

Temple Israel Bulletin

Volume LXXVIII
Bulletin No. 5

Covered Dish Dinner—Friday, Jan. 4th

January 2019
Tevet / Shevat 5779



From the rabbi's desk

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

If you like winter, this is your time! I had my first opportunity to experience a WV snow storm as I travelled along I-64, and it was pretty impressive. I drove to Virginia, entering the storm around Beckley, and there was somewhere between 10 and 18 inches of snow as I went along. Thank goodness they were doing a great job plowing the roads. Returning the next day, the roads were completely clear, but it was still a winter wonderland as I drove – until I passed Beckley, and it was all gone again! My trip was for a medical appointment, and I was very saddened to miss the Chanukah dinner. From the photos taken and the comments I have heard, I missed a marvelous time – and a really bright candle lighting! I look forward to it next year. Meantime, thanks to all who worked to make it happen.

Lots of activities in December! Highlights: (religious & ritual) all of the services and rituals, including an unveiling and Chanukah; (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, working with the Care Committee, the Shabbat Covered Dish Dinner program; and working with Sisterhood; (education) teaching the Introduction to Hebrew classes, the Introduction to Judaism course, the Bimah Etiquette course (to be repeated in the Spring), and attending webinars for my own learning; (in-reach) offering pastoral visits, 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, such as the Healthy Kids fundraising dinner, the farewell to Dr. Khan and welcoming the new Imam, participating in the Kanawha school program on diversity and tolerance, and attending the Charleston Area Religious Leaders Association (CARLA) clergy meetings.

I am very happy to have had the opportunity to share Shabbat services, Oneg Shabbat, Torah studies, calls, texts, visits, and meals with many of you, and I am grateful to those who have trusted me and allowed me into your life to offer pastoral care as much I am able.

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!

May you continue to see the blessings of the lights of Chanukah manifest in your life and in the lives of your loved ones throughout this winter season.

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair

New: Temple Israel Facebook Page

Kudos and appreciation to the team of tech-savvy gurus led by Judy Watkins-Rimmey who have created and started populating a Temple Israel Facebook page. If you use Facebook, please search for Temple Israel Charleston WV, and "Like" our page. The full link is <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Israel-Charleston-WV-2550469431660054/> (be sure to choose this one – there are some

other dead links out there).

Anyone can view the page, but only those approved may post on it. If you want access to post, please contact me – Rabbi Joe Blair. The board decided that we have a need to have an online social media presence, and this is our start.



Havdalah and...

I mentioned that I was planning to offer some Havdalah events. Havdalah is the very short ritual that marks the end of Shabbat, so these are on a Saturday evening. I have tentatively identified March 9 as the first one. Please watch for information on this to be in an upcoming bulletin, and hold the date!

Rabbi Blair

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Havdal.jpg#/media/File:Havdal.jpg>

By Unknown - Detail from a miniature in the Barcelona Haggadah, British Library Add MS 14761, fol. 26., Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=139219>

Schedule of January worship services

Friday, Jan. 4	5:30 PM	<i>Shabbat service, followed by a covered dish dinner</i>
Saturday, Jan. 5	10:30 AM	<i>"First Shabbat" morning service followed by Torah study</i>
Friday, Jan. 11	5:30 PM	<i>Shabbat service</i>
Friday, Jan. 18	5:30 PM	<i>Shabbat service</i>
Sunday, Jan. 20	5:30 PM	<i>Tu Bishvat Four Worlds Seder & Dinner</i>
Friday, Jan. 25	5:30 PM	<i>Shabbat service</i>

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.

From the Rabbi

Choir inquiry – last call

I asked in the last two bulletins, and have heard from several 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.

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 Goins
Brian Hudnall
Margie Hutt
Rabbi Israel Koller
Peggy Koller
Judy Lundy
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
Margot Jogwick

Mazel Tov (Congratulations):

Please tell us about these events so we can acknowledge you as appropriate.]

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: Cookie Glasser, Norma Winter, Caroline Ostand, Beth Steinberg Winter.

To the Cohn family on the birth of Hannah Ruth on Dec. 4.

To Jennifer and Gregg Stern on the graduation of their daughter, Emily – Betty and David's granddaughter – from WVU on Dec. 15.

Baruch Dayan Haemet:

To David and Betty Stern, and the entire Stern family, on the recent death of David's brother, Franc. May the memory of their loved one be a blessing.

Lehitraot (Farewell for now, until we meet again)

To June and Barry Warhoftig, whose home in Charleston sold quite quickly, so they are moving to Florida full-time. We hope they will come back and visit us frequently, and wish them good luck and good weather!

To Hedy and Fedor Poppelsdorf, who are moving to North Carolina in Early January to be near family. We wish them all the best and hope to see them occasionally.

