

Shalom!

Again, there will be no bulletin produced for Temple Israel during this Pandemic and the closure of the Temple. This reminder email serves as a partial substitute for the bulletin. It covers the period from the start of the month going forward. Another reminder email will be sent out for the middle of the month with updated information as it becomes available.

This email includes current Temple news, updates, and what is going on to help keep us connected and informed. Please be in touch with the rabbi if you have any questions or need to include anything in an upcoming reminder.

COVID-19 CONCERNS

No change at this time.

The best advice is to continue to maintain social distancing and shelter in place procedures with limited exposure for those vulnerable. The board concluded that the Temple will remain closed for all events and activities to protect our members and visitors. The board also decided to delay the date for the annual congregational meeting until it is possible to hold it safely. At this time, no programs, events, meetings, or services are being held in the Temple, and access is extremely limited. The goal of this is to avoid the necessity of an extreme deep cleaning process prior to opening. By avoiding introduction of the Covid-19 virus into the building and limiting access, we allow time for any disease that was introduced to die off so there will be nothing in the building that could infect anyone when we do finally open.

Because we are not seeing each other in person, during this period I will continue to reach out and offer opportunities for our community to gather virtually - by phone or online, to share Shabbat services and social events, and to offer classes and activities (see below) to provide as many of our usual events and services as possible, although not in person.

Although I want to return to our 'normal' practices, and soon, I am committed to proceeding with the highest level of caution, fully mindful of the health and wellbeing of all who may enter our building. None of us want to risk our own or anyone else's health or well-being. We will explore ways to assess when it is safe and prudent to begin the process of re-opening, and how to continually measure if it is safe to continue, or when we may need to back off and close down partially or fully again. This is a work in progress, and no one can give a date when we will be 'past' all the restrictions. Just know that we are doing the best we can and keeping your well-being in mind at all times.

Again, if you are having difficulties getting groceries or medicine, or feel a need to talk to someone, please call the Rabbi at 304-989-4014, or email at rabbijoe@gmail.com. Stay safe and remain healthy.

TEMPLE EVENTS

Sunday, May 31st. 2 PM. Hebrew Poetry in Translation. Join us as we look at more poems by Israel's foremost modern poet, Yehuda Amichai and others. We will read in translation, but look for any hidden nuggets nestled in the Hebrew (think 'lost in translation'). Hebrew ability not required. Returning to our connection to Genesis 22, we will look at Abraham Had Three Sons, and (if time permits) My Father Was God.

Monday, June 1st, 10 AM. Temple Israel Zoom Check-In.

Wednesday, June 3rd, 10:15 AM. Temple Israel Telephone Conference Call Check-In.

Wednesday, June 3rd, 3 PM. A Bissel Torah, online via Zoom. Original sin, or not?

Friday, June 5th, Noon, Ritual Committee Meeting via Telephone.

Friday, June 5th, 3:30-4 PM, Mocktails or Cocktails, & Prayers. An informal social gathering to wind down the week, in preparation for Shabbat.

I invite you to join me for a short time, with your favorite beverage and hors d'oeuvres. Sit in a comfortable location, where you feel relaxed and calm. Have your Candelabra there, with Shabbat candles ready to go. We will spend 30 minutes together on Zoom. I will offer a prompt along the lines of "what gifts and blessings did you find during the past week?" and we will share highlights and positives. We will conclude our brief time together with the candle lighting for Shabbat – and each of us will enter our own Shabbat Shalom, observing as we choose.

This is an experiment – give it a try with me. If it serves a purpose, we can continue it; if not, it will disappear from our calendar. To give it a fair shot, I am scheduling it each week through July, and will ask for your response about continuing it. This is a chance for us to gather at the end of the week to prepare ourselves to usher in Shabbat.

Friday, June 5th, Virtual Friday Shabbat service. The Temple Israel Shabbat service for Friday evening will be available both through an email with links to the recording, and links from the Temple Israel Facebook page. You are invited to join our community in participating in that service at the time that is best for you. A message with the links will be sent on Thursday evening or Friday – please watch for it.

Saturday, June 6th, 10:30 AM, Torah Study. Parashat Nasso, Bam. (Num) 4:21-7:89, Judges 13:2-25. As we had been doing when we could meet in person, we will hold a Saturday morning session, and look at the Torah portion for this week. The Torah portion we will look at is Naso – Bamidbar (Num.) 4:21-7:89, and Haftarah Judges 13:2-25.

You can find the Torah section here: <https://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/pt0404.htm>, (I will be focusing especially on chapters 5 and 6), and the Haftarah here <https://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/pt0713.htm>. This is a shortened event – no service. We will jump into the Torah study right away. Please come ready to join our conversation.

Tuesday, June 9th, 10:15 AM, Temple Israel Telephone Conference Call Check-In.

Tuesday, June 9th, 5:30 PM, Temple Board Meeting via Zoom.

Wednesday, June 10th, 10 AM. Temple Israel Zoom Check-In.

