

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL  
at the TRI-CITY JEWISH CENTER

# CENTERITE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024 / 5785



## DECEMBER SCHEDULE of EVENTS



**BETH ISRAEL**  
at the TRI-CITY JEWISH CENTER

Blending Tradition with Today

2215 E Kimberly Rd  
Davenport, IA 52807  
(309) 788-3426

### E-mail

office@tricityjewishcenter.org  
rabbilinda@qctemple.org

### Office Hours

Monday: 10 am - 4 pm  
Tuesday: 10 am - 3 pm  
Wednesday: 10 am - 3 pm  
Thursday: 10 am - 3 pm  
Friday: 10 am - 1 pm



*Rabbi*

Linda Bertenthal

*President*

Lee Blumberg

*Treasurer*

Zach Tansey

*Secretary*

Lorrie Blumberg

*Dues & Review*

Kris Cawley



Sunday, December 1	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
Sunday, December 1	6:30 pm	Exploring Judaism
Wednesday, December 4	4:30 pm	Hebrew School
Thursday, December 5	12:00 pm	Israel Discussion Group
Friday, December 6	6:30 pm	Temple Emanuel Shabbat Service
Saturday, December 7	9:00 am	Torah Study
Saturday, December 7	10:30 am	Beth Israel Shabbat Service
Sunday, December 8	9:00/10:00 am	Hebrew School / Joint Religious School
Monday, December 9	7:00 pm	Israeli Guest Speaker Uri Goldflam
Wednesday, December 11	4:30 pm	Hebrew School
Friday, December 13	6:30 pm	School-led Shabbat Service
Saturday, December 14	9:00 am	Torah Study
Saturday, December 14	10:30 am	Beth Israel Shabbat Service
Sunday, December 15	9:00/10:00 am	Hebrew School / Joint Religious School
Sunday, December 15	6:30 pm	Exploring Judaism
Monday, December 16	6:00 pm	Temple Sisterhood Chanukah Party
Wednesday, December 18	12:00 pm	Nosh & Mingle
Wednesday, December 18	4:30 pm	Hebrew School
Thursday, December 19	1:00 pm	Israel Discussion Group
Friday, December 20	6:30 pm	Temple Emanuel Shabbat Service
Saturday, December 21	9:00 am	Torah Study
Saturday, December 21	10:30 am	Beth Israel Shabbat Service
Sunday, December 22	<b>NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK</b>	
Wednesday, December 25	<b>NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK</b>	
Friday, December 27	6:30 pm	Temple Emanuel Shabbat Service
Saturday, December 28	9:00 am	Torah Study
Saturday, December 28	10:30 am	Beth Israel Shabbat Service
Sunday, December 29	<b>NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK</b>	
Sunday, December 29	3:30 pm	Café on Vine

**Chanukah begins at sundown on December 25th  
and goes through January 2nd**



**There will be NO CENTER BOARD MEETING for the  
Month of December 2024.**

**The next board meeting will be held on January 21st,  
2025, at 7:00 p.m.**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**Rabbi Linda is on vacation December 25th - January 9th**

**The Center Office will be closed December 23rd - January 2nd**

# Rabbi's Message

Late this month we enter the holiday of many (English) spellings, which I like to write as Chanukah. As complicated as it is to spell Chanukah in English, the story of Chanukah is even more complicated.

One example of Chanukah complications: On one hand, the Maccabees were heroes. They fought against external foes of the powerful Seleucid Empire and prevailed, recovering the Temple and preserving their religious traditions. To this day, we admire their determination and grit, their faith and courage. On the other hand, the Maccabees were not willing to extend to fellow Jews the same religious freedom they demanded for themselves. They were zealots who persecuted fellow Jews who were trying to adapt their Jewish identities to the larger Greek culture, burning villages and driving families off their land.

Both traditions have been passed down through the generations – the fierce defense of our right to maintain Judaism, and our tendency to believe that other Jews really ought to practice Judaism as we do. And when it comes to our relationship with the State of Israel, both of these traditions come to the fore to make things complicated for us.

On one hand, those of us who are Zionists deeply believe that Jews have the same inherent right of self-determination as any other people, and that the return of the Jewish people to the Jewish homeland was a historical good, worthy of preservation against those who insist that Jews have no connection to the land, that Jews are colonizers rather than refugees returning home. We feel called to support Israel. On the other hand, those of us who identify with liberal Judaism, such as Reform and Conservative Judaism (Mitkademet and Masorti, as they are called in Israel), long for the day when the State of Israel will grant equality to our expressions of Judaism. As a convert to Judaism by a Reform rabbi following Conservative halakhic guidelines, I know that although I am entitled to make Aliyah, I could not be buried as a Jew in Israel, nor could my hoped-for-grandchildren be married as Jews. I feel called to challenge Israel to do better at creating a just home for all Jews, and in other ways as well.

