the parents of two sons: Stuart who lives in Harrisburg, PA and Kenneth who lives in Oneonta. They are grandparents of a married granddaughter living in Oneonta named Alyshia and are the great-grandparents of Alyshia’s 2-year old toddler named Parker.

Says Natalie: “Our Temple has completed its first 100 years as a growing and vibrant institution. With the help of God and our own efforts, let us look forward to the next 100 years.”

(Have you done anything that you wish to “kvell” about to the Temple family? Let us know. If it is special to you, we want to share it. Call the Temple office or please feel free to speak to me directly. I look forward to hearing from you. My e-mail address is Ehallzman@yahoo.com.)

Alan Zarrow



Mostly Israeli Dancing

Mondays, February 6th, 13th & 20th
March 12th at 7:30 PM

\$12 per class for Temple members,
\$15 for non-members

Light refreshments served

In Memoriam

We regret to inform you that Dr. Harold Marquit has died. He was 92 years old, a long-time congregant and former board member.

"May his memory be for a blessing."

In Memoriam

We regret to inform you of the passing of long-time congregant Adolph Fuerst who died peacefully on January 14th.

"May his memory be for a blessing."

Torah Study

Friday Evening, February 3rd, 10th & 24th
at 7:30 PM



With Rabbi Heidi Hoover

Tu B'shevat Seder



Join the Children of our
Religious School

Saturday, February 4th
10:00 AM

*Bring Fruit for Projects and Donations
for Trees*

January Sisterhood Brunch



On the snowy wintery Saturday morning of January 21st, Temple members were treated to a wide-ranging discussion of world affairs presided by Prof. Fred Siegel. Fred, described by the *Wall Street Journal* as an economic historian, led us on a journey from the Mid-Eastern countries of Syria, Iran, Israel and Turkey, through Italy and other European countries to domestic and international issues facing the United States.

We learned about trends in birth rates and shifting national allegiances in several critical nations. We also learned about the impacts of the upper and lower middle classes on the future of this country. Fred handily deflected alternate views expressed by audience members, which he believed were not of sufficient merit. Everyone left with their basic assumptions about the geopolitical world challenged by the erudite arguments expressed by Fred.

SISTERHOOD NEWS



Saturday, February 11th

Brunch 10:00 AM/Lecture 10:30 AM

Guest Speaker: To be announced

\$5 (members), \$10 (non-members)

Temple Banquet Room

MEMORIAL FUND

Donor

Patricia Weis
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Steven Hoffspiegel
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Dr. Anne Garner

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Charles Fenster
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Isabel Hoffspiegel
Ida Rose
Adolph Weissman
Norma Dicker
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IRMA WOLVEK SISTERHOOD LECTURE FUND

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BLUESTONE PRAYERBOOK AND PULPIT FUND

Shalom & Tot Shabbats

Friday Mornings, 10:00 AM, February 3rd, 10th, & 17th
Led by Rabbi Heidi Hoover

Saturday Mornings, 10:00 AM, February 4th & 11th
Led by Lizz Goldstein, Holder of the Jacqueline Smith
Memorial Rabbinic Internship

For Children under 5 and their Caregivers

**Celebrate Shabbat at Our
Monthly Potluck Dinner**



Friday, February 17th at 6:30 PM

Bring brisket or non-dairy side dish

Services follow at 8:00 PM

TRUSTEES MEETING



Wednesday Evening

February 8th

7:30 PM

Temple Banquet Room

Book Plates



Bookplates are available for placement in prayerbooks - either Shabbat or High Holy Days. Donation for each plate is \$18. Bookplates could be for either "in memory of", "in celebration of", or "in honor of".

Contact the Temple Office for donating.

Yahrzeit Kaddish List

The names listed below are taken from the *Bronze Tablets* and the *Book of Life*. Names are read at the Sabbath service following the date of passing. For information about *Memorial Plaques* and perpetual Kaddish, please call the Temple Office.