TEMPLE ISRAEL

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Joseph M. Blair, *Rabbi*

Rabbis Emeriti
Israel B. Koller
Rabbi James D. Cohn, Z"L

January yahrzeits

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

January 4th

Dorothy Loeb (5)
Jean T. Goldman (6)
Anna Sloman (6)
Harriet W. Margolis (7)
Berle Radow (8)
Brooks Smith (8)
Ann Gilbert Toovy (8)
Dovenor Eugene Jarrell (9)
Anita Frankenberger (10)
Regina Kimmel (10)
Sarah Goldstein (11)
Dr. Richard Jubelirer (11)

January 11th

Samuel E. Galperin (12)
Evelyn Mendelsohn Badner (13)
Elsie Forb (13)
Judith Pollack (14)
Dr. A. Stanley Webster (14)
Jane Frankenberger Greenwald (16)
Esther Stabins (18)

January 18th

Jinx Engel Harris (19)
Frank Hudnall (19)
Moses Meyer Lipton (19)
Lottie Cohen Goshorn (20)
Mark H. Schaul Sr. (20)
Evelyn Brown Silverman (20)
Marjorie Spigel Sockol (22)
Stanley Szczepaniak (22)
Frances S. Schaffner (23)
Harry L. Wills (23)
Rose Marks Stern (24)

January 25th

Louise Parker (26)
Joyce Maldow Selinger (26)
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 Opper (Feb. 1)
Florence Jordan Silverstein (Feb. 1)

January at a glance

Monday, Jan. 1 – Temple office closed for New Year's Day

Wednesday, Jan. 2, 6:15 – 7:30 PM – Introduction to Judaism: "Torah," held at Temple Israel. Preceded by a minyan at B'nai Jacob.

Friday, Jan. 4 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, followed by a covered dish dinner. No RSVP necessary and there is no charge.

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

Monday, Jan. 7 at 5:30 PM – Social Action Committee meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 5:30 PM – Temple board meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 6 PM – Introduction to Hebrew, cont'd.

Sunday, Jan. 13 at 10:30 AM – combined Sisterhood board and general membership meeting, brunch and program. Election of Nominating Committee.

Monday, Jan. 14, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM – Sisterhood Schmooze

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 6:15 – 7:30 PM – Introduction to Judaism: "Israel," held at B'nai Jacob Synagogue. Preceded by a minyan at B'nai Jacob.

Sunday, Jan. 20 at 5:30 PM – Tu Bishvat "Four Worlds" Seder and Dinner: RSVP by Jan. 10; there is no charge.

Monday, Jan. 21 – Temple office closed for MLK Day

Sunday, Jan. 27, 10:30 – 11:30 AM – Beginners' Conversational Hebrew, led by Katriel Litvin.

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 10 – 11 AM – OLLI Short Course, first session of four on successive Wednesdays. Course title is "Text Encounters: Torah & Beyond." Register online starting Jan. 7 on the OLLI website <https://olliatwvu.org/>

Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 6 PM – Introduction to Hebrew, cont'd.

Next month

Friday, Feb. 1 – Covered dish dinner following the 5:30 PM Shabbat service. No RSVP necessary and there is no charge.

Saturday, Feb. 2 – "First Shabbat" morning service and Torah study. Parashat hashavuah "Mishpatim" Ex. 21:1-24:18.



Rabbi Blair's programs January—February 2019

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

"Introduction to Judaism"

A series of 10 one-hour stand-alone sessions on topics in Judaism. Rabbi Urecki and I will be offering this series from now through May. We have had the first two sessions: the next will be Jan. 2 and 16. These are scheduled on selected Wednesday evenings 6:15-7:30 PM (with an opportunity to attend the evening minyan preceding each session, if you would like). The series is free and open to anyone interested, and it is 'drop-in'; you do not need to attend all sessions. Come as often as you can. We would love to include you.

The scheduled topics and locations are:

- Torah: Jan. 2, 2019 at Temple Israel
- Israel: Jan. 16 at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
- Lifecycle: Feb. 6 at Temple Israel
- Calendar/Holidays (Major & Minor): Feb. 20 at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
- Jewish Literature: March 6 at Temple Israel
- Synagogue/Temple Life: March 20 at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
- Jewish History: April 10 at Temple Israel
- Contemporary Topics: April 24 at Temple Israel
- Conversion: May 1 at B'nai Jacob Synagogue

Introduction to Hebrew – continued

The Introduction to Hebrew course will continue, meeting on selected Wednesdays at 6 PM, Jan. 9 and 30, and Feb. 13 and 27.

