Purim Celebration at B'nai Jacob Synagogue on Wednesday, March 20th at 6 PM

Volume LXXVIII Bulletin No. 7

From the rabbi's desk

lempl

Dear Temple Israel Congregants, Community members, and Friends,

Shalom, and Greetings!

February was quite busy, in a good way. On our calendar we had a full list of activities. In addition to the covered dish dinner at the beginning of the month and weekly Shabbat services, our First Shabbat Torah study was well attended and we had some interesting conversation. The Introduction to Judaism course touched on lifecycle events, and there was a lot of interest and many questions, causing us to expand the coverage of that topic. Introduction to Hebrew covered several more letters, drawing closer to the end of the text. The Winter OLLI course kicked off with good attendance and participation in the examination of the four concepts selected. Our scheduled pulpit exchange (where Rabbi Urecki delivers the sermon at Temple Israel and I do the same at B'nai Jacob Synagogue) again was fun and seemed well received.

The Board and committees were very active as well; in part because they are doing the things that they are intended to do, and in part because it is time for them to generate and submit budget requests for the coming year. I am happy to say that the committee work has produced some interesting and exciting possibilities, and the board has been very active with all the different efforts and initiatives, and I hope that the congregation will enjoy and appreciate all that has gone into these efforts when the results are reported.

I was able to participate in the CARLA clergy group meeting, and attended a meeting with other clergy to learn about some activities that are ongoing in the area.

A major highlight for me was the opportunity to work with a couple from Israel to assist them in the adoption and conversion of their child, which included a visit to the Mikvah and a Brit Milah! The Beit Din (rabbinic court) was constituted of Rabbi Jordan, Rabbi Urecki, and me; this was the culmination of four months preparation. It was joyous and a delight.

As always, I was honored to be permitted to serve as a pastoral presence to some of you.

Highlights for the next month are listed. I continue to strive to offer a variety of events, programs, classes, and services that will meet your needs and

March 2019 Adar-1 / Adar-11 5779

fulfill your wants. I hope you will let me know what you think. If I am missing anything, please tell me!

Bulleti

May we all be blessed with health, wellbeing, prosperity, and joy.

Rabbi Joe Blair



Havdalah and...

Our first Havdalah evening will be Saturday, March 9, beginning approximately at 5:30 PM, lasting till about 7:30.

There will be a program and refreshments, followed by a short Havdalah ritual to close the evening.

Temple Israel's congregational Passover Seder will be held Friday, April 19 at 6 PM

Due to the expense of the food we must purchase and having to order table linens in time for the event, we ask that Seder reservations, along with pre-payment, be received in the Temple office no later than Friday, April 12.

Please mail your check to the Temple to confirm your reservation as soon as possible. Cost of the meal: Adults: \$15 Students (all ages): \$5 Pre-kindergarten: \$2

Please notify us of any special dietary needs well in advance of the event. Let us know if you will need a high chair or booster seat. Let us know of any seating preference, which will be accommodated as much as possible. The most we can seat at one table is 12 people.

The Seder is open to members of the Jewish community and their families. If you wish to bring guests other than your family, please check with Rabbi Blair before inviting them.

Please make checks payable to Temple Israel and mail to Temple Israel, 2312 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25311.

Founded 1873—Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

Schedule of March worship services		
Friday, March 1	5:30 PM	Shabbat service, followed by a covered dish dinner
Saturday, March 2	10:30 AM	"First Shabbat" morning service followed by Torah study
Friday, March 8	5:30 PM	Shabbat service
Saturday, March 9	5:30 PM	Havdalah program and service
Friday, March 15	5:30 PM	Shabbat service
Wednesday, March 20	6:00 PM	Joint congregational event: Purim Celebration at B'nai Jacob Synagogue
Friday, March 22	5:30 PM	Shabbat service
Friday, March 29	5:30 PM	Shabbat service

IN THE EVENT OF SEVERE WEATHER

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

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 it is best to call the cell phone number.



Temple Israel online

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 or if you have any trouble accessing links.

Rabbi Blair may be reached by email at <u>RabbiJoeB@qmail.com</u>

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.

Please visit the Temple's Facebook page and

Like what you see

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/

Anyone can view or Like the page, but only those approved may post on it. If you want access to post, please contact Rabbi Blair at RabbiJoeB@gmail.com or phone or text 304-989-4014. We would be happy to have additional items uploaded. The Temple board decided that we have a need to have an online social media presence, and this is our start. Let's share it and have it widely viewed!

