

# Temple Israel Bulletin

Volume LXXVII  
Bulletin No. 5

Tu Bishvat Seder  
Friday evening, February 2

January 2018  
Tevet / Shevat 5778

Rabbi's message

## "True Lies"

Fiction, said Spalding Gray, is the lie that tells the truth.

Every novel or short story is a lie, which is to say, it never happened. It is not factual. Non-fiction is, by definition, factual. That's why they call it non-fiction.

Novelist James Branch Cabell said, "The trouble with facts is that, when they are taken out of relation to the rest of life, they become lies." Fiction, on the other hand, is not concerned with facts but with something more important: truths.

Fiction is, in my estimation, more powerful than non-fiction when it comes to telling the truth about you and me. This is the essence of midrash, the literary form used by our ancestors. Even when arguing points of law in the Talmud, non-fiction for sure, the illustrations they used to drive home their points were typically midrash, straight-up allegorical fiction. For example, from the *Midrash Tankhuma*:



Rabbi Akiba, in defiance of the mandate of the Roman authorities, who prohibited the study of the Torah, was found by his friend, Prysus ben Judah, with a host of disciples, diligently pursuing his wonted research. "Knowest thou not," asked his friend, "the great danger thou art facing by thus defying the authorities? Take my advice and desist from thy studies."

"Your advice," returned Rabbi Akiba, "seems to me like the advice of the fox who, on seeing fishes swimming in a river here and there, told them to come out, and he would show them a resting-place in the rocks. 'Are

you the wise one amongst the beasts of the field?' retorted the fishes. 'If in our own element we can find no rest and safety, how much worse will it be with us when we are out of it?' With us Jews the Torah is our very life [Proverbs Chapter 4]. In pursuing its study I may incur the risk of losing my earthly life; in relinquishing it I face the certainty of moral and spiritual death."

I can select a contemporary example as well, a passage from *A Perfect Spy* by John le Carré:

Rick speaks again. Unprompted. It was the voice he used when he was cornered. Syd heard it then, I heard it later only twice. It was not a pretty tone at all.

"I could bring those accounts up to you this evening, as a matter of fact, Sir Makepeace. They're in safekeeping, you see. I'll have to get them out."

"Give them to the police," says Makepeace, still writing. "We're not detectives here, we're churchmen."

"Miss Dorothy might think a bit different, though, mightn't she, Sir Makepeace?"

"Miss Dorothy has nothing to do with this."

"Ask her."

Then Makepeace stops writing and his head comes up a bit sharpish, says Syd, and they look at each other, Makepeace with his little baby

eyes uncertain. And Rickie, suddenly his gaze has the glint of a flick-knife in the dark. Syd does not go as far as I shall in describing that stare because Syd won't touch the black side of his lifelong hero.

But I will. It looks out of him like a child through the eyeholes of a mask. It denies everything it stood for not a half-second earlier. It is pagan. It is amoral. It regrets your decision and your mortality. But it has no choice because you cannot go back.

"Are you telling me Miss Dorothy is an investor in this project?" says Makepeace.

"You can invest more than money, Sir Makepeace," says Rick, from far away but close.

"From far away but close." What a great painter in words.

I wrote *The Minds of the Bible* as an expository piece of persuasive writing, non-fiction. I still like that book and absolutely stand by its premises and arguments. But it is not the kind of work I write these days. Fiction is my predilection.

I paraphrase Elie Wiesel, who in turn was quoting the midrash when he wrote, "God created people because He loves stories."

I create stories because I love people.

