

June 15, 2020/23 Sivan 5780

Shalom!

This is an update to the reminder/bulletin email sent on May 30th. This covers the period of June 15 to July, highlighting any updates or changes.

This email includes current/updated Temple news, information, and a bit of 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.

As the state begins to re-open in part, the best advice is still to continue to maintain social distancing and shelter in place procedures with limited exposure for those vulnerable.

The board concluded that the Temple will continue to remain closed for all events and activities to protect our members and visitors at this point. The board voted at a June meeting to proceed with the annual congregational meeting on July 15th. Please watch for information about it, and how it will work.

At this time, no programs, events, meetings, or services are being held in the Temple, and access is extremely limited. By limiting access, we minimize any possibility of transmission of infection to any vulnerable members.

Because we are not seeing each other in person, during this period we 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 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 rabbijoeb@gmail.com. Stay safe and remain healthy.

BRIEF MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

As I have been saying in my sermons, there is so much that feels broken and wrong in the world today. Our world is in a terrible mess. We are bombarded with daily news of atrocities and terrifying things, from an invisible disease that strikes without warning to an ancient malady, racism and bigotry, that permeates our society and leads to cruelty, hatred, and acts of terrible aggression aimed at those least able to defend themselves, to an economy that is leading to distress and long-term disastrous effects on many, to a societal malaise and distrust due to partisanship and othering.

We are all suffering, though some far worse than others. In this time of tsuris (troubles), we need each other more than ever, and we must work to protect and support and uphold the least among us. We are far beyond acts of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) – the mandate comes from the essential core of Judaism: B'tzelem Elohim (all human beings are created in the image of G-d), and Pikuach Nefesh (the highest command, to save souls/lives).

How you choose to embody this in your life is up to you, and each of us has their own path to follow, but these are the values we must espouse and implement to heal ourselves, our community, our society, and our world. This is what it is to be Jewish, what we are called upon to do in the world.

I look forward to hearing what you choose as your tasks in this commission. I have been engaged in learning to understand and recognize in myself what I have not seen or understood as part of the problem. As I uncover and comprehend, I wish to become empowered to act and expand the scope of what I can do to affect change, to bring about equity, justice, righteousness, and peace.

No one person or group or organization can cause the change we need, but at the same time, I want to suggest that the very fact that there are so many of us who are being called to listen and learn and act is a source of hope and inspiration. If we can all commit to do something, it can grow to a groundswell that can be

enough to turn the tide and change the world for the better. It cannot happen unless we act; but if we act in concert, we have a chance to succeed. May our Jewish values, the teachings of our sages and our sacred texts, inform and direct us in this task as we seek to bring about a more godly world, and may we be blessed to achieve this goal speedily, in our days.

TEMPLE EVENTS

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, 3:30 PM (Note time change), A Bissell Torah, online via Zoom. The story of Lilith.

Wednesday, June 17th, 4:30 PM, Hebrew Level II, Continued.

Wednesday, June 17th, 6:30 PM, Two Rabbis Discussion. Topic Pandemics, Epidemics and Plagues in Jewish Texts.

Wednesday, June 17th, 7 pm. Leora May Book Group via Zoom. (To be recorded for anyone who cannot attend).

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.

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 as we have time and look at Days of Hesed, Water Cannot Return, and The Stamp and Seal of Each Person. This will be the last of the Hebrew Poetry sessions for now - 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.

Monday, June 29th, 5:30 PM, Social Action Committee meeting via Zoom. (Date moved from June 22nd). The focus of the meeting is Response to Racism and Racial violence. Rachel Dash will offer a training program on how to be good allies/co-conspirators for change. 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.

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.

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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 ca

meet in person. Congratulations to those elected, and many thanks to those who served in the past year!

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

REQUEST TO FILL OUT A SURVEY

From Exit Options:

We are not asking you to take a position on any end of life options. What we are hoping is that you can anonymously respond about your own end of life wishes for yourself using the poll described and linked below.

What ways out would you like to have available for yourself if you were slowly dying of an incurable disease, in severe pain, throwing up everything that you swallowed? What would you want available for your loved ones if they were in that predicament? Would you want the physician to prolong the agony as long as possible? Would you use Hospice? Would you want to take an oral drug or an IV drug to end it all painlessly and quickly? Would you want to use a gun?

Only three of the five options are available in West Virginia and the majority of US states. Participate in a free anonymous multiple-choice poll available on the internet to make your own wishes known to policy makers. In the poll, there are four items describing hypothetical scenarios with variations on those described above and another seven items to enter demographic information such as your religion, how devout you are, your approximate age, and the two-letter postal abbreviation for your state of residence, etc.

The website and poll are sponsored by Exit Options, Inc., a non-profit advocacy organization whose website is hosting that poll on the internet. Just click [HERE](#) or copy and paste <https://www.exitoptions.org/> into your web browser and select

poll from the menu at the bottom of the page. The website also has a trove of information about the options already available to you. The website also provides answers about what services hospice organizations can provide and whether you can travel to another state to take advantage of that state's "death with dignity" laws.

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

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, Beth & Gary Winter

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 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