

From the Rabbi's Desk

Since programs, classes and other events are yet to be scheduled over the summer, there is no "At a Glance" in this issue. Please see p. 2 for dates and times of religious services. 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! This is the summer bulletin, so it covers June, July, and August. There is a lot to share.

As I write this it is mid-May, and we are about to enter into the holiday of Shavuot, the Festival of Weeks, and the time of Revelation and the Giving of the Gift of the Torah. We are in the seventh week of counting the Omer, the week of Malchut, or sovereignty, as we approach the time of our commemoration of Revelation and the encounter with the divine. It is a time of great sanctity, reverence, and awe.

At the same time, we are deeply troubled by the news from Israel about the bloodshed and battles, and pray for peace and safety for all the inhabitants of that region, and throughout the world. May those who have been injured be healed, and the mourners of those who have died be comforted. May it be the will of our Creator to cause this, and all conflicts, to be resolved and peace to reign.

Notes for June-July-August

Summer will be filled with activities, and we continue to offer the online Shab-

bat services. Be sure to save the weekly LINKS EMAILS to keep abreast of all that is planned and any changes arising in the next several months.



Sofer Neil Yerman at Temple Israel in 2015. We are hoping to bring the sofer back to Charleston this summer for the next phase of restoring our Torah scrolls. Photo by Paul Ostand.

June

Looking ahead, June brings the important annual ritual of the congregational meeting. I hope you will attend on June 9, via Zoom. Also, this month there is a special event – the Zoom visit to the Charleston Jewish community of noted author Allegra Goodman on June 6. Please see the back page for complete info.

I will be attending and staffing the Kavod v'Nichum 19th annual Chevrah Kadisha and Jewish cemetery conference (on Zoom) June 13-16; if you have any interest in this subject, I invite you to join me at this entire event, or whichever sessions are of interest to you. There is a discount for three or more attending from the same organization/Chevrah – I would be happy to facilitate that if you are interested.

We are hoping to host Sofer Neil Yerman, who has been doing some repairs on our Sifrei Torah, for the next stages of his work – we are not able to invite others to join him, but this is wonderful news. We anticipate our scrolls to be in place in our newly refurbished Arks in the Sanctuary and Chapel, ready for the Yamim Nora'im, the High Holy Days.

July

The 'Three Weeks' kicks off on June 27 with the Fast of the 17th of Tamuz. It leads up to the solemn fast day of Tisha B'Av, which falls on July 18. Shortly after, Tu B'Av, the Jewish day of love, will be July 24. Watch your emails for links to events for these commemorations.

August

I will be teaching a WVU OLLI course on Aug. 3, "Bereshit: Opening the Zohar." I hope some of you can join that (Continued on page 4)

June 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.

Friday, June 4 at 4:30 PM	LIVE Virtual Shabbat service—Parashah Shelach Num. 13:1-15:41
Saturday, June 5 at 10:30 AM	Torah study
Friday, June 11 at 5:30 PM	LIVE Virtual Shabbat service
Friday, June 18 at 5:30 PM	LIVE Virtual Shabbat service.
Friday, June 25 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 Jonathan Freedman Ed Goldberg **Richard Holicker** Margie Hutt Mel Hutt Ann Kushner Judy Lundy Mary Rich Maloy Gary Markham **Hedy Poppelsdorf Bob Steinberg**
- All who are impacted by the Pandemic or other illnesses
- All affected by natural or man-made disasters

Mazal Tov (Congratulations):

[Please tell us about these events so we can acknowledge them as appropriate.]

Congratulations to Jacob Stern, son of Jennifer and Gregg Stern and grandson of Betty and N. David Stern, who was graduated this spring from WVU with a B.S. in **Business Administration**.

To those who reached or will reach milestones in the past month or this one, and to all who had any birthday or anniversary or other life event worth celebrating! Among those we know who are/ were to be acknowledged we include:

May: Lois Coleman, Sharon Jubelirer, Barbara Braun Tweddle, Ellen Kay Bastron, Duke Bloom, Lena Glasser, Shelly Winowich, 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 (Milestone), Anne Kushner, Betty & David Stern, Ditty & Gary Markham, Sarah & Brett Radow, David Thalheimer, Harriet &

Please contact Rabbi Blair

If you feel 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).

