Hanukkah Dinner Dec. 29

Volume LXXIX Bulletin No. 4

December 2019 Kislev / Tevet 5780

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple Israel Congregants, Community members, and Friends,

Shalom, and Greetings!

I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was full of warmth, family, friends, food, and fun. I think that this is probably my favorite of all the secular holidays, not least of which because it was modeled after the Jewish holiday of Sukkot - the harvest festival, at which we thank G-d for the bounty we enjoy, and return to a closeness to and awareness of nature and G-d's marvelous creation which is all around us, as well as all the blessings in our life.

November Events: Looking back

November was a busy time. In addition to our weekly Shabbat services and committee meetings, we had a number of special events.

I hope you were able to attend the Interfaith Forum on Climate Change that the Social Action Committee hosted Nov. 3. There was wonderful attendance, representing many groups and a wide cross section of the larger community, really inspiring. Watch for more information and follow -up events.

I also hope you had the opportunity to attend the gorgeous musical event on Nov. 9 that the Congregational Enrichment and Adult Education Committee arranged sponsored by the Temple, Federated Jewish Charities, and B'nai Jacob Synagogue. Safam was amazing, and it was an evening to remember. If you couldn't make it, get hold of some Safam recordings to get at least a part of the experience. This was truly "Jewish" music - balm for the soul.

Latke photo: By Jonathunder - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php? curid=12688940

Nov. 1 was the Interfaith Devotional event at Temple Israel, led by the Baha'i Family. This was an outgrowth of the Baha'i Community's Peace Rose initiative, in which they planted a peace rose near the glass doors of the religious school wing.

We had another wonderful covered dish dinner on Nov. 1, following the Friday evening service. Be sure to plan to attend the next one on Dec. 6.

Saturday morning Nov. 2 was "First Shabbat." We had an abbreviated service,



Hanukkah Dinner

Sunday, Dec. 29 at 5:30 PM

RSVP to the Temple office by Monday, Dec. 23. Pay at the door.

Adults: \$10

Students (any age): \$4

Pre-kindergarten: Free.

You are welcome to bring a menorah from home — and candles that fit — for the 8th night of Hanukkah display.

Standard-size Hanukkah candles available from the Temple office for \$2 per box.

followed by Torah study, with noshes. The discussion was rich and great fun. Please community. The focus was on Hope for the note: the next "First Shabbat" is scheduled for Dec. 21 (NOT the first Shabbat of the month, due to a Pulpit Exchange on Dec. 7).

> We incorporated an observation of Kristallnacht, as well as our commemoration in honor of veterans, in the Friday evening Shabbat service Nov. 8.

The first monthly session of the Level 2 Introduction to Hebrew course was held Nov. 13. We will meet again Dec. 4, 5-6 PM. We are working on prayers that are part of our regular liturgy. We worked through Eyn Keloheynu, and some grammar and roots that appear in it. You are welcome to join in the only prerequisite is that you be able to recognize the Hebrew letters and vowels, so you can sound out what we are reading. Additional dates scheduled are Jan. 22, Feb. 12, March 11, April 29, and May 13.

Nov. 17 was our Global Day of Jewish Learning, on the theme "Speaking Volumes."

The first Charleston Death Café of the new year was held Nov. 17. Barring changes, we will continue meeting on selected Sundays 7-8:30 PM: Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 2, March 8, April 5, and May 17.

The Friday evening Shabbat service on Nov. 29 was to be led by members of the Ritual Committee in the absence of the rabbi. Thanks to Judy Lundy for heading it up.

December Events

This month will also be full.

- Dec. 4, Introduction to Hebrew Level 2 at 5-6.
- Dec. 4, Two Rabbis on "December Di-(Continued on page 4)

Menorah photo: By - אליעד מליןOwn work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/ index.php?curid=43625278

Schedule of December worship

Friday, Dec. 6 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service—Pulpit Exchange: Rabbi Urecki at the Temple on

Friday evening and Rabbi Blair at B'nai Jacob on Saturday morning,

Dec. 7. Parashah Vayetzei

Friday, Dec. 13 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service

Friday, Dec. 20 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service. Parashah Vayeshev

Saturday, Dec. 21 "First Shabbat" morning service and Torah study—please note

at 10:30 AM change in date

Friday, Dec. 27 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service

January—please note Due to the Hanukkah Dinner scheduled for Dec. 29, January's

covered dish dinner will be Friday, Jan. 10 and "First Shabbat" will be

Saturday, Jan. 11

IN THE EVENT OF
SEVERE
WEATHER
Call the Temple
at 304-3425852 and
follow the
prompts to
hear about any
cancellations.