Friday, June 12th, 2:30 PM, A Bissel Torah, online via Zoom. Texts: Rabbinic takes on Pandemics and Epidemics.

Friday, June 12th, 3:30 PM, Mocktails or Cocktails & Prayers. An informal gathering to wind down the week, in preparation for Shabbat. Join me and have your Shabbat candles ready to light together.

Friday, June 12th, Virtual Friday Shabbat service. A message with the links will be sent on Thursday evening or Friday – please watch for it.

Sunday, June 14th, 2 PM. Hebrew Poetry in Translation. Join us as we look at more poems by Israel's foremost modern poet, Yehuda Amichai and others. We will read in translation, but look for any hidden nuggets nestled in the Hebrew (think 'lost in translation'). Hebrew ability not required. We will continue where we left off, and if we have time look at Water Cannot Return, Two Generations of Forgetting Have Passed, and In the Inner Room.

Sunday, June 14th, 7:30 PM, Charleston (Online) Death Café. Trying this in the Zoom setting. Give it a try with us – bring your own cake and coffee!

Monday, June 15th, 10 AM. Temple Israel Zoom Check-In.

Tuesday, June 16th, 10:15 AM, Temple Israel Telephone Conference Call Check-In.

Wednesday, June 17th, 3 PM, A Bissell Torah, online via Zoom. The story of Lilith.

Wednesday, June 17th, 4 PM, Hebrew Level II, Continued.

Wednesday, June 17th, 6:30 PM, Two Rabbis Discussion. Topic TBA.

Friday, June 19th, 3:30 PM, Mocktails or Cocktails, & Prayers. An informal gathering to wind down the week, in preparation for Shabbat. Join me and have your Shabbat candles ready to light together.

Friday, June 19th, Virtual Friday Shabbat service. A message with the links will be sent on Thursday evening or Friday – please watch for it.

Monday, June 22nd, 5:30 PM, Social Action Committee meeting via Zoom. The focus of the meeting is TBA. All are invited to join for this meeting. Contact Cookie Glasser or Rachel Dash for more information and to receive the Zoom meeting invitation details.

Wednesday June 24th, 10 AM. Temple Israel Zoom Check-In.

Thursday, June 25th, 10:15 AM, Temple Israel Telephone Conference Call Check-In.

Thursday, June 25th, 3 PM, A Bissell Torah, online via Zoom. The Three Weeks.

Friday, June 26th, 3:30 PM, Mocktails or Cocktails, & Prayers. An informal gathering to wind down the week, in preparation for Shabbat. Join me and have your Shabbat candles ready to light together.

Friday, June 26th, Virtual Friday Shabbat service. A message with the links will be sent on Thursday evening or Friday – please watch for it.

Sunday, June 28th, 2 PM, Hebrew Poetry in Translation. Join us as we look at more poems by Israel's foremost modern poet, Yehuda Amichai and others. We will read in translation, but look for any hidden nuggets nestled in the Hebrew (think 'lost in translation'). Hebrew ability not required. We will continue where we left off, and as we have time look at *Water Cannot Return*, *Two Generations of Forgetting Have Passed*, and *In the Inner Room*. This will be the last of the Hebrew Poetry sessions - starting in July, we will begin a Jewish/Yiddish Literature course, reading short stories in English. Our first session will be on July 12th at 2 pm, and we will be looking at the classic story *Gimpel the Fool*. Our discussion will be led by Josh Barrett. If you contact me a few days ahead of time, I will send you the link to the story.

Monday, June 29th, 10 AM. Temple Israel Zoom Check-In.

Tuesday, June 30th, 10:15 AM, Temple Israel Telephone Conference Call Check-In.

Wednesday, July 1st, 3 PM, A Bissell Torah, online via Zoom. Adam & Eve

Friday, July 3rd, 3:30 PM, Mocktails or Cocktails, & Prayers. An informal gathering to wind down the week, in preparation for Shabbat. Join me and have your Shabbat candles ready to light together.

Friday, July 3rd, Virtual Friday Shabbat service. A message with the links will be sent on Thursday evening or Friday – please watch for it.

Friday, July 3rd, Independence Day (Observed).

Saturday, July 4th, Torah Study, 10:30 AM. Torah Study. Parashat Chukat-Balak, Bam. (Num) 19:1-25:9, Micah 5:6-6:8. As we had been doing when we could meet in person, we will hold a Saturday morning session, and look at the Torah portion for this week. This is a shortened event – no service. We will jump into the Torah study right away. Please come ready to join our conversation. Links will be sent next email.

Friday, July 10th, 3:30 PM, Mocktails, Cocktails, & Prayers. An informal gathering to wind down the week, in preparation for Shabbat. Join me and have your Shabbat candles ready to light together.

Friday, July 10th, Virtual Friday Shabbat service. A message with the links will be sent on Thursday evening or Friday – please watch for it.