TEMPLE ISRAEL 2312 Kanawha Boulevard, East Charleston, W.Va. 25311 (304) 342-5852 www.templeisraelwv.org templeisraelwv@gmail.com David Shapiro, President Joseph M. Blair, Rabbi

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

March yahrzeits

March 1st

Fred A. Bloomberg (2) Natalie Melman (2) Frank A. Baer Sr. (3) Benjamin Machanoff (3) Erwin Mayer (3) Adele Lehman Metzel (3) Esther Pincus (4) Lee Silverstein (6) Marjorie Freedman (7) Helen Margolis Kahn (7) Melvin H. Hager (8) Ben Joseph (8)

March 8th

Nathan Deutsch (9) Lillian Ostand (9) Bertha Weisberg (9) Ruth Segall (11) Ivor Franklin Boiarsky (12) Ruth Lieberman Cohen (12) Harry Rosen (12) Ida Schwartz Preiser (13) Eva Wills (13) Marcus Berman (15)

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

Albert Irwin Mendeloff (15) Samuel Abraham Schneider (15) Anthony Thompson (15)

March 15th

Charlotte R. Polan (16) Minnie Rotgin (16) Nathan Stabins (16) Emily Szczepaniak (16) Sarah Fine Machanoff (17) Louis Ruda (17) Barbara Boiarsky (18) Jennie Cohen Lewis (18) Morris Eisinger (19) A. Joseph Garner (19) Melvin Hammer (19) Trixie Shifflette (20) Arnold Treibis (20) Michael Case (22) Sanford Lewis (22) Chuck Lundy (22) George Harry Meyer (22) Tressa Silverstein Moskowitz (22)

March 22nd

Leo Gordon Kopelman (23) Sam Silverstein Jr. (26) Jeanette Adler (28) Robert W. Garner (28) Richard Thalheimer (28) Frances L. Angel (29) Don Garvin (29) George Greenwald (29) Helen Foster Thalheimer (29)

March 29th

Sara Baker (30) Estelle Darling (30) Florence Treibis (30) Harvey Jurin (31) Alvin Lindenberg (31) Dorothy Kandel (April 1) Sam Silverstein Sr. (April 1) Benjamin Brown (April 2) Murray Lewis (April 2) Clara Schwartz Stern (April 2) Joseph Garner (April 3) Henry Kleeman (April 3) Tilly Lapatinsky Walker (April 3) Eugene Drasnin (April 4) Harry N. Barton (April 5)

March at a glance

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

Saturday, March 2 at 10:30 AM – "First Shabbat" morning service and Torah study. Special Parashah for Shabbat Shekalim, Exodus 30:11-16.

Wednesday, March 6 at 6:15 PM – Introduction to Judaism "Calendar/ Holidays – Major and Minor" – this session to be held at Temple Israel

Friday, March 8 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Saturday, March 9 at 5:30 PM – Havdalah program and service

Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 AM Daylight saving time begins

Sunday, March 10 at 10 AM – Sisterhood board meeting

Monday, March 11, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM – Sisterhood Schmooze

Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 PM – Temple board meeting

Wednesday, March 13 at 6 PM – Introduction to Hebrew

Friday, March 15 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Sunday, March 17 at 6 PM – Charleston Death Café at Temple Israel

Wednesday, March 20 at 6 PM – joint Temple/Synagogue event: Purim Celebration at B'nai Jacob Synagogue

Friday, March 22 at 5:30 PM – service for Purim and Shabbat

Friday, March 29 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Next month

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

Saturday, April 6 at 10:30 AM – "First Shabbat" morning service and Torah study. Parashah Tazria, which falls on Shabbat HaChodesh.

Friday, April 19 at 6 PM – Congregational Passover Seder – you must RSVP with your check no later than April 12.

Rabbi Blair's programs March / April

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

Friday Shabbat Service and Covered Dish Dinner

Our next Shabbat service with a Covered Dish dinner is March 1. Bring food – or if you can't (or if you forget), just come anyway – I can't imagine anyone will go away hungry. And remember that the next one is April 5! The service begins at 5:30 PM and the dinner follows immediately afterward.