Rabbi Jim Cohn



## Schedule of January services

Friday, Jan. 5	5:30 p.m.	<i>Shabbat service, followed by covered-dish dinner</i>
Friday, Jan. 12	5:30 p.m.	<i>Shabbat service</i>
Friday, Jan. 19	5:30 p.m.	<i>Shabbat service</i>
Friday, Jan. 26	5:30 p.m.	<i>Shabbat service</i>

## Rabbi Cohn's "Basic Judaism" Class

*Jewish denominations, repairing the world, Jewish holidays and the life cycle*

Rabbi Cohn's Basic Judaism class continues this month with the exploration of a variety of Jewish topics. The public is invited. For a full schedule, go to [www.templeisraelwv.org/learning/](http://www.templeisraelwv.org/learning/)

Here is this month's schedule:

Wednesday, Jan. 3 — Jewish movements ("denominations")

Wednesday, Jan. 10 — Tikkun Olam: mystics and reformers

Wednesday, Jan. 24 — The holiday cycle

Wednesday, Jan. 31 — Life-cycle events and their observances

## The return of the Tu Bishvat Seder: Friday evening Feb. 2, after Shabbat service

By Rabbi Cohn

This year Tu Bishvat falls on Jan. 31. In observance of this holiday we will have a Covered Dish Dinner on Feb. 2. By popular request, the meal will include a Tu Bishvat Seder and Oneg dessert following the 5:30 p.m. service. No reservation is necessary.

Tu Bishvat is a Jewish holiday occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. It is also called "Rosh Hashanah La'Ilanot" (literally "New Year of the Trees"). In contemporary times, the day is celebrated as an ecological awareness day, and so at our February dinner we will enjoy the symbolic foods that bring to consciousness the web of our connections in and with nature.



### Any news?

Do you have news to share about births, weddings, or bereavements in your family? Please email Rabbi Cohn and we will include it in our print bulletin and our email announcements.

Note that we only accept information directly from family members and never from third parties, in keeping with considerations of privacy, accuracy and the Jewish customs of Ethical Speech.

The Temple office email is

[templeisraelwv@gmail.com](mailto:templeisraelwv@gmail.com)

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Rabbi Cohn's email is

[rabbi.mailbox@gmail.com](mailto:rabbi.mailbox@gmail.com)

### Moving?

Please let the Temple office know if you are moving or if you're changing your email address or telephone number. That way, you won't miss any news about what's going on at Temple Israel.

We also want to make sure we have your current contact info for the Sisterhood yearbook. If you'd like to change anything in your listing, please let the office know. Thanks.

IN THE EVENT OF SEVERE  
WEATHER:

Call the Temple at 304-342-5852 and follow the prompts to hear about any cancellations.

TEMPLE ISRAEL  
2312 Kanawha Blvd., E.  
Charleston, W.Va. 25311  
304-342-5852  
[www.templeisraelwv.org](http://www.templeisraelwv.org)  
[templeisraelwv@gmail.com](mailto:templeisraelwv@gmail.com)

David Shapiro  
President

James D. Cohn  
Rabbi

Israel B. Koller  
Rabbi Emeritus

# January yahrzeits

*Names are read the Friday evening prior to the yahrzeit date, which is in parenthesis.*

## January 5th

Jean T. Goldman (6)  
Anna Sloman (6)  
Harriet W. Margolis (7)  
Berle Radow (8)  
Brooks Smith (8)  
Ann Gilbert Toovy (8)  
Mildred Fleischmann (9)  
Dovenor Eugene Jarrell (9)  
Anita Frankenberger (10)  
Regina Kimmel (10)  
Dr. Richard Jubelirer (11)  
Samuel E. Galperin (12)

## January 12th

Evelyn Mendelsohn Badner (13)  
Elsie Forb (13)  
Dr. A. Stanley Webster (14)  
Jane Frankenberger Greenwald (16)  
Esther Stabins (18)  
Jinx Engel Harris (19)  
Frank Hudnall (19)  
Moses Meyer Lipton (19)

## January 19th

Lottie Cohen Goshorn (20)  
Mark H. Schaul Sr. (20)  
Evelyn Brown Silverman (20)  
Sarah Goldstein (21)  
Marjorie Spigel Sockol (22)  
Stanley Szczepaniak (22)  
Frances S. Schaffner (23)  
Harry L. Wills (23)  
Judith Pollack (24)  
Rose Marks Stern (24)  
Joyce Maldow Selinger (26)