Welcome to Temple Israel

Established in 1873 and a founding member of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), we are one of the oldest and most renowned congregations in the American Jewish experience.

- Serving families from Charleston and surrounding areas of West Virginia
- Offering an engaging array of education classes, enrichment programs, visiting scholars, concerts, and social opportunities
- Active Temple Sisterhood affiliated with the WRJ

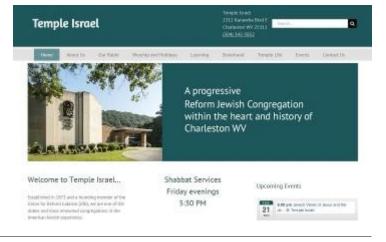
- Energetic participation in community social action and interfaith relationship building
- A community that treasures its diversity in all its forms age, marital or

partnership status, gender identity, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity – and practices every day its commitment to honor these differences as strengths that enrich our congregational life.

Who we are

A community committed to the reli-

(Continued on page 4)



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

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 email, text, and Facebook/Messenger are not seen during these periods.

Messages on the Temple office voicemail will be checked infrequently and irregularly: the best contact is the cell phone number shown above.

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 Rabbi Blair to arrange an appointment to meet. He 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.

TEMPLE ISRAEL
2312 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, W.Va. 25311
(304) 342-5852
www.templeisraelwv.org

templeisraelwv@gmail.com

Joshua I. Barrett, President Joseph M. Blair, Rabbi

Rabbis Emeriti Rabbi James D. Cohn, Z"L Israel B. Koller December 2019 templeisraelwv@gmail.com

December yahrzeits

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

December 6th

Frederick Barkus (7)

Marcus Lopin (7)

Albert Thalheimer Jr. (7)

Selma Widman (7)

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)

Esther Darling Weingarden (13)

December 13th

Evelyn Forman (15)

Severna "Cissie" Herman (15)

Bernard Weinstein (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)

Cecile Rossin (19)

Robert Silverstein Sr. (19)

Esther "Mickey" Baer (20)

December 20th

Samuel Rosen (21)

Goldie Cohen (22)

Naomi Jean Bright (24)

Zelda Plotkin (24)

David Selinger (25)

Kaethe Wells (25)

Beatrice H. Kleeman (26)

December 27th

Edward Doernberg (28)

Paul Joseph Kaufman (28)

Rose Jean Kaufman (28)

Steven Miles Kaufman (28)

Eva Waisburd (28)

Nathan Forb (29)

Dorothy Allen (30)

George Badner (30)



Suzie Greenwald Chaskin (30) Sydney Joseph Kaufman (31) Otto Spiegler (31) Charles H. Levine (Jan. 1) Irma Lowenthal Swarts (Jan. 2)

Rudolph Grinberg (Jan. 3)

December at a glance

Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 5 PM –
Introduction to Hebrew, Level 2.
See "From the Rabbi's Desk" for
more info

Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 PM – The Two Rabbis "December Dilemmas," at the Temple

Friday, Dec. 6 – Covered dish dinner following 5:30 PM Shabbat service—no RSVP needed

Monday, Dec. 9 – Sisterhood Schmooze 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 5:30 PM – Temple board meeting

Sunday, Dec. 15 at 10 AM – Sisterhood board meeting

Monday, Dec. 16 at 5:30 PM – Social Action Committee meeting

Saturday, Dec. 21 at 10:30 AM – "First Shabbat" morning service and Torah Study – please note the change in date.

Sunday, Dec. 22 (at sundown) – First candle of Hanukkah

Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Temple office closing at 12 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - Temple closed

Sunday, Dec. 29 at 5:30 PM – Eighth candle of Hanukkah, congregational Hanukkah Dinner. See back page and front page for details.

Next month

Wednesday, Jan. 1 – Temple office closed

In January, the Shabbat covered dish dinner will be on Friday, Jan. 10 following the Shabbat service at 5:30 PM, and the "First Shabbat" morning service followed by Torah study will be on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 10:30 AM.

