

Temple Israel Bulletin

The Tu B'Shevat Seder has been canceled.

Volume LXXIX
Bulletin No. 6

*Holiday observance will be at Shabbat service Feb. 7 at 5:30 PM,
followed by a covered dish dinner.*

February 2020
Shevat / Adar 5780

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple Israel Congregants, Community members, and Friends,

Shalom, and Greetings!

It is mid-January as I write this. I expected some winter weather, but the weather is unpredictable, ranging from snow last week to the 70s this week, and no one seems to know what to expect – is it winter or spring? I guess we will find out in the days ahead.

We had a lovely covered dish dinner Jan. 10 following the Friday evening Shabbat service, and a really enjoyable Shabbat morning service and Torah study the next day. The January Charleston Death Café on Jan. 12 had a good group, including new faces, and a lively conversation. And that was just in one weekend. As you can see, we have a full calendar, with lots of meetings, events and activities, and more coming up in February. Please join in.

WZC Elections

The US Election for the 38th World Zionist Congress is here, time to make our voices heard in Israel! Every vote from our congregation and community is crucial to maintaining a strong Progressive presence, our chance to combat discrimination that non-Orthodox movements face in Israel. Together we can grow our influence and make progress on issues we care about: religious freedom, equality, pluralism, fair funding, and many more.

Voting began Jan. 21 and continues through March 11, 2020. Your vote is your only democratic opportunity to influence Israeli society. If you have any questions about this, please contact Rabbi Joe Blair for more information. You can register by visiting www.zionistelection.org

(there is a one-time charge of \$7.50) and then cast your vote.

The Union for Reform Judaism and the Central Conference of American Rabbis are asking that we vote this year for the ARZA slate, which is No. 2 on the list. The election is online, no need to travel, and helps select representatives who will support pluralism in Israel.

The Tu B'Shevat Seder that was scheduled for Feb. 9 at the Temple will NOT be held; it has been canceled. Instead, please plan to attend the Jewish National Fund Community Celebration of the holiday on Sunday, Feb. 9 at B'nai Jacob Synagogue at 6 PM. See back page for details.

Looking back on January

January was a busy time, lots happened, but it seemed to go well. In addition to our weekly Shabbat services and committee meetings, we had a number of special events.

We read Torah at services on Jan. 10 and 24.

Jan. 10 was the Friday evening Shabbat service and covered dish dinner. As always, there was more than enough to eat, and we had good attendance.

Jan. 11 was the "First Shabbat" Saturday morning service and Torah study (delayed a week due to the Hanukkah dinner). A small turnout, but a fabulous conversation about the Torah and other things.

The Jan. 12 Charleston Death Café had a really good turnout and a lively conversation. I am looking forward to the next session on March 8 (we had one

scheduled on Feb. 2, but we had to cancel because the NFL messed up and played the Super Bowl that night :(So, there will be three more Death Café's this year: March 8, April 5 and May 13.

The second Youth group meeting took place on Jan. 15 at the Temple. It was a conversation about antisemitism as the youngsters see it and experience it. Needless to say, we also had food!

Jan. 22 was the Introduction to Hebrew Level II class. We reviewed roots in Eyn Keloheyenu, and looked in some detail at the first two stanzas of Adon Olam. We will meet again on Feb. 12, then March 11, April 29, and May 13.

Jan. 22 was also the second session of the Two Rabbis series. For this session, Rabbi Urecki and I led a conversation on anti-Semitism – discussing whether this is "an old problem that is rearing its ugly head again, or a new form of Hate and something to fear?" As in past, it was a fascinating and wide-ranging discussion, with lots of participation. Our next session is Feb. 12 at the Temple.

Jan. 26 was the winter WV Jewish Film Festival, sponsored by the Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston. The two films were *Fiddler – Miracle of Miracles*, about the making of the Yiddish Broadway show, and *Hate Among Us*, about the recent rise in antisemitism.

This month: February Events

Please note that the February Charleston Death Café had to be canceled due to the Super Bowl, but we will continue on March 8 and subsequent dates through May.

We will read Torah on Feb. 7 (Beshalach, Ex. 13:17-15:26) and on Feb. 21 (Mishpatim, Ex. 21:1-22:3).

(Continued on page 3)

Schedule of February worship services

IN THE EVENT OF
SEVERE WEATHER
Call the Temple
at 304-342-
5852 and follow
the prompts to
hear about any
cancellations.

Friday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service with Tu B'Shevat observance, followed by a covered dish dinner

Saturday, Feb. 8 "First Shabbat" Saturday morning service followed by Torah study at 10:30 AM (Beshalach)

Friday, Feb. 14 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service

Friday, Feb. 21 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service (Mishpatim)

Friday, Feb. 28 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service

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.