Beginners' Conversational Hebrew

I am delighted to confirm an exciting opportunity. We will have an informal beginner's "conversational Hebrew" course, led by Katriel Litvin. This is open to anyone inclined to take part. Our instructor is an engaging, dynamic and energetic young woman who has lived in Israel. It will meet Sunday mornings 10:30 – 11:30 AM from Jan. 27 through March 3. We will see at that point if it will continue. I am looking forward to this, and hope you will join me!



Friday Shabbat Service and Covered Dish Dinner

Our next Shabbat service with a Covered Dish dinner is Jan. 4, immediately following the 5:30 PM Shabbat service. Bring food – or if you can't (or forget), just come anyway – I can't imagine anyone will go away hungry! Also, at this evening, the 'sermon' will be a presentation by Robin Godfrey on the story of his uncle who served in WWI, as we acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the war's end.

First Shabbat

The next "First Shabbat" will be Saturday, Jan. 5 at 10:30 AM. We will have a short Shabbat morning service, followed at approximately 11:15 AM by a Torah/Text study, and a nosh. The parashat hashavuah (weekly reading) is Vaera, Exodus 6-9. Our focus will be on chapters 8 and 9. 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. If

you can't make it on the 5th, plan to come on Feb. 2, when we will be looking at Parashat hashavuah "Mishpatim" Ex. 21:1-24:18.



Dried fruit and almonds traditionally eaten on Tu B'Shvat

Tu Bishvat

Join us on Sunday, Jan. 20 as we celebrate Tu Bishvat, the New Year for the Trees, with a formal Seder. This year we will be following a four-worlds model Seder with Kabbalistic, environmental, and religious aspects emphasized. It is similar to the Passover Seder, with an ordered ritual that incorporates a 'meal'. We will ask for RSVPs so we know how many to expect. Please respond no later than Jan. 10 to give us time to plan and purchase the necessary foodstuff. You can call or email the office or the rabbi.

OLLI Short Course

I will be offering a four-session course through OLLI, again at the Temple, to be held in January and February. This course will take four concepts and look at selected Judaic and Rabbinic Texts related to them. The concepts are Creation, Prayer, Blessings, & Gratitude. This is planned for 10-11 AM on Wednesdays, starting Jan. 30. Please register on the OLLI website starting Jan. 7 to sign up for course title "Text Encounters: Torah & Beyond" at <https://olliatwvu.org/> For members of Temple Israel: if the membership in OLLI is a deterrent, please speak to me about it. I hope you will join me for this class.

Sisterhood Message

Anti-bigotry theme of Rodgers & Hammerstein's 1949 *South Pacific* resonates today

January seems like a good time to think about things: things to do, things to be, things upcoming, and things left behind. Sisterhood thinks it is also a great time to think about things that probably need to change.

Please visit the YouTube website highlighted at the bottom of the Wikipedia article (*at right*) and listen to the words to the song "You've Got to Be Carefully Taught," from the 1958 motion picture version of the Broadway musical *South Pacific*. The song was written in 1949 by composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II. It was relevant then and even more so now.

Gayle Twigger-Shaw,
President

From Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia

"You've Got to Be Carefully Taught" (sometimes "You've Got to Be Taught" or "Carefully Taught") is a show tune from the 1949 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *South Pacific*.

South Pacific received scrutiny for its commentary regarding relationships between different races and ethnic groups. In particular, "You've Got to Be Carefully Taught" was subject to widespread criticism, judged by some to be too controversial or downright inappropriate for the musical stage. Sung by the character Lieutenant Cable, the song is preceded by a line saying racism is "not born in you! It happens after you're born..."

Rodgers and Hammerstein risked the entire *South Pacific* venture in light of legislative challenges to its decency or supposed Communist agenda. While the show was on a tour of the Southern United States, lawmakers in Georgia introduced a bill outlawing entertainment containing "an underlying philosophy inspired by Moscow." One legislator said that "a song justifying interracial marriage was implicitly a threat to the American way of life." Rodgers and Hammerstein defended their work strongly. James Michener, upon whose stories *South Pacific* was based, recalled, "The authors replied stubbornly that this number represented why they had wanted to do this play, and that even if it meant the failure of the production, it was going to stay in."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You%27ve_Got_to_Be_Carefully_Taught

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPf6ITsjgk>



From left: Joshua Logan (producer), Rodgers, Hammerstein, leading lady Mary Martin and James Michener, author of *Tales of the South Pacific* on which the musical was based.

By Unknown - From the 1967 program for *South Pacific*, published without copyright notice here accordingly, the image is PD., Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=25390790>

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.

Messages on the Temple office voicemail will be checked periodically, but the best contact is the cell phone number shown here.