Don Deutsch, Doug Fisher

July: Paul Ostand, Lee Forb, Liz Weisberg, Louis Weisberg, Dona Hall (Milestone)

August: Kim & Bob Aaron, Mary Rich Maloy, Elizabeth & Jeff Bright, Allan Tweddle, Victor Bastron, Sarah Gottlieb, Judy Lundy, Sharon & Steven Jubelirer

September: Ladonna Kushner, Josh Barrett, Jace Goins, Julie Adams, Gail Bellamy, Bill Rosenfeld, Lynn Gattlieb, Roberta Lee Levine, Gayle Twigger-Shaw

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.

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

Rabbi Joe Blair Photos pp. 2 & 3 by Greg Proctor.

Summer yahrzeits

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

June 4th

Melvin Marks (5) Alfreda Ruvel (5) Alfredo Montanaro (6) Miriam E. Rogin (6) Herbert J. Shapiro (6) David Hess Swarts (7) Ed Hindman (8) Dr. Herman K. Polan (8) Mae Gordon Kopelman (10) Joan Galperin Kurtz (10) Bernard Siegel (10) Irene Wells (10) William Binderman (11) Herbert Osgood (11)

June 11th

Louis Israel Sclove (12) Solon Levine (13) Mary Margolis (13) Phyllis Shapero (13 Henry Angel (14) William Drasnin (14) Jerry Lindenberg (15) Michael Rossin (15) Judith Kaufman Moses (16) Max Rosenfeld (16) Si Galperin Jr. (17) Harry Polan (18)

June 18th

Anna Lovett (19) Leon Jacob Engel (20) Goldie M. Galperin (20) Ted Lewis (20) William F. Hoss Jr. (21) Betty Edelman Barrack (22) Helen Cohen (22) Celia Drasnin (22) Carl A. Lehman (22) Bertha Silverstein Schaul (22) Lottie Wells (22) Charles W. Loeb Sr. (23) David Mack (24) Etta Abrams (25) Flo Sloman (25)

June 25th

Morris Warhoftig (26) Henry Hager (27) Dr. Philip Rubin (27) Beatrice Eisinger (29) Nuita Feibelmann (29) Sylvia Miller Kaufman (29) Bill Thalheimer (29) Virgil Hindman (30) Ruth Osgood Loeb (30) Rose Levy Siegel (30) Ben Baker (July 2) Donald Deutsch Jr. (July 2) Toby Israel (July 2) Edward Lee Ruben (July 2)

July 2nd

Annilee Hallam Bloom (3) Leo M. Spigel (3) Kenneth Godfrey (4) Nathan P. Goldfarb (4) Ernestine "Stinie" Goldman (4) James Leon Wells (4) Lake A. Brown Sr. (5) Morris Freedman (5) Bernard A. "Bud" Burka (6) Evelyn Hopper (6) John Henry Joseph Hoss (6) Florence Kay Simms (6) Joe L. Silverstein (7) Frank A. Baer II (8) Gertrude Warren (8) Tommy Kaplan (9) Stanley Loewenstein (9)

July 9th

Nathan Kurtz (10) Ruth Cohen Wasserman (10) M. S. "Mel" Burka (12) Beth Brown Morgan (12) Sadie Nusbaum (12)



Gilbert Weisberg (12) Sallee Deutsch (13) Dorothy Hohenberg (14) Shirley Shapiro (14) Helen Silverstein (14) Henry Rossin (15) Hyman Artz (16) Sarah Badner (16) Harry Goldstein (16)

July 16th

Isaak Dumer (17) Rose Miriam Rosenfeld (17) Roslyn Bloomberg (18) Dolly Margolis (18) Joseph Segall (18) Nancy Engel DiTullo (20) Maria Szczepaniak (20) Philip Angel (22) Mayme Lasky (22) Paul L. Lambert (23) Sarah Rosenfeld Zakin (23)

(Continued on page 4)

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Please recycle.

