



The Scroll

Congregation Shaara Tfile

84 Weibel Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Phone: 518-584-2370 Fax: 518-584-5226

E-mail: saratogajcc@albany.twcbc.com

Calendar of Events

January

- 2-Sisterhood Meeting.....5:30pm
- 7-Congregation Breakfast/Speaker.....9:30am
- 24-Tu Bishvat Seder.....5:30pm

February

- 6-Sisterhood Meeting.....5:30pm
- 11-Valentines Dinner & Movie.....4:00pm

Regular Services

- Mondays & Thursdays.....7:30am
- Saturdays.....9:30am

Office Hours*

- Monday-Friday.....9:00am-1:00pm

Adult Ed**

- Monday.....4:00pm

Hebrew School***

- Monday and Wednesday.....5:30pm

Please call the office if you have any questions about any of our programs - 518-584-2370

Rabbi Marmon will be out of town from January 5 to January 7

*The office will be closed on January 1 and 15

**No adult ed on January 1, 8, 15

***No Hebrew School on January 1, 3, 8, 15 and February 19, 21

Messages, including rsvp's for weekend events, left on the synagogue answering machine and emails are not checked after 1:00 pm on Fridays until the next non-holiday business day. Walk-ins for weekend events will not be accepted.



..for 7:30am Monday/Thursday minyons 1, 2 or more times a month so that kaddish can be said. Bagels & lox follow at about 8:30am.

From the Desk of the Rabbi

This year (5784) is a leap year on the Jewish calendar. This means we'll be adding an extra month, First Adar, which begins on February 10th of the secular calendar this year. This extra month will push our holidays from being early in their range (measured against the solar calendar and the seasons) to being on the later end. Accordingly, the last holiday to fall "early" before the shift will be Tu B'Shvat, which will be celebrated on January 25th this year.



Tu B'Shvat began its life as a way to group fruits by year. Produce collected before Tu B'Shvat is from the "old" year, and from Tu B'Shvat onward, from the "new" year. This was important because the Torah forbids using the fruit of the tree's first three years (called "orlah"), while the fruit of the fourth year was brought to the Temple as an offering. Tu B'Shvat begins with a full moon, easy for ancient farmers to identify, and comes in a late winter month when there was no major fruit harvest in ancient Israel, keeping things simple.

These factors made Tu B'Shvat a suitable date for demarcating the years of produce in the Land of Israel, but if that were all, Tu B'Shvat would surely have evaporated over centuries of exile, much as the new year for kings disappeared with Jewish kings. Instead, the mantle of "birthday of the trees" helped the holiday stay alive and eventually blossom with whole new layers of meaning, first for the Kabbalists and more recently for environmentalists. A holiday that, by design, falls in the dead of winter – especially when it comes as early as this year – yet celebrates the trees and the fruits they will yield for harvest in spring, summer, and fall, is a very forward-looking holiday.

Continued on Page 9

Message from Judith Ehrenshaft, President

As one year ends, another begins.....As we approach the turn of the secular New Year, our thoughts turn to the trials our fellow Jews continue to face in Israel and even here at home. And to our shul, Congregation Shaara Tfile, our spiritual home, a place of prayer, learning, and social gatherings. There is so much that we can accomplish together. Please join us in the new year for Tikkun olam, various programs and events.



May the year 2024 bring peace to Eretz Yisrael and new calm to our towns and cities in America, and good health to us all!

