

Temple Israel Bulletin

Volume LXXX
Bulletin No. 2

October 2020
Tishri / Cheshvan 5781

From the Rabbi's Desk

[For a complete schedule of Temple events and religious services, please see "October at a Glance." Please note: the access information/LINKS for events and religious services are sent in a separate weekly email. Please consult that message to connect.]

Shalom and greetings!

Calendar Notes

When I first wrote this article, it was before the High Holy Days began, but due to workflow and the timing of the holidays, the Bulletin will not be in your hands until after Yom Kippur.

We worked hard to make the holidays meaningful, uplifting, and spiritually fulfilling, despite the unusual circumstances we found ourselves to be in. We were able to offer Selichot services held jointly with the Synagogue. Rosh HaShanah fell on the Shabbat of Sept. 18 and 19, then we held our Shabbat with Shabbat Shuvah insertions on Sept. 25, with Yom Kippur on Sunday evening and Monday, and we included a Torah study and a family program led by both Rabbi Urecki and me together on Yom Kippur afternoon.

As if that was not enough, we continue the holiday season on Oct. 2 with a combined Shabbat and Sukkot service, and a week later, a combined Shabbat and Simchat Torah service on Oct. 9. The sukkah will be set up in the garden, and I hope to bring part of the service to you from there—at least to shake the lulav and Etrog in the Sukkah with you on Zoom.

As you know, this is an intense period. At the same time, it is strange, because we cannot gather to celebrate the holidays due to the pandemic. Our services are live on Zoom and recorded for viewing afterward. This is a source of sadness and some

grief for me, and perhaps for you as well. The opportunity to congregate and spend the holidays together is a hallmark of the season for me. At the same time, I am grateful to be able to see you online, to know that you are safe and well, and to have some sense that we are joining as a community to observe and share our holy days with one other.

Noteworthy Events: A Loss and an Upcoming Remembrance

By this time, without doubt, you have heard of the passing of Rabbi Israel B. Koller, A"H, rabbi emeritus for Temple Israel, and a significant figure in the Jewish and

larger communities throughout West Virginia. Please see the back page about memorial service plans, and below for a brief remembrance from Temple president Josh Barrett, on behalf of the Temple community.

Reminders

Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov. 1, so we "fall back," turning the clocks an hour earlier (gain an hour of sleep ☺).

Election Day is Nov. 3. Deadline for registration is Oct. 13. Absentee ballot requests must be received by Oct. 28.

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Rabbi Koller Mem. Svc. ONLINE 10/15 at 10 AM

Rabbi Israel B. Koller died Sept. 5 in Richmond, Virginia. For the Temple Israel family, the Charleston Jewish Community, and the greater Charleston Area, Rabbi Koller was a beloved figure.

We remember him for the wisdom, humor, compassion, and humility he brought to our community in his more than twenty years as Temple Israel's rabbi. He was a survivor of the most troubling times for Jews in Eastern Europe, having fled with his family from Poland to Uzbekistan, Turkestan, and Berlin, and from there to Detroit, where he began an American journey through military service in Korea, rabbinic training, and ultimately to his position as rabbi of Temple Israel. He exemplified the values of service and caring that we honor as a Jews and Americans.

Rabbi Koller left Charleston to settle in Richmond, Virginia when he retired in 2002, but we remember him and will honor his memory in a memorial service, the date and details of which will be announced shortly. Please keep an eye out for e-mails explaining how you can join us in remembering Rabbi Koller.

Josh Barrett, Temple president



Rabbi Koller in 1987. Photo courtesy the Charleston Gazette-Mail

Schedule of October worship services

Rabbi Blair sends out emails regularly to keep the congregation up to date. Zoom links to online events are emailed to those on the Temple's mailing lists. If you aren't receiving these emails, please contact Rabbi Blair.

Shabbat services are scheduled every Friday at 5:30 PM.

At press time, all religious services are via Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Friday, Oct. 2 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service, includes Sukkot and Torah reading

Saturday, Oct. 3 at 10:30 AM Torah study

Friday, Oct. 9 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service, includes Simchat Torah and Torah reading

Friday, Oct. 16 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service

Friday, Oct. 23 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service

Friday, Oct. 30 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service

Rabbi Liaison Committee

The Rabbi Liaison Committee consists of Mary Rich Maloy, David Shapiro, David Thalheimer, Rachel Dash, and Josh Barrett. Please communicate with any of us with any of your concerns.