3



In the congregation

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

Refuah Shelemah/Mi Sheberach

(Healing & Wholeness/Blessings) to those who have been included in recent Mi Sheberach lists at services, and wishes for continued good health for those on the mend or have returned to full health:

Lois Coleman

Jonathan Freedman

Robin Godfrey

Margie Hutt

Rabbi Israel Koller

Gary Markham

June Warhoftig

Mazal Tov (Congratulations)

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

To those who reached or will reach milestones in the past month or this one, and to all who had any birthday or anniversary or other life event worth celebrating! Among those we know who are/ were to be acknowledged we include:

Missing from the list in October: Alan Fleischmann, Gloria Kelley;

November: Ken Kleeman, Norma Winter, Karen Blair, Betty Stern, Jill Epstein;

December: Melissa Cadle, Jeff Bright, Jackie Artz, and Marion Baer.

If you have a milestone event of any kind, or any birthday, anniversary, or life event that is worthy of celebration, please let us acknowledge and celebrate it with you! Tell Rabbi about it.

From the rabbi's desk—cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

lemmas" at 6:30-7:30 at the Temple.

- Dec. 6, Friday Shabbat service at 5:30 PM, and covered dish dinner following. Pulpit Exchange (Rabbi Urecki at Temple Friday evening, Rabbi Blair at Synagogue on Saturday morning).
- Dec. 8, Charleston Death Café, 7-8:30 PM.
- Dec. 21, Re-scheduled "First Shabbat" abbreviated morning service 10:30 AM, and Torah study approximately 11:15 AM. Please note the change of date!
- Hanukkah begins the evening of Dec.
 22 (1st Candle lit), continuing until sundown on Dec. 30 (eight candles the evening of Dec. 29).
- Dec. 29, congregational Hanukkah Dinner and eighth night, at 5:30 PM. RSVP to the Temple office by Dec. 23. Costs are \$10 for adults, \$4 for students of all ages, Free for pre-kindergarten. Bring your Hanukkiah and candles that fit to light up the night!
- TBD A youth group event with Rabbis Urecki and Blair.

January Events

Looking a little ahead: please note that the January Friday evening Shabbat service

with a covered dish dinner will be on Jan. 10, NOT Jan. 3, and the "First Shabbat" Saturday morning service and Torah study will be on Jan. 11 (both moved due to the Hanukkah Dinner on Dec. 29).

Educational Events

In the November Bulletin, I asked for your level of interest in three educational options:

- 1) Chai Mitzvah (monthly text study and discussion)
- Making Prayer Real (a prayer curriculum focusing on meanings of the liturgy)
- Informal Discussions & Dialogues (periodic events that would each focus on a topic for discussion and study).

I am still asking for your level of interest in these options. If there is enough interest, I will offer one or more of them. Please let me know what you would like to see offered.

I hope you will participate in many of our services and activities, and take advantage of whatever interests you from among all that is offered.

Shalom, and many blessings,

B'virkat shalom,

Joe Rabbi Joe Blair Welcome to Temple Israel cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

gious beliefs and practices of Reform Judaism. We invite our members to celebrate their individuality, determining what Judaism means to them and how it should best be reflected in their lives and through their contributions.

A community committed to strengthening our Jewish identity and advancing our Jewish beliefs through an abiding commitment to education and enrichment in Jewish lore and legacy, applying the principles of progress, pluralism and democracy to the core Jewish values of study, worship, and good deeds.

A community of active people who are working tirelessly to make a difference in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

A welcoming and giving community, always reaching out to help our Jewish and non-Jewish friends, neighbors and colleagues.

Deadline for the January Bulletin is Friday, Dec. 13th

December 2019 templeisraelwv@gmail.com

Sisterhood Message

Sisterhood note cards make great gifts; seeking volunteers for Sojourner's breakfast and Adopt-A-Family gift wrapping

After a lively Sukkot event, Sisterhood has turned now to the holiday season where we can be a support for others. We will be cooking breakfast at the Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women and Families at 7 AM on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. So far, six Sisterhood members have volunteered. Maybe two more to help with stirring scrambled eggs for 80 residents?

Marsha Albert has two exciting programs in the planning stages for the upcoming year. Stay tuned for details – you'll love it! Millie Snyder is creating new incentives to increase attendance at our general membership meetings and we are sure that everyone will be pleasantly surprised.

The Social Action Committee is looking for Sisterhood help in wrapping gifts on Sunday, Dec. 8 for the Covenant House Adopt-A-Family. Please contact Anne Fishkin or Caroline Ostand if you'd like to volunteer.