The Board of Congregation Shaara Tfillle

Rabbi.....Rabbi Boaz Marmon

Board of Directors

Judith Ehrenshaft.....President
 Pamela Polacsek.....Vice President
 Ted Orosz.....Treasurer
 Deborah Sabin.....Secretary

Board Members

Eileen Woodcock.....Youth Education
 Allen Kasin.....Cemetery
 Allen Kasin.....Gabbi Liaison
 Robert Katzman.....Legal Advisor
 Sharon Dunn.....Board Position
 Larry Paltrowitz.....Board Position
 Samuel Gottesman.....Board Position
 Linda Bertrand.....Past President

Committee Chairs

Religious.....Allan Polacsek
 Membership Co-Chair.....Seth Rosner
 Membership Co-Chair.....Linda Bertrand
 Fundraising.....Open
 Budget.....Ted Orosz
 Strategic Planning.....Pamela Polacsek
 Sisterhood Liaison.....Judith Ehrenshaft
 Men's Club Liaison.....Allan Polacsek
 House and Grounds.....Skip Woodcock
 Pull Tab Liaison.....Carole Polacsek
 Endowment Fund.....Robert Katzman
 Scroll.....Michael Fischer
 Facebook Liaison.....Deborah Sabin

Rabbi Marmon's office hours:

To reach the Rabbi, you may either call the office or call the Rabbi directly at his number listed in the synagogue directory.

Office Hours: Office hours are

9:00am-1:00pm during the week. Please call 518-584-2370 before coming over. The office will be closed January 1 and 15, 2014.

Carole's Request: Email communications to

the office and for Scroll submittals are requested to be sent to the synagogue email address at saratogajcc@albany.twcbc.com. The deadline for Scroll submittals of text is on or before the 3rd Friday of the month prior to the next Scroll (i.e. February 16th for the March/April Scroll).

Communications

- E-mail- We are trying to communicate more with our members and friends by email. We have been sending out weekly if not more often, email messages. If you have not been receiving weekly messages, please send your email address to the office (saratogajcc@albany.twcbc.com) so we can add it to our contacts.
- We have a phone tree that sends out messages from the synagogue. If you are not receiving the messages, please call the office and provide Carole with your phone number.

When You Need Something

- If you know of a congregant who would like a home or hospital visit, call Carole in the office. Cynthia Flax and Roberta Gottesman have generously started a sunshine outreach to our friends in the synagogue.
- Call the office at 518-584-2370 if you have any questions about any of our programs.

Memorial Candles & Birthday Greetings

- The Congregation sends out a reminder letter with a memorial candle when you have a yahrzeit for a loved one. We also send annual birthday greetings. Let the office know if you would prefer to not receive candles, or are not receiving reminder letters/ birthday greetings.

Remembrance/Dedications

- If you would like to honor your loved ones who have departed, we offer Memorial Plaques in the Sanctuary. They are a permanent remembrance for those who are no longer with us. The cost is \$500 per plaque. In addition, one can dedicate a Prayer book to honor a special occasion (\$36) or a gold leaf for the vestibule's Tree of Life (\$200). For more information, please call Carole in the office.
- As our Mi Sheberach list grows, we are not sure if some of our congregants and friends still need to be on the list. Please call Carole so that we can update our list and keep it current.

Cemetery

- The Cemetery Rules and Fees document of Congregation Shaara Tfillle spells out eligibility, rights, and fees. It also sets guidelines for use of the building and sanctuary during funerals. Call the office at 518-584-2370 if you wish to receive an electronic copy of the document.
- Our Cemetery is open year round. We ask that you be careful when visiting. The walkway can be slippery.

Services

- If you will be attending services in-house, we ask that you bring your own Tallis and Yarmulka. There will be no Friday night services during January and February, 2024.
- We especially need you for attendance at one, two or more 7:30am Minyan services on Monday and Thursday.