Sunday, July 12th, 2 PM, Yiddish & Jewish Literature: Short Stories. A chance to read a classic or contemporary work of Jewish writing, gather, and have a free-ranging conversation about it. Jewish/Yiddish Literature course, reading short stories in English. Our first session will be on July 12th at 2 pm, and we will be looking at the classic story Gimpel the Fool. Our discussion will be led by Josh Barrett. If you contact me a few days ahead of time, I will send you the link to the story.

Friday, July 17th, 3:30 PM, Mocktails, Cocktails, & Prayers. An informal gathering to wind down the week, in preparation for Shabbat. Join me and have your Shabbat candles ready to light together.

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Friday, July 31st, 3:30 PM, Mocktails, Cocktails, & Prayers. An informal gathering to wind down the week, in preparation for Shabbat. Join me and have your Shabbat candles ready to light together.

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Please be generous – needs continue to run especially high in light of the Corona Virus effects. Note Tzedakah opportunities: Manna Meal, Covenant House, Sojourner/YWCA, RCCR, Mazon, and all the other worthy causes in our congregation and community, and beyond.

Other Notices

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood elections took place, and as of June 1st, the officers will be President Millie Snyder, Vice President Marsha Albert, Secretary Ronni Cohen Spudich, Treasurer Betty Stern, Financial Secretary Judy Lundy, and Past President Gayle Twigger-Shaw. A formal installation will take place at a future date when we can meet in person. Congratulations to those elected, and many thanks to those who served in the past year!

JEWISH LITERATURE

Plan to join us for the new offering coming in the next few weeks/months: Readings in Jewish & Yiddish Literature - Short Stories. We will choose one (or several shorter) story/ies to read and discuss in each meeting. These will be available in advance to download and read at your leisure, and are drawn from both Yiddish and Jewish classics and more contemporary Jewish writings. Open to anyone interested. Be in touch to let us know you want to participate.

BULB ORDERS

Still available. Contact Judy Lundy, jlundy43@gmail.com.

SCAMMERS

It seems this is part of the new normal. ☹️ Yet again, scammers are active and sending emails claiming to be clergy and asking for a favor or a donation. If you receive any email that claims to be from me (or Rabbi Urecki) asking for a favor or a donation, IGNORE and DELETE it. We will never ask you to do any such thing by email. Please be alert to these schemes! Rabbi Joe Blair

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
Rabbi Israel Koller
Gary Markham
Bob Steinberg

Baruch Dayan Haemet (Condolences)

Temple Israel offers our condolences to Judy Lundy and her family on the death of her cousin Rebecca Rouche in Charleston.

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:

May: Lois Coleman, Sharon Jubelirer, Barbara Braun Tweddle, Ellen Kay Bastron, Duke Bloom, Lena Glasser, Shelly Winowich, Earl Jordan, Doris Goldfarb

June: Pam Goldfarb, Steve Artz, Jack Goldfarb, Anne Kushner, Betty & David Stern, Sara & Brett Radow, Ditty & Gary Markham (Milestone), David Thalheimer, Harriet & Don Deutsch

July: Paul Ostand, Terrie and Bill Rosenfeld, Liz Weisberg (Milestone), Louis Weisberg

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.

Yahrzeit List (by Week Read)

June 5th

Alfredo Montanaro (6)
Miriam E. Rogin (6)
Herbert J. Shapiro (6)
David Hess Swarts (7)
Ed Hindman (8)
Dr. Herman K. Polan (8)
Mae Gordon Kopelman (10)
Joan Galperin Kurtz (10)
Bernard Siegel (10)
Irene Wells (10)
William Binderman (11)
Herbert Osgood (11)
Louis Israel Sclove (12)

June 12th

Solon Levine (13)
Mary Margolis (13)
Phyllis Shapero (13)
Henry Angel (14)
William Drasnin (14)
Jerry Lindenberg (15)
Michael Rossin (15)
Judith Kaufman Moses (16)
Si Galperin Jr. (17)
Harry Polan (18)
Anna Lovett (19)

June 19th

Leon Jacob Engel (20)
Goldie M. Galperin (20)
William F. Hoss Jr. (21)
Betty Edelman Barrack (22)
Helen Cohen (22)
Celia Drasnin (22)
Carl A. Lehman (22)
Bertha Silverstein Schaul (22)
Lottie Wells (22)
Charles W. Loeb Sr. (23)
David Mack (24)
Etta Abrams (25)
Flo Sloman (25)
Morris Warhoftig (26)

June 26th

Dr. Philip Rubin (27)
Max Rosenfeld (28)
Beatrice Eisinger (29)
Sylvia Miller Kaufman (29)
Bill Thalheimer (29)
Virgil Hindman (30)
Ruth Osgood Loeb (30)
Rose Levy Siegel (30)
Ben Baker (July 2)
Donald Deutsch Jr. (July 2)
Toby Israel (July 2)
Ted Lewis (July 2)
Edward Lee Ruben (July 2)
Leo M. Spigel (July 3)

Shalom,

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair