

Temple Israel Bulletin

From the Rabbi's Desk

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

As I write this, we are quickly approaching Purim; only a month following that we will be at Passover.

Looking at the calendar, our Christian friends are about to observe Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday this week as they enter into the period leading to their Easter Celebration. The first day of Passover coincides with Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday is the seventh day of Passover this year. The Islamic holidays of Isra and Mi'raj fall on March 11. St. Patrick's Day is March 17.

It is a Spring, a time full of religious celebrations and observances.

Both Purim and Passover traditionally open with a day of fasting from Sunup to Sundown as we prepare to enter into the holiday. For Purim, it is the Ta'anit Ester

(Fast of Esther) in commemoration of the fast requested to help Esther and the Jews prepare for the moment when Esther will risk her life in her bid to save the Jews. Leading into Passover, it is the Ta'anit Bechorot (Fast of the firstborn), commemorating the sparing of the lives of the

dress up, spiels, games, gift giving, charitable gifts, and treats and parties.

Passover is our holiday celebrating redemption and salvation, liberation from enslavement, and the demonstration and fulfilling of the covenant be-

tween G-d and the Hebrew people. It is observed with the Seder (an ordered ritual that includes telling the story, and the use and consumption of symbolic foods – bitter herbs, salt water, greens, a roasted bone and egg, and charoset [a mortar like mixture] - and ritual actions, such as breaking the middle matzah and consuming four cups of wine). The main feature of this holiday period, of course, is the avoidance of leavened items and those that may become leavened, so we consume only bread that has not been leavened (matzah) and dispense

with all items that might violate the prohibition for the period of the festival.

Starting on the evening that starts the second day of Passover, we begin to count the Omer, commemorating the collection of the barley harvest leading up to making the offering of the 'first fruits' of this crop at Shavuot - which falls precisely seven weeks and one day after Passover starts.

Purim is too often seen as a sort of 'carnival' holiday; fun but not serious or meaningful. In fact, it can be viewed as deeply spiritual, tapping into the hidden nature of G-d in the world around us, and perhaps, within us.

Passover is very much seen as a sig-

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Heading in the right direction

firstborn of the Hebrews in the tenth plague, the Death of the Firstborn. Because Passover begins on Saturday night (March 27), and it is not permitted to fast on Shabbat, this fast is 'backed up' to Thursday, March 25.

Purim is our celebration of a miraculous salvation from what appears to be certain doom, a complete change of fortune and the reversal of all that might be expected. Though G-d is not mentioned in the story, it is understood that this is a tale of things that are hidden and concealed; certainly G-d, but also the wisdom, power, and leadership of Esther. We celebrate and remember, telling the story, rejoicing in deliverance, and enjoying mirth and humor,

Masthead photos

Pesahplate.jpg By Gilabrand - No machine-readable source provided. Own work assumed (based on copyright claims)., CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14969244>

3matzot.jpg By Jonathunder - Own work, GFDL 1.2, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15202975>

March 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, March 5 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service "Refugee Shabbat" - this event was listed in error in the February Bulletin

Saturday, March 6 at 10:30 AM Torah study—Parashah Ki Tisa and Shabbat Parah

Friday, March 12 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service

Friday, March 19 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service

Friday, March 26 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service



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
Roy Gooding and Shelly and David Winowich and family
Doris Goldfarb
Roy Herzbach and Laurie Thompson and family
Margie Hutt and Mel Hutt

Ken Kleeman
Ann Kushner
Ladonna Kushner
Gary Markham
Hedy Poppelsdorf
Bill Rosenfeld and the Klausnitzer family
Linda Rubin
All who are impacted by the Pandemic
All affected by natural disasters, including Fire, Hurricanes, and Typhoons
All suffering due to violence, civil unrest, war, or other causes

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:

February: Barrie and Tod Kaufman, Ronni Cohen Spudich, Carole Lewis Bloom, David Stern, Bob Aaron, Hal Selinger, Margot Jogwick, Barrie Baer Kaufman, Julie Adams & Josh Barrett

March: Rachel Dash (Milestone), Amy & David Shapiro, Marsha Albert, Shelly & David Winowich, Gary Markham, Bob Kimball, Eugenia & David Feibelman, Glenn Goldfarb