## January 26th

Louis Hartstein (27)  
Iris Pincus (27)  
William Osvath (28)  
Bertram Schaffner (29)  
Meyer Kwass (30)  
Rose Edelman (31)  
Philip Barnett Hall (31)  
Bessie Polan Brown (Feb. 1)  
Samuel Oppen (Feb. 1)  
Florence Jordan Silverstein (Feb. 1)  
Mary Selinger (Feb. 2)



## January at a glance

Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 6 p.m. – Rabbi's Basic Judaism class: Jewish movements ("denominations"), see p. 2

Friday, Jan. 5 at 5:30 p.m. – Shabbat service, followed by a covered dish dinner, no RSVP necessary, see p. 5

Monday, Jan. 8 – Sisterhood Schmooze Time, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., see p. 5

Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 5:30 p.m. – Temple board meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. – Rabbi's Basic Judaism class: Tikkun Olam: mystics and reformers, see p. 2

Friday, Jan. 12 at 5:30 p.m. – Shabbat service

Friday, Jan. 19 at 5:30 p.m. – Shabbat service

Sunday, Jan. 21 at 10 a.m. – Sisterhood board meeting, see p. 5

Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. – Rabbi's Basic Judaism class: The holiday cycle, see p. 2

Friday, Jan. 26 at 5:30 p.m. – Shabbat service

Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 6 p.m. – Rabbi's Basic Judaism class: Life-cycle events and their observances, see p. 2

## Next month

Feb. 2 – Covered Dish Dinner and Tu B'shvat Seder and Oneg dessert following 5:30 p.m. service – no RSVP necessary, see p. 2

Feb. 3 – "First Shabbat" morning service at 10:30 a.m., followed by Torah study

Feb. 4 – Combined Sisterhood board and general membership meeting at 10 a.m., see p. 5

**Deadline for the February Bulletin  
is Jan. 15th.**





## Book Exchange: out with the old, in with the new

Take a good, hard look at your bookshelves.

The dusty coffee table books you purchased or were given, the silly novelty books that are only funny once. Wouldn't it be great if you could wave a magic wand and make them disappear – or better yet, transform them into books you actually want to read?

Then the "Book Exchange" is your kind of place: where the goal is to thin out your bookshelves and find something new and interesting to read.

Also on hand – Video DVDs and music CDs.

At some point, the leftovers will be donated to one of the local libraries for their annual sales, and we will begin again with new stock in the Book Exchange.

*Judy Lundy*

## What happened at Temple Israel on Jan. 13, 2014?

By Rabbi Cohn

QUESTION: It was important enough for me to make note of it on my calendar as an anniversary worth celebrating annually. So, what was it?

ANSWER: It was Temple Israel Shower Day. The water disaster began on January 9, 2014. On January 13, the flushing began with the area that included the Temple. Wendie and I luxuriated on January 13 in the showers at the Temple, restored through the vision of Phil Angel, of blessed memory, following the 2012 derecho. It was just... perfect!



## Thanks for making Shabbat even more special

An Oneg Shabbat (literally, Joy of the Sabbath) spreads the joy from those providing the Oneg to everyone taking the time to nosh and converse together! It may remember a Yahrzeit, honor someone or celebrate an occasion.

A few dates are still available for sponsorship: March 9 and 16; and April 6.

Please contact a member of the Oneg Committee to reserve your date: Judy Lundy, (Anne Fishkin, (or Beth Winter. If you'd like to shop for or prepare for your Oneg, please deliver your items to Temple by noon on that Friday. If you'd like a member of the Oneg Committee to shop and prepare on that date, please make your check payable to Temple Israel for \$35 and write "Oneg" and "your date" on the memo line.