Yahrzeit List for January/February

JANUARY 2024 (Teveth 20– Shevat 21, 5784)						
JAN	DAY	HEB	MEMBER'S NAME	DECEASED	DECEASED (HEBREW)	REL
1	M	Teveth 20	Jay Goldman	Mae Goldman	Mara bat Shlomo	M
1	M	20	Sondra Silverhart	Mae Goldman	Mara bat Shlomo	M
4	TH	23	Lary Opitz	Eleanor Opitz		M
6	SAT	25	Diane White	Alex White		F
7	SUN	26	Lorraine Hammer	Shirley Hochberg	Shara Gitl bat Chaim	M
7	SUN	26	Dede Hirsch	Lori Burbank	Leah Surah bat Chaim Avrom	S/D
7	SUN	26	Allen Kasin	Joseph Kasin	Yosef ben Shlomo	F
10	W	29	David Kieserman	Joseph Barry		F/L
11	TH	Shevat 1	Edward Dweck	Jacob Dweck		F
13	SAT	3	David Kieserman	Benjamin Kieserman	Binyomin ben Yaakov	F
13	SAT	3	Howard Stark	Molly Stark		M
14	SUN	4	David Kieserman	Grace Barry		M/L
15	M	5	Seth Rosner	Jonathan Rosner		B
16	T	6	Steven Hammer	Claire Hammer	Chana bat Avraham	M
17	W	7	Steven Hammer	William Hammer		F
17	W	7	Dede Hirsch	Howard Hirsch		H
19	F	9	Allan Polacsek	Otto Silverhart	Asher ben Zalman	U
19	F	9	Sondra Silverhart	Otto Silverhart	Asher ben Zalman	B/L
19	T	9	Rick Singer	Abraham Singer	Avraham ben Itamar	F
20	SAT	10	Allan Polacsek	David Silverhart		U
20	SAT	10	Sondra Silverhart	David Silverhart		H
21	SUN	11	Dede Hirsch	Phyllis Acerra	Peta Leah bat Idis	S/L
22	M	12	Sondra Silverhart	Peter Silverhart	Nacham ben Dovid	Son
27	SAT	17	Susan Edwards	Sonia Britt		GM
29	M	19	Leonard Mintzer	Charles Mintzer		F
29	M	19	Leonard Mintzer	Julius Mintzer	Gedalia ben Aria	GF
29	M	19	Roberta Mintzer	Charles Mintzer		H
29	M	19	Roberta Mintzer	Julius Mintzer	Gedalia ben Aria	F/L
29	M	19	Jack Mintzer	Julius Mintzer	Gedalia ben Aria	GF
29	M	19	Stuart Mintzer	Julius Mintzer	Gedalia ben Aria	GF
29	M	19	Loretta Ostrov	Julius Mintzer	Gedalia ben Aria	GF
29	M	19	Shirley Schultz	Isadore Schultz		F
29	M	19	Eileen Woodcock	Julius Mintzer	Gedalia ben Aria	GF
30	T	20	Dede Hirsch	Paul Hirsch	Pesach	F/L
31	W	21	Jerry Grodin	Betty Grodin		M
February 2024 (Shevat 22 – Adar 20, 5784)						
FEB	DAY	HEB	MEMBER'S NAME	DECEASED	DECEASED (HEBREW)	REL
1	TH	Shevat 22	Miriam Messinger	Harold Messinger	Chanan ben Osher Yitzhak ha Levi	H
2	F	23	Mitchell Frost	Murray Frost		F
6	T	27	Avram Freedberg	Stanley Freedberg	Shimon Tzvi ben Shabbtai	U
6	T	27	David Koss	Ruth Koss	Rachel bat Shmuel	M
6	T	27	Irving Metzger	Lee Metzger		M
8	TH	29	Susan Frost	Annette Reeder		M
10	SAT	Adar 1	Seth Rosner	Rosalind R. Rosner		Step M
11	SUN	2	Shirley Schultz	Ray Schultz		M
14	W	5	Marilyn Phillips	Nathan Nonkin	Natan	F
16	F	7	Rhoda Freedberg	Sidney Bemstein	Shaul ben Moshe	F
17	SAT	8	Dorothy Deutsch	Ernest Deutsch	Nussan	F/L
17	SAT	8	Sharon Dunn	Irving Dunn		F
19	M	10	Felice Karlitz	Freida Karlitz		M
23	F	14	Samuel Gottesman	Max Gottesman		F
24	SAT	15	Carole Leakakos	Asher Hurwitz		U
24	SAT	15	Marilyn Shapiro	Asher Hurwitz		U
27	T	18	Arthur Ostrov	Etta Ostrov	Yente vat Menachem Mendel	M
27	T	18	Jerome Ostrov	Etta Ostrov	Yente vat Menachem Mendel	M
27	T	18	Richard Ostrov	Etta Ostrov	Yente vat Menachem Mendel	M
28	W	19	Carol Anne Chait	Louis Pies		F
28	W	19	Susan Weissman	Ruth Butler		M