First Shabbat

The next "First Shabbat" will be Saturday, March 2 at 10:30 AM. We will have a short Shabbat morning service, followed at approximately 11:15 by a Torah/Text study, and a nosh. The parashat hashavuah (weekly reading) is Vayakhel, Exodus 35-38. It is also Shabbat Shekalim.

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 this month, we will meet again on April 6, looking at Tazria, which falls on Shabbat HaChodesh.

Introduction to Judaism

Rabbi Urecki and I will continue to offer this series from now through May. These are scheduled on 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, and it is 'drop-in' – you don't need to attend all sessions. Come as often as you can. We would love to include you.

The scheduled topics remaining and the locations are:

- Calendar/Holidays (Major & Minor); March 6; Temple
- Jewish Literature; April 3; Synagogue
- Jewish History; April 10; Temple
- Contemporary Topics; Synagogue/ Temple Life; May 8; Temple

- Conversion; May 22; Synagogue
- Qs & Conclusion, May 29/June 12 (TBA), Temple

Introduction to Hebrew (Continuing)

The Introduction to Hebrew course will meet March 13 at 6 PM. We have completed through page 47, so will begin on page 48 at our next session!

Temple Israel Facebook Page

If you use Facebook, please search for Temple Israel Charleston WV, and Like our page. The full link is <u>https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Israel-</u> <u>Charleston-WV-2550469431660054/</u>

Anyone can view the page, anyone who "Likes" it can comment, but only those approved by a moderator may post on it. If you want access to post, please contact me – email rabbijoeb@gmail.com (Rabbi Joe Blair) or phone or text 304-989-4014. We would be happy to have additional items uploaded.

CARLA

The Temple will host the Charleston Area Religious Leaders Association (CARLA) meeting on Thursday afternoon, March 7. If you see anyone around the Temple, please say hello and make them feel welcome.

Havdalah and...

Our first Havdalah evening will be Saturday, March 9, 5:30 to approximately 7:30 PM. I anticipate some noshes, a movie/documentary and a discussion, with a SHORT Havdalah ritual to close. I have selected a documentary that is inspiring and uplifting, a Holocaust-related story that is heartwarming and positive, showing that one person really can make a difference. We will watch and discuss "The Power of Good." There is no need to RSVP – just show up!

Charleston Death Café

Please consider attending a Charleston Death Café. They are scheduled for Sundays, March 17, April 28 and June 16 at the Temple, from 6 to 8 PM. Charleston Death Cafés are free, and we invite anyone

interested to attend. The facilitator will be Rabbi Joe Blair, who has facilitated Death Cafes since 2015.

What is a Death Café?

What could be nicer? A cup of tea (or coffee), a little cake, a chance to talk about death....

It used to be that one would never speak in polite society about money, sex, religion, or death. It seems that the last of the taboos today is death – but being taboo does not eliminate the need to discuss it.

Death Cafés leave taboo at the door and death is the topic of all conversations. Nothing is right or wrong, no view or opinion is censored or judged, those attending are welcomed and supported by others present, and there is no agenda. It is simply a supportive and comfortable setting to raise issues and discuss matters around death.

The aim is to increase awareness of death to help people make the most of their (finite) lives. Death Cafés are NOT Therapy, and they are NOT counseling. They are facilitated conversations, set and determined by the attendees. Nothing is sold or pitched, and no one is judged.

It can be about your concerns: your own feelings about death, an experience related to the death of another, the process of advance- and pre-planning, practical/logistical issues around death, or any questions you want to ask. Death Cafés are not affiliated with any religion or product, they have no agenda, and there is no sales pitch or pressure.

Death Cafés have been going on worldwide since 2011, with over 7500 official cafés held (and others as well). You can read about the organization here: <u>https://deathcafe.com/</u>

Death cafés are often drop in – no reservations required for most of them (though this varies by location).

What we ask: we do ask for contact information from those attending so we can send notices (usually emails) of the

Sisterhood message

Election at April 14 meeting, plus "Benefits of Chair Yoga"; thanks to Mayor Goodwin and Del. Pushkin for Jan. Q & A

On Jan. 13, Sisterhood hosted a combined board and general membership meeting at which time the Nominating Committee was elected. The election of officers will be held on April 14.

The program for the meeting was a lively Q and A session called "Where Do We Go from Here?" in which Charleston Mayor Amy Goodwin and West Virginia House of Delegates member Mike Pushkin (D-Kanawha 37) took questions from the floor and provided thoughtful and informed answers.

