

Temple Israel Bulletin

Photo by Louis Davidson

Congregation welcomes Rabbi Joe Blair to Temple Israel

*Dear Congregants, Community members,
and Friends,*

Greetings and Thanks!

I am very excited and happy to be writing to you in the first of what I hope will be many bulletin articles. There is LOTS to talk about and share this month, as we are entering right into the High Holy-day celebrations. In no time at all, just days now, the High Holy Days will be upon us, and the year will be in full forward motion!

With the high holidays so close, there is little time to waste, so let me immediately offer a prayer that this coming year will be a good, sweet, healthy, prosperous year, full of love and blessings for you and your loved ones, for the congregation and the Jewish community of Charleston, and for the wider world, and a year of healing and peace for all. In the traditional formula, may you be inscribed and sealed for a good, sweet, blessed and joy filled year.

Thank you so much for the wonderful warm welcome you have offered me. Karen and I look forward to getting to know you and becoming part of this lovely community.

Please read this bulletin fully, and note all that we are planning – mark your calendars and be sure to come to many events!

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair



Social Action News High Holy Days Hunger Project— Annual Food Drive



This holiday season, Temple Israel will again participate, along with hundreds of other Reform synagogues, in the fight against hunger. We ask that you fill a grocery bag with non-perishable food and bring it to the Temple sometime during the High Holy Days. Your donations will be delivered to the Covenant House food pantry, to feed the local needy, after the end of Sukkot.

Please shop locally for healthy foods. The need is great – more people than ever use the food pantry and its shelves are often missing many staples. Especially needed now are breakfast cereal, one-pound packages of spaghetti, peanut butter, canned milk and dried milk, canned soups, ready-to-eat pasta, canned beans (but not green beans) and meal starters.

Monetary contributions are also needed. If you would like to donate, please write a check to Covenant House and bring it to the Temple. The same goes for Mazon, the Jewish Response to Hunger. Boxes for donation checks will be on display during the holidays and we will take care of mailing your check.

If you would like to donate items to the YWCA of Charleston's Sojourner's Shelter, you are welcome to drop non-perishable food or personal hygiene items in the Sojourner's basket.

Your generous participation is much needed and appreciated. *L'shana tovah.*

Social Action Committee

Schedule of September worship services

We invite all who wish to join us to attend our services on these days:

Shabbat

Friday, Sept. 7 5:30 p.m. *Shabbat service*

Friday, Sept. 14 5:30 p.m. *Service for Shabbat Shuvah*

Friday, Sept. 21 5:30 p.m. *Shabbat service*

Friday, Sept. 28 5:30 p.m. *Service for Sukkot/Simchat Torah and Shabbat*

High Holy Days and Sukkot

Sunday, Sept. 9 7:30 p.m. *Rosh Hashanah Eve service—reception to follow—everyone is invited*

Monday, Sept. 10 10:30 a.m. *Rosh Hashanah Morning service, followed immediately by Tashlikh*

Tuesday, Sept. 18 7:30 p.m. *Yom Kippur Evening service (Kol Nidrei)*

Wednesday, Sept. 19 10:30 a.m. *Yom Kippur Morning service*

1:00 p.m. *Torah study*

2:00 p.m. *Afternoon service*

4:00 p.m. *Family holiday event for all ages*

5:00 p.m. *Memorial (Yizkor) service*

5:30 p.m. *Concluding (Ne'ilah) service*

6:00 p.m. *Havdalah*

Break-the-Fast—everyone is invited

Sunday, Sept. 23 5:00 p.m. *Sukkot observance*



Sukkot and Simchat Torah fall in the period from Sunday evening, Sept. 23 through Tuesday, Oct. 2. Please note the events related to each.

Any news?

Do you have news to share about births, weddings, or bereavements in your family? Please email Rabbi Blair 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

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Rabbi Blair's email is

rabbijoebl@gmail.com

Moving?

Please let the Temple office know if you are moving or changing your email address or telephone number.

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
templeisraelwv@gmail.com

David Shapiro
President

Joseph M. Blair
Rabbi

James D. Cohn
Israel B. Koller
Rabbis Emeriti

September yahrzeits

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

September 7th

Marion Lehman (8)
Charles Cohen (9)
Suzanne Silverstein Rice (9)
Anna Rodgin (9)
Herman G. Wells (9)
Max M. Goldfarb (10)
Priscilla Herzbach (12)
Susan Ferrara Bostic (13)
Peter Godfrey (14)
Esther Price (14)

