Temple Israel Bulletin

December 2018

Kislev/Tevet 5779

Volume LXXVIII, No. 4

SCHEDULE OF DECEMBER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Saturday, Dec. 1 at 10:30 AM – "First Shabbat" morning service and Torah study. Parashat hashavuah (weekly reading) is Vayeshev, Genesis 37:1-40:23.

Friday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 PM - Shabbat service

Friday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Friday, Dec. 21 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service with Torah (Vayechi, Genesis 47-50)

Friday, Dec. 28 at 5:30 PM - Shabbat service

HANUKKAH DINNER DEC. 9 AT 5:30 PM

Temple Israel's annual congregational Hanukkah Dinner will be held Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to the Temple office by Friday, Nov. 30.

The cost is

- Adults: \$10
- Students (any age): \$4
- Pre-kindergarten: Free.

You don't need to pay ahead – pay at the door.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring from home a menorah and candles to light for the eighth night of Hanukkah display.

Thanks to Alan Fleischmann and his crew for preparing and serving the dinner again this year.

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

Saturday, Dec. 1 at 10:30 AM – "First Shabbat" morning service and Torah study. Parashat hashavuah (weekly reading) is Vayeshev, Genesis 37:1-40:23.

Sunday, Dec. 2 - First candle of Hanukkah

Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 6 PM – Introduction to Hebrew (continued)

Friday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Sunday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 PM – Congregational

Hanukkah Dinner: RSVP required by Nov. 30. Pay at the door. (Eighth candle of Hanukkah)

- Monday, Dec. 10 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM Sisterhood Schmooze
- Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 5:30 PM Temple board meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 6:15 PM at B'nai Jacob Synagogue – Introduction to Judaism: "G-d." The class will be held at B'nai Jacob Synagogue and will be preceded by a minyan. – see "From the Rabbi's Desk"

Friday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

- Friday and Saturday, Dec. 14 and 15 Rabbi Blair and Rabbi Urecki will "trade pulpits" – see "From the Rabbi's Desk"
- Sunday, Dec. 16 at 10 AM Sisterhood board meeting

Sunday, Dec. 16 at 10:30 AM – "Bimah Etiquette & Choreography" one-hour class taught by Rabbi Blair – see "From the Rabbi's Desk"

Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 6 PM – Introduction to Hebrew (continued)

Friday, Dec. 21 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service with Torah (Vayechi, Genesis 47-50)

- Monday, Dec. 24 Temple office closes at noon
- Tuesday, Dec. 25 Temple office closed

Friday, Dec. 28 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Monday, Dec. 31 – Temple office closes at noon

Next month

Tuesday, Jan. 1 – Temple office closed

Wednesday, Jan. 2 at 6:15 PM at Temple Israel – Introduction to Judaism: "Torah." The class will be held at the Temple and be preceded by a minyan. See "From the Rabbi's Desk."

Friday, Jan. 4 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service followed by a covered dish dinner – no RSVP necessary. Robin Godfrey delivers the Devar Torah, speaking on WWI through a story from his family.

Saturday, Jan. 5 at 10:30 AM – "First Shabbat" morning service followed by Torah study – Vaera, Ex. 6-9

DECEMBER YAHRZEITS – Names are read the Friday evening prior to the yahrzeit date, which is in parentheses

December 7th

Frederic J. Glazer (8) Jean Loewenstein Lazarus (9) Hershel R. Hark (10) Emma Rae Jones (10) Jo Marshuetz (10) Maxwell Lewis Broverman (11) Jess Cohn (11) Patricia Logan (13) Rudolph Grinberg (14)

December 14th

Evelyn Forman (15) Severna "Cissie" Herman (15) Larry Zakin (15) Hugh M. Jones Jr. (16) Sara Goldhirsh Dash (17) Teresa Roberts Davis (17) Manuel Pickus (17) Avraham Angel (18) Helen Baer (18) Robert Silverstein Sr. (19) Esther "Mickey" Baer (20) Samuel Rosen (21)