(Continued from page 3)

July 23rd

Ehaskel Bernashefsky (26) Kenneth H. Fretwell (26) Albert Israel (26) Estelle Gussie Hager (27) Clara Kraus Kaufman (27) Anna Schumann Deutsch (29) Troy David Fretwell (29) Andy Hudnall (29) Lee Small (30)

July 30th

Jay L. Margolis Sr. (31) Bernard Bloom (Aug. 2) Florette Angel (Aug. 3) Rose Bloom (Aug. 3) Beatrice Kleeman (Aug. 3) Ben Swarts (Aug. 3) Carol Behr (Aug. 4) Saul Ostand (Aug. 4) Ike Rosenberg (Aug. 4) Isaac Rosenberg (Aug. 4) Jack Tweddle (Aug. 5) Dan Barrack (Aug. 6) Meta Bornheim (Aug. 6) Bee Gattlieb (Aug. 6)

Summer Yahrzeits—continued

August 6th

David Gottlieb (7) Charles M. Rotgin Sr. (7) Henry Steinberg (7) Fran Leslie Jurin (8) Stan Weinberg (8) Gideon Feibelmann (9) Esther Basman (10) Lillian Caroline Isis (10) Charles Forman (11) Grover Cleveland Kaufman (11) Elizabeth Pierce Randall (11) Philip Jordan Silverstein (12) Eddie Warner Casto (13) Jay Margolis Jr. (13)

August 13th

Kay Polan (14) Harry Pollack (14) Walter Golden (15) Milton Wyner (15) Marty Glasser (16) Evelyn Broh Polan (16) Ben Baer (17) Bernise Weiner Saval (18) Samuel Sloman (18) Joseph Bloom (20) Phyllis Irene Skeens (20)

August 20th

Nettie Weinstein Goldman (21) Selwyn Robert Jurin (21) Helen Warhoftig (21) Ruth Mendelsohn Brown (22) Henry L. Kohn (22) Lawrence C. Kaufman Sr. (23) Pauline Rubio (23) Marcus Smith (23) Austin Moore (24) Ida Eckmann (25) Lenard Kushner (25) Thelma Levine (25) Jane P. Silverstein (25) Marvyn Cohen (26) Harriet Opper (26) Isaac J. Hofmayer (27) Maurice Plotkin (27) Norma Webster (27)

August 27th

Rabbi James D. Cohn (28) Peggy F. Greenspon (28) Clara Spiegler (28) Gertrude Artz (Sept. 1) Louis Rotgin (Sept. 1) Robert Sidney Aaron (Sept. 3) Beatrice Cohen Binderman (Sept 3) Deidre Eisinger (Sept. 3) Mina G. Greenspon (Sept. 3)

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

(Continued from page 1)

class, or one of the many other options OLLI offers. Rosh Chodesh (the new month) of Elul is Aug. 8 & 9, officially opening the period of self-evaluation leading up to the High Holy Days.

September-October: High Holy Days

Erev Rosh Hashanah is the evening of Monday, Sept. 6, and Rosh Hashanah continues on the 7th. Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidrei) is the evening of Sept. 15, and Yom Kippur Day is the 16th. Erev Sukkot is the evening of Monday, Sept. 20, and the holiday continues till sundown on Monday, Sept. 27 (Sept. 28 if you observe eight days).

Our plans need to accommodate several scenarios that can adapt to changing conditions. Options are being planned. Some require construction and installation of equipment, training of staff/volunteers, and plans for redundancies and backup, and alternatives to meet the unexpected. The goal is to provide seamless operations to the best of our ability, offering 'blended' in-person and on-line capabilities.

Upcoming Special Events

Saturday morning Torah study on June 5 (Parashah Shelach, Num. 13:1-15:41).

In addition to the Allegra Goodman event (see back page) on June 6, the Jewish Literature class will meet on May 30 and June 20.

The Charleston Death Café will meet on June 20.

Plans for Torah study sessions, Charleston Death Cafés, "A Bissell Torah" sessions, and Zoom Check-ins during the summer month are not yet decided. As they are scheduled, LINKS EMAILS will be (Continued on page 7)

Sisterhood Message Because it's possible to find meaning in our suffering, we can go through anything – the story of Dr. Viktor Frankl

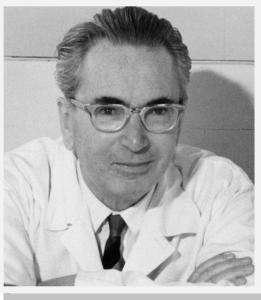
Viktor Frankl yearned to make a contribution to humanity. As a respected young psychiatrist in Vienna before World War II, he had meticulously prepared the manuscript for a book that he dared to believe might help change the world. Since he and his wife were not yet parents, he called it "my mental child." Then the Nazis came to power. They rounded up the "undesirable" populations in Austria, including Frankl and his fellow Jews. They were herded into railway carriages and sent to a future none of them could have comprehended.