February at a glance

Friday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service (Parashah Beshalach) including observance of Tu B'Shevat, followed by a covered dish dinner

Saturday, Feb. 8 at 10:30 AM – "First Shabbat" Saturday morning service followed by Torah study (Parashah Beshalach)

Sunday, Feb. 9 at 6 PM – JNF Tu B'Shevat celebration at B'nai Jacob Synagogue. Email your RSVP to rsvpse@jnf.org with the subject line "Charleston TBS."

Monday, Feb. 10 – Sisterhood Schmooze 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 5:30 PM – Temple board meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 5 PM – Introduction to Hebrew Level II class

Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 6:30 PM at the Temple – Two Rabbis class

Friday, Feb. 14 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service "Pulpit Exchange" – Rabbi Urecki speaks at the Temple

Saturday, Feb. 15 at B'nai Jacob Synagogue at 9 AM "Pulpit Exchange" – Rabbi Blair speaks at B'nai Jacob

Sunday, Feb. 16 at 10 AM – Sisterhood board meeting

Friday, Feb. 21 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat

service (Parashah Mishpatim)

Monday, Feb. 24 at 5:30 PM – Social Action Committee meeting. "Issues of Conscience" presentation: Gun Control.

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

Next month

Sunday, March 1 at 10 AM – Informal discussion: "Medical Aid in Dying"

Friday, March 6 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service (Parashah Tetzaveh, Shabbat Zachor) followed by a covered dish dinner

Saturday, March 7 at 10:30 AM – "First Shabbat" morning service followed by Torah study (Parashah Tetzaveh)

Sunday, March 8 at 7 PM – Charleston Death Café

Monday, March 9 at 5:30 PM – Combined Temple/Synagogue Purim service with Megillah reading at B'nai Jacob, followed by refreshments

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

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

February yahrzeits

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

February 7th

Louise Herzog Sclove (8)
Morris Siegler (8)
Bernard L. Wasserman (8)
Joseph Weisberg (8)
Barbara Reinfeld (10)
Lorene Adler (11)
Irving Badner (11)
Helaine Rotgin (11)
Garald F. "Gary" Allen (13)
Sylvia G. Goldman (13)
Alan A. Greenspon (14)

February 14th

Roselind Case (15)
Norma Cohn (15)
Dr. Morris I. Mendeloff Sr. (15)
Louise Parker (15)
Clara Warner Schwabe (15)
Jacob Kandel (16)
Jerome Warner Schwabe (16)
Clara Price (17)
Isadore J. Berman (18)
Doris Mack (18)
Newton Margolis (18)
Miriam Mayer (18)
Aaron Cohen (19)
Fannie Galperin (20)
Philip Frankenberger (21)
Howard Michael Levinson (21)
Helen Tweddle (21)

February 21st

Pauline Reinfeld (22)
Irma Rose (22)
Sylvia Berman (24)
Sadie W. Levin (24)
Hazel Westen (25)
Melvin H. Hager (26)
Annette Cohen Hark (26)
Anne Shore Levinson (27)
Doris Lewis (27)
Rebecca Taub Godfrey (28)
Laura Loeb Small (28)
Marcus "Bill" Thalheimer (28)

February 28th

Rachel Cassidy (March 1)
Frances Sokolovsky (March 1)
Fred A. Bloomberg (March 2)
Natalie Melman (March 2)
Ida Schwartz Preiser (March 2)
Frank A. Baer Sr. (March 3)
Benjamin Machanoff (March 3)
Erwin Mayer (March 3)
Adele Lehman Metzel (March 3)
Esther Pincus (March 4)
Lee Silverstein (March 6)



Condolences are on p. 4

From the Rabbi's Desk—continued

(Continued from page 1)

The Shabbat service on Friday Feb. 7 at 5:30 PM will include aspects of Tu B'Shevat (the holiday begins the evening of Feb. 9 and ends at sundown Feb. 10).

Feb. 7 is also our next covered dish dinner, immediately following the Shabbat service. The Oneg Shabbat for this evening will include fruits and nuts to recognize Tu B'Shevat, and desserts will include fruit pies.

On Saturday, Feb. 8 we will enjoy an abbreviated Shabbat morning service and

Please recycle.

Torah study, beginning at 10:30. We will focus on Parashah Beshalach.

Please note: the Tu B'Shevat Seder that was scheduled for Feb. 9 at the Temple will NOT be held; it has been canceled. Instead, please plan to attend the Jewish National Fund Community Celebration of the holiday on Sunday, Feb. 9 at B'nai Jacob Synagogue at 6 PM. There is no cost to attend, but please RSVP to rsvpse@jnf.org with the subject line "Charleston TBS."

Introduction to Hebrew Level II class Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 5 PM. Continuing

with Adon Olam.

Two Rabbis class at the Temple Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 6:30 PM.