On April 14, Sisterhood will present "The Benefits of Chair Yoga," with Laotong Yoga co-directors Barbara Steinke and Sue Julian. More information will follow in the upcoming weeks on this exciting program.

Gayle Twigger-Shaw, President

(Continued from page 4)

next café, and many Death Cafés will accept free will donations to help offset the cost of the refreshments, but there is no obligation. Attend or not, donate or not, speak or not, as you wish – it is entirely at your discretion.

Purim: a joint Temple/Synagogue event held at B'nai Jacob this year

The holiday of Purim starts the evening of March 20 and continues through sundown March 21. The Temple will be joining with the B'nai Jacob Synagogue to celebrate on Wednesday March 20. At the conclusion of the evening minyan, which usually ends around 6 PM, we will have a service for Purim and read the whole Megillah! Come to hear it, enjoy the refreshments, and gather as a community.

Passover at the Temple will be Friday, April 19 at 6 PM

Plan ahead – the Temple's congregational Passover Seder is Friday, April 19. Information about the Seder is on the front page of this Bulletin. Reserve your spots today!

Cooking for Sojourner's Shelter on April 7—need volunteers to help prepare the meal or shop

One of Sisterhood's activities is to aid in supporting the services at the YWCA's Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women and Families. They are always in need of soaps, detergents, personal care items, newly purchased linens and pillows, and other household items.

On Sunday, April 7, a team of Sisterhood people is being gathered to cook Sojourner's Sunday meal. This way, the staff doesn't have to do double duty. For us, it is a fun time of laughs and bonding that has been a success, so we are repeating our help and experience.

If you would like to help by cooking on April 7 at 10 AM or with grocery shopping the week before, we would appreciate your participation on either or both days. We usually can wrap up the cooking by noon. Hope to see you there with working hands and smiles!

Contact Caroline Ostand for details at (304) 984-2889.

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:

> Linda Brogan Lois Coleman Jonathan Freedman Brian Hudnall Margie Hutt Rabbi Israel Koller Peggy Koller Gary Markham Hedy Poppelsdorf Gayle Twigger-Shaw Craig Phillip Snyder

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

> Will Darling Lynn Gattlieb Steven Jubelirer Kevin Smith

Mazal Tov (Congratulations):

[Please tell us about these events so we can acknowledge them 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 are/were to be acknowledged at an Oneg we include:

> David Shapiro, Beth Steinberg Winter, Barrie & Tod Kaufman, Ronni Cohen Spudich, Margot Jogwick, David Kushner, Terrie Rosenfeld, Marsha Albert and Bob Aaron.

Upcoming retirement:

Kim Aaron, Ronni Cohen Spudich and Fran Thalheimer.

Thank you for the Sisterhood Uniongrams on our anniversary, Barrie and Tod Kaufman



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): 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.



Joint Temple/ Synagogue Purim Celebration at B'nai Jacob on Wednesday, March 20th at 6 PM

Library Committee seeks volunteers & input check out Jewish Book Award titles at KCPL

With the resignation of Jack Levin from the Library Committee, I am apparently chair-by-default. I invite anyone who wants to co-chair, or otherwise work with me, to come on board. I am soliciting ideas on anything that might be a good addition or change for our library. I have sought input from URJ regarding temple libraries.

Kanawha County Public Library has

National Jewish Book Awards 2018 – titles available at KCPL

Since 1950 the Jewish Book Council hands out awards for both fiction and nonfiction. The panel looks for books about Jewish life that will appeal to the general reader. These are the 2018 titles in the various categories held at Kanawha County Public Library:

Jewish Book of the Year 2018 Hunting the truth : memoirs of Beate and Serge Klarsfeld Klarsfeld, Beate

Autobiography/Memoir 2018 My country, my life: fighting for Israel, searching for peace Barak, Ehud

Biography 2018 Witness: lessons from Elie Wiesel's classroom Burger, Ariel

Book Club Award 2018 *The girl from Berlin* Balson, Ronald H.

Best Debut Novel 2018 *The book of dirt* Presser, Bram acquired many titles from the 2018 Jewish Book Awards and they are listed below. I am requesting comments, reviews or recommendations for any of the titles to be added to the Temple library. Thanks to KCPL Reference Department's Elizabeth Fraser for providing us this list!

