

Temple Israel Bulletin

Volume LXXX
Bulletin No. 3

November 2020
Cheshvan / Kislev 5781



From the Rabbi's Desk

[For a complete schedule of Temple events and religious services, please see "November 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

At this point, writing in mid-October, the High Holy Days season has ended, the Sukkah was built and taken down, and we have held the memorial service for Rabbi Koller, A"H. It has been a time of much activity.

I hope that you found our services and events for the holiday season meaningful, uplifting, and spiritually fulfilling – I was pleased with both the number that attended and the sense that was conveyed that they appreciated and felt good about the observances, and were able to find a sense of community with all who joined us. I was very happy to see so many of our congregants and community members online, and particularly want to extend a welcome to all our guests and visitors, folks from far and near who participated in our services, events, classes, and meetings. I hope you will all continue to join us whenever you have the opportunity.

Many thanks to all who participated and made our High Holidays so successful.

I also appreciated all who participated and attended the memorial service for Rabbi Koller, both from within our congregation and from the larger community. Having all of you there made the event a true memorial and way to honor a very special person who touched so many



Photo by Michael Keller

throughout his life – his memory will certainly be for a blessing. Our deepest condolences go to his family and all who mourn his passing.

Reminders

Voter registration has closed, the deadline for Absentee by Mail Application was Oct. 28, and early voting ends Oct. 31. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Please be sure to cast your ballot, marking it carefully and following the directions fully, so it will be accepted, processed and counted.

Should you receive this Bulletin prior to the deadlines listed above, and would like more information about voting, please view this information online at <https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/FAQs.aspx> or call the Kanawha County clerk's office at (304) 357-0130 or the office of the Secretary of State at (304) 558-6000. I hope you are exercising your privilege and fulfilling the civic obligation to vote. I was both proud and honored to do so; I hope you feel the same and will act accordingly.

I would be remiss if I didn't remind you

that Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 AM on Nov. 1 – we turn the clocks back (fall back, spring ahead!), which allows an extra hour of sleep! :-)

The anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin falls on Nov. 4 on the secular calendar.

Sunday, Nov. 8 is the Global Day of Jewish Learning. Started by Aleph, under the direction of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, Z"L, it is now part of Limmud North America, and the theme this year is Human Dignity.

On Nov. 9 is the anniversary of Kristallnacht, "the night of broken glass," which has come to be recognized as the formal start of the Holocaust. We will include an observance of it in our Shabbat service on Friday, Nov. 6.

Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, Nov. 26.

Hanukkah begins on the evening of Dec. 10 with the lighting of the first candle. Packs of standard Hanukkah candles are available from the Temple office. Please call Greg to make arrangements to pick some up – we request a donation of \$2 per box. You can pay anytime.

Status

Covid-19 Concerns — The situation is unchanged from last month. We have continued to have an increasing number of cases locally. Please take steps to stay safe and healthy – masks, handwashing,

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*Masthead photo: Pumpkins (*Cucurbita pepo*, the two bright orange ones in center right) and Squashes (*Cucurbita maxima*, all others). By George Chernilevsky - Own work, Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons.*

November 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. Shabbat services are scheduled every Friday at 5:30 PM. All religious services are via Zoom unless otherwise noted.

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

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

Friday, Nov. 13 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service

Friday, Nov. 20 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service

Friday, Nov. 27 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service



Photographer unknown

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
The Goldberg family
Margie Hutt
Gary Markham

All who are impacted by the Pandemic, including the residents

and staff at the Arthur B. Hodges Facility

All affected by natural disasters

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:

October: Doris & Jack Goldfarb, Gary Winter (Milestone), Millie Snyder, Alan Fleischmann, Gloria Kelley

November: Ken Kleeman, Norma Winter, Mark Schaul, Betty Stern, Jill Epstein, Kim

Aaron, Judy Watkins-Rimmey

December: Ellie Schaul, Steve Jubelirer, Barbara Braun and Allan Tweddle, Cookie Glasser, David Feibelmann, Melissa Cadle, Jackie Artz, 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 the Rabbi about it.