September 14th

Fred Burka (16)
Gussie Kwass (16)
Carol Marks (16)
Joan F. Silverstein (16)
Sylvia M. Kohn Gold (17)
Hildegard Mellman (17)
James Pickus (18)
William R. Wood (18)
Jacob H. Stern (19)
Louis E. Walter (19)
Ruth Goldfarb (20)
Henrietta Kaufman (20)
Margaret Short Lewis (21)
Naomi Ruth Pickus (21)

September 21st

Philip Angel Sr. (23)
Robert Weinberger (23)
Louis Hallam (24)
Nan Hertz (24)
Jean Jubelirer (24)
Abraham Greenberg (25)
Sam Joseph Toovy (25)
Rosa Levine (26)
Dr. Gordon F. Phillips (27)
Alfred H. Schaffner (27)
Bernard Bergen (28)
Richard O. Katz (28)
Ellen Shapiro (28)
Judy Walder (28)

September 28th

Edna P. Hofmayer (29)
Lawrence C. Kaufman Jr. (29)
Etta Ruda (29)
Faye Kantor (Oct. 1)
Nat Spigel (Oct. 2)
Kurt Feibelman (Oct. 3)
Helen Jacobs (Oct. 3)
Lucille Barrett (Oct. 4)
Irma Hallo (Oct. 5)
Betty Levine (Oct. 5)
Geneva Mann Sessions (Oct. 5)



Baruch Dayan Ha'emet

Condolences

We note with sorrow the death on May 27 of our long-time friend and fellow congregant Emily Marks and share sympathies with her family. Emily was living in Colorado. May the memory of Emily Marks serve as an enduring blessing.

September at a glance

Monday, Sept. 3 – temple office closed in observance of Labor Day

Friday, Sept. 7 at 5:30 p.m. – Shabbat service

Sunday, Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. – Rosh Hashanah Eve service, followed by a reception – everyone is invited

Monday, Sept. 10 at 10:30 a.m. – Rosh Hashanah morning service, followed immediately by Tashlikh.

Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 5:30 p.m. – Temple board meeting

Friday, Sept. 14 at 5:30 p.m. – service for Shabbat Shuvah

Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. – Yom Kippur Eve service (*Kol Nidrei*)

Wednesday, Sept. 19 – Yom Kippur services starting at 10:30 a.m. – see p. 2 for complete schedule. Break-the-Fast follows the closing service and everyone is invited. Temple office closed.

Friday, Sept. 21 at 5:30 p.m. – Shabbat service

Sunday, Sept. 23 at 5:00 – Sukkot event

Monday, Sept. 24 – Temple office closed in observance of first day of Sukkot

Friday, Sept. 28 at 5:30 p.m. – service for Sukkot/Simchat Torah and Shabbat

Next month

Oct. 5 – 5:30 p.m. Shabbat service followed by a covered dish dinner

Oct. 6 – 10:30 a.m. “First Shabbat” morning service and Torah study

Oct. 8 – 11:30 a.m. Sisterhood Schmooze



From the rabbi's desk: Thank you and a request

From Rabbi Joe Blair:

A huge thank you for the warm welcome and open-hearted acceptance you have offered to me since my arrival. I could not ask for more, nor could I be happier or feel any more that this is a homecoming, rather than a new start. You have all been amazing and wonderful! I can honestly say that I already love this community and those who are part of it.

I have an important request. I am new to the community and don't yet know the customs and practices that have been in use. That means that I will make mistakes, and that I may do things a bit differently without intending to do so.

In the first case, PLEASE know that I would greatly appreciate your help – come, talk to me, tell me what you expected and let me know what I have done, said, or missed that did not meet your expectations. I will not see this as criticism; instead it is helpful, constructive support, and I will take it in that light to help improve and do better.

I don't plan to make any significant changes to the current practices, and certainly not before I have had much more time to observe - enough time to see how things are working, and to learn why the current practices were implemented. At the same time, I don't want things to feel static and frozen, so if something truly needs to change, I will consult with the appropriate committee(s) and the Board, and determine the best approach. Any changes will be done in a deliberate and thoughtful manner, trying to take into account the variety of views, tastes, and preferences of as many people as possible.

For those very few things that I feel quite strongly about and believe a change

is needed, I will always listen and consider all comments and suggestions you have before anything is done, but after consideration, I may still decide to do them as I have in past, or in a new way - which may be a change from what you are used to seeing. In that case, please know that I value and want your comments and feedback about what I do, and how it is working for you – now, and for the future, and that I am and will continue to listen carefully and consider what you have to say. Almost nothing is set in stone!

Mi Sheberach names – a change in practice

I want to take this opportunity to announce that one change is being implemented immediately, at the request of the Ritual Committee. From now on, during services I will announce the names of those for whom prayers for healing and wholeness are requested beforehand, just prior to the Mi Sheberach prayer - but a name will only be read at this time if the person named agrees that their name is to be included in the announcement in advance of a given service.

