



## ***Lake Placid Synagogue Newsletter***

2307 Saranac Avenue, Lake Placid, NY 518-523-3876

Fall 2014

### **From the Desk of the Adirondacker Fall 2014**

This fall was truly breathtaking. The trees changed together and the colors were amongst some of the brightest and fullest that I have experienced here in twenty one years. And now the leaves are falling and the temperatures are dropping.

It is nearly winter. The snows will soon fall and the tops of the Adirondacks will be covered with a mantle of white. Winter is breathtakingly beautiful. Life goes on and the pressures of daily life keep us moving on our hectic schedules. Life is busy as we go about our usual business of living. At each step there are decisions which need to be made. Like Dorothy on the Yellow Brick Road we have to decide which fork in the road to take. We seldom have the luxury of having a scarecrow available, and when we do the answer is pointing in both directions. At one fork Dorothy gets help from a sign which says: 'If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got.'

The road less traveled by us in our humdrum life often leads to some other place. In the Talmud it says that any road will get you there if you do not know where you are going. Seek the goals in life and the obstacles will take care of themselves.

In Roman times a certain rabbi was persecuted by a general. He was asked numerous questions which he managed to answer, and thus preserve his community and his life. One day the Roman general thought up a new question which he asked the rabbi. "Rabbi, I have a dove in my hands which are behind my back. Is the dove alive or dead?" The rabbi thought quickly. If he said the dove was alive all the general had to do was wring the neck of the dove and it would be dead. If he said it was dead all the general had to do was bring the dove out from behind his back and show it alive. Either way the answer would be wrong. So the rabbi replied: "The answer is in your hands."

Acknowledging that the answer is in our hands is an assumption of responsibility on our part. How we live and fare in the next year is up to us and the decisions we make.

With best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2014.

Alec H. Friedmann  
Rabbi  
adk-reb@ix.netcom.com

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**Past President** – Jon Vinograd



**JOIN US FOR SHABBAT SERVICES AND POTLUCK DINNER THE THIRD FRIDAY EVENING OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM**

Oct. 17, Simchat Torah Shabbat Potluck 6:30pm

Nov. 21, Shabbat Service & Potluck 6:30pm

Dec. 19, Shabbat Service & Potluck 6:30pm

Dec 21, Chanukah Latke Party 6:00pm

## **President's Message – Fall 2014**

With the holidays over I get to breathe a little. But just a little. As always, High Holidays were a time to renew and refresh our outlook, a time to reflect on the past and look forward to next year. There are many people to thank for their help during these days... Rabbi Alec Friedmann for his leadership and great sermons; Cantor Maurice Singer for his excellent chanting; Gabbi Neil Miller for his continued assistance; Margie Philo for the lovely beautification of the bima; and Foodies Steve Erman and Margo Gold for a yummy break fast.

The new windows cast a beautiful glow on the sanctuary this year. And the room was less drafty than in the past. But we did have an interesting view for Yom Kippur. We are under construction once again and had a large backhoe sitting just outside the windows. The ever leaning retaining wall along the parking lot is gone as are the sinking sidewalks. They should be replaced by our next service as will our entire parking lot.

But the renovations don't end there. We are looking into replacing the only full bathroom in the rectory as it is over 50 years old. And we have much more on the wish list for the future including becoming handicapped accessible. All these renovations take money which we must turn to you to raise. Please consider an additional contribution this year. Every little bit helps.

Sue Semegram, President

### **Simchat Torah Shabbat Service & Dairy Potluck dinner, Friday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm**

Simchat Torah means rejoicing in the Torah. It marks the completion of the cycle of the weekly Torah readings as we read the last Torah portion, then proceed immediately to the first chapter of Genesis, reminding us that the Torah is a circle, and never ends. This is a time of great celebration. There are processions around the synagogue carrying the scrolls and plenty of high-spirited singing and dancing in the synagogue with the Torahs. While we won't be reading from the Torah we will be dancing and singing with them. Please join us!

### **Chanukah Latke's & Chinese Food Party, Sunday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, 6pm**

Since our past few parties were such a success, we will repeat the Chinese Food. Our own Latke King, Steve Erman, will once again be frying the Latkes for everyone to enjoy on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm at the synagogue. Everyone is invited to join us in a community Chanukah lighting followed by our Latke/Chinese Food Party complete with dreidels and gelt for all. Bring your menorah or use ours and, of course, bring the kids.