April: Zel Lewis, Ditty Markham (Milestone), Roy Gooding, Karl Gattlieb, Lynn & Karl Gattlieb

If you have a milestone event of any kind, or any birthday, anniversary, or life event that is worthy of celebration, please let us

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Please contact Rabbi Blair

If you are having any difficulties getting groceries or medicine, feel a need to talk with someone, have a pastoral concern, or just want to chat, please feel free to call me (the rabbi) at 304-989-4014 or email me at

RabbiJoeB@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 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 and the recommendations of many health professionals, I am erring on the side of caution and avoiding in-person meetings. I want to keep all of us safe and healthy. Soon, G-d willing, we will begin to move past this situation.

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

March yahrzeits

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

March 5th

Lee Silverstein (6)
Marjorie Freedman (7)
Helen Margolis Kahn (7)
Nettie Golden (8)
Ben Joseph (8)
Nathan Deutsch (9)
Bertha Weisberg (9)
Ruth Segall (11)
Ivor Franklin Boiarsky (12)
Ruth Lieberman Cohen (12)
Harry Rosen (12)

March 12th

Eva Wills (13)
Marcus Berman (15)
Albert Irwin Mendeloff (15)
Samuel Abraham Schneider (15)
Anthony Thompson (15)
Charlotte R. Polan (16)
Minnie Rotgin (16)
Nathan Stabins (16)
Emily Szczepaniak (16)
Blanche E. Jacobson (17)
Sarah Fine Machanoff (17)
Louis Ruda (17)

Barbara Boiarsky (18)
Jennie Cohen Lewis (18)
Morris Eisinger (19)
A. Joseph Garner (19)
Melvin Hammer (19)

March 19th

Tina Holmes (20)
Trixie Shifflette (20)
Arnold Treibis (20)
Bruce "Bob" Marks (21)
Michael Case (22)
Sanford Lewis (22)
Chuck Lundy (22)
Tressa Silverstein Moskowitz (22)
Leo Gordon Kopelman (23)
Jane Gleason (26)
Sam Silverstein Jr. (26)

March 26th

Jeanette Adler (28)
Robert W. Garner (28)
Richard Thalheimer (28)
Frances L. Angel (29)
Don Garvin (29)
George Greenwald (29)



Helen Foster Thalheimer (29)
Sara Baker (30)
Estelle Darling (30)
Edith Goldstein Hallam (30)
Florence Treibis (30)
Harvey Jurin (31)
Alvin Lindenberg (31)
Dorothy Kandel (April 1)
Sam Silverstein Sr. (April 1)
Benjamin Brown (April 2)
Murray Lewis (April 2)
Clara Schwartz Stern (2)

Condolences on p. 7

March at a Glance

All services, meetings, classes and events are virtual with one exception, via Zoom until further notice. If you aren't receiving emails from Rabbi Blair about these sessions, please let him know.*

There will be Zoom check-ins every Monday except March 22. There won't be a Charleston Death Café this month; that discussion group next meets on April 18.

Monday, March 1 at 10 AM – Zoom check-in
Tuesday, March 2 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Torah class
Thursday, March 4 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Talmud class

Thursday, March 4 at 3 PM – A Bissel Torah
Thursday, March 4 at 6:30 PM – Two Charleston Rabbis Discussion
*Friday, March 5 at *St. Marks UMC in downtown Charleston *outdoors: 12-12:15 PM: Interfaith Service of Unity and Reconciliation (masks and social distancing required)
Friday, March 5 at 5:30 PM – LIVE and Virtual Shabbat service – Shabbat Parah and "Refugee Shabbat." Torah Parashah Ki Tisa.
Saturday, March 6 at 10:30 AM – Torah study – Ex. 31:18 – 33:11, Num. 19:1 – 22.