December 21st

Goldie Cohen (22) Naomi Jean Bright (24) Zelda Plotkin (24) David Selinger (25) Kaethe Wells (25) Beatrice H. Kleeman (26) Edward Doernberg (28) Paul Joseph Kaufman (28) Rose Jean Kaufman (28) Steven Miles Kaufman (28) Eva Waisburd (28)

December 28th

Nathan Forb (29) Dorothy Allen (30) George Badner (30) Suzie Greenwald Chaskin (30) Mildred Fleischmann (30) Sydney Joseph Kaufman (31) Otto Spiegler (31) Charles H. Levine (Jan. 01) Irma Lowenthal Swarts (Jan. 02) Coleman Jacobs (Jan. 04) Sidney Marks (Jan. 04)

CONDOLENCES

Baruch dayan haemet

Our congregation shares sympathies with the Stern family on the recent death of Franc Stern, brother of David, brother-in-law of Betty and the uncle of Gregg and his wife Jennifer. The funeral was in Fairmont. May the mourners be comforted from heaven, and may the memories of their loved one be a blessing.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF TEMPLE ISRAEL

Temple Israel welcomes new members Laura Goldfarb and Jace Goins and their children Emily Claire and Lanham. They make their home in Charleston.

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Dear Temple Israel Congregants, Community members, and Friends – Shalom, and Greetings!

I have to say that it is hard for me to believe that time is passing so quickly. It feels like only days ago that it was summer – but we have already had the first flurries, and the temperature doesn't lie: winter is upon us. As I write this, an ice storm is predicted in Virginia, and Thanksgiving is next week!

Despite the cold weather, I have felt very warm, held close by the continuing kindnesses and sense of welcome that so many have extended. The level of care expressed and shown has been very much appreciated, and most touching. I thank all, and particularly those who have taken measures above and beyond, some of which were very surprising to me, and that I could not and would not have imagined. I am buoyed and very much cheered to find that you not only talk about being welcoming, but make it a reality! Thank you all, and know that you are part of a very special congregation and community.

I have tried to meet as many of the needs and wishes you have expressed as I could. That has led to a fairly active and full calendar of events, along with many meetings, conversations, and visits. Best of all, I can honestly say that it has been fun, as well as a pleasure to work with you, and to get to know some of you better. The limitation seems to be that there are too few hours in the day to do all that I would like to accomplish!

A few of the highlights have been: (religious &

ritual) planning and holding services and rituals; (engagement) participating in meetings and plans of the Board; the Ritual, Long Range Planning, Social Action, Adult Education/Congregational Enhancement, Sanctuary Renovation, and House committees, the Care Committee, the Shabbat Covered Dish Dinner program; and working with Sisterhood; (education) teaching the OLLI class on Bible Babes, teaching the Introduction to Hebrew classes, teaching the Global Day of Jewish Learning program; (inreach) offering pastoral visits and getting to know members of our congregation and community; (community building) working with Rabbi Urecki and others at the Synagogue on joint programs; (outreach) reaching out into the larger community to build bridges and create connections and rapport. Most important of all, and the thing I enjoy the most, is getting to know you (as a group and as individuals) better.

Far from a highlight, but a very meaningful event for me, and (I hope) for all in the Jewish community, everyone who is part of the larger community of Americans, and many others in the world - was our response to the Pittsburgh terrorist attack. I was so grateful to have a place to come, and a community that would come together to acknowledge and share and grieve in the wake of this horrendous, tragic event. I was able to draw strength and courage from the presence of so many, and from the responses of the larger community. I pray that we, all who were affected, and particularly those in Pittsburgh, be comforted and find healing. May it be Gd's will that we never have cause to come together for such an event again, and that peace come and reign over all. Until that day, may we find the wisdom, strength, and endurance to work to make our world a better, safer, and more godly place for all.

