

Temple Israel Bulletin

Volume LXXX
Bulletin No. 9

*The counting of the Omer continues through May 16,
which is Erev Shavuot.*

May 2021
Iyar / Sivan 5781

From the Rabbi's Desk

[For a complete schedule of Temple events and religious services, please see "May 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 & greetings! I hope that the nicer weather and new growth around us is raising your spirits, as it is mine.

Rabbi's Notes for May

Changes in Communication. The Spring holiday of Passover is considered the start of our year, a time for renewal and new growth. Shortly after the holiday, I received some comments that I was sending too many emails, and they were confusing to people.

I try to always take any comments or critiques as suggestions for how to do better. So, in that vein, and with the spirit of renewal and new growth following Passover, after consulting with the Board, two things will change.

First, I will only send one Links email each week, generally on Thursday evening or Friday morning, and it will include the events from that Friday through the next

Friday. Any other notices or reminders I send out to the congregation will not have links included; please save the links emails for the week they cover, or transfer the information to your calendar, if you prefer. I hope that this will remedy any confusion.

ever amount can be fit in the printed bulletin.

Finally, the bulletin will focus on Temple Israel events and activities; notices about other organizations or outside events will be on the website and online calendar, but will generally not appear in the bulletin.

Calendar and Holiday Notes. I remind you of the Talmudic insertion in the calendar of Pesach Sheni – Second Passover. This year it falls on April 26. This is a second chance for anyone who missed celebrating Passover to do so – Jewish do-over, you might say.

We are in the midst of the Sefirah, the counting of the Omer, which marks the time between Passover and Shavuot. There are seven weeks between these holidays – Shavuot falls on the fiftieth day following the second day of Passover. This 'counting' practice of the days between the holidays is not the only

thing we count. In the Torah, we are told to take a census of the people on several occasions. In more poetic language, we are told in the Psalms to "number our days."

It is not the mere fact of counting that is important, it would seem, but the awareness of the meaning and value of those things that are counted. These examples have us counting individuals – and seeing each one as unique; days between the holidays – with the goal of connecting them in both celebration and



Photo by Louis Davidson

Save the date

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held ONLINE on Wednesday, June 09, 2021 at 5:30 PM. The annual report and proposed budget will be mailed to members prior to the meeting.

Second, my articles for the Bulletin will be less a report of the past, and more a way to talk with you about things that are in my mind and on my heart.

You may also see some changes in the bulletin in general, with less duplication of information, with the goal of allowing us to include more of what you need to know. At the same time, to retain the format and size of the bulletin physically, if an article or information exceeds the space available, it will be placed on the website in full, and a note and link included in the bulletin pointing to the website, at the end of what-

Masthead photo: American barley field

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May worship services

All religious services are via Zoom unless otherwise noted. Rabbi Blair sends out emails weekly with Zoom LINKS. If you aren't receiving these emails, please let him know. Shabbat services are scheduled every Friday at 5:30 PM. Pre-service Shabbat social begins at 5 PM, except May 7, when it begins at 5:15.

Friday, May 7 at 4:30 PM Bat Mitzvah of Emily Claire Swingle. LIVE and Virtual service streamed from B'nai Jacob Synagogue.

Friday, May 7 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service

Saturday, May 8 at 10:30 AM Torah study—see "May at a Glance" for Torah info

Friday, May 14 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service. Shavuot and Pulpit Exchange.

Saturday, May 15 at 10 AM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service from B'nai Jacob. Pulpit Exchange.

Friday, May 21 at 5:30 PM LIVE Virtual Shabbat service.

Friday, May 28 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:

Steve Bloom
Lois Coleman
Patricia Cohen Coniglio
Jamie Dreifus
Jonathan Freedman
Ed Goldberg
Margie Hutt
Mel Hutt
Ann Kushner
Gary Markham
Hedy Poppelsdorf
Joan Randall and family
The Sheff family
Bob Steinberg

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.]

The upcoming Bat Mitzvah on May 7 of Emily Claire Swingle, daughter of Laura and Jace Goins and Becky and Michael Swingle, granddaughter of Pamela and Glenn Goldfarb, and great-granddaughter of Doris and Jack Goldfarb. The service will be streamed on Zoom from B'nai Jacob Synagogue, with Rabbi Victor Urecki officiating.