Baruch Dayan Haemet (Condolences)

Temple Israel sends condolences to the Goldberg family on the recent loss of Jerry Goldberg. May his memory be a blessing and may the mourners be comforted from heaven.

Please contact Rabbi Blair

If you are having any difficulties getting groceries or medicine, feel a need to talk to someone, have a pastoral concern, or just want to talk, please feel free to email me (the rabbi) at

rabbijoebl@gmail.com
or call (304) 989-4014.

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 or

holidays).

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.

TEMPLE ISRAEL

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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

November yahrzeits

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

November 6th

Eleanor "Ellie" Burka (7)
 Carl H. Lehman (7)
 Michael M. "Mike" Margolis (7)
 Edwin Stabins (7)
 Joseph Gotlieb (10)
 Florine Marks Isaac (10)
 Susan Jubelirer Nesi (10)
 Sam Badner (11)
 Louis Cohen (11)
 Lilla Wolf (11)
 Barbara Brooks (12)
 Harry Fleischmann (12)
 Albert Schwabe (12)

November 13th

Ellis C. Amburgey Sr. (14)
 Bernard Gottlieb (14)
 Jean Merz Klee (14)
 Sydney M. Kleeman (15)
 Anna Barton (19)
 Louis Jordan (19)
 Franc Stern (19)
 H. H. Wills (20)

November 20th

Esther Mendeloff (21)
 Edith Hartley Aaron (22)
 Frances W. Freedman (22)
 Nina Poppelsdorf (22)
 Sadie Shane (22)
 Edith Burnett (24)
 Minnie Hess (26)
 Morton A. Lewis (26)
 Harriet B. "Cissy" Abrams (27)
 Jearoll Casto (27)
 Doris Kleeman Leopold (27)
 Reba Markstein Lindenber (27)

November 27th

Jane Glaser (28)
 Bernard H. Jacobson (28)
 Carol Katz (28)
 Robert "Bob" Albert (29)
 Reba Blustein Cohen (29)
 Bob Baer (30)
 Maxine Stabins (30)



Joanne Mendeloff Misaqi (Dec. 1)
 Bernard Mordecai Weinstein (Dec. 3)
 Mary Beth Chadwick (Dec. 4)
 Fran Fahey (Dec. 4)
 Frances B. Kay (Dec. 4)

Condolences are on p. 2

November 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. Please note: There won't be any of Rabbi Blair's check-ins or classes the week beginning Sunday, Nov. 22 (Thanksgiving Week). The regular schedule resumes Sunday, Nov. 29.

Sunday, Nov. 1 at 2 AM – Daylight Saving Time ends

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

Monday, Nov. 2 at 10 AM – Temple Israel Zoom Check-in

Monday, Nov. 2 – deadline to hand-deliver absentee ballots to the county clerk's office

Tuesday, Nov. 3 – General Election Day

Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 9 AM – Conference Call Check-in

Thursday, Nov. 5 at 3 PM – Bissel Torah

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

Monday, Nov. 9 at 9 AM (PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL TIME, THIS DATE ONLY) – Temple Israel Zoom Check-in

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

Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 9 AM – Conference Call Check-in

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November at a Glance—continued from p. 3

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Thursday, Nov. 12 at 3 PM – Bissel Torah

Friday, Nov. 13 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

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

Monday, Nov. 16 at 10 AM – Temple Israel Zoom Check-in

Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 9 AM – Conference Call Check-in

Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 7 PM – Leora May Book Group

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 3 PM – Bissel Torah

Friday, Nov. 20 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Monday, Nov. 23 at 6:30 PM – Social Action Committee meeting

Thursday, Nov. 26 – Temple office closed in observance of Thanksgiving. Also closed on Friday.