I know there is always more to be done, and it is difficult to balance all these various tasks so that each gets enough attention when it should. The truth is that I am trying my best, but I know I will fall short at times in one or another area. I hope you will be understanding and patient with me, and help me to improve where I miss the mark. I want most sincerely to serve you and to support you to the best of my ability. I am deeply appreciative of the trust and confidence you have indicated by electing me as your rabbi. I feel grateful and very much blessed.

I write this, sending my warmest wishes for a happy Thanksgiving, in the spirit of gratitude and appreciation for the bounty that G-d provides for us to enjoy. The Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, is the next holiday on the Jewish calendar - may it be a time of joy and light for you in every sense. I hope to see you soon.

Highlights for the next month are listed. I have tried to offer a variety of events, programs, classes, and services. I hope you will attend at least some, and let me know what you think. If I am missing anything, please tell me!

Let me close for now with wishes for many blessings for you and all your loved ones.

Rabbi Joe Blair

CHOIR INQUIRY - REPRISE

I asked in the last bulleting, and heard from a few people. Once again, if you have any interest in forming a small choir group to sing at some of our services, then **please be in touch** with me, Ronni Spudich, or Josh Barrett. The options were floated that this group might prepare to sing for the Afternoon service on Yom Kippur, and/or to sing Shabbat mornings. There was also some thought that the group would join with Bob Morris to sing on specific Friday Shabbatot. This is simply a straw poll to determine if there is interest in participating in this group. If there is enough interest, we can explore how to implement this.

RABBI'S PROGRAMS

Focusing on the next few weeks, here is the list of upcoming events and programs. I look forward to sharing them with you.

"Introduction to Judaism"

A series of ten (10) one-hour stand-alone sessions on topics in Judaism. Rabbi Urecki and I will be offering this series starting at the Temple **NOVEMBER 28**th, alternating the location between the Synagogue and the Temple – and we may decide to move to other venues for some sessions. These are scheduled on Wednesday evenings starting at approximately 6:15 to 7:30 PM (with an evening service minyan proceeding each session, if you would like to attend that).

The series is free and open to anyone, and it is 'drop-in'; you do not need to attend all sessions.

This is not just for beginners! All others are welcome as well; it is our hope that everyone will learn something new, no matter their background or knowledge, no matter where they start. Bring your questions and curiosity! Please feel freed to invite friends and neighbors.

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 curriculum, and open the door to additional studies.

And who knows – there may be a few things about which the two rabbis will have differences of opinion – our version of family feud? (3)

The topics are:

Introduction & Background; November 28; Temple G-d; December 12; Synagogue Torah; January 2, 2019; Temple Israel; January 16; Synagogue Lifecycle; February 6; Temple Calendar/Holidays (Major & Minor); February 20; Synagogue Jewish Literature; March 6; Temple Synagogue/Temple Life; March 20; Synagogue Jewish History; April 10; Temple Contemporary Topics; April 24; Temple

Conversion; May 1; Synagogue

"Friday Shabbat Service & a Covered Dish Dinner" Our next Shabbat service with a Covered Dish dinner is November 30th. Bring food – or if you can't (or forget), just come anyway - I can't imagine anyone will go away hungry!

"First Shabbat"

The next "First Shabbat" falls on Saturday December 1st at 10:30 am. We will have a short Shabbat morning service, followed by a Torah or Text study, and a nosh. The parashat hashavuah (weekly reading) is Vayeshev, Genesis 37:1-40:23. We will read the text, and try one of the several possible approaches to studying it. No prior knowledge is required. You only need to have interest, curiosity, and be able to read English! Join us for an uplifting service and a fun conversation.

"Hanukkah"

Hanukkah (however you may choose to spell it begins at sundown on the evening of December 2nd (1st candle is lit), and runs until sundown on December 10th. The last night of Hanukkah is December 9th (8 candles are lit), when we plan to have the Hanukkah dinner at the Temple. It begins at 5:30. Bring your Chanukiah (Hanukkah candelabra) and candles, and light up the night in honor of the Festival of Lights! More information on the dinner appears in this bulletin.