The next Pulpit Exchange will be Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14 and 15. Rabbi Urecki will deliver the Devar Torah at our 5:30 PM Shabbat service on Friday. At the Saturday morning service at B'nai Jacob Synagogue (beginning at 9 AM), I will deliver the Devar Torah. We have one more pulpit exchange scheduled for this year, May 15 and 16.

(Continued on page 4)



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 who are on the mend or have returned to full health:

Lois Coleman
Jonathan Freedman
Margie Hutt
Debra Levine
Roberta Lee Levine
Rabbi Israel Koller
David Kushner
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:

January: Russell Emrick, Caroline Ostand, Rick Holicker, Tiana Hall, Donna & Jerry Goldberg, Ken Silverstein, Elizabeth Kantor-Bright, David Kushner, Terrie Rosenfeld, Hedy Poppelsdorf (95 on the 25th!), Richard Gottlieb, David Shapiro and Beth Winter.

February: Barrie & Tod Kaufman,

Ronni Cohen Spudich, David Stern, Bob Aaron, Betty Stern, Barrie Baer Kaufman, and Margot Jogwick.

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 the Rabbi about it.

Baruch Dayan HaEmet (Condolences)

Our congregation shares sympathy with the extended family of Tom and Carole Susman on the recent loss of Tom's mother, Sally Matz Susman. May her memory serve as an enduring blessing.

From the Rabbi's Desk—continued

(Continued from page 3)

Looking Ahead to March

Another busy month:

Sunday, March 1 at 10 AM – Informal discussion: "Medical Aid in Dying"

We will read Torah: on March 6, Parashah Tetzaveh, Ex. 27:20-28:30 and Deuteronomy 25:17-19 for Shabbat Zachor, and on March 20, Vayakhel-Pekudei, Ex. 35:1-37:16, and Ex. 12:1-20 for Shabbat HaChodesh.

Our next covered dish dinner will be following the Shabbat service on March 6 at 5:30 PM.

"First Shabbat" Saturday morning service and Torah study will be on March 7 at 10:30. Torah study follows at approximately 11:15. We may decide to look at the special Haftarah for this week, 1 Samuel 15:2-34, or we might dive into the Megillat Ester instead, in preparation for Purim.

Charleston Death Café will be Sunday, March 8, 7-8:30 PM.

The evening of Monday, March 9 is Erev Purim, with a service at B'nai Jacob Synagogue at 5:30. Purim continues till sundown the next day, March 10.

Introduction to Hebrew will be March 11 at 5 PM.

Two Rabbis class, March 11 at 6:30 PM at B'nai Jacob Synagogue.

Sunday, March 22 from 5 to 6:30 PM at the Temple, we will offer a second interfaith devotional meeting, working with the Baha'i community of Charleston. This one will focus on race amity as part of the. Spring 2020 Peace Rose events, seeking to nurture love and friendship among the races, and to facilitate reflection on how we can work together to accomplish this goal. You are invited to join me at this event.

Educational Events

I have asked for interest level in three educational options: (1) Chai Mitzvah (monthly text study and discussion); (2) Making Prayer Real (a prayer curricu-

lum focusing on meanings of the liturgy); and (3) Informal Discussions & Dialogues (periodic events that would each focus on a topic for discussion and study). From the responses I received, I will offer one or more of the informal discussions & dialogues, and try to develop a short course that is text based to hold during the remainder of this congregational year. If you have specific topics you would like to suggest, please be in touch.

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

Shalom, and many blessings,
B'virkat shalom,

Joe
Rabbi Joe Blair

Sisterhood Message**“Schmooze” on Feb. 10; the April 19 general meeting will feature an attendance “incentive” plus a fascinating program**

Stay tuned for exciting news from Sisterhood, as we make an effort to increase attendance at our General Meetings. Our next one is scheduled for Sunday, April 19, at 10 AM. Not only will there be a fascinating program, there will be an “incentive” for attending.

Schmooze is Monday, Feb. 10, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM. Come when you can, leave when you must!

Our Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 16, at 10 AM. This is a Board meeting only, no program! No brunch!

Not even a donut!!!

Marsha Albert continues to come up with stimulating programs for the general meetings, but if you have any thoughts or suggestions, please contact Gayle or Marsha.

Gayle Twigger-Shaw
President

Friendly reminder**Tapestry cards help fund Sisterhood programs; donating your hotel freebies**

Just a reminder that the beautiful tapestry cards are available for \$5 at the Temple. Talk to someone on the Sisterhood board, Caroline Ostand or Jill Epstein, to make arrangements for yours! This is a fund raiser for some of our activities.