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:

April: Zel Lewis, Ditty Markham (Milestone), Fran Thalheimer (Milestone), Karl Gattlieb, Lynn & Karl Gattlieb

May: Lois Coleman, Sharon Jubelirer, Barbara Braun Tweddle, Ellen Kay Bastron, Duke Bloom, Lena Glasser, Shelly Winowich, Trish (nee Weisberg) and Dylan Erwin, Natalie & Nick Winowich, Earl Jordan, Doris Goldfarb, Joan Weisberg

June: Pam Goldfarb, Steve Artz, Ronni & David Spudich, Jack Goldfarb, Anne Kushner, Betty & David Stern, Ditty & Gary Markham, Sarah & Brett Radow, David Thalheimer, Harriet & Don Deutsch, Doug Fisher

If you have a milestone event of any

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Please contact Rabbi Blair

If you are feeling a need to talk with someone, have a pastoral concern, know of someone who needs pastoral support, have a suggestion or 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 available Sunday through Thursday most of the day, and Friday until 3 PM. I am in the building for at least part of most days and I read email regularly (Shabbatot and holidays excepted).

Rabbi Joe Blair

TEMPLE ISRAEL

2312 Kanawha Blvd. E.
Charleston, W.Va. 25311
(304) 342-5852

www.templeisraelwv.org
templeisraelwv@gmail.com

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

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

Except where noted, photos by Greg Proctor

May yahrzeits

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

May 7th

David McHale (8)
Dr. Philip David Maimon (11)
Harry Mellman (11)
James Edward Amburgey (12)
Dr. Jack Basman (12)
Esther Galperin (12)
Gordon Mae Hendrick (12)
Joan Markham Siebert (12)
Craig Fillmon (13)
Tracie Christian Rose (13)
Jerome Goldberg (14)
Norman Lakin (14)
Sherry Lovett (14)

May 14th

Frieda L. Barton (16)
Jerome Harold Deutsch (16)
Rae Tagress Rosenberg (16)
Jay M. Segall (16)
Morton F. Hess (17)
Herbert Mitchell Barrett (19)
Mark E. Grinberg (19)
Marjorie "Petie" Kwass (19)
Ben Goldfarb (20)

Joseph Bernard Randall (20)
Julia Shreve (21)
Michael Zide (21)

May 22nd

Dorothy Fishkin (22)
Helen H. Hess (22)
Fay Kulowski (22)
Matthew H. Small (22)
Gerald Allen Amburgey (23)
Sayde Cohen (23)
Tracy Auden Fretwell (23)
Richard "Ricky" Cohen (24)
Patrick J. Gleason (25)
Nathaniel Rose (25)
Robert W. Garner II (26)
Samuel Mendelsohn (26)
Emily Marks (27)
Robert Silverstein (27)

May 28th

Samuel Dash (29)
Jane Mayer Silverstein (29)
Florence Mann (30)
Monica Montanaro (30)



Ruth Silverstein Sherman (31)
Lester J. Mann (June 1)
Marion Smith Cohen (June 3)
Sylvia I. Garner (June 3)
Joseph Sloman (June 3)
Sarah Meilman (June 4)
Esther Markham Stowers (June 4)

May 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 won't be a Zoom check-in on May 17 and there won't be a B'nai Jacob Torah class on May 18 due to Shavuot. Pre-service Shabbat social time begins at 5 PM on Fridays, except May 7, when it begins at 5:15.*

Monday, May 3 at 10 AM – Zoom check-in

Monday, May 3 at 7 PM – WV Council of Churches Interfaith Program Unit will offer a webinar, "Dismantling Racism." You are invited. Watch for more information soon.

Tuesday, May 4 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Torah class

Thursday, May 6 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Talmud class

Thursday, May 6 at 3 PM – A Bissel Torah
Friday, May 7 at *St. Marks UMC in downtown Charleston *outdoors: 12-12:15 PM: Interfaith Service of Unity and Reconciliation (masks and social distancing required)

Friday, May 7 at 4:30 PM – Bat Mitzvah of Emily Claire Swingle (on Zoom – LINKS to be emailed)

Friday, May 7 at 5:30 PM – LIVE and Virtual Shabbat service with Torah (Parashah

Behar-Bechukotai). Pre-service social time begins **today only** at 5:15 PM.