"Pulpit Exchange"

Rabbi Urecki and I will "trade pulpits" on December 14th and 15th. He will deliver the Devar Torah on Friday at Temple, and I will deliver the sermon on Saturday at Synagogue. I would love to have you there for both!

"Bimah Etiquette & Choreography"

On Sunday, December 16th at 10:30 am, I will offer a one-hour class that will go over the Torah service, as well as how it all works so that it looks smooth and seamless. I hope to cover the logistics, etiquette, and choreography of the Torah service – how to negotiate taking the Torah out, undressing it, moving it to the reading stand, calling people up for honors, the blessings, lifting it, dressing it, and putting it away. I also want to tie this to the flow of the liturgy/service that is followed during the Torah service. Bring your questions and join me for a short, fun class in the Sanctuary. Be 'in the know!'

SECULAR AND OTHER OBSERVANCES

- Hanukkah begins at sundown the evening of December 2nd, and ends at sundown on December 10th. Candles available in the Temple office.
- The Congregational Hanukkah dinner is December 9 at 5:30 PM. Bring your Chanukiah (Hanukkah candelabra) and candles it will be the 8th night, and we should be able to make quite a show! (3)
- December 24th is Christmas Eve.
- December 25th is Christmas day. [For some, Jewish movie and Chinese dinner day! (3)]
- December 31st is New Year's Eve.
- January 1st is New Year's Day, also called Sylvestre in Israel.

CONTACTING THE RABBI

- Rabbi Joe Blair is available by appointment.
- His all-hours cell phone number is 304-989-4014. PLEASE call this number to contact him for any reason
- He may be reached by email at RabbiJoeB@gmail.com.

eads email through the day **exc**

He reads email through the day <u>except</u> on Jewish Holidays or Shabbat, the computer or electronics require typing. Neither **Email nor Facebook/Messen**ger are seen during these periods.

Messages on the Temple office voicemail will be checked periodically, but it's best to call the cell phone. 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 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.

IN THE CONGREGATION

[This includes only those who have approved having their name included.]

Refuah Shelemah/Mi Sheberach (Healing & Wholeness/Blessings):

To those included in the recent Mi Sheberach lists at services:

Lois Coleman Jonathan Freedman Lynn Gattlieb Jack Goldfarb Pam Goldfarb Brenda Gains Brian Hudnall Margie Hutt Rabbi Israel Koller Peggy Koller Gary Markham Hedy Poppelsdorf

And those who are now on the mend, and whose names will not be on the Mi Sheberach list any longer:

Kim Aaron Bob Aaron Richard Holicker

To those who reached milestones in the past month, and to all who had any birthday or anniversary or other event worth celebrating! Among those we know who were or will be acknowledged at an Oneg we include: Anne Fishkin, Jill Epstein, Betty Stern, Cookie Glasser, and Norma Winter.

UPDATES ON TEMPLE SECURITY

As you would expect, in light of the tragic events at the Tree of Life Synagogue, security issues at the Temple were discussed at the last meeting of your Board on November 13. At that meeting, I appointed a committee to develop a security plan. The committee will discuss how to supplement what we currently have in place. The tension with any such effort is to balance our need for safety with our desire to be a warm and welcoming community. The members who have agreed to serve on this committee are: Steve Artz, Lynn Gattlieb, Richard Hess, David McAfee, Ronni Spudich and Betty Stern. In addition, Rabbi Blair and I are on the Committee.