Also, as we return from or are going on our winter adventures, please collect travel-size bottles of shampoo, conditioner,

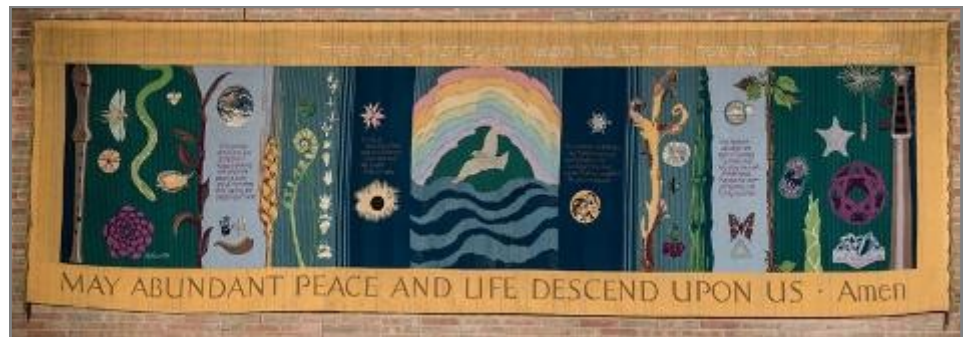


Photo by Michael Keller

lotion, toothbrushes and other hotel freebies that we can donate to Covenant House and Sojourner's Shelter to help welcome those needing their services. There is a collection basket for them on the stage.

Caroline Ostand

For the convenience and safety for our members and visitors**Passenger drop-off and accessible parking in the semi-circular driveway at the Temple's Kan. Blvd. entrance**

The semi-circular driveway at the Temple's front entrance on Kanawha Boulevard can be used as a passenger drop-off area and as accessible parking, for people with disabilities that make it difficult or impossible to climb steps.

If a driver is a person with disabilities and needs to park in front of the building, we ask you to pull as close to the edge of the driveway as possible. This will allow other cars to drop off passengers and pass through on their way to park in one of the Temple's lots or on the street.

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



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 or Garden should be made payable to Temple Israel.

Deadline for the March Bulletin is Friday, Feb. 14th

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 templeisraelwv@gmail.com

Please write separate checks when making contributions to more than one fund or when paying membership dues.

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



Graphic courtesy JNF

JOIN JEWISH NATIONAL FUND AT OUR

TU BISHVAT COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Sunday, Feb. 9th at 6 PM
at B'nai Jacob Synagogue

Spend the evening celebrating the New Year of Trees with Jewish National Fund, the organization that has planted over 260 million trees in Israel since 1901! Connect with members of the community over a festive holiday-themed program and learn about Jewish National Fund's big, bold vision for a bright, prosperous, and green future for the land and people of Israel.

No cost to attend, but please email your RSVP by Feb. 3rd to rsvpse@jnf.org with subject line "Charleston TBS."

Thanks for making services even more special

Oneg Shabbat receptions

- Jan. 03 – The Radow Family, in memory of Berle Radow
- Jan. 10 – Sue and Ron Eisinger, in memory of the birthday of Sue's mother, Geneva Mann Sessions
- Jan. 17 - Temple
- Jan. 24 – Dona Hall, in honor of the 25th birthday of daughter Tiana Elyse Hall
- Jan. 31 – Anne Fishkin and Bill Kroesser, in memory of their mothers, Judith Pollack and Helen Kroesser



Flowers on the bimah

- Jan. 03 – The Radow Family, in memory of Berle Radow
- Jan. 10 - Sue and Ron Eisinger, in memory of the birthday of Sue's mother, Geneva Mann Sessions
- Jan. 17 – Betty and David Stern
- Jan. 24 – Dona Hall and Tiana Hall, in memory of Tiana's father, Philip Barnett Hall
- Jan. 31 – Sisterhood

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

Oneg Shabbat receptions

YOU are invited to participate in the Oneg reception.

Hosting is designed to be easy, enjoyable and pleasant...

Options – after you pick a date:

- 1) You shop and bake as you desire.

OR

- 2) You write a check in amount \$35...the committee will shop/supply.

Your choice of how you wish to share!

For an Oneg, contact 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, contact Betty Stern. Please make check payable to Sisterhood.



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

Social Action Corner

Please plan to attend “Issues of Conscience” program Feb. 24 and beyond

We are up to date with reporting the Social Action Committee's work. However, to refresh memories, listed below are the presentations and activities scheduled through June.

Please note that all members of the Congregation are welcome to attend any of the Committee's monthly meetings, which begin at 5:30 PM:

- 2/24/20 - Gun Control (Tiana Hall)
- 3/23/20 - Women's Health (Rachel Dash)
- 4/27/20 - Voting Rights (Marsha Albert)
- 5/18/20 - Immigration (Anne Fishkin & Dona Hall)
- 6/05/20 - Issues of Conscience Pot Luck Round Tables
- 6/22/20 - To be determined

We are an inclusive committee and would love to share in your thoughts on these critical Issues of Conscience.

Cookie Glasser and Rachel Dash, Co-chairs