### Oneg Shabbat receptions

- Dec. 1 – Given by Marion Baer in memory of her husband, Frank Baer
- Dec. 8 – Given by Hedy Poppelsdorf in memory of her parents, Dr. Fritz and Paula Fraenkel, who were murdered in Auschwitz in 1944
- Dec. 15 – Given by Rachel Dash in memory of her mother, Sara Goldhirsh Dash
- Dec. 29 – Given by Judy Lundy and Nathan Jurin

### Flowers on the bimah

- Dec. 1 – Given by Hedy and Fedor Poppelsdorf, in loving memory of their daughter, Nina Poppelsdorf; given by Ina Angel and family, in memory of the birthday of Philip Angel Jr.
- Dec. 15 – Given by Rachel Dash in memory of her mother, Sara Goldhirsh Dash

*If you would like to sponsor Shabbat flowers, please contact Betty Stern. Please make checks payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood.*

### Thanks to the chefs

Thanks to chefs Alan Fleischmann and Gary Winter for all the shopping, cooking and serving that made for another successful Hanukkah Dinner on Dec. 16, and to everyone who helped out that day. Special thanks to Temple housekeeper Mary Hart and her daughter, Yvonne Lacy, for their expertise and attention to detail. See you next year!

*Sisterhood message*

## Seeking volunteers to shop and cook for Sojourner's meal; Sisterhood board meeting Jan. 21; general membership meeting Feb. 4; many thanks to everyone for pitching in

Happy New Year! May 2018 be a healthy and good year for you and your family.

Thank you to the following people who helped our Sisterhood in December:

- Francine Thalheimer who coordinated the Covered Dish Dinner on Dec. 1. More covered dish dinners will be coming up, usually on the first Friday of the

month. Our next one will be Friday, Jan. 5. Please plan to attend if you are in town!

- Gayle Twigger-Shaw, who led the Dec. 3 combined board and general membership meeting in my absence. Thank you also to Francine Thalheimer and her crew who provided the wonderful lunch for the meeting, and to Lois

Coleman and Lynn Gattlieb who arranged for our speaker. (I was not in town that day: I was in Venice, Fla. with my family helping my uncle celebrate his 100th birthday – what a fun celebration.)

- Beth Winter, who continues the Schmooze time in the Sisterhood Lounge on the second Monday of each month. We had a good turnout and sharing of ideas on Dec. 11. Our next Schmooze time will be Monday, Jan. 8. Plan to join us between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Come when you can, leave when you must. We would love to have you join us! Bring your lunch – coffee and ice water will be provided.
- Betty Stern for the setting of the tables for the Hanukkah Dinner.

Our Sisterhood supports the YWCA of Charleston's Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women and Families, which provides temporary housing for those in need. Sisterhood will be making a dinner for them on March 11 and we need helpers to shop and cook.

We usually spend a couple of hours shopping during the week prior to the dinner and a few hours preparing it at the Temple the day of the dinner. We then take the food to Sojourner's by noon for the staff to serve. Gathering to cook this meal has been a simple, fun event for us. So bring your apron and come

hang out with us as we duel for best chopper. The menu is usually frozen lasagna, salad, bread and a dessert.

Caroline Ostand looks forward to hearing from you if you are interested in volunteering. Call her at (304) 984-2889 or email [caonurse@ostand.com](mailto:caonurse@ostand.com). Or you can make a much-needed donation, such as large garbage bags (30-gallon), breakfast cereal, healthy snacks for kids, laundry detergent, personal care items such as shampoo, as well as canned soup and other non-perishables. Just drop them off in the Sojourner's basket in the lobby.