Saturday, May 8 at 10:30 AM – Torah study. Parashah Behar-Bechukotai, Lev. 25:1-27:34

Sunday, May 9 – Mother's Day

Sunday, May 9 at 2 PM – Jewish Literature (A Bintel Brief)

Monday, May 10 at 10 AM – Zoom check-in

Tuesday, May 11 at 10 AM – B'nai Jacob Torah class

Tuesday, May 11 at 5:30 PM – Temple board meeting

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May at a Glance—continued from p. 3

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Thursday, May 13 at 10 AM – B’nai Jacob Talmud class

Thursday, May 13 at 3 PM – A Bissel Torah

Friday, May 14 at 5:30 PM – LIVE and Virtual Shabbat service. Includes Shavuot and Pulpit Exchange.

Saturday, May 15 at 10 AM – B’nai Jacob Shabbat morning service with Pulpit Exchange

Sunday, May 16 at 10:30 AM – Sisterhood board meeting

Monday, May 17 – Temple office closed in observance of Shavuot – no Zoom check-in

Wednesday, May 19 at 7 PM – Leora May Book Club

Thursday, May 20 at 10 AM – B’nai Jacob Talmud class

Thursday, May 20 at 3 PM – A Bissel Torah

Friday, May 21 at 5:30 PM – LIVE and Virtual Shabbat service, Lay led

Sunday, May 23 at 7:30 PM – Charleston Death Café

Monday, May 24 at 10 AM – Zoom check-in

Monday, May 24 at 6:30 PM – Social Action Committee meeting. All are welcome.

Tuesday, May 25 at 10 AM – B’nai Jacob Torah class

Thursday, May 27 at 10 AM – B’nai Jacob Talmud class

Thursday, May 27 at 3 PM – A Bissel Torah

Friday, May 28 at 5:30 PM – LIVE and Virtual Shabbat service

Sunday, May 30 at 2 PM – Jewish Literature (TBD)

Monday, May 31 – Temple closed in observance of Memorial Day

Monday, May 31 at 10 AM – Zoom check-in

Next Month

Friday, June 4 at 5:30 PM – LIVE and Virtual Shabbat service (Parashah Shelach Num. 13:1-15:41)

Saturday, June 5 at 10:30 AM – Torah study

Sunday, June 6 at 3 PM – Jewish Literature (guest speaker American author Allegra Goodman)

Wednesday, June 9 at 5:30 PM – Congregational Annual Meeting

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

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meaning; and time – with the view that it is not merely something that is there, but a precious resource that we are to use wisely, and not squander. These each call on us to examine our values, and to embody them. How are we treating people? How do we relate to our religious tradition and what it asks of us? Are we using our life wisely, living in such a way that it is meaningful and full? Will we leave a legacy that is worthy of what we are capable of doing, being, and accomplishing?

Far from a simple enumeration of the passing of time, the counting of the Sefirat HaOmer calls us to work for a mindful, intentional, and focused approach to living our best life. In that mindset, can you see a way to up the ante, and come a little bit closer to that goal?

Reminders of upcoming special events. The West Virginia Council of Churches Interfaith Program Unit will offer a webinar on May 3, “Dismantling Racism” at 7 PM – you are invited. Watch for more information soon.

There is a Torah Study on May 8 (Parashah Behar-Bechukotai, Lev. 25:1-27:34), and on June 5 (Parashah Shelach, Num. 13:1-15:41).

The Jewish Literature class will meet April 25, May 9, May 30 and June 20. On June 6 we have a special event, sponsored by the Congregational Enrichment Committee with the Jewish Literature group: renowned author Allegra Goodman will join us for a Zoom session, talking about her writing and answering questions. Watch for more information and details on this to be forthcoming.

The holiday of Shavuot begins at sundown May 16 and runs through sundown on the 18. It will be incorporated into the Temple Israel Friday evening Shabbat service on May 14.

The Temple Israel Sisterhood Board will meet on May 16. Watch for an announcement about it to be sent. For information, please contact Millie Snyder.

The Charleston Death Café will meet on May 23.

The Social Action Committee will meet May 24. Contact Rachel Dash or Cookie Glasser for information.

Covid-19 concerns. The Temple Israel Security and House Committees are working to determine what needs to be done in preparation for returning to some in-person events, and will make recommendations to the Board for how to proceed. The intention is to continue to be cautious and deliberate, erring on the side of safety and the well-being of all in our community.