An initial meeting of this committee is now scheduled for the week after Thanksgiving. In the course of developing a security plan, the committee will meet early on with law enforcement officials to get their insights about developing such a plan. I have already been in touch with the appropriate officer at the Charleston Police Department who will meet with the committee. After the committee agrees on a draft plan, I understand law enforcement officials are willing to review it and provide their reflections and suggestions. If you have any suggestions or comments about security issues and measures for the committee, please direct them to me or to the Temple office. Doing that by e-mail would be greatly appreciated as it will make it easier to pass your suggestions or comments along to the committee. My e-mail address is dbshapirowv@gmail.com

It has been our practice to lock our doors on Friday night about 15 or 20 minutes after our services begin. Until a final security plan is adopted, however, entry to the Temple for our Shabbat services will be through the back door, except for those with handicaps or mobility issues, who may continue to use the front door. The chapel side door will be kept locked, and a sign will be posted on the side door asking all to enter through the back door. The back and front doors will be unlocked at 5:15 p.m. and locked again at 5:30 p.m. when services begin. We will have a member who will monitor the back and front doors until 5:40 p.m. to let you in if you are running a few minutes late. If you are later than 5:40, please use the back door and ring the doorbell. Although there is no guarantee, we should be able to hear the doorbell in the Sanctuary so someone can come and let you in.

These measures are put in place out of an abundance of caution. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with these measures. They are taken in the interest of safety for all of us.

> Sincerely, David Shapiro, President

SISTERHOOD MESSAGE

Sisterhood held a combined board and general membership meeting on Nov. 11.

Under discussion at that meeting was the Tea and Tour, with thoughts and ideas for how to host that event in the future. We addressed the upcoming Adopt a Family for the Christmas season and volunteering for the Christmas Day breakfast at Sojourner's.

Lynn Gattlieb gave us a stunning update on the Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue shootings.

Kyla Nichols, Program Director of YWCA Housing Programs, enlightened us about their program for homeless senior women and the positive results coming from that initiative.

Gayle Twigger-Shaw, President

SOJOURNER'S LIST OF NEEDS THIS MONTH

Many of us are celebrating in our homes this season. There are those who don't have homes.

The generosity of others helps them survive and celebrate. BUT everyone still needs the basics, so think of Sojourner's and their ongoing help to the homeless through all seasons.

They need towels, cleaning products. laundry soap, dish soap (not dishwasher), new pillows, trash bags (extra City of Charleston bags would work, or the large 30-gallon black bags). Just the basics! Please help!

We thank you for helping them to help!

Caroline Ostand

SOCIAL ACTION CORNER

The Social Action Committee has now held three monthly meetings. We have been discussing the Social justice work and interest of committee members in an effort to prioritize potential projects to pursue.

In October, Robin Godfrey presented an overview of the J Street organization and their current Priorities as well as their Two State Solution position paper. At the November meeting, he provided an update on J Street's Score Card and subsequent results for House and Senate candidates. He also reported the polling results of 900 self-identified Jewish voters' priorities in the latest election. In October, Alan Tweddle presented a written and oral presentation on Climate Change. He also provided the Committee copies of a Washington Post Oct. 14, 2018 article on Nobel laurate William Nordhaus and an interview with Michael Mann by Dharna Noor and copies of <u>Lilly's Class, Kids talk</u> <u>about Climate Change</u>. This led to a discussion of ways in which collectively and individually our Jewish community could support climate change initiatives including the installation of solar panels, energy conservation and continual educational programming.

At our November meeting, Millie Snyder presented insights from her discussion with Pastor Hill about the Criminal Justice system and its intersection with Racism in our Community. There was a discussion about the need to learn more about anti-racism and criminal justice reform efforts in the community to determine how we might join in collaboration with other organizations and entities dealing with this important Issue of Conscience.

All our presentations thus far mirror priorities and concerns that are addressed by the Religious Action Center (RAC).

On next meeting is December 10, 2018 at 5:30 PM and will include a presentation by Marsha Albert on issues of Homelessness and the elderly.