Contributions

General Contributions

Analise Gordon and Roberta Kornfeld Gordon
 Rhoda and Avram Freedberg in honor of Helen and Sid Gordon
 Rhoda and Avram Freedberg in honor Dede Hirsch
 Marsha and Robert Katzman in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Nathan McCullen
 Marsha and Robert Katzman in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Havah Doyle
 Marsha and Robert Katzman wishing good health to Carole and Allan Polacsek
 Marsha and Robert Katzman sending special thoughts and wishes to Pamela Polacsek
 Patricia Bruder honoring Pamela Polacsek – missing you
 Patricia Bruder – Carole and Allan Polacsek you are in my thoughts
 Ruth and Charles Weintraub in honor of Lorraine and Steven Hammer’s new grandson
 Lila and Larry Berger in memory of Norman Mann

Memorial Candles

Rhoda and Avram Freedberg in memory of Sam Freedberg
 Rhoda and Avram Freedberg in memory of Rashe Altman Padell
 Linda Bertrand in memory of Murray Ike
 Judith Ehrenshaft in memory of Roman Chudy
 Roberta and Leonard Mintzer in memory of Hyman Sherman
 Dianna and Eugene Nachamkin in memory of Zelick Nachamkin
 Dianna and Eugene Nachamkin in memory of Shirley Nachamkin
 Carole and Allan Polacsek in memory of Marcia Metzger
 Carole and Allan Polacsek in memory of Beatrice Kaspin
 Sharon Dunn and Harvey Zirotsky in memory of Jack Zirotsky
 Renee and Marc Barr in memory of Lewis Ehrenshaft
 Dorothy Sanders in memory of Simon Sanders
 Dorothy Sanders in memory of Bernard Smith
 Ellen and Robert Messing in memory of Elias Rosenblatt
 Ellen and Robert Messing in memory of Abe Messing
 Ellen and Robert Messing in memory of Lillian Rosenblatt
 Adena Wirkerman and Jack Mintzer in memory of Walter Levy
 Adena Wirkerman and Jack Mintzer in memory of Milton Mintzer
 Marcia Snyder in memory of Marvin Snyder

Ruth and Charles Weintraub in memory of Meyer Weintraub
 Terry in memory of Rose Weinstein
 Terry in memory of Isadore Leiberson
 Paula and Jonathan Fishbein in memory of Pearl Goldsmith
 Paula and Jonathan Fishbein in memory of Nathan Goldsmith
 Paula and Jonathan Fishbein in memory of Fanny Greenblatt

Cemetery Upkeep

Bruce Feldman
 Helen and Sid Gordon
 Steven Goldberg

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund

Helen and Sid Gordon

Mitzvah Club 2023-2024

Anonymous
 Patricia Bruder
 The Chudy Family Trust/Carol and Steven Chudy
 Judith Ehrenshaft and Seth Rosner
 Rita and Michael Fischer
 Roberta and Samuel Gottesman
 Lorraine and Steven Hammer
 Judith and Martin Kaplan
 Bunny and Allen Kasin
 Marsha and Robert Katzman
 Irving Metzger
 Diane White and Ted Orosz
 Loretta and Arthur Ostrov
 Bobi Baruch and Jerry Ostrov
 J. Lawrence Paltrowitz/PAL’s ALLIANCE, LTD.
 Ronni and Lester Rosenberg
 Bernard Singer
 Kim and Matt Stein