Names for the Mi Sheberach list can be sent to me up until 9 pm on Thursday (to allow time to check with the person - if it is not you - and secure their permission to be included in the announcement list). You may send the name(s) to me by email (rabbijoe@gmail.com), or by text or phone (304-989-4014). Please don't trust my memory and simply tell me a name!

Unless you tell me to do so, names will not carry over from week to week.

When you do request inclusion for multiple weeks, please give me a sense of how long that might be (the default for multiple weeks absent a specific length of time will be four weeks). Beyond that, if it

is still appropriate, you can always ask that a name be included again; please do so whenever it is desired to include it in the list.

Request for participation – Torah readers, confirmands, and B'nai Mitzvah

The summer is said to be the 'slow' time of the calendar year, but this is when plans are being made for the coming year. One of the things I would like to ask is that anyone interested in reading Torah (or Haftarah) during the year, and anyone interested in adult confirmation or celebrating a B'nai Mitzvah, please be in touch with me so we can begin to plan for that to happen!

Request for programming suggestions

I have been working on planning a very active calendar of events for the coming year, as you will see in this bulletin. Nonetheless, if you have specific requests for events, programs, or classes I might offer, I would love to hear from you. The best way for me to meet your needs is to start by knowing them, and I would be appreciative of hearing from you. I can't promise to meet all requests, but I certainly want to know what you would like to see so I can do my best.

Request for information

One thing I can assure you is that I have never met a rabbi who was a mind reader – and that goes for me, as well! If there is something you think I need to know, PLEASE tell me! This is especially true for information related to anyone who is in the hospital (hospitals no longer give out information to clergy), anyone who is ill or who might appreciate a call, visit, or a time to talk for any reason, and

(Continued on page 7)

Sisterhood message**New programs and fundraising for coming year — “Tea and Tour” in October and Holland bulb sale next spring**

Temple Israel Sisterhood enters into its upcoming season with enthusiasm and optimism. New officers, several new committee chairs, and all committees are working hard to continue the ongoing initiatives and to create a new fundraiser and other programs of interest.

On Sunday, Oct. 21 at 2 p.m., Sisterhood will host a Tea and Tour at the Temple, as a fundraiser. This event is a tour of Temple art and artifacts, conducted by Ellie Schaul. A high tea will be served concurrently, as attendees tour the building. The price of tickets is TBD.

Holland bulb sales will continue as the mainstay of our fundraising, now with a little twist! Stay tuned.

Gayle Twigger-Shaw,
President



Sisterhood will host a Tea and Tour at the Temple, Sunday, Oct. 21, as a fundraiser. This event is a tour of Temple art and artifacts conducted by Ellie Schaul. A high tea will be served concurrently, as attendees tour the building. Ticket price is TBD.

College youth info requested

Sisterhood asks that parents of college students let us know their children's addresses at school so we can stay in touch. Please mail or email this info to the Temple office.

Thanks to Sisterhood from Mary and Greg

Temple housekeeper Mary Hart and administrative assistant Greg Proctor want to thank Sisterhood for the checks they received earlier this year. The gifts were thoughtful and very much appreciated. Thank you!

Contacting the rabbi

Rabbi Joe Blair is available by appointment.

Rabbi's all-hours cell phone number is 304-989-4014. *Please call this number in case of an emergency.*

This cell phone number is the best way to reach the Rabbi at all times.

He may be reached by email at RabbiJoeB@gmail.com

Rabbi reads email regularly through the day, except on Jewish holidays or

Shabbat, when he does not use the computer or electronics that require typing. Please note that both email and Facebook are not seen during these periods.

Messages on the Temple office voicemail will be checked periodically, but not nearly as frequently or regularly as the listed cell phone number.

Please let the Rabbi know if you or anyone you know is ill or would want a call or visit for any reason.

You are also invited to contact the Rabbi to arrange an appointment to

meet. The rabbi will be happy to set a mutually convenient time to meet or speak with you, so that he can offer you his full, undivided attention.

**The deadline for
the October
issue of the
Bulletin is
Friday, Sept.
14th.**



Our Thoughtful Contributors

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

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, noting which fund on the memo line of your check.

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.

Holiday greetings and thank you from the Kollers

Rabbi and Peggy Koller want to thank the Temple for this year's Rabbi Emeritus Gift and extend their best wishes to everyone. Peggy says they appreciate so very much the congregation's kindness and generosity, and hope everyone has a peaceful, good and healthy New Year.

Mazel tov

Congratulations to Bill Kroesser and Anne Fishkin on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Ezra Devir Caplan, on July 28 in Denver, Colo.