Monday, March 8 at 10 AM – Zoom check-in
Tuesday, March 9 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Torah class
Tuesday, March 9 at 5:30 PM – Temple board meeting
Thursday, March 11 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Talmud class
Thursday, March 11 at 3 PM – A Bissel Torah
Friday, March 12 at 5:30 PM – LIVE and Virtual Shabbat service with Pulpit Exchange

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March at a Glance—continued from p. 3

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Saturday, March 13 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Shabbat service with Pulpit Exchange

Sunday, March 14 at 10:30 AM – Sisterhood board meeting

Sunday, March 14 at 2 PM – Jewish Literature

Monday, March 15 at 10 AM – Zoom check-in (no check-in on the following Monday)

Tuesday, March 16 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Torah class

Wednesday, March 17 at 7 PM – Leora May Book Club

Thursday, March 18 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Talmud class

Thursday, March 18 at 3 PM – A Bissel Torah

Friday, March 19 at 5:30 PM – LIVE and Virtual Shabbat service

Tuesday, March 23 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Torah class

Thursday, March 25 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Talmud class

Thursday, March 25 at 3 PM – A Bissel Torah

Thursday, March 25 at 6:30 PM – Two Charleston Rabbis Discussion

Friday, March 26 at 5:30 PM – LIVE and

Virtual Shabbat service

Monday, March 29 at 10 AM – Zoom check-in

Monday, March 29 at 6:30 PM – Social Action Committee meeting

Tuesday, March 30 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Torah class

Next Month

Friday, April 2 at 5:30 PM – LIVE and Virtual Shabbat service

Saturday, April 3 at 10:30 AM – Torah study. Parashah for that week is the Shabbat reading for Passover day 7 on Shabbat – Ex. 13:17-15:26 and Num. 28:19-25. The Haftarah is 2 Samuel 22:1-51.

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

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nificant holiday with deep meanings, including the connection to liberation, redemption, the covenant with G-d, the salvation and preservation of the Jewish people, as well as deep mystical understandings of the four levels that permeate this world and the world to come.

These holidays are very different, yet each has lessons we can learn if we open ourselves to them.

Rosh Chodesh, the new month of Nisan is on March 14.

March 5 is Shabbat Parah, March 12 is Shabbat HaChodesh, and March 26 is Shabbat Hagadol. These three, with Shabbat Zachor and Shabbat Shekalim, make up five of the special Shabbatot in our calendar.

Reminders

The Two Charleston Rabbis will hold a conversation on March 4 at 6:30 PM. The next meeting will be March 25.

There is a Torah Study on March 6 (Parashah Ki Tisa and Shabbat Parah). It is also Refugee Shabbat.

There will be a Pulpit Exchange with Rabbi

Urecki on March 12 and 13. We will each address the other congregation. All are welcome to attend both services.

The Jewish Literature class will meet March 14. There will be a pause over Passover, and we will pick up again on April 11.

The Temple Israel Board will meet on March 9, then next on April 13.

The Sisterhood board will meet on March 14, and there will be a board and general meeting on April 18.

The Leora May Book group will meet on March 17 and April 21. Contact Amy Shapiro for more information.

The Charleston Death Café will bypass March due to the holiday season, and will next meet on April 18.

The holiday of Passover (Pesach) begins Saturday evening, March 27 at sundown. The holiday runs from through sundown April 4 (April 5 for those who observe eight days).

The Social Action Committee will meet March 29 and then April 26. Contact Rachel Dash or Cookie Glasser for information.

Status

Covid-19 Concerns — As I write this, appointments for vaccinations are available

to those over 65 years of age and those with medical conditions at various clinic locations through the state, as doses are available. The easiest way to register is at vaccines.wv.gov

There are reports that some pharmacies and doctors' offices may have vaccines – if you wish to, you can ask that your name be on the list of those who are in line to be vaccinated at those sites.

If you are eligible, I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity and receive the vaccination – that will help speed along the time when we can begin to return to our accustomed activities – but simply getting the vaccine is not enough yet, and we will need to continue our current policies for some time. It is likely to be some months before all who wish can receive the vaccine.

The experts continue to urge that we all remain cautious and careful. As a result, the Temple building is closed, and there are no in-person meetings or events permitted.

Please stay safe and healthy – use masks, handwashing, and social distancing, and get vaccinated when you are able.

Online Activities— We are continu-

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Sisterhood Message

Looking beyond to see what others do — WRJ emails, Facebook and Twitter are welcome resources for Sisterhood members

This message was originally scheduled for publication in the February 2021 issue of the Temple Bulletin.

From a political standpoint it is fair to acknowledge how much all of us are in need of change.