Especially at this time when Israel is engaged in a war with no fewer than seven fronts (***please do come hear our Israeli speaker Uri Goldflam on Monday evening, December 9*** to understand this better!), it is important to engage with Israel. One easy way to engage is to vote in the World Zionist Congress elections for delegates who choose how to distribute world support in Israel, to make sure that those organizations and institutions that promote our values receive their fair share of support. The elections are coming up in just a few months (March 10<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>), and I'm looking for congregants who will work with me to create a culture of participation that encourages every congregant to vote. Please contact me if you can help!

In the meantime, I wish you a most joyful and meaningful Chanukah. May it always be for us not only the festival of lights, but also the festival of freedom.

L'shalom,

*Rabbi Linda*



# Center News



**Mazel Tov!** to Center member and Davenport High School Sophomore Shira Bailey Mally, who was in Ames, Iowa as a member of the Iowa All State Choir. Shira also had the honor of singing our National Anthem at the 13th annual Gary Segal Veterans Service on November 8th. Shira is the daughter of Genna & Terry Mac, granddaughter of Pamela Mally, and the great granddaughter of Esther Weiner.



**Mazel Tov!** to Robyn Eisenband-Strunk on becoming a B'nai Mitzvah on November 16th, 2024. Robyn is the child of Julie Eisenband and Chris Strunk, and sister to Noa Eisenband-Strunk.



Thank you

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED BOOKS TO ROBYN'S B'NAI MITZVAH PROJECT!

WE GAVE OUT THE BOOKS AT TWO EVENTS WHERE CHILDREN COULD READ TO DOGS.

ALL LEFTOVER BOOKS WILL BE DONATED TO THE QUAD CITIES CANINE ASSISTANCE NETWORK.



# Center News

  
**Mazel Tov!**

**Mazel Tov!** to Zach Tansey & Maryjo Conley on their marriage on November 9th, 2024. Zach is the son of Jim & Stephanie Tansey, and the grandson of Sharon Gellerman and the late Jay Gellerman.



**Mazel Tov!** to Max Gellerman and Fallon Corey on their recent engagement. Max is the son of David & Rene Gellerman, Amy Carter, and the grandson of Sharon Gellerman and the late Jay Gellerman.

Do you have good news that you would like to share published in the Centerite newsletter?

Please email or call the Center office with your good news!

**Deadline is December 20th**



*Sincere  
Condolences*



**Congregation Beth Israel extends our deepest sympathies to:**

- ★ Nancy Nitikman and Adrienne Drell, on the passing of Frank Nitikman on November 7th, 2024. We extend our condolences to all of Frank's extended family and friends.

# Beth Israel Sisterhood

## PRE-CHANUKAH SALE

ONE WEEK ONLY (DECEMBER 9th -13th)

**MENORAHS: 10 % OFF**

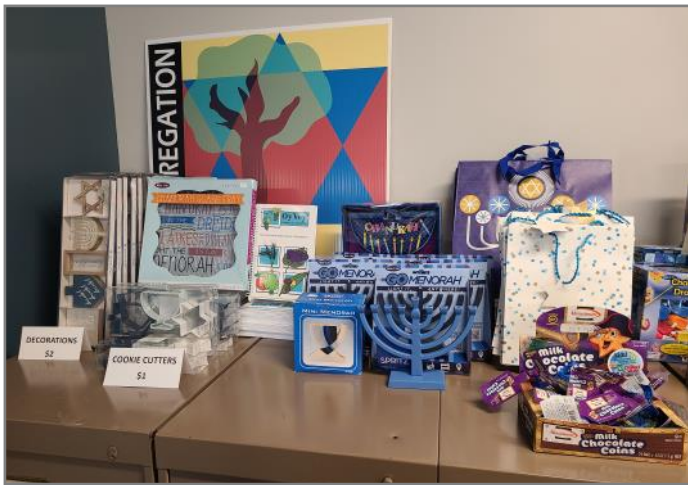
**WRAPPING PAPER: \$2.50/roll**

**COOKBOOKS: \$1**

**GIFT BAGS & CARDS: 10 % OFF**

**WE HAVE FREE CHANUKAH GIFT TAGS!**

SHOP FOR CANDLES, DREIDELS, DECORATIONS,  
GELT & MUCH MORE!