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 01 Skip & Eileen Woodcock
- 02 Carol Meisel
- 02 David Zwack
- 04 David Kieserman
- 05 Harold Flax
- 06 Seth Rosner
- 13 J. Lawrence Paltrowitz
- 14 Josef Solomon
- 15 Rita Fischer
- 17 Carol Anne Chait

- 21 Richard Reisman
- 22 Harold & Cynthia Flax
- 23 Rachel Baum
- 28 Gabe Stein

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 03 Tess Pollinger
- 14 Faith McCullen
- 15 Ali & Mark Doyle
- 20 Robert Messing
- 24 Irving Metzger

Congregation Shaara Tfillle sends its deepest sympathy to Terry Weinstein on the recent passing of her husband, long time congregant Harold Weinstein

Congregation Shaara Tfillle sends its deepest sympathy to the family of long-time congregant Norman Mann on his recent passing

5784 Yom Kippur Appeal has already raised over \$32,000

We would like to thank and acknowledge all of our Members and Friends who have supported Congregation Shaara Tfillle by their generous contributions. This helps us keep a strong Conservative Jewish presence in the Saratoga Springs area. May you be blessed with a healthy and happy New Year.

The following Families have made a generous contribution to our 2023 – 2024 (a.k.a. 5784) Yom Kippur Appeal.

Please add your name to our list by calling the office. We update new names by highlighting them in bold print.

Jeffrey and Naomi Allen	Jerold Grodin and Felice Karlitz	J. Lawrence Paltrowitz/ PAL'S ALLIANCE, LTD
Anonymous	Leah Hallow	John and Linda Parker
Edward Balaban	Steven and Lorraine Hammer	Allan and Carole Polacsek
Marc and Renee Barr	Michele Herman	Pamela Polacsek
Rachel Baum	Dede Hirsch	Barry Potoker
Linda Bertrand	Mel Ikler	Ken and Susi Ritzenberg
Richard and Jill Boehler	Andrew and Barbie Kahn	Marc and Francine Robin
Steven and Carol Chudy/ THE CHUDY FAMILY TRUST	Harvey and Lynn Kalish	Lester and Ronni Rosenberg
Staci Covkin	Martin and Judith Kaplan	Seth Rosner
Wayne and Adriana Cutler	Allen and Bunny Kasin	Dorothy Sanders
Mark and Ali Doyle	Robert and Marsha Katzman	Sondra Silverhart
Robert and Susan Edwards	David and Wilma Koss	Bernard Singer
Judith Ehrenshaft	William and Carole Leakakos	Rabbi Solomon and Judith Thomas
Adam Feldman	Allan and Sue Littell	Matt and Kim Stein
Michael and Rita Fischer	Piper Lutbak	Judiann Stern
Harold and Cynthia Flax	Milli Macy	Marc and Randy Treiber
Mitchell and Susan Frost	Gloria May	Joel Walter and Family
Stuart Ginsburg	Nathan and Jessica McCullen	Warren and MaryLou Weil
Steven Goldberg	Robert and Ellen Messing	Harold and Terry Weinstein
Jay Goldman	Irving Metzger	Skip and Eileen Woodcock
Lawrence Golub	Sharon Mudge	Harvey Zirofsky and Sharon Dunn
Samuel and Roberta Gottesman	Lary and Barbara Opitz	
Joseph and Susan Greenbaum	Martin Oppenheim	
Edward Greenberg	Ted Orosz and Diane White	
Mort and Vivian Greenberg	Arthur and Loretta Ostrov	
	Jerry Ostrov and Bobi Baruch	

***New Names will be included in the March/April addition of the Scroll and will be in Bold Print**

Mazel Tov to Lorraine and Steven Hammer on the birth of their new grandson Sutton Charles Liszewski, born November 18, 2023 to Sharra and Andrew Liszewski of Clifton Park and his brother Auden Pryce.