If you are eligible, please 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 the fact is that simply getting the vaccine is not enough yet, and we will need to continue our current policies for a time. It is most likely some months before we can establish our plans and complete the equipment installation in the building, both of which must happen to safely invite you back in. Please stay safe and healthy – continue to use masks, hand-washing, and social distancing, even after you have been vaccinated.

Services. We will continue weekly Shabbat services as we have been, opening the Zoom session at 5 pm, with

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Sisterhood Message

Oy Bay! Become seasoned on the history of a spice blend

Dear Sisterhood members and all other interested people:

The story begins in 1906 in the town of Bastheim, Germany, when Gustav Brunn was 13 years old. He quit school because it was too expensive and began working as a tannery apprentice in 1923. The value of the German mark plummeted, the fur business collapsed and the tannery closed. Brunn bought the store and began selling casings and spices to sausage makers, beginning his career in the spice industry.

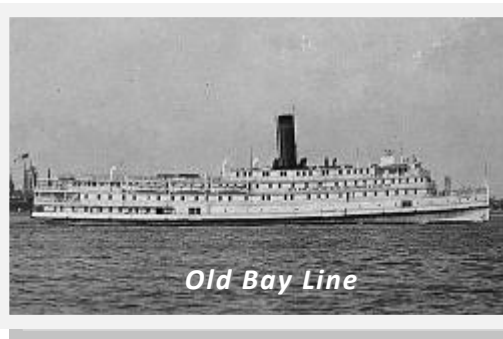
Brunn's spice business was a success – until 1933 when Hitler came to power. According to the Baltimore Jewish Times, as antisemitism grew, Brunn lost customers and his bookkeeper resigned out of fear that the Nazis would punish him for working for a Jew. To protect his family and livelihood, Brunn moved his shop to Frankfurt where there was a larger Jewish population. In 1937, Brunn and his family applied for visas to the United States. The plan was to leave by the end of 1938 but that changed on the night of November 10, 1938, Kristallnacht, the pogrom that destroyed synagogues, Jewish businesses and schools, and the first time the Nazi regime arrested Jews on a massive scale.

The next day, radio announcements called for all Jews to surrender their firearms to the nearest police station. Brunn, an avid hunter with eight rifles, complied. Upon arriving at the police station, Brunn was told he couldn't leave, and within hours was taken to the Buchenwald concentration camp. Remarkably, after two weeks, Brunn was released, bearing a shaved head and suffering from pneumonia, thanks to his lawyer's bribing the Gestapo 10,000 marks, a hefty price at the time. Within a week, Brunn, his wife, and their two children sailed to New York, bound for Baltimore, with his hand-crank spice grinder in tow.

Brunn struggled to find work in Baltimore and finally landed a job at McCormick & Co., the world's biggest spice maker. According to the Baltimore Sun, Brun-

n's son Ralph recalls that after only a few days McCormick learned that Brunn was Jewish and fired him, directing him "to go and see the Jewish charities."

Brunn didn't give up on his career in the spice industry. He opened his own store, The Baltimore Spice Co., on the second floor of 26 Market Place, across from the bustling fish market. Soon, seafood vendors were stopping in his store searching for spices for steaming crabs. Brunn



took note of what they ordered, a mix of pepper, salt and mustard, and began experimenting with his own blends. Enter Old Bay, a kitchen sink of 18 spices including those three flavorings but also paprika, mace, nutmeg, cinnamon, bay leaf, red pepper, cardamom, celery seed, cloves, and ginger. Ralph told the Baltimore Jewish Times that, to his father's amazement, "those minor things he put in there, the most unlikely things including cinnamon and nutmeg and cloves, had nothing to do with crabs at all – gave a background bouquet that he couldn't have anticipated...Old Bay, per se, was almost an accident."

Brunn gave samples of his new spice blend to seafood vendors who offered them to their customers, and it caught on. But he needed a catchy name. A friend in advertising suggested calling it after the Old Bay line, a well-known Baltimore steamship company. Brunn trademarked "Old Bay," giving his spice blend an instant feeling of tradition and a strong regional identity. McCormick, intimidated by Old

Bay's rising demand, began packaging their crab seasoning in identical cans. Then, when Brunn attempted to join the American Spice Trade Association, McCormick threatened to leave. Over the years McCormick tried to buy the Old Bay brand but Brunn rejected every bid. Since McCormick couldn't buy Old Bay, they were determined to copy it, relying on a law that requires companies to list the ingredients on their packages. Aware of this possibility, Brunn kept his recipe safe by omitting four key ingredients. In 1985 Brunn passed away at the age of 92. In 1990, after a 50-year-plus rivalry, McCormick bought Old Bay for between 11 million and 14 million dollars.