As the most hopeful I can possibly be, I am excited for the beginning of our new administration, knowing we will be led by healthy and focused people with no hidden agendas.

What a whirlwind it has been watching the chaos of Jan. 6 where several people lost their lives and we ask why? Deaths that were totally unnecessary.

And mentioning change, I decided to dip my curiosity into WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism) and I liked what I heard and the people I met on Zoom.

No different than us, they too want to grow their circle of other Jewish women and share through their experience different program offerings, areas of interest that you as a Sisterhood member may be thrilled to check out. As part of your dues to Sisterhood, an amount of money is sent into WRJ, which opens up a plethora of things you may find interesting.

Among the points that impressed me was, on the Friday following the chaos in Washington D.C., WRJ offered an earlier opportunity for healing and reconciliation at 3:30 in the afternoon on the eve of Sabbath to help whoever was interested and zoomed in to listen and absorb the messages to begin the healing. With this message I am sharing the email that I received, which provides contact information for WRJ.

Our own Rabbi Blair offered a spectacular Friday night service to help us as well!

I encourage you to look beyond what we do to see what others do and decide to participate or not.

"It's not what you know, but what you do with what you know, ya know!"

Fran Thalheimer turned me on to this information and then I spent some time with Sarah Jacobs, Marilyn Miller plus others and, in fact, some of them may be joining our Yid/Lit class offered by Rabbi Blair on selected Sunday afternoons.

Also, when we have an opportunity to join in with our sister congregation B'nai

Jacob, let's make every effort, as I hope they too will attend, when we offer an invite to one of our programs.

Get your Covid vaccine when it becomes available. Continue wearing your mask and staying six feet apart.

With all the events that have occurred and all the possibilities that exist I wish you good health and my warmest best wishes.

Smiling from behind my face mask,

*Millie Snyder,
President*

Keeping our Sisterhood members informed

You now have additional ways to stay on top of what is happening in the WRJ Mid-Atlantic District, in which our Temple Israel Sisterhood is a member. This includes:

- Signing up for the WRJ Mid-Atlantic District newsletter, The Candle
<https://wrj.org/newsletter>
- Visiting the WRJ website at WRJ.org
- Following on Twitter [@Midwrj](https://twitter.com/Midwrj)
- Following on the WRJ Mid-Atlantic District Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/WRJ1913>



Join the WRJ Mid-Atlantic District Yammer group by sending an email to leadership@wrj.org to request an invitation to join. (Yammer is a social networking tool to openly connect and engage across your organization. Please note that Yammer is safe to use. It has been an excellent tool for communicating with Sisterhoods in our district and in other WRJ districts.)

Please contact me if you are interested and/or need assistance. I can email you a copy of the latest WRJ Mid-Atlantic District newsletter, The Candle, if you would like to read it. Just send me an email and I will forward it to you. Thanks to Zoom, you can attend meetings and events that Sisterhoods are holding in our district and in other districts. The Candle and Yammer provide information about these wonderful meetings and events.

Fran Thalheimer, Chair, Critical Issues for Temple Israel Sisterhood; and Chair, Social Advocacy for WRJ Mid-Atlantic District



Our Thoughtful Contributors

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 are used to help Temple members in financial distress. Donations should be made payable to that fund.

Donations to the Unrestricted Fund or those to the Library should be made payable to Temple Israel.

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

We are gearing up for this our
67TH ANNUAL BULB SALES

Start thinking about your
choices for spring!

*"Where flowers bloom
so does hope"*

— Lady Bird Johnson



Photo courtesy Doornbosch Bros.

Social Action Corner

Jan. 25 program a success; join us for March 29 "Issues of Conscience"

The Social Action Committee devoted its Jan. 25 meeting to a compelling and informative panel presentation and discussion, "Poverty and Mental Healthcare: Stigma, Accessibility, and Action Steps."

The panelists were Elliott Birckhead, Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy at the WV Department of Behavioral Health, and Dr. Emily Selby-Nelson, a clinical psychologist who serves as the Director of Behavioral Health at Cabin Creek Health Systems, who is a behavioral health provider at that facility as well. She is also Clinical Assistant Faculty at both WVU Medical School, Charleston Division, and Marshall University. The meeting was

well attended with about 20 attendees, including members of the Social Action Committee as well as other members of the congregation.