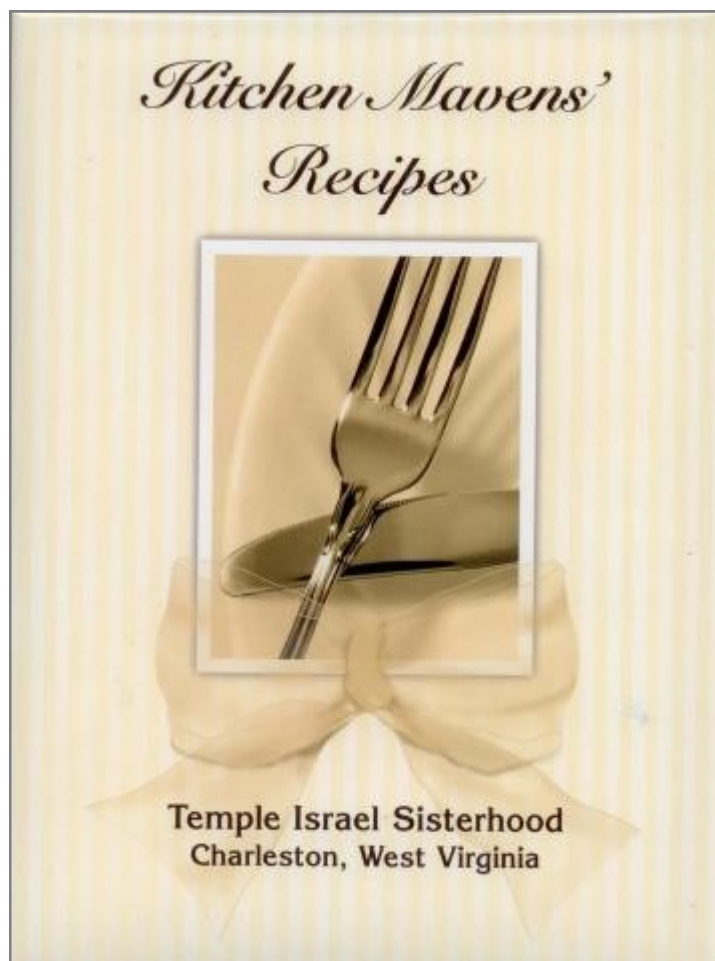
There are so many ways you can help Sojourner's, so please call or email Caroline to sign up. If you can help by shopping for the food or preparing the food, let Caroline know. The food will be prepared Sunday morning, March 11. Thanks to many volunteers for their continued help. (Caroline and a few other volunteers will be making a Christmas breakfast for the people living there.)

The next Sisterhood Board meeting will be 10 a.m. on Jan. 21. If you are unable to attend, please send your report to the Temple office so copies can be made.

The next general membership meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 4.

*Sue Eisinger, President*

We have just a few sets left of the Sisterhood cookbook, *Kitchen Mavens' Recipes* and its *Addendum*. The cost for the set is \$10. Please contact Judy Lundy or Sue Eisinger if you would like to purchase one, for yourself or as a gift.



## Our Thoughtful Contributors

If you would like to make a donation to a Temple or Sisterhood fund, please mail your check to Temple Israel and tell us to whom you would like a card to be sent.

Donations to a Sisterhood fund (Care Committee, Floral Fund or Y.E.S. Fund), should be made payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood with a note on the memo line telling us which fund the donation is for.

Donations to the Temple Israel Social Action Fund should be made payable to that fund.

Donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund should be made payable to that fund. Donations are used to help Temple members in financial distress.

Unrestricted donations or those to the Library should be made payable to Temple Israel.

**Please write separate checks when making contributions to more than one fund or when paying membership dues.**

Donations received after the Bulletin deadline will be acknowledged in the next issue.



***Save  
the  
date***

**Observance of Tu Bishvat  
on Feb. 2 —  
a Covered Dish Dinner  
and Seder with holiday  
fruits and nuts, following  
the Shabbat service.**

### Photos

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tu\\_BiShvat#/media/File:DriedfruitS.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tu_BiShvat#/media/File:DriedfruitS.jpg)

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<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Typewriter#/media/File:Typewriters.jpg>

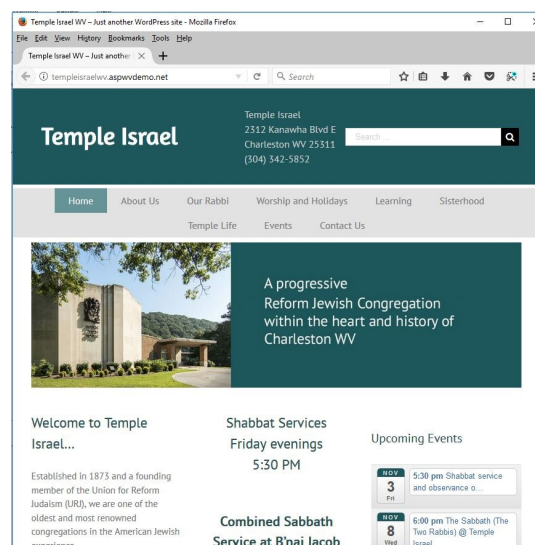
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### URJ info

You can find Torah study materials on the Union for Reform Judaism website at <http://reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study>

*Reform Judaism* magazine was the official voice of the Union for Reform Judaism, linking the institutions and affiliates of Reform Judaism with every Reform Jew. It ceased publication in 2014.