Mary Rich Maloy,
Chair

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:

Tom Becker
Lois Coleman
Patricia Cohen Coniglio

Jonathan Freedman
Jerry Goldberg
Margie Hutt
The Koller Family
Gary Markham

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:

September: Ladonna Kushner, Josh Barrett, Rich Katz (Milestone), Jace Goins, Julie Adams, Bill Rosenfeld, Lynne Gattlieb, Roberta Lee Levine, Gayle Twigger-Shaw, Betsy Gooding, Roy Gooding, Gail Bellamy

October: Doris and Jack Goldfarb, Gary Winter, Millie Snyder, Alan Fleischmann, Gloria Kelley

November: Ken Kleeman, Norma Winter, Betty Stern, Jill Epstein, Kim Aaron, Judy Watkins-Rimmey

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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 periodically, but 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 for any reason.

You are invited to contact the Rabbi to arrange an appointment to talk. The rabbi will be happy to set a mutually convenient time to speak with you, so that he can offer you his full, undivided attention.

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

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

October yahrzeits

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

October 2nd

Louis Hallam (3)
Helen Jacobs (3)
Lucille Barrett (4)
Irma Hallo (5)
Betty Levine (5)
Geneva Mann Sessions (5)
Dottie Greenspon (6)
Bertha Sclove (6)
Frank B. Wotiz (6)
Jeanette Gotlieb (7)
Rebecca Blankstein (8)
Harold Freedman (8)
Amelia L. Hess (8)
Alan Land Susman (8)
Freda Gordon Kopelman (9)

October 9th

Bernice "Bea" Cohen (10)
Leona Spigel (11)
Kurt Feibelman (12)
Stella Hess Swarts (12)
Bernard Sclove (13)

October 16th

Sam Kopelman (17)
Jacob Nusbaum (20)
Bertha "Bertie" Feldman (21)
Grace Ratowsky (21)
Augusta Angel (22)

October 23rd

Howard Coleman (24)
Sidney Gattlieb (24)
Lucille Goldfarb (25)
Karen Bramnik Syken (26)
William L. Sloman (27)
Madeline Erlich (28)
Lena Baker (29)
Dorothy Rae Boiarsky (29)
Ira Loeb (29)
Dr. Myron I. Price (30)

October 30th

Simon Meyer (31)
Alece Schwabe (Nov. 1)
Max Frankenberger (Nov. 2)
Robert Herzbach (Nov. 2)
Celia Jurin (Nov. 2)



William F. Hoss (Nov. 4)
Seymour Kantor (Nov. 4)
Joseph Klee (Nov. 4)
Louis Goldfarb (Nov. 5)
Charles McHale (Nov. 6)
Floy M. Sessions (Nov. 6)

Condolences are on p. 5

October at a Glance

All services, meetings, classes and events are virtual, via Zoom and/or conference call, until further notice. If you aren't receiving emails from Rabbi Blair about how to access conference calls and Zoom sessions, please let him know.

Friday, Oct. 2 at 5:30 PM – LIVE Virtual Shabbat service, includes Sukkot and Torah reading

Saturday, Oct. 3 at 10:30 AM – Torah study

Sunday, Oct. 4 at 10 AM – Sisterhood board meeting

Monday, Oct. 5 at 10:30 AM – Temple Israel Zoom Check-in Meeting (Please note: after today's

session, the time will change to 10 AM)

Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 9 AM – Temple Israel Conference Call Check-in Meeting (Please note the earlier time, which will be maintained in coming weeks)

Thursday, Oct. 8 at 3 PM – A Bissell Torah

Friday, Oct. 9 – Temple office closed in observance of the seventh day of Sukkot

Friday, Oct. 9 at 5:30 PM – LIVE Virtual Shabbat service, includes Simchat Torah and Torah reading

Sunday, Oct. 11 at 2 PM – Yiddish/ Hebrew Jewish Literature in Translation

Sunday, Oct. 11 at 7:30 PM – Charleston Death Café

Monday, Oct. 12 at 10 AM – Temple Israel Zoom Check-in Meeting

Monday, Oct. 12 – Sisterhood Schmooze 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 5:30 PM – Temple board meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 9 AM – Temple Israel Conference Call Check-in Meeting

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October at a Glance—cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

Thursday, Oct. 15 at 3 PM – A Bissell Torah

Friday, Oct. 16 at 5:30 PM – LIVE Virtual Shabbat service

Monday, Oct. 19 at 10 AM – Temple Israel Zoom Check-in Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 9 AM – Temple Israel Conference Call Check-in Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7 PM – Leora May Book group.