Mary Rich Maloy, chair

Education and Jewish Identity 2018

The Talmud: a biography: banned, censored and burned : the book they couldn't suppress Freedman, H.

Fiction 2018

The last watchman of Old Cairo: a novel Lukas, Michael David

Nonfiction 2018

Rise and kill first: the secret history of Israel's targeted assassinations Bergman, Ronen

Holocaust 2018

Anatomy of a genocide: the life and death of a town called Buczacz Bartov, Omer

Poetry 2018 Holy Moly Carry Me Erika Meitner Own as an ebook

Writing Based on Archival Material 2018 Rescue Board: the untold story of America's efforts to save the Jews of Europe Erbelding, Rebecca

Sisterhood's 65th Annual Holland Bulb Sale will be here soon...

We are gearing up for this our 65th annual Holland bulb sale. Start thinking about your choices for spring!

Where flowers bloom, so does hope.

– Lady Bird Johnson

Think Spring! Think Bulbs!

www.templeisraelwv.org

Thanks for making Shabbat even more special

Oneg Shabbat receptions

Sharing food and drink at an Oneg Shabbat celebration strengthens relationships among our members and continues the joyous spiritual journey of Shabbat. There are only a couple of open dates to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat reception before June 1. To schedule your preferred date, please contact Judy Lundy, *Jlundy43@gmail.com* or (304) 744-4932.

Feb. 1 – Liz and Louis Weisberg, just because

Feb. 15 – Betty and N. David Stern, just because



Flowers on the bimah

Feb. 8 – Sue and Ron Eisinger, in memory of the birthday of Ron's mother, Beatrice Eisinger

Feb. 22 – Marsha Albert, in memory of her parents Eleanor Klein Diznoff and Alex Diznoff

If you would like to sponsor Shabbat flowers, please get in touch with Betty Stern. The cost is \$35, your check payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood.

Social Action Committee Report How Social Action works in the URJ; next Temple Social Action meeting March 4

Social Action Committee's Feb. 4 meeting was well attended. Rabbi Blair sent a message of appreciation for the committee's support of the Tu Bishvat Seder and for the work of Anne Fishkin and her crew in providing the symbolic holiday fruits for each table.

Anne was our presenter at this meeting. Her history of the Temple's Social Action Committee, as well as the workings of the URJ's Religious Action Center (usually referred to simply as "the RAC") and the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, including their most recent priorities regarding issues of conscience, was motivating and informative. Anne recounted Temple initiatives dating back to 2001 that included many issues of conscience the congregation pursued on its own and with the wider Charleston community, through social justice forums and interfaith projects and dialogues. Also remembered were the leadership and contributions of many Temple members, whose commitment and energy for social justice have motivated so many of us and on whose shoulders we stand.

Anne shared her experience as the Temple's delegate to the Commission on Social Action, the body responsible for developing resolutions regarding social justice positions that are sent to the Congress of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) for authorization. The RAC's mission is to promote these priorities through education and advocacy. Anne reminded us that social activism, including advocating on behalf of issues and legislation, is supported and encouraged by the URJ, except for support of individual political candidates or parties.

The RAC's social action topics are Economic Justice, Environment, Public Health, Civil Rights, Interfaith Affairs, Church-State Issues, International Issues, Immigration and Women's Rights. Its 2019 legislative priorities are confronting climate change, racial justice, a humane immigration system, responding to the global refugee crisis, realizing LGBTQ equality, religious freedom and separation of church and state, access to affordable, guality healthcare for all, preventing the scourge of gun violence, support for Israel, responding to the genocide against the Rohingya people, pursuing economic justice, women's equality and economic rights, and resisting anti-Semitism, white supremacy and all forms of bigotry.

The committee appreciates Anne's hard work and excellent presentation, which will guide us in our efforts toward Tikkun Olam, the repair of the world.

Next Social Action Committee is March 4, 5:30-6:45 PM. Come join us.

Cookie Glasser, Co-chair Rachel Dash, Co-chair

Havdalah

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

<u>https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Homemade_hamantaschen2.jpg</u> Yoninah [CC BY-SA 3.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0)] Pesah plate

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passover_Seder_plate#/media/File:Pesahplate.jpg By No machine-readable author provided. Gilabrand assumed (based on copyright claims). - No machinereadable source provided. Own work assumed (based on copyright claims)., CC BY-SA 3.0, https:// commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14969244