Rabbi Blair may be reached by email

at RabbiJoeB@gmail.com

He 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/Messenger are not seen during these periods.

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.

The deadline for the February issue of the Bulletin is Tuesday, Jan. 15th.



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): checks should be made payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood, noting which fund on the memo line.
- 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.*

Thanks to all Adopt A Family donors

A big thank you to everyone who so generously donated to Temple Israel's 2018 Adopt a Family: Dominique and her three children: Malec, Kmanjnae and Anthony. Your donations created a fund of more than \$750. These funds allowed us to provide very well for Dominique and her family!

The list of donors was published in the hardcopy of the January 2019 Bulletin.

Social Action Committee

Tu Bishvat Seder and Dinner to be held Sunday, January 20 - RSVP by Jan. 10

Join us on Sunday, Jan. 20 as we celebrate Tu Bishvat, the New Year for the Trees, with a formal Seder.

This year we will be following a four-worlds model Seder with Kabbalistic, environmental, and religious aspects emphasized. It is similar to the Passover Seder, with an ordered ritual that incorporates a 'meal'.

We will ask for RSVPs so we know how many to expect. Please respond no later than Jan. 10 to give us time to plan and purchase the necessary foodstuff. You can call or email the office or Rabbi Blair.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:DriedfruitS.jpg>



Temple now has an official Facebook presence

<https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Israel-Charleston-WV-2550469431660054/>

See front page for details.

Thanks for making Shabbat even more special



Oneg Shabbat reception and flowers on the bimah on December 14

Given by Hedy Poppelsdorf in
memory of her parents, Dr. Fritz
and Paula Fraenkel

If you would like to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat reception, please contact Judy Lundy to find out if the date you would like to sponsor is available. There are two ways you can provide the food for the Oneg: You can purchase and prepare the food yourself, and bring it to the Temple on Friday morning so that Temple housekeeper Mary Hart can arrange the serving trays; or, you can donate \$35 and Oneg Committee members will take care of the shopping and schlepping. Please make Oneg sponsorship checks payable to Temple Israel.

*Oneg dates available: Feb. 1 & 15,
March 1 &
8; May 24.*

If you would like to sponsor Shabbat flowers on the bimah, please contact Betty Stern. She will let you know if the date you have in mind is available. Please make your check for \$35 payable to Sisterhood.



Social Action Committee Report

Choice Fund seeking donations to offset cuts in wake of Amendment 1 passage

The Social Action Committee has held four monthly meetings since it was reconstituted this year. We continue discussing social justice work and interests of committee members to offer support in these areas as well as to prioritize committee projects.

At our most recent meeting, Robin Godfrey updated us on J Street, a nonprofit liberal advocacy group based in the United States whose stated aim is to promote American leadership to end the Arab-Israeli and Israel-Palestinian conflicts peacefully and diplomatically.

Tiana Hall and Rachel Dash gave updates on the Women's Health Center and WV FREE's efforts to mitigate the financial and human consequences of the recent passage of Amendment 1 to the West Virginia Constitution, which states "Nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of abortion," and has since resulted in the WV Division of Health and Human Services no longer covering the procedure under Medicaid. WV FREE will hold a fundraiser Jan. 22 and all proceeds will benefit the Choice Fund, which is to help pay for abortions. The Women's Health Center and the Choice Fund are in urgent need of donations to make up this funding cut.

Rachel Dash also reported on the WV Summit for Racial Equality that took place Nov. 30 – Dec. 1.

The Temple hosted a fundraiser for Healthy Kids and Families in November, and Rabbi Joe Blair and Anne Fishkin represented the Temple and the committee.

Under Anne Fishkin's leadership, the Temple's contribution to Covenant House's Adopt a Family program was completed with the donations of over 20 members of the congregation and several members helping to shop for and wrap gifts.

Marsha Albert, who is a case manager at the YWCA's Shanklin Center for Senior Enrichment, which provides homes and social services for women who are homeless and elderly, gave a sobering yet hopeful presentation based on her professional experience and the information she gleaned from attending the recent WV Coalition to End Homelessness Conference.

Rachel Dash will present the work of the Prison Reform Listening Project at the next Social Action Committee meeting, Monday, Jan. 7 at 5:30 PM.

Cookie Glasser, Co-chair

Rachel Dash, Co-chair

Mazel tov

Congratulations to Jenny and Daniel Cohn on the birth of their daughter, Hannah Ruth, on December 04, 2018. Everyone is healthy and happy. The family is doing well, settling into their new home in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Congratulations to Jennifer and Gregg Stern on the graduation of their daughter, Emily – Betty and David's granddaughter – from WVU on Dec. 15.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pound_layer_cake.jpg#/media/File:Pound_layer_cake.jpg