The next Social Action Committee "Issues of Conscience" presentation meeting will be on March 29. Watch for future announcements for the topic.

*Rachel Dash and Cookie Glasser,
Co-chairs*

Except where noted, photos by
Greg Proctor

*It's that time of
year again—
spring is just
around the
corner...*



*...and Passover
begins the
evening of
Saturday, March
27th*

By Jonathunder - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6493099>

Thank you

To Betty Stern and the Helen F. Thalheimer Care Committee, Temple Israel and Sisterhood members:

We would like to express our deep appreciation for the calls, cards, dinners, donations and outpouring of love we have received during a very sad time in our lives—the loss of Terrie Rosenfeld, a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

Again, thank you so much, for keeping her, and us, in your hearts and prayers.

Sincerely,

*The Rosenfelds and the Klausnitzers
(Bill, Jessica, Markus and Emilia)*

From the Rabbi's Desk—continued

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ing to refine and upgrade what we can do with the equipment, to allow us to continue and improve our online presence, while planning ahead to operate both online and in-person, when that is possible. Plans are being made for permanent installation of the equipment (without impact to in-person options), with flexibility for use in several areas of the building in addition to the main sanctuary.

We are delighted to have those of you who are able to join us from other locales – we welcome you! Please continue to come to our services and events, and invite others you know.

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 are also offered online (including classes, check ins, and meetings) – see the weekly LINKS email for how to connect.

Prayer Books – As long as it will benefit congregants, we are prepared to lend prayer books for your use. If you wish to borrow a siddur for Shabbat please be in touch with the Rabbi or the Office to arrange to pick one up. You don't need to come in the building at all – just let us know when you plan to come by. We will place them on the bench on the front porch) and you can take the bag with your name on it.

Blessings Amid Sadness— It has been cold and wintry of late, and we have had far too many losses, disappointments, and things missed; it has been hard on all of us. Now, with the distribution of vaccines that may offer some measure of comfort in process, and the imminent arrival of the first signs of Spring that we are eagerly anticipating, we can turn our thoughts to happier days and times ahead, and look for some relief. Purim, the holiday of reversals and happy endings in upon us, and our Spring holiday, Passover, is on the horizon now, bringing thoughts of liberation, redemp-

tion, and a world renewed, and we look forward to a return of lovely weather, which will allow us to comfortably enjoy the outdoors – socially distanced and masked, but feeling the sunshine and breezes. May we all enjoy good health, come to enjoy and celebrate the simple pleasures and joys that return to us at this season, and soon – speedily, in our days, reach a time of peace that includes the ability to gather and freely exchange affectionate greetings with those we care about and love.

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.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace)

Rabbi Joe Blair

In the Congregation—continued

(Continued from page 2)

acknowledge and celebrate it with you! Tell the Rabbi about it.

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 offers condolences to Laurie Thompson, Roy Herzbach, and family on the loss of Richard Thompson, who died in Racine, Wis. May the memory be a blessing.

Temple Israel offers condolences to Bill Rosenfeld, Markus and Jessica and Emilia Maya Klausnitzer on the recent loss of Terrie Rosenfeld. May the memory be a blessing.

Temple Israel offers condolences to Hedy Poppelsdorf on the recent death of

her husband, Fedor Poppelsdorf. May the memory be a blessing.

Temple Israel offers condolences to the families of Roy Gooding, and Shelly and David Winowich on the recent death of Betsy Gooding. May the memory be a blessing.

We pray that all of those who are mourning or bereaved will be comforted from heaven.

Tzedakah need is great

Please be generous – at this time there are so 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, housing costs, and rampant health care costs that are hitting those who can least afford them, to name only a few of the causes.

In addition, there are many suffering from natural disasters, including volcanoes, flooding, typhoons, and fires, far too many endangered by violence caused by civil unrest and war in many locales, and uncountable numbers who are being hit by supply chain failures for food and medicines in many areas. This is not only locally, but globally.

The result is that needs are greater now than at almost any other time, and the urgency is even greater than it might have been. 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.

Please remember the many Tzedakah opportunities locally: Manna Meal, Covenant House, Sojourner's Shelter/YWCA, RCCR, Mazon, and all the other worthy causes in our community, and those 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