Previous content is available online at <http://reformjudaismmag.org/>



### Temple website

The Temple website [www.templeisraelwv.org](http://www.templeisraelwv.org) is now back online. Please let a Website Committee member know if you have news or suggestions. Contact the Temple office for more info.



**Social Action news****Thanks to everyone who contributed to Adopt A Family**

A big thank you to everyone who so generously donated to Temple Israel's 2017 Adopt a Family: Grandparents Lester and Maybelle, and their grandchildren Jeremy, Byron and Holly. Your donations created a fund of more than \$800. This allowed us to provide very well for this family!

Thank you for contributions from Marion Baer, Ron and Sue Eisinger, Bill Kroesser and Anne Fishkin, Lee and Tudi Forb, Cookie Glasser, Richard Hess, Ken and Joy Kleeman, Ann Kushner, Judy Lundy, Mary Rich Maloy, Gary and Ditty Markham, Paul and Caroline Ostand, Mark and Ellie Schaul, David and Amy Shapiro, Gayle Twigger-Shaw, and Gary and Beth Winter.

Ann Kushner, Hedy Poppelsdorf and Anne Fishkin took advantage of sale prices and additional discounts at Kohl's to buy clothes and jackets for each member of the family. We also bought a generous gift certificate for Payless Shoes, and special-wish-list gifts for each member of the family. Ann Kushner, Melissa Cadle and Anne Fishkin wrapped the gifts for Lester and Maybelle, and we delivered everything to Covenant House on Dec. 5.

As an added bonus, our Kohl's purchases earned Kohl's Cash®, so Ditty Markham and Anne Fishkin used that and donations from congregants received after Dec. 1 to buy 10 hats, 10 pairs of gloves, 32 pairs of socks, and 4 undershirts for Manna Meal to distribute to those in need.

On Dec. 15, we received a thank you note from the family, "Thank you for helping our family. Merry Christmas."

*Anne Fishkin*

**RCCR Home Ownership Program**

From the [RCCR website](#)

The Home Ownership Program of the Religious Coalition for Community Renewal (RCCR) was developed to encourage and support affordable, safe, and well-maintained home ownership. Our services include home buying and ownership education, budget and credit counseling, foreclosure prevention and housing development. Our target population are clients living in Kanawha, Boone, Putnam and Fayette counties who are at 80% or below the area median income. We help our clients through Housing Counseling and New Home Development.

**Housing Counseling**

Our Housing Counseling Program was implemented in 1995. We have counseled over 1800 families and have helped over 500 families become first-time home owners. Working with a housing counselor, each family or individual is able to resolve their unique issues and make home ownership a reality.

- provides private counseling with individuals or families to resolve issues that may be obstacles to home ownership;
- serves as a resource to families through pre-purchase education and counseling;
- bridges the gap between financial and public institutions and citizens not familiar with their processes; and
- works with traditional financial agencies and government agencies to make mortgages affordable.

**New Home Development**

RCCR builds new homes that are sold to first time homebuyers who are mortgage qualified and who are at 80% or below the area median income. Since 2001 RCCR rehabbed and sold eight condos on Charleston's East End. Since that time RCCR has built 26 affordable single family homes in Kanawha and Putnam Counties. These homes were built in partnership with the city of Charleston Mayor's Office of Economic and Community Development (MOECD), West Virginia Housing Development Fund, and Empire Development Corporation.

If you are interested in becoming a first-time homebuyer, contact Andy Myers, (304) 346-6398, [amyers@rccr.org](mailto:amyers@rccr.org)