Mazel Tov to Jessica and Nathan McCullen on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Nathan McCullen



Congregation Shaara Tfillle would like to welcome new members Tess Pollinger and Darrick Zwack, and children Tommi and David

Mazel Tov to Eileen and Skip Woodcock on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Nathan McCullen



We are currently working on a new synagogue directory. Please contact the office if you have any changes from the blue covered directory dated 2021.

Mazel Tov to Ali and Mark Doyle on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Havah Doyle



Sunday, January 7th - Congregation Breakfast

Please join us on Sunday, January 7th, at 9:30 am for our first of the year breakfast.



The Men's Club members will be doing the preparing. Following the breakfast, at about 10:00 am, Kim van Alkemade, the New York Times bestselling author of the historical novels *Orphan #8* and *Bachelor Girl*, will talk about her work, including her latest book, a historical fiction, *Counting the Stars*. Kim was born in New York City and spent her childhood in suburban



New Jersey. Her late father, an immigrant from the Netherlands, met her mother, a descendant of Eastern European Jewish immigrants, in the Empire State Building. She attended college in Wisconsin, earning a doctorate in English from UW-Milwaukee. For many years, she was an English professor at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. Now a full-time writer, she lives in Saratoga Springs, NY, with her partner, their two rescue dogs, and three feisty backyard chickens. **We ask that you rsvp by January 3rd if you will be joining us so that we can prepare accordingly.** The cost is \$10 per person.

Tu Bishvat Seder - January 24 @ 5:30pm

Please join us for a seder at 5:30pm commemorating Tu Bishvat on Wednesday January 24. **Please call the office to RSVP. There is no cost, but attendance is needed so that we can prepare accordingly.**



Please join us on Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 4:00pm for a dinner and a movie. The cost is \$10 per person. Please rsvp by Monday, February 5, 2024. **Please note, walk-ins will not be accepted.**

Messages, including rsvp's for weekend events, left on the synagogue answering machine and emails are not checked after 1:00 pm on Fridays until the next non-holiday business day. Prior reservations for weekend events are needed to assure the amount of prepared food is sufficient. As such, walk-ins will not be accepted.

JWV Post 36 Car Wash Fundraiser

I am excited to announce that our organization, JWV Post 36, is participating in the Hoffman Car Wash Helping Hands fundraiser.

The fastest and easiest way for us to sell these car wash tickets is online at our custom home page on the Helping Hands website:

<http://www.hoffmanhelpinghands.com/fundraisers/Post36helpingvets>

Or aim your phone's camera at the QR code.

Here you can buy tickets (it is suggested that you sign on as a "Guest") and have them delivered electronically directly to an email or mobile device. You will need to use a credit card, and you will get an email with a barcode that is scanned when you go to the car wash. If you're unable to complete the purchase online, you may contact me for another option of obtaining them.

Feel free to share this address with your friends, family, coworkers - everybody needs a car wash and selling them online is easy for everyone.

This fundraiser can be a great success if we all work together to ultimately show our support and respect to those veterans in our area who are in need.

Your support of this endeavor and your JWV Post 36 is sincerely appreciated.

Samuel Gottesman, Post Commander
JWV Post 36
(518)796-0134



October 16 - Serving a Meal at the Saratoga Homeless Shelter

JWV Post #36 and Sisterhood prepared and served a meal for 50 individuals at the Saratoga Homeless Shelter. The dessert was donated by the JWV Post.



2024 Shalach Manot

In celebration of the Purim miracle, Mordachi declared that each family should send gifts to their neighbors. This custom has continued for generations. This year, as in years past, we invite you to participate in the Shaara Tfille Shalach Manot project. Each member family of our Synagogue will receive a Shalach Manot bag delivered to their home. A card enclosed with each bag will list those families who have sent their holiday blessings through the Synagogue. If you wish to send holiday greetings to the entire Congregation, the cost is \$36. We will be sending about 100 bags, so don't miss this great opportunity!



Packers Needed
Thursday, March 14th
Drivers Needed
Beginning Friday, March 15th



Please call the office at 518-584-2370 to arrange a time



Yes, I would like to send holiday greetings to the entire Congregation!
 Enclosed please find my check for \$36.