There are few fandoms like Old Bay's. Its logo can be found tattooed on arms and printed on socks, and the blend is mixed into the tartar sauce served by McDonald's as well as swirled into a Baltimore-area caramel ice cream and infused in a local ale. Last year, Old Bay even released a limited-edition hot sauce that sold out in an hour.

Old Bay is more than a favorite spice – it's a story of the discrimination the Jewish immigrants faced, their perseverance against such hate, and their contribution to the American identity and kitchen. Shellfish is historically is not considered kosher but if you've ever eaten such seafood and it was seasoned with Old Bay, it was a memorable experience.

This is my second in a series of informative news that I hope causes a wrinkle in your thinking!

Smiling from behind my face mask,

Millie Snyder,

President

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Bay_Seasoning#/media/File:Old_Bay_Line_card.jpg

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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 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.

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

Please make donations to Sisterhood funds payable to Sisterhood and donations to Temple funds payable to the Temple.

Sisterhood's Annual Holland Bulb Sale continues through mid-May

Genuine Holland Bulbs for planting this fall to bloom next spring—your purchase makes a lovely contribution, to your garden and to Sisterhood programs and services.

Congregational Enrichment



*Sunday, June 6th at 3 PM
Jewish Literature class with
special guest speaker,
American author Allegra
Goodman.*

By Allegra Goodman, Nightingale House, March 2011 Brian Minkoff: London Pixels - wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=19561321>

Social Action Corner

We can support important work by volunteering, making donations and contacting our legislators

The Social Action Committee's March 29 meeting was devoted to a presentation by Ramsie Monk, the Development Director of the Women's Health Center of West Virginia. The WHC is the only abortion provider in WV and also offers a full spectrum of women's health care and counseling in a deeply respectful manner.

She discussed WHC's services, including an exciting new initiative to expand healthcare services to the Trans Community, legislative updates regarding Women's Health and Choice, the WHC's Board com-

mitment to greater diversity and inclusivity in order to reflect the community in which they provide services and the ways that SAC and the Temple can support their work on multiple levels.

During this time of serious attacks on reproductive choice, racial equality and equity and transgender rights there are ways that we can support this important work. These include making donations, contacting our legislators and volunteering to become a clinic escort.

At press time, the Social Action Com-

mittee was scheduled to meet online April 26 at 6:30 PM. The Committee plans to meet on Monday, May 24 at 6:30 PM.

All members of the congregation are always welcome to attend Social Action Committee meetings.

*Cookie Glasser and Rachel Dash,
Co-chairs*

From the Rabbi's Desk—continued

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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 (Siddurim).

Prayer books may be borrowed from the Temple. 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 you want to borrow a 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 of books.

Support. 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.

Blessings and Salutations. I wish you all the best as we enjoy Spring, and move towards Summer. May the period of the Sefirat HaOmer be positive for you, and an opportunity for self-improvement and engagement with the world around us. May we each arrive at Shavuot redeemed at Passover and ready for the encounter with the divine, and revelation.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace),

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair

In the Congregation—continued

(Continued from page 2)

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.

Lehitra'ot (Farewell for now):

The following have made moves that take them away physically from Charleston and Temple Israel, but we hold them close as friends, and wish them well in their new residences. We hope to continue to see them often online, and we hope in person as well.

Lee and Tudi Forb – moved to Knoxville, Tenn.

Hal Selinger – moved to the San Francisco Bay Area.

We wish you well, and look forward to seeing and hearing from you.

Dates to remember in May

Law Day, held annually on May 1, is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law, providing an opportunity to understand how law and the legal process protect our liberty, strive to achieve justice, and contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share.

Cinco de Mayo is an annual celebration held on May 5, commemorating the Mexican Army's victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla in 1862, and has become associated with the celebration of Mexican-American culture.

Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9

Rosh Chodesh Sivan, Wednesday, May 12.

Shavuot begins at sundown on Sunday May 16 and runs through sundown, Monday, May 17 (or Tuesday, May 18, if you observe the second day).

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31

Rabbi Joe Blair