Thursday, Oct. 22 at 3 PM – A Bissell Torah

Friday, Oct. 23 at 5:30 PM – LIVE Virtual Shabbat service

Sunday, Oct. 25 at 2 PM – Yiddish/Hebrew Jewish Literature in Translation

Monday, Oct. 26 at 10 AM – Temple Israel Zoom Check-in Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 9 AM – Temple Israel Conference Call Check-in Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 29 at 3 PM – A Bissell Torah

Friday, Oct. 30 at 5:30 PM – LIVE Virtual

Friday Shabbat service

Next month

Sunday, Nov. 1 at 7:30 PM – Charleston Death Café

Friday, Nov. 6 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service with Kristallnacht

Saturday, Nov. 7 at 10:30 AM – Torah study

Sunday, Nov. 8 at 2 PM – Yiddish/Hebrew Jewish Literature in Translation

Sunday, Nov. 8 at 4:30 PM – Global Day of Jewish Learning

From the Rabbi's Desk, continued from p. 1

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Complete info about registering and voting is available online at

<https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/FAQs.aspx>

or from the Kanawha County Clerk's office at (304) 357-0130 or the WV Secretary of State at (304) 558-6000.

Status

Covid-19 Concerns – The situation is unchanged. Please stay safe and healthy – masks, handwashing, and social distancing. The novel coronavirus is no joke. (Baruch Hashem, we have had few instances among our members; we must do all we can to continue in that fashion.)

Online Activities – Meeting virtually has proven quite successful. No question, we look forward to meeting again in person, but we have learned there is much to be gained by continuing to offer online services beyond that time. The Temple board of trustees has authorized purchasing the equipment (we have been borrowing equipment) and training volunteers to use it, so we can continue streaming services from the Sanctuary.

This is in no small measure due to the willingness on the part of many to do what is needed to protect and care for each other, and provide the greatest pos-

sible access to our services and events.

Kol Hakavod to all for your grace in coping with change, challenges, and limitations. As always, thank you for your forbearance as we experiment, make some mistakes along the way, and ascend the learning curve. We will continue working to make things better each week. Meantime, being able to see you on the screen and hear your voices is a wonderful feeling, and helps to fill the hole left by not seeing you in person.

Services – We will continue Shabbat services as we have been, opening the Zoom session at 5 PM, with services starting at 5:30.

Books – We are happy to lend Shabbat prayer books to congregants. If you wish to borrow one, please let Rabbi or the office arrange for you to pick one up, outside on the front porch (Kanawha Blvd. side). Please note that we will want to have all High Holiday prayer books returned as soon as possible (and will definitely need them in the building once we resume in-person services). If you are unable to pick up a prayer book yourself, we have a few volunteers who will drop them off, but this option is limited.

As always, we want to serve you as well as possible. Please be in touch with me (the rabbi), the office (Greg), or members of the board if you have any needs, suggestions,

concerns, or questions.

If you are having any difficulties getting groceries or medicine, feel a need to talk to someone, or have a pastoral concern, please feel free to call me (the rabbi) at (304) 989-4014, or email me at rabbijoe@gmail.com

I am in the building for at least part of most days (Saturdays excepted), and can always find time to talk to you.

I read email regularly (except on Shabbat); you can call me on Shabbat, and if it is an emergency, leave me a message telling me that it is urgent – I will call back as soon as I can.

At this time, though I would love to see you, in light of the Covid-19 case load numbers still increasing and the recommendations of many health professionals, I am erring on the side of caution and avoiding in-person meetings.

I close by offering you warm wishes to be sealed for a Shanah Tovah Umetukah – a good and sweet year, full of blessings, joys, health, and love.

B'virkat shalom,

Joe
Rabbi Joe Blair

Please let us know when you move, change your email address or your phone number.

Except where noted, photos by Greg Proctor

Sisterhood Message**Remembering Rabbi Koller; growing Sisterhood; staying safe**

Dear Members of Temple Israel Sisterhood,

For so long our prayers through Mi Sheberach intended for our late beloved Rabbi Israel Koller have been concluded. May his memory, in the many ways you think of him, always be for a blessing.

As I continue to focus on our adherence to the established guidelines surrounding Coronavirus we must keep up and not allow ourselves, relatives, and acquaintance "forget" to pay attention. Our Temple Building remains shuttered by our Board of Directors to ensure our safety.

You may have paid attention to the 100-year anniversary of the United States Congress proclaiming the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, after decades of tireless activism, women finally won the right to vote—at least by law. Even 100 years later, the fight for voting rights is ongoing. In whatever ways you pay attention to this triumphant event, we must celebrate, or we lose our awareness of the possibility of change. Whether you vote with a mail-in ballot or show up to vote in person DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE for this important election happening on Nov 3.