Friday, Nov. 27 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service (lay-led)

Monday, Nov. 30 at 10 AM – Temple Israel Zoom Check-in

Next month

Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 9 AM – Conference Call Check-in

Friday, Dec. 4 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Saturday, Dec. 5 at 10:30 AM – Torah study

Sunday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 PM – Charleston Death Café

Thursday, Dec. 10 in the evening – first candle of Hanukkah is kindled. *Boxes of standard-size Hanukkah candles are available from the Temple office for \$2 per box. Call ahead and we'll leave them on the bench on the front porch.*

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

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and social distancing. We know that the Covid-19 coronavirus is no joke.

Online Activities — Our experience with meeting virtually has proven to be quite successful.

No question, we look forward to the day that we will be able to meet again in person, but we have learned that there is much to be gained by continuing to offer online services beyond that time. We are working to acquire, test, and install the necessary equipment to continue and expand our online events. We will be looking into training for congregants on use of the new equipment, to permit us to have services and events in the Sanctuary, and perhaps other locations in the Temple building. This will accommodate those who are not comfortable or able to attend services and events in person, and extend our reach beyond our immediate geographic area, moving forward.

I am very grateful that the Temple board has made it possible to embrace this new technology to meet the needs of our community, and that you, our congregants and community members, have been willing to adopt these new ways of joining together for services. Kol Hakavod to all for your flexibility and the grace you have shown. We will continue to

work to refine the process, working to make it incrementally better each week. Meantime, being able to see you on the screen and hear your voices is a wonderful feeling, and helps to fill in the hole left by not seeing you in person.

Services – We will continue weekly Shabbat services as we have been, opening the Zoom session at 5 PM, with services starting at 5:30. Other events will also be offered – see the weekly LINKS email for how to connect.



Prayer Books – We are prepared to lend prayer books to congregants. If you wish to borrow a Siddur for Shabbat, please be in touch with the Rabbi or the Temple office to arrange to pick one up. You don't need to come in the building at all – just let us know you want to borrow prayer book(s), and let us know when you plan to come by. We will place them on the bench at the front of the building (Kanawha Blvd. side);

you can just pull up into the circular drive, find the bag on the bench in front with your name on it, and take that bag with your book(s).

If you borrowed a Machzor (prayer book for the High Holy Days) please plan to return it; just let us know when you will be bringing the prayer book(s) by and dropping them off on the bench in front of the Temple entrance so we will know to collect the books. If you would, please put a slip of paper in the book with your name on it so we will know by whom specific books were returned.

As always, we want to serve you in as many ways and as well as it is 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.

I close with warm wishes to you, and hopes that you will find many blessings and much to be grateful for at your Thanksgiving observance, however that may look this year.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace),

Joe
Rabbi Joe Blair

Except where noted, photos by
Greg Proctor

Sisterhood Message**Voting; Schmooze on hold; thanks to Care Comm. for RH gifts**

Dear Members of Temple Israel Sisterhood,

Our first board and general meeting was conducted on Sept. 20 and it was reasonably good and by all accounts the new president survived.

Since then we had a board meeting only and it also went well, including a few hiccups. These successes and travails are both very educational and strengthening.

In last month's bulletin I discussed the 100-year anniversary of Women's Suffrage. Now as we move ever so close to the next election as a woman, activist, American citizen, mother, grandmother, businesswoman, plus a proud Jewish woman, voting is one of the single most important actions we can utilize. If you are using a mail in ballot or planning to vote in person honor this opportunity and at whatever level you reflect on the privilege to vote — VOTE!

Some new initiatives are working as we have added a few new members plus Sisterhood has become involved with the Roark-Sullivan Halfway Center with sending \$500 to show our support.

Through some brainstorming we hope to bring a few new ideas to the board for further discussion and then report to you in due time.

Our first program at the general meeting was presented by Gail Bellamy, now called YIDLIT and it was well received. You could become a part of the Yiddish Literature programs presented bimonthly on Sunday afternoon via Zoom. For details contact Rabbi Blair.