The gorgeous note cards, available through Sisterhood, make wonderful Hanukkah gifts, as well as for sending greetings to friends and family.

Gayle Twigger-Shaw President



Temple Israel Sisterhood's 66th annual Holland bulb sale

The success of this program is always due to the support of the Temple Israel Sisterhood members and friends of Temple Israel – Thanks!

Social Action Corner

Thanks to all for climate forum success; Adopt-a-Family needs

The Interfaith Forum on Climate
Change: Opportunities for Action, sponsored by the Social Action Committee, took place Nov. 3
and was a great success.
There were 150-170
attendees from
throughout the region, including a
group that drove in

from Parkersburg.

Fourteen West
Virginia environmental
organizations staffed tables and educated us about
their important work. We are indebted to our phenomenal panelists: Rabbi

Daniel Swartz, Director of Coalition on Jewish Life and the Environment; Rev.

Malik Saafir, past fellow and activist from GreenFaith, and

Rev. Robin Blakeman of

WV Interfaith Power and Light. They inspired us with their multiple perspectives and with practical ideas for acting on this crucial Tikkun Olam imperative, to heal and protect our earth and all those whose lives depend on its survival.

We are thankful to leaders of faith communities for getting the message out

about the forum, to our hardworking and passionate committee members for organizing the event, and to the Temple Board members who attended and pitched in. We'd also like to thank the Temple Security Committee, congregants who attended, and Rabbi Joe Blair for his meaningful encouragement and support.

The message from everyone present was about the importance of all of us maintaining our commitment to keeping the momentum, moving forward. We will be reaching out to attendees who gave us their contact information so that an interfaith "Green Team" can be formed.

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The Blue Marble by the crew of Apollo 17 (1972)

Next Social Action Committee meeting Dec. 16 at 5:30 PM

By NASA/Apollo 17 crew; taken by either Harrison Schmitt or Ron Evans - https://web.archive.org/web/20160112123725/http://grin.hq.nasa.gov/ABSTRACTS/GPN-2000-001138.html (image link); see also https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image_feature_329.html, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=43894484



CHANUKAH CANDLE BLESSINGS

Eloheinu, Melech haolam, אָלהַינוּ, מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלֶם, בָּרוֹּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav בַּעָנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתְיוּ צַּנָנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שָׁל חֲנָכָּה.

BLESSED are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

בַּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יָיָ Eloheinu, Melech haolam, אֶלֹהַינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלֶם, אֶלֹהַינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלֶם, שַּׁעֶשֶׂה נָפִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִפּוֹתֵינוּ bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh.

BLESSED are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

For first night only

BARUCH atah, Adonai יָּרָ אַתָּה, יְיָ Eloheinu, Melech haolam, אָרָהִינוּ, מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh. אָרָהִינֵנוּ וְהָגִּיעֲנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזָּה.

BLESSED are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

HANEROT HALALU — תַּרְיוֹת חַיּלְלוּ

הַגַּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מַדְלִיקִים עַל הַנְּסִים וְעַל הַנִּפְלָאוֹת וְעַל הַנְּפְים וְעַל הַנִּפְלָאוֹת וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת שְעָשִׂיתָ לַאֲבוֹתִינוּ וְאָמּוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהָם בּוְמֵי הַנֶּרוֹת הַלֶּלוּ קְדֶשׁ הַם. וְאֵין לֵנוּ רְשׁׁוֹנְת יְמֵי חֲנֻכָּה הַנֵּרוֹת הַלֶּלוּ קְדֶשׁ הַם. וְאֵין לֵנוּ רְשׁׁוֹת לְהַשְׁלֹת לְהָשְׁתֹם בְּלְבָד. כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל לָשְׁמִךְּ הַנְּדוֹל עַל־נִפֶּיךְ וְעַל־נִפְלָאוֹתֵיךְ וְעַל־יְשוּעָתֵךְ.