### **Family Shabbat at a member's home beginning Friday evening Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.**

We will be holding a family oriented Shabbat Potluck on the first Friday of the month. Please call Sue at 523-5611 or Jordanna at 378-8089 for the location. We will have an activity for the kids and a few prayers and songs and, of course, our potluck dinner. Mostly this will just be fun!

# YARTZEITS 2014 5775



## Yartzeit Candle/Yizkor Service

There are 4 times a year when Jews light a special candle, called a Yartzeit Candle, in memory of loved ones who have died. Yizkor is a memorial service recited on Yom Kippur as well as the last days of Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot. Yizkor, the Hebrew word for "remember", asks God to remember those we mourn and to grant them proper rest.

A Yartzeit Candle is lit at sundown on

- The first night of Yom Kippur
- The night of Shemini Atzeret (the 8th night of Sukkot)
- The second night of Shavuot - The last night of Passover

Yizkor service takes place the following day.

Each issue of the newsletter contains YARTZEIT observances of individuals that have some connection to the temple. We would appreciate your help by carefully reviewing the list and advising us of any additions or corrections. If your loved ones names do not appear please send the correct information including the exact date so it can be converted to the Hebrew date. We would be honored to publish their names. Please email this to Sue at: [sue@lakeplacidsynagogue.org](mailto:sue@lakeplacidsynagogue.org)

## TISHRI

Tishri 9	October 3	Bernard Volpert
Tishri 10	October 4	Adolph Van Dam Ben Balsam
Tishri 11	October 5	Lorna Surkin Goldstein
Tishri 13	October 7	Ann Panick Freda Effenbach
Tishri 19	October 13	Emmily Bartholomew Sheer
Tishri 20	October 14	Mose H. Ginsberg
Tishri 24	October 18	Ann Brodsky
Tishri 27	October 21	Ida W. Shevach
Tishri 28	October 22	Lewis H. Berg Lily Kinberg

## CHESHVAN

Cheshvan 1	October 25	Grace Volpert
Cheshvan 5	October 29	Moses Feinberg Aviva Kupperman
Cheshvan 6	October 30	Harry Fendrick
Cheshvan 8	November 1	Abe Kobel
Cheshvan 9	November 2	Morris Edelberg
Cheshvan 10	November 3	Mark Effenbach
Cheshvan 17	November 10	Kate Auslander
Cheshvan 18	November 11	Ezra Feinberg
Cheshvan 21	November 14	Margaret Klein Harold Miller
Cheshvan 22	November 15	Aline Feinberg Jennie Schwartz
Cheshvan 25	November 18	Samuel Volpert, MD
Cheshvan 26	November 19	Irving Krinowitz
Cheshvan 27	November 20	Samuel Hailpern
Cheshvan 29	November 22	Herman Levine

## KISLEV

Kislev 1	November 23	Jules Feather Anna Zak Arlan
Kislev 7	November 29	Judah Koltz
Kislev 11	December 3	Sarah Feather
Kislev 12	December 4	Agnes E. Sadov
Kislev 13	December 5	Sadie Messe
Kislev 23	December 15	Abraham I. Spiro Mollie Streichler Meyer Laskin
Kislev 25	December 17	Joel Kameron
Kislev 26	December 18	Phil Gingold
Kislev 28	December 20	Dr. Bartholomew H. Ring
Kislev 30	December 22	Jeanette Cone

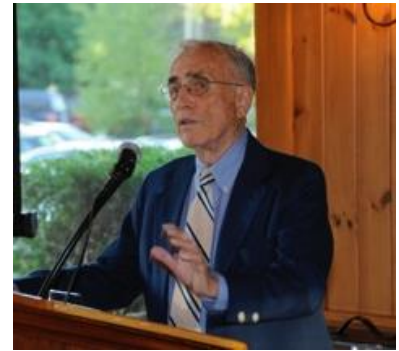
## TEVET

Tevet 3	December 25	Edith M Agus
Tevet 5	December 27	Ross Bloch
Tevet 6	December 28	Joseph Durst
Tevet 8	December 30	Renee H. Ring Sally Zaharia
Tevet 9	December 31	Jennie Blank

**Roland "Bob" Urfirer** passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2014 at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, as a result of natural causes. Bob was 93 years old.