## Order your 2025 Mah Jongg Cards

**Large card is \$15.**  
**Standard card is \$14.**  
**Due date is February 1st**

Please write check to:

**Debbie Vesole**  
**6849 Grenadier Blvd #1104**  
**Naples, FL 34108**

Payment can also be made through  
Zelle, Venmo or Apple Pay.

Text or call Debbie at  
309-781-0926

[Debvesole@yahoo.com](mailto:Debvesole@yahoo.com)



# 13th Annual Gary Segal Memorial Veterans Service

*Thank  
you!*

The 13th Annual Gary Segal Memorial Veterans Service was held on November 8th at Beit Shalom with an attendance of 45 members and guests. Thank you to all the members from both congregations who participated in this lovely service.

Special thank you to the Veterans Service committee:

Kris Cawley  
Vicki Levin  
Sue Normoyle  
Mike Weindruch



# 13th Annual Gary Segal Memorial Veterans Service



**"The Gary Segal Memorial Veterans Day Service  
A Tradition That Will Live On"**

My sincere thank you for your tribute to honor Gary's memory by designating the annual Veterans Service in his name. Both this year's lovely service and the gift of the leaf were meaningful ways to commemorate his legacy.

-Randi Segal



# Thanksgiving Interfaith Service



"Shir Delight" - Congregation Beth Israel Choir

Many thanks to Marla Andich for organizing both the music and the hospitality for this event. Thank you to all who performed, all who baked, and all who shared hosting duties. Our guests felt well appreciated and welcomed.

We are thankful for the ongoing friendship of these congregations, who not only crossed the river to be with us, but also affirmatively supported us in a time of rising anti-Semitism. They were very vocal in sharing our prayers for peace and for the redemption of the hostages.



Father Michael Constantinides -  
St. George Orthodox Church



Rev. Dustin Fecht - All Saints  
Episcopal Church



All Saints Episcopal and St. James Lutheran  
Churches Joint Choir



# Thanksgiving Interfaith Service



Rev. Joseph Williamson - Second Baptist Church



Second Baptist Church Male Chorus



Rev. Donald Knowles - St. James Lutheran Church



Thank you to the Beth Israel Sisterhood for providing the delicious baked goods!

We look forward to next year's service and hope to have robust congregational participation. Please save the date and mark your calendars now – it is always the Tuesday evening before Thanksgiving.

# Temple Emanuel Sisterhood

## TEMPLE EMANUEL SISTERHOOD

Presents Our

*Annual Chanukah Party and Gift Auction*

*(All proceeds will go to the WRJ YES FUND)*

*Monday, December 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm at Beit Shalom*

*Please bring a (\$15 to \$25 range) wrapped gift to be auctioned!  
(This is optional!)*

*We will be ordering from Biaggi's (\$15 per person)!*

*(order and pay in advance - cash or check)*

*Please choose from one of the following:*

- 1. Dijon Salmon*
- 2. Fettuccini Alfredo*
- 3. Margherita Pizza*

*Caesar/house salad, bread and dessert will be provided!*

*Please RSVP to Charmaine @ 563-326-4419 or [office@qctemple.org](mailto:office@qctemple.org)  
by December 11, 2024 and to place your Biaggi's order or if you have any  
questions!*

*Member or not, you're invited!*

# Jewish Federation - Nosh & Mingle

## **Please join us for Nosh & Mingle**

**When: Wednesday, December 18, 2024**

**Time: 12:00 noon**

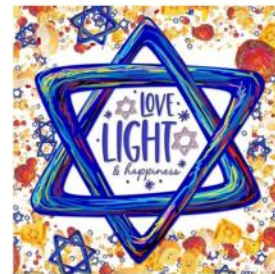
**Location: Beit Shalom, 2215 E Kimberly, Davenport, Iowa**



**Our special guests will  
be Rabbi Linda and  
Marla Andich singing  
Hanukkah tunes.  
Come Celebrate!!!**

**Lunch will include latkes,  
salad and dessert  
for \$5.00.**

**Please RSVP to Laura  
Williams at 309-793-1300,  
or [lwilliams@jfqc.org](mailto:lwilliams@jfqc.org) by  
Monday,  
December 16th.**



**Hosted by the Jewish Federation  
of the Quad Cities**

# December Yahrzeits

**30 Cheshvan**  
**Sunday, Dec. 1**  
Norman Siegel

**1 Kislev**  
**Monday, Dec. 2**  
Joseph Buder  
Shirley Kavensky

**2 Kislev**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 3**  
Jack Rimmerman  
Seymour Lipkowitz  
Shirley Achler  
Betty Karnstein