Sukkot observance

Sukkah-decorating at the Temple Sept. 23 at 5 p.m.

"Sukkot" is a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts." The holiday of Sukkot originated with the fall harvest festival, and later came to symbolize the temporary shelters of the Israelites during the Exodus. Join in observing this holiday that our ancestors considered important enough to call "Hekhag," "The Festival."

The decorating of the sukkah will be held at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23. There is no cost and no reservations are required. This will be a joint service with B'nai Jacob, held at the Temple.



Save the date

Friday, Oct. 5, after the 5:30 PM Shabbat service, there will be a covered dish dinner. Bring a dish to share or just yourself—there's always enough food.

Leora May Book Club next meeting Oct. 17

We had a good discussion at our most recent meeting, with 14 members present. Due to the Jewish holidays, we have decided not to meet in September.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 6 p.m., at Aladdin Restaurant. The book is former U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright's (above) *Fascism*. It is a newer book but should be available at the various libraries.



Amy Shapiro

Please join us for a special Oneg Shabbat Sept. 14

Please join us for the Oneg Shabbat reception on Sept. 14 to honor Betsy and Roy Gooding's special birthdays. Given by Betsy's children, Wendy, Cindy, Shelly and Jeff.

You can make Shabbat even more special



Oneg Shabbat receptions

Sharing food and drink at an Oneg celebration strengthens relationships among our members and guests and continues the joyous spiritual journey of Shabbat.

Sponsoring an Oneg in honor or in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a happy occasion, is a generous gift to help sustain our community's vitality.

The Oneg sponsor can either provide desserts and snacks themselves, or the Oneg team will, with your donation of \$35, shop for and purchase everything needed.

The dates are filling up quickly. For any additional info or to reserve your date, contact Judy at 304-744-4932 or jlundy43@gmail.com

Flowers on the bimah

If you would like to sponsor flowers on the bimah, please contact Betty Stern.



Aug. 10 sponsor — Gail Badner Sargent

From the rabbi's desk

(Continued from page 4)

any significant changes or major events in someone's life. If you think the Sisterhood Care Committee should know, please include me as well!

Rabbi's programs (partial list)

"First Shabbat"

In addition to the scheduled weekly Shabbat services, I will be continuing the "First Shabbat" tradition established in past. On the first Saturday of each month, I will lead a Shabbat service, followed by a Torah or Text study. It will begin at 10:30 a.m., with a focused service, sometimes including reading from the sefer Torah, other times leaving more time for discussion. In general, the Torah/Text study will look at the *Parashat Hashavuah* (the weekly portion from the Torah), but we may veer aside into other texts as I learn your interests. No prior knowledge is required — you only need to have interest, curiosity and a sense of humor (and be able to read English), and bring an open mind to try to tease out new understandings. This will start Oct. 6.

OLLI (WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute)

Join other students for a short course (five one-hour sessions) taught by Rabbi

Blair starting Oct. 16 at 10:30 a.m. to be held at the Temple. The title of the course is "Bible Babes: Women of Interest and Their Stories in the Hebrew Scriptures." Come tease out these hidden gems in the text — you are likely to be surprised at how much we can glean!

"Introduction to Judaism"

A series of ten one and a half hour stand-alone sessions on topics in Judaism. Rabbi Urecki and I will be offering this series starting Oct. 31, roughly twice a month, alternating the location from the Synagogue to the Temple by session. We will also divide up some topics so that one of us will present on that topic entirely, and for other topics we will both present our views. These are scheduled on Wednesday afternoons/evenings. The series is open to anyone interested, and it is "drop-in"; you do not need to attend all sessions. We hope that the material will be of interest to everyone, no matter the level of knowledge with which they start. For anyone who is new to, or considering Judaism, this should be an excellent starting place; it will serve as the first part of a Jewish studies curricula, which will be required for anyone wishing to convert to Judaism.

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A full list of programs was mailed out prior to this bulletin and is also available on the Temple website.



Temple website

The Temple website www.templeisraelwv.org is the easy way to stay current. Please let the Website Committee know if you have news or suggestions. Contact the Temple office for more info.





Passenger drop-off and accessible parking in the semi- circular driveway

The semi-circular driveway at the Temple's front entrance on Kanawha Boulevard can be used as a passenger drop-off area and as accessible parking for people with disabilities.

If you need to park in front of the building, please pull as close to the edge of the driveway as possible. Other cars need to drop off passengers and get past you to park elsewhere.

When parking in the semi-circle, ***please don't block the ramp*** that leads to the front doors.

Photos and graphics

Madeline Albright

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Pound layer cake.jpg

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Donated canned goods

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Sisterhood Tea and Tour

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