Bob was born in Torrington, Connecticut on April 19, 1921 and moved to Lake Placid when he was 6 months old. He was the only child of the late Isadore and Bessie Urfirer. Bob attended Lake Placid Central School from kindergarten through 12th grade and graduated as the valedictorian of his class in 1938. He went on to Harvard College where he graduated cum laude, with a degree in Government in 1942.

Bob joined the US Navy in 1942 as an Ensign during World War II, and rose through the ranks to become a Lieutenant Senior Grade. During his years in the Navy, he participated in the landings at Iwo Jima, the Battle of Okinawa and mainland Japan shortly after the second Atomic Bomb was dropped. He was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1946.



After serving in the Navy, Bob returned to Cambridge, Massachusetts and enrolled in Harvard Law School. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1949 and for a short period worked at a law firm in Poughkeepsie, before returning home to practice law in Lake Placid. It was in Lake Placid that he met and courted the late Helene Block and on June 2, 1955 they were married. Bob and Helene had two children: Michael Urfirer and the late Steven Urfirer.

Early in his career, Bob worked tirelessly at multiple jobs simultaneously. He was an attorney, ran a real estate business, Adirondack Properties Agency, and built and managed, along with his parents, the Golden Arrow Restaurant and Motel in Lake Placid. He was a member of the New York Bar Association, the Florida Bar Association, and the Essex County Bar Association and continued to practice law until his 93rd birthday.

Bob was very involved in the local community. He gave his time and intellect to make Lake Placid a better place to live and a great year round destination to visit. He was a member of the board of directors or the board of trustees of: Placid Memorial Hospital (President), village of Lake Placid, Northwood School, North Country School and Camp Treetops, Lake Placid Horse Show Association, Bank of Lake Placid, Key Bank of Central New York, Key Trust Company, Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce, Lake Placid Sinfonietta, and the Lake Placid Synagogue (President). In addition, he served as attorney for the Village of Lake Placid and the Lake Placid School Board.

He was a Republican State Committeeman, a member of the American Legion and a 32nd Degree Mason. He received the honor of being a torchbearer by carrying the Olympic torch to the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympics opening ceremonies stadium as part of the worldwide Salt Lake 2002 Olympics torch relay and was presented with the "Key to the Olympic Village" for his 90th birthday in 2011.

He survived by his son, Michael J. Urfirer and his daughter-in-law, Doni Fordyce-Urfirer of Lake Placid and Greenwich, Connecticut and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Placid Synagogue and the burial took place at the United Hebrew Community Cemetery. The family requests that donations in memory of Roland M. Urfirer can be made to: Helene Urfirer Memorial Literacy Fund Inc. or The Urfirer Fordyce Family Research Fellowship Fund at Mount Sinai.

**Roby Politi, Supervisor of the Town of North Elba, wrote** Bob Urfirer was one of the last of the old guard; a member of our greatest generation; he was in fact the dean of the local law community.

I think of Bob as one of the sturdy beams that kept Lake Placid upright for close to a century. He was forever steadfast and withstanding. He was passionate about his home town and an active advocate for progressive change; yet quick to challenge an uncertain decision. But, he was always the consummate gentleman, universally respected, a great father and a loyal friend. To all of us he was as gracious as he was brilliant.

For a lifetime he made a difference in the direction of this community and we are thankful and appreciative of his influence and contributions. Bob Urfirer...today Lake Placid stands up and applauds you!

## **LP Synagogue in the Lake Placid News - We made the headlines twice!**

Sept 12 YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: Lake Placid Synagogue

<http://lakeplacidnews.com/page/content.detail/id/522175/YOUR-NEIGHBORHOOD--Lake-Placid-Synagogue.html?nav=5005>

Sept 25 Well, I'll be dipped...in honey Mill Hill synagogue mystery solved in time for the Jewish new year

<http://lakeplacidnews.com/page/content.detail/id/522216/Well--I-ll-be-dipped-----in-honey.html?nav=5005>

**Membership letters** went out in July. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Our dues are extremely low. If you do not choose to join as a full member, please consider making a donation to help us maintain our haven here in the Adirondacks. If you did not receive a letter and would like one, email me at [sue@lakeplacidsynagogue.org](mailto:sue@lakeplacidsynagogue.org). Many thanks!