February 10th & 11th

Helen Allen
 David Berk
 Henry Bayles
 Minnie Berk
 Lillian R. Braunstein
 Lillian Costa
 Henrietta Fischer
 Hattie Friedman
 Albert Frost
 Anna Glixman
 Samuel Goldsmith
 Leo Husick
 Miriam Harris
 Caspar Jacobs
 Harry Jacobsohn
 Anna Judelson
 Nathan Jurin
 Aaron Kalischer
 Simon Kartagener
 Esther Lande
 Alan Leventhal
 Hyman Levinson
 Sarah Levy
 Muriel Mallaz
 Hannah "Jessie" Mann
 Amelia Meyer
 Rose Ravitch
 Henrietta C. Rosenberg
 George Rosengarten
 Adrian Jerome Schiffer
 Asher Schild
 Esther Schwartzreich
 Lewis Shalen
 Dr. Nevita Shrivastava
 Morton Signal
 Beila Silverman
 Eleanor Smit
 Herbert Solomon
 Celia Stern
 Annie Sternberg
 Gustav Strauss
 Harold Strauss
 Julius Strauss
 Sanford Tishcoff
 Caroline G. Traum
 Louis Weil
 Joseph Weinstein
 Annie Weiss
 Charles Weisvogel
 Bernard M. Weynberg
 Anna Weiner
 Julius Wodiska
 Alice F. Wolff
 Nettye Woolenberg
 William Young

February 17th & 18th

Lawrence Becker
 Minnie K. Becker
 Frederick L. Bloch
 Elsa Bondy
 Abraham Brooke
 Isador Brooke
 Ethel Bushkin
 Solomon L. Dickman
 Bessie Eisenberg
 Israel Enselman
 Mollie Exter
 Harry Ferguson
 Bertha K. Goldberg
 Mina Goldschmidt
 Seymour S. Greenberg
 Herman Hirsch
 Alma Kaplow
 Frieda Kottick
 Bertha Pines Love
 Dora Messinger
 Rose Press
 Herman J. Rasener
 Phoebe Carmel Reshes
 Simon Sarney
 Jack Sackowitz
 Ida Sarney
 Simon Sarney
 Carl H. Schapiro
 Sigmund Schlesinger
 Jack Schoendorf
 Lewis H. Semel
 Irene Silverstein
 Leo Souweine
 Minnie Stern
 Leon Taran



February 24th & 25th

Sophie Berman
 Hannah Black
 Frances F. Blitzer
 Abraham W. Cowen
 Randi Beth Dorsen
 Loeb Frank
 Ralph H. Freid
 Joseph Friedmann
 Jennie Garfunkel
 Helen Greenberg
 Edward B. Greene
 Moses Isaacs
 Julius Katzen
 Solli Kolman
 Sadie Levine
 Minnie Levy
 Ruth J. Levy
 Amalia Loeffler
 Hannah N. Mayer
 Sally Mendlinger
 Morton Meyer
 Maurice C.
 Minzesheimer
 Theodore Minzesheimer
 Clifford H. Newman
 May Perlman
 Emma V. Rios
 Marc. J. Rosenberg
 Milton Sabath
 Frank Salinsky
 Yetta Schuss
 Mollie Selig
 Isidore Serber
 Celia Shechter
 M. Lester Siegel
 Sidney Soffian
 Allen Jerome Stern
 Isidore Weckstein
 Theresa K. Weiss
 Emanuel C. Wolff
 Rose Woolheim
 Helena N. Zuckerman

March 2nd & 3rd

Michael Albert
 Hannah Badman
 Bessie Berger
 Louis P. Blitzer
 Emanuel D. Cahn
 Rebecca Chassman
 Regina Cohn
 Esther Feldman
 Esther Goodman
 Herman Goodman
 Leopold Gotthelf
 Malke Greenberg
 Ruth Harris
 William Mann
 Albert Miller
 Philip Portnow
 Bertha Samuels
 Isidore Schneiderman
 Minnie Schwalbe
 Annie Seidman
 Julius Seigelman
 Belle Silversmith
 Anna L. Sinenberg
 Sara Superior
 Sarah Wolfe
 Milan G. Wolfe



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