**3 Kislev**  
**Wednes., Dec. 4**

**4 Kislev**  
**Thursday, Dec. 5**  
Gussie Ezring  
Sonia Trop  
Hyman Whitebook  
Norman Ziffrin  
Ethel Carp

**5 Kislev**  
**Friday, December 6**  
Bertha Brady  
Samuel Maggid  
Martha Geifman  
Fannie Axelrod

**6 Kislev**  
**Saturday, Dec. 7**  
Annabelle Richman

**7 Kislev**  
**Sunday, Dec. 8**  
Hyman Avrick  
Blanche Carp  
Beatrice Geifman  
David Nitikman

**8 Kislev**  
**Monday, Dec. 9**  
Rebecca Zeffren  
Charles Brady  
Walter Spector  
Max Lieflander  
Terry Shamon  
Aleck Andich

**9 Kislev**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 10**  
Esther Pesses

**10 Kislev**  
**Wednes., Dec. 11**  
Dora Goldberg  
David M. Goldsmith  
Julius Liebman  
Helen Dubin

**11 Kislev**  
**Thursday, Dec. 12**  
Meta Gellman  
Adalia Raphael  
Abraham Solomon  
Manny Drevich

**12 Kislev**  
**Friday, Dec. 13**  
Eva Liebman  
Ruth Spector  
Nathan Harris  
Charlotte Ander

**13 Kislev**  
**Saturday, Dec. 14**  
Hyman Goldman  
Dena Blitz Comarow  
Irene Waxenberg  
Ben I. Rudman  
Chaim Cooper  
Rose Rothenberg

**14 Kislev**  
**Sunday, Dec. 15**  
Mary Cooper  
Betty Elman  
Ella Wolfson  
Julius Lehman  
Anna Cohn  
Rose Levy  
Lenore Turkeltaub

**15 Kislev**  
**Monday, Dec. 16**  
Martin Geffen  
Esther Honeyman

**16 Kislev**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 17**  
Gittel Andich  
Irene Crane  
Phillip Leman  
June Franks

**17 Kislev**  
**Wednes., Dec. 18**  
Jacob Klein  
Irene Slivken  
Harry Hanchin

**18 Kislev**  
**Thursday, Dec. 19**  
Tzipa Peshia Siev  
William Glatstein  
Oscar Dover  
Ben Greenblatt  
Florence Goldstein

**19 Kislev**  
**Friday, Dec. 20**  
Rose Cohn  
Sara Stein  
Molly Urdangen  
Harry Leman  
Joseph Siegel

**20 Kislev**  
**Saturday, Dec. 21**  
Bessie Jacobson  
Ruth Gumbiner

**21 Kislev**  
**Sunday, Dec. 22**  
Paul Siegel  
Bertha Phillips

**22 Kislev**  
**Monday, Dec. 23**  
Charles B. Garber  
Bernard Halpern

**23 Kislev**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 24**  
Anna Lieflander  
Joseph Esrick  
Isadore Zare  
Roberta "Bobbie"  
Galex

**24 Kislev**  
**Wednes., Dec. 25**  
Barney Baker  
Israel Herman  
Ida Waxenberg  
Samuel Weiner  
Mollie Zaretsky  
Zita Lipsman  
Shaina Ethel Cohen  
Nathan Ander

**25 Kislev**  
**Thursday, Dec. 26**  
Simon Gottlieb  
Terry Goldberg  
Myrna Porter  
Dr. Harry Shuman  
Rebeccah Young

**26 Kislev**  
**Friday, Dec. 27**  
Lena Gorenstein  
Isadore Buder  
Aaron Williamson  
Naoma Levinson

**27 Kislev**  
**Saturday, Dec. 28**  
Ethel Finkelstein  
Morris Leiberman  
Mary Snyder

**28 Kislev**  
**Sunday, Dec. 29**  
Rose Baron  
Lillian B. Tart

**29 Kislev**  
**Monday, Dec. 30**  
Fannie Schaider  
Ethel Zeffren  
Max Wiss  
Richard H. Gordon  
Faye Cooper

**30 Kislev**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 31**  
Joseph Neff  
Henry Morris  
Lester Rauch  
Morris Turner  
Douglas Stangle  
Rhoda Wertheimer

In Jewish tradition there are stages of mourning, which help a person through the process of grieving. Many synagogues, including ours, also have customs that help facilitate remembering your loved one.

*Yahrzeit* plaques serve to honor the memory of a loved one and ensure their name will be read before mourner's *kaddish*, even after relatives move or pass away. The plaque made of bronze will hang in a place of honor upon the dedicated Memorial Wall located inside Beit Shalom. To order a *yahrzeit* plaque, please call the office and provide the English name, Hebrew name and date of death.