Schmooze has been temporarily waylaid due to Covid-19 safety concerns. We hope to reconvene in the spring amidst safer times....

A huge amount of appreciation to Betty Stern and the Helen F. Thalheimer Care Committee for the delivery of more than 17 gift bags at Rosh Hashanah. Lots of people were thrilled to be remembered.

If you have any ideas, please know that our board is open to welcome your input.

In closing and with two words left, as I continue smiling from behind my face mask,

PLEASE VOTE!

P.S. If you haven't ordered your Uniongrams, please do it now.

Millie Snyder,
President

Social Action Committee Report**4 Issues of Conscience set for this year; next meeting Nov. 30**

Focusing on Issues of Conscience priorities for the coming year and the structure of meetings, the Social Action Committee held its first meeting of the new year, via Zoom, on Sept. 21.

It was decided that business meetings will take place every other month, while meetings that focus on Issues of Conscience presentations* will take place in the intervening months.

The four Issues of Conscience presentation priorities this year, carried over from the Temple member SAC event of last year, are: Homelessness, Racism, Environmental Justice, and Poverty as it Relates to Mental Health and Mental Healthcare.

Marsha Albert volunteered to organize the Oct. 26 presentation, its focus on homelessness in the Charleston area. The



<https://rac.org/>

Committee decided to hold another Temple member event in June (date and time TBA) to share the work of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and of the Temple Israel Social Action Committee, as well as to learn the priorities of Temple members regarding Issues of Conscience for next year.

The Committee plans to purchase three copies of the 2019 non-fiction work *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi, a discussion of concepts of racism and the au-

thor's proposals for anti-racist individual actions and systemic changes. The copies will be shared among Committee members, then donated to the Temple library.

Meetings for the coming year (*asterisk denotes Issues of Conscience presentation meetings) will take place on Nov. 30, Dec. 28*, Jan. 25, Feb. 22*, March 29, April 26* and May 24. Please note that

the meeting times have been changed to 6:30 - 7:45 PM. We welcome all Temple members to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Dash and Cookie Glasser,
Co-Chairs

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



Our Thoughtful Contributors

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

✦
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 should be made payable to Temple Israel.

Sisterhood Giving

Helen F. Thalheimer Care Committee of Temple Israel Sisterhood – Provides cards and gifts to members who are ill or bereaved.

Floral Fund – Provides arrangements for pulpit flowers for Sabbath services and High Holy Days.

Y.E.S. Fund – Youth, Education, Special projects provides scholarship assistance for rabbinic students, supports activities for high school and college age youth through National Federation of Temple Youth, and contributes to special projects of religious education, social and humanitarian concern.

- Uniongrams – A service of sending

messages for all occasions. Proceeds aid YES Fund.

- Circle of Service – Circle of Service is a personal participation in the Youth, Education, and Special Projects (YES) Fund. Membership is open to all interested people within or beyond the Sisterhood or the Temple family. Contributions are tax deductible.

World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) is the international body of Reform/Liberal/Progressive Judaism and works in more than 25 countries. WUPJ helps establish congregations, develops religious educational material, provides rabbinic leadership, and serves in an advisory and advocacy role.

- Services to the Blind and Visually Handicapped
- Supports the program of the Jewish Braille Institute.

[Oct. 15, 2020 Memorial service for Rabbi Koller](#)



Thursday, Dec. 10 in the evening – first candle of Hanukkah is kindled. Boxes of standard-size Hanukkah candles are available from the Temple office for \$2 per box. Call ahead and we'll leave them on the bench on the front porch.

By Maor X - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=54652256>

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, hurricanes, crop failures, violence caused by civil unrest and war, and so many disasters.

Please remember the many Tzedakah opportunities: Manna Meal, Covenant House, YWCA's Sojourner's Shelter, RCCR, Ma-zon, 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