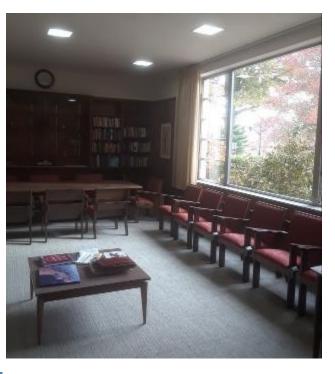
WE KINDLE THESE LIGHTS because of the wondrous deliverance You performed for our ancestors. During these eight days of Chanukah, these lights are sacred; we are not to use them but only to behold them, so that their glow may rouse us to give thanks for Your wondrous acts of deliverance.

First night of Hanukkah is Sunday, Dec. 22. See front page for Hanukkah Dinner info.

Temple library: new books and new furnishings— check it out

- Making Prayer Real: Leading Jewish Spiritual Voices on Why Prayer is Difficult and What to Do About It by Rabbi Mike Comins. Judy recommends: Synagogue leadership will continue to think creatively about improving services, but this book explores how "deep and lasting change will only come when each of us takes ownership and responsibility for what only we can really guide — our inner selves."
- How to Fight Anti-Semitism, by Bari Weiss.

Mary Rich Maloy, chair



The library refurbished and ready for your reading pleasure—new chairs, carpet and paint. Reference materials have been moved to the Sunday School wing.

Our Thoughtful Contributors

Temple 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 or Garden should be made payable to Temple Israel.

December 2019 templeisraelwv@gmail.com

Thanks for making services even more special

Sponsors of Oneg Shabbat receptions and flowers on the bimah in November

Nov. 1 – Oneg Shabbat reception and bimah flowers given by Lauri and Britton Harwood, and Evelyn and Lake Brown, in loving memory of our sister, Beth Brown Morgan, who died July 12 at age 78, and to honor the memory of parents and grandparents, Ruth and Lake Brown Sr. and Goldie and Sam Mendelsohn – three generations of membership in the Temple.

Nov. 8 -

- Oneg Shabbat reception given by Judy Lundy in honor of veterans and in memory of her father, Ellis Clay Amburgey Sr.
- Bimah flowers given by Judy Lundy and Nathan Jurin in memory of Celia Jurin.
- Nov. 15 Bimah flowers given by Judy Lundy in memory of her father, Ellis Clay Amburgey Sr.
- Nov. 22 Oneg Shabbat reception given by Shelly and David Winowich, just because.
- Nov. 29 Oneg Shabbat reception given by Ronni and David Spudich, in memory of Ronni's father Edward Cohen and Mary Beth Chadwick.



Reserve your dates now to sponsor Oneg Shabbat receptions and bimah flowers

Oneg Nosh

Oneg Shabbat reception schedule: Have you reserved your date(s)?

Sharing a nosh before dinner strengthens relationships as we continue the joyous spiritual journey of Shabbat. Whether remembering a loved one or celebrating a special occasion, sponsoring an Oneg helps to sustain our community's vitality.

You can prepare or provide desserts and/or snacks or with a \$35 donation, and the Oneg team will do the shopping.

For an Oneg, call Judy Lundy. Please make check payable to Temple Israel.

Flowers on the bimah

Sisterhood arranges for flowers on the bimah for Shabbat services. You can sponsor them with a donation of \$35.

For flowers, call Betty Stern. Please make check payable to Sisterhood.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ File:Pound_layer_cake.jpg

Social Action—cont'd

(Continued from page 5)

If you are interested in being involved in this effort, please contact Cookie or Rachel.

2019 Adopt-A-Family deadline is Dec. 3

The Social Action Committee is asking for your support for our Covenant House 2019 Adopt-A-Family. If you would like to participate, you can contribute by writing a check, donating a Kroger gift card or purchasing a gift listed by Covenant House on the Temple website.

Make your check payable to Temple Israel and write "Adopt-A-Family" on the memo line, and get it to the Temple office no later than Tuesday, Dec. 3 (same deadline for gift cards).

The committee will use funds raised to purchase clothing, special request gifts, or gift cards for shoes or food. For more information, contact Anne Fishkin.

Cookie Glasser and Rachel Dash,
Co-chairs

REMINDER: Let us know when you move, change or delete a phone number, or change your email address

If you are planning a move, changing your phone number (or deleting a number, such as a landline) or if you have a new email address, please contact the Temple office as soon as you have your new contact info. We have no other way of obtaining this information, except from you.

The deadline for changes to your contact info in the Sisterhood yearbook must be received no later than August 1st to be listed in the 2020-2021 edition.

Please email your new contact info to the Temple office at temple:remple:remple:remple:remple.com