There are several initiatives ongoing to attempt to "grow" our Sisterhood membership. As progress is made, we will keep you informed. We sent a New Year Greeting to B'nai Jacob Ladies Auxiliary for inclusion in their Yearbook and Calendar. Our own Sisterhood Yearbook is so tastefully done with warmest appreciation to Greg who never misses a beat and also provided some outstanding photographs to refresh our own helpful and important publication. Ronni Spudich is a woman beyond belief and her quest for correctness is one to be admired.

As we prepare ourselves to welcome our New Year of 5781 our observances will be so much different. Zoom has allowed us to stay in touch and "see" each other. This phenomenal "app" has made the difference between virtual contact or blackout.

As we do the things we do in our steps for preparedness for the forthcoming holidays, may I take this special time to wish one and all of those you hold near and dear L'Shana Tova!

Smiling from behind my Face Mask,

Millie Snyder,
President

In the Congregation, continued from p. 2

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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)**

Temple Israel sends condolences to the Koller family on the recent loss of Rabbi Israel B. Koller. May his memory be a blessing and may the mourners be comforted from heaven. (A memorial event is in planning now – watch for information

about it.)

Temple Israel extends condolences to all who mourn the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, A"H. May her memory be a blessing.

Nesiah Tovah (Safe Travels)

Safe travels and good wishes to Anne Fishkin and Bill Kroesser as they set off on their way to Colorado, moving to be closer to their grandchildren. They will be greatly missed here, but we wish them well and much joy in their new home.

Virginia Holocaust Museum donations in memory of Rabbi Koller

Rabbi Koller's family has let it be known that donations to the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Rabbi's memory would be appropriate. You can make a donation online at <https://www.vaholocaust.org/support-us/>

If you would like to send the Museum a check, please make it payable to Virginia Holocaust Museum and note on the memo line that your donation is in memory of Rabbi Israel B. Koller. The museum's address is Virginia Holocaust Museum, 2000 East Cary Street, Richmond, Va. 23223.

**Thanks for the
HHD flowers**



Rosh Hashanah – In memory of Jacob H. Stern, given by Betty and David Stern.

Rosh Hashanah – In memory of Lenard Kushner, husband of Ann and father of David, Noah, and Adam.

Yom Kippur – given by Ronni and David Spudich, in memory of Ronni's parents Helen and Edward B. Cohen and her brother Richard "Ricky" Cohen.

Yom Kippur – In memory of Jane P. and Philip J. Silverstein, given by Leigh and Peggy.





Teaching the Religious School how to build a better sukkah, circa 1990. Photographer unknown.

On front page: A remembrance of Rabbi Koller by Temple president Josh Barrett.

Memorial service for Rabbi Koller 10/15 at 10 AM online

Rabbi Blair and Rabbi Urecki, as well as the Temple's Ritual Committee, are planning a memorial service for Rabbi Israel Koller, to be held sometime after the holidays.

Because he was such a beloved figure and so important to the entire Jewish community, participants include both Temple Israel and Congregation B'nai Jacob, as well as any others who wish to attend to remember him to join us online for this event.

He was so important to so many that we simply must acknowledge his life and contributions in light of his passing. Please watch for information about the memorial to be forthcoming, separately, soon.

Please remember all of those in need during this difficult time

Please be especially generous – at this time there are many who are struggling, and needs continue to run unusually high in light of the Corona Virus Pandemic impact in limitations on businesses, resulting job losses, and rampant health care costs that are hitting those who can least afford them, to name only a few of the causes.

This is true not only locally, but globally. Needs are greater now than at almost any other time. Please think generously and donate as you are able. Federated Jewish Charities, AJWS, HIAS, and so many other organizations are faced with requests from an overwhelming number of those in dire need, due to the Pandemic, fires, floods, crop failures, violence caused by civil unrest and war, and so many disasters.

It has been the custom to ask you to

bring non-perishable food stuff to the Temple during the High Holy Days that would be brought to the local community shelters and food banks.

This year, because we are not meeting in person, we ask that you continue to give generously, but send donations directly to the organizations, rather than bring them to the Temple.

Please remember the many Tzedakah opportunities: Manna Meal, Covenant House, Sojourner's Shelter, RCCR, Mazon, and all the other worthy causes in our community and beyond. Please make your donations directly to the worthy organization(s) of your choice, and be as generous as you are able.

Joe
Rabbi Joe Blair

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



We continue the holiday season on Oct. 2 with a combined Shabbat and Sukkot service, and a week later, a combined Shabbat and Simchat Torah service on Oct. 9. The Sukkah will be set up in the garden area, and I hope to be able to bring part of the service to you from there - at least to shake the lulav and Etrog in the Sukkah with you on Zoom.

Rabbi Joe Blair