The members of the Committee are:

Marsha Albert, Josh Barrett, Melissa Cadle, Rachel Dash, Anne Fishkin, Lynn Gattlieb, Cookie Glasser, Robin Godfrey, Donna Hall, Tiana Hall, Roy Herzbach, Richard Holicker, Millie Snyder, and Alan Tweddle with Rabbi Joe Blair, David Shapiro and Gayle Twigger Shaw, as Rabbi, President of the Board, and Sisterhood President as ex-officio members.

Please know as Congregational members, you are always invited to join us as we explore and act on sacred Issues of Conscience.

Cookie Glasser and Rachel Dash, Co-chairs

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Adopt-a-Family Reminder: Temple Israel's Adopt-a-Family for the 2018 holiday season consists of mom, Dominique, and her three children: son Malec, age 16, and two younger children, Kmanjnae, age 4, and Anthony, age 2. Their clothing sizes and "special request" gifts were listed in the Adopt-a-Family article in the November Bulletin and an email note.

If you wish to give a check, the committee will use the funds raised to purchase clothing, special request gifts, or gift cards for shoes or food. You may write your check as a charitable donation, payable to Temple Israel, with "Adopt-a-Family" on the memo line. Please give any check (or gift card or Kroger card) to Greg no later than Thursday, December 6.

If you prefer to buy a special gift for a family member, please bring your UNWRAPPED gift to Temple and place it in the appropriate box on the stage on or before Wednesday, Dec. 5.

> Thanks! Anne Fishkin

LEORA MAY BOOK CLUB

Leora May Book Club will meet Dec. 19 at 6 PM at Aladdin Restaurant. Our book is *The Music Shop* by Rachel Joyce. I hope you can join us!

Amy Shapiro

THANKS FOR MAKING SHABBAT 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 to-gether!

A few dates are still available for sponsorship – please contact Judy Lundy at 304-744-4932 to reserve YOUR date. Your choice: we shop or you prepare for your Oneg – the choice is yours.

Thanks, Oneg Shabbat Committee

Oneg Shabbat receptions

- Nov. 9 In honor of our veterans and Veterans Day, given by Beth and Gary Winter, and Lois Coleman
- Nov. 16 In honor of Jill Epstein's special birthday, given by several friends
- Nov. 23 In honor of Anne Fishkin's 80th birthday, given by Bill Kroesser and Amy Lynne Caplan

Flowers on the bimah

- Nov. 9 Given by Nick and Natalie Winowich in honor of their birthdays
- Nov. 16 Given by Marsha Albert in memory of her husband, Robert Albert
- Nov. 23 Given by Hedy and Fedor Poppelsdorf in memory of their daughter, Nina
- Nov. 30 Given by Ina Angel, remembering Phil's birthday

OUR THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTORS

Please note: a complete list of contributors to the Social Action Committee's 2018 Adopt-A-Family project will be published in the January 2019 Bulletin.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- A thoughtful donation, given by Penelope and Mike Tice
- In memory of Rabbi Jim Cohn, given by Elizabeth Kantor-Bright and Jeff Bright
- In memory of Jane P. Silverstein, given by Elizabeth Kantor-Bright and Jeff Bright
- A thoughtful donation, given by Amy and David Shapiro
- In honor of Rick Holicker and in support of Manna Meal, given by Charlotte Holicker Miller

Unrestricted Fund

- In memory of lives lost at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, given by Kim R. Pauley and Charles E. Boll II
- In memory of Jane P. Silverstein, given by Doris and Jack Goldfarb
- A thoughtful donation, given by Rabbi Earl Jordan
- In memory of Jane P. Silverstein, given by Jill Silverstein Gammon and Roland Gammon

UNIONGRAMS LIST IN SEPARATE DOCUMENT

An addendum to this Bulletin is the Sisterhood Uniongrams list for 2019. It is a separate document. Those who received this Bulletin as an email attachment should look for the Uniongram list as an attachment as well. Those receiving this Bulletin in the US Mail will find the Uniongram list at the back of their Bulletin.