Name _____

(Please fill in as you would like it to appear on the greeting card enclosed with each bag)

Yes, I can help with:

Packing _____ Delivery _____



Please return this form with payment **by March 1st, 2024**, to:
 Congregation Shaara Tfille, 84 Weibel Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Rabbi's Message (continued)

This year, we can anticipate there will be war in the land of Israel when Tu B'Shvat comes, barring exceptional achievement by the IDF, or exceptional pressure from outside, in the interim. Let's try, with Tu B'Shvat in mind, to look forward to the fruition of this war:




First and foremost, Hamas must be destroyed. One can make peace with neighbors who have made war, but the barbarity of October 7th cannot be allowed to stand; this is what Israeli leaders are trying to communicate to the world when they say, "Hamas is ISIS."

Interestingly, there is a connection in Jewish law between trees, environmentalism, and the ethics of war. This is a principle known as "Bal Tashkhit" ("Don't Destroy"). The Torah teaches that we should not cut down fruit trees to make siege engines. This is expanded upon by our sages to mean that we should not be wastefully destructive in general, and as such this becomes a root principle of Jewish environmentalism. However, we should not get carried away; the Torah doesn't forbid necessary destruction, only wasteful destruction. There is no question Israel has wreaked great destruction in Gaza; however, both Jewish ethics and the Geneva Conventions judge destruction in war not by scale, but by necessity. Hamas has turned homes, schools, mosques, and hospitals, and the very earth underneath Gaza, into military fortresses, valid and necessary targets for destruction in a war that Hamas itself instigated with the Simchat Torah Massacre and the kidnapping of hundreds of hostages. On the other hand, Israeli soldiers who videoed themselves smashing merchandise in a shop in Gaza, for example, must be disciplined and perhaps prosecuted by the IDF for their misconduct, which violates both Bal Tashkhit and the international laws of war.

The conclusion that vast destruction in Gaza is justified by the threat and the tactics of Hamas has a corollary, however: much like Germany and Japan, Gaza will need to be rebuilt after Hamas is uprooted, enough that Gazans can feel that living there is preferable to martyrdom. Historically, the choice of fellow Arabs and the UN has been to maintain the Palestinians in a permanent refugee status, immiserating them and perpetuating their grievance. Instead, if its aim is to bring peace, the international community should invest in allowing the Gazans to settle into homes and lives that feel permanent and worthwhile, too valuable to waste on terrorism and war.

As part of this program, Israel must strive to establish, within safe bounds, civil autonomy for the Palestinians, including over internal security, even if Israel retains "ultimate security responsibility," in the words of Prime Minister Netanyahu. This may not be possible immediately, but should be the goal as early as possible. At the moment, like them or not – and I don't – the only existing group that offers any realistic hope of taking on that task is the Palestinian Authority; but presently, the Palestinian Authority is reluctant to appear to take control in Gaza (which they lost to Hamas in 2007) "on the back of Israeli tanks." It may be that when the dust clears, the control itself will be inducement enough, but likely there will need to be a bridging entity, particularly in the security sphere, and Israel will need to work hard to find and convince some responsible international partner/s to take on that role.

This brings us to another matter that must be addressed after the war: the Israeli government. After the primary kinetic phases of the war are resolved, the government should call elections immediately and let the Israeli people speak on the future they want for their nation. The present government should face electoral accountability for the intelligence and policy failures that saw Israel unaware and unprepared on October 7th. The government should face accountability for the "divide and conquer" policy that saw it strengthen Hamas in recent years as a bulwark against Palestinian unity and potential statehood; it was a grave miscalculation. The Prime Minister personally should face the charges in his criminal corruption trial – underway since 2020 – without creating the damaging perception that his personal legal considerations color his lawmaking or national security decisions. Netanyahu was once known as "Mr. Security" in Israel, but his track record now includes strengthening Hamas, weakening the PA, failing the nation on October 7th, and alienating many of the foreign powers that might be persuaded by a different leader to be part of a postwar rehabilitation process. Only Israelis can decide if they want more of the same – that is democracy, as flawed as Israel's electoral structure may be – but they must have the opportunity to make that decision as soon as intense combat operations tail off. If Israelis want my advice, it's time for a change.

MON Jan 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
January 2024 	Office Closed 20th of Tevet New Year's Day ● 7:30am Services	22nd of Tevet	23rd of Tevet ● 7:30am Services	24th of Tevet	25th of Tevet Shabbat Mevarchim Chode ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
7 26th of Tevet ● 9:30am Breakfast	8 27th of Tevet ● 7:30am Services	9 28th of Tevet ● 5:30pm Board Meeting	10 29th of Tevet ● 5:30pm Hebrew School Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat ● 7:30am Services	11 1st of Sh'vat, 5784 Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat ● 7:30am Services	12 2nd of Sh'vat 13 3rd of Sh'vat ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
14 4th of Sh'vat	15 Office Closed 5th of Sh'vat Martin Luther King Jr. Day ● 7:30am Services	16 6th of Sh'vat	17 7th of Sh'vat ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	18 8th of Sh'vat ● 7:30am Services	19 9th of Sh'vat 20 10th of Sh'vat ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
21 11th of Sh'vat	22 12th of Sh'vat ● 7:30am Services ● 4pm Adult Ed ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	23 13th of Sh'vat	24 14th of Sh'vat ● 5:30pm Tu Bishvat Seder ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	25 15th of Sh'vat Tu B'Shvat ● 7:30am Services	26 16th of Sh'vat 27 17th of Sh'vat Shabbat Shirah ● 9:30am Shabbat Services
28 18th of Sh'vat	29 19th of Sh'vat ● 7:30am Services ● 4pm Adult Ed ● 5:30pm Hebrew School	30 20th of Sh'vat	31 21st of Sh'vat ● 5:30pm Hebrew School		

February 2024



THU Feb 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
<p>22nd of Sh'vat</p> <p>First Day of Black History M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am Services 	<p>23rd of Sh'vat</p>	<p>24th of Sh'vat</p> <p>Shabbat Mevarchim Chode</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Shabbat Services
<p>29th of Sh'vat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am Services 	<p>30th of Sh'vat</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Shabbat Services 	<p>1st of Adar I, 5784</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Shabbat Services
<p>6th of Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am Services 	<p>7th of Adar I</p>	<p>8th of Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Shabbat Services
<p>13th of Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am Services 	<p>14th of Adar I</p> <p>Purim Katan</p>	<p>15th of Adar I</p> <p>Shushan Purim Katan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Shabbat Services
<p>19th of Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am Services 4pm Adult Ed 5:30pm Hebrew School 	<p>20th of Adar I</p>	<p>21st of Adar I</p>
<p>26th of Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am Services 4pm Adult Ed 5:30pm Hebrew School 	<p>27th of Adar I</p>	<p>28th of Adar I</p>
<p>25th of Sh'vat</p>	<p>27th of Sh'vat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Sisterhood 	<p>28th of Sh'vat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Hebrew School
<p>2nd of Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm Valentines Dinner + 	<p>3rd of Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am Services 4pm Adult Ed 5:30pm Hebrew School 	<p>4th of Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Board Meeting
<p>9th of Adar I</p>	<p>10th of Adar I</p> <p>Presidents' Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am Services 4pm Adult Ed 	<p>11th of Adar I</p>
<p>16th of Adar I</p>	<p>17th of Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am Services 4pm Adult Ed 5:30pm Hebrew School 	<p>18th of Adar I</p>
<p>25th of Adar I</p>	<p>26th of Adar I</p>	<p>27th of Adar I</p>
<p>29th of Adar I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am Services 	<p>20th of Adar I</p>	<p>29th of Adar I</p>

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The Jewish Community Center

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