The young doctor didn't know it at the time, but when the train pulled into the Auschwitz death camp there was only a 3% chance that any particular passenger would survive longer than a few days. His parents, his brother and his wife were all sent to the gas chambers. Only he and his sister were alive at the end of the war. Frankl had cautiously hidden the manuscript of his book in his coat. But the guards confiscated everything, including his clothing and his wedding ring.

His life's work was casually discarded. He was told to put on the worn-out clothes of a man who had been executed within his first hour at the camp. Frankl's captors stole more than his personal possessions. He was robbed of his identity. He was no longer a husband or a psychiatrist – he was robbed of his dignity. He suffered daily tortures and deprivations. He was robbed of the assurance that he had even one more day to live, especially as he was forced to witness the random executions of his friends.

But as the days turned into months and then to years, he gradually realized there was something that no one could ever take from him. He had the power to choose how he would respond. "Everything can be taken from a man," he would later write, "but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

Frankl observed that some prisoners ultimately surrendered their will to live. They didn't last long. But other prisoners



Dr. Viktor Frankl in 1965

chose to serve their companions. They shared their last morsels of bread, even though they were starving themselves. In the midst of such sacrifices, they seem to come alive. He realized he could decide what words he would speak, and what memories he would bring to mind. He could choose to use his medical training to comfort and encourage others, which he did. It dawned on Frankl that he was a powerful person. A free person. It was the guards who were locked up – imprisoned by their own hatred.

Viktor Frankl ended up making a contribution to humanity, after all. Following his liberation from Auschwitz, he documented his experience in Man's Search for Meaning, one of the most inspiring books of the 20th century. Frankl spent decades trying to help other people understand that life is meaningful even when everything seems hopeless. Because it's possible to find meaning in our suffering we can go through anything. He reflected on the fact that his own existence had never seemed more-empty than when he had lost his irreplaceable manuscript. Now

what did his life mean? But an answer was already in store for him. "I just hadn't realized it yet."

On his very first day at Auschwitz when his coat had been taken from him, Frankl mindlessly thrust his hand into the pocket of the worn-out clothes he had been forced to wear. There he found a piece of paper. It was a single page torn from a Hebrew prayer book. It included the Shema, the most important of all Jewish prayers. "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6:4–5)

Frankl called it "Perhaps the deepest experience which I had in the concentration camp." God was calling him not just to put words on a manuscript but to except the challenge of truly living a meaningful life-to become a three-dimensional example for the world to see. We may pray that we will never have to walk the path that Viktor Frankl was compelled to walk.

I do not know the author of this beautiful story but it was shared with me by Gary Borstein.

Millie Snyder,

President

By Prof. Dr. Franz Vesely, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, <u>https://</u> <u>commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?</u> <u>curid=15153593</u>

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.

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 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 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.

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.

Social Action Corner Solar power study commissioned; additional contributions to local non-profit organizations struggling during the Pandemic

The Social Action Committee held its business meeting via Zoom on April 26. With the help of Allan Tweddle, a feasibility study, performed by appropriate entities, will evaluate installation of solar panels on the Temple's roof(s). The companies are being asked for a detailed assessment, inclusive of project parameters, time and cost estimates. The information provided will be reviewed, and if recommended by the SAC, will then be sent to the Temple board for further consideration.

Budget recommendations for FY 2021 -2022 were sent to the Treasurer for board review and approval. This included detailed assessments of and the history of previous FY 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 approved budgets. Several organizational membership and non-profit donations were revised for the new FY 2021-2022 budget request with the overall requested dollar amounts remaining the same as the two previous years.

The COVID-19 Pandemic necessitated that the Criminal Justice Forum, a major initiative the Committee had planned, be canceled; there were also some unused projected costs in other areas. Realizing this would result in unspent allocated funds, the Committee members voted to divert those dollars for a one-time only special contribution to six organizations whose missions and programs are in line with URJ Religious Action Center and SAC Issues of Conscience.

These organizations (Covenant House, Manna Meals, RCCR, SOAR, Women's Health Center of WV and Fairness WV) are trying to provide needed services to significantly increased and complex caseloads. Additionally, they are experiencing huge operating costs, and some are functioning under legislative constraints as

(Continued on page 7)

From the Rabbi's Desk-continued

(Continued from page 4)

distributed with a listing of each one and the means to access them.

Covid-19 Concerns

Where we are in regard to inperson gatherings: I offer my understanding at this time.

The project to permanently install the equipment for online access to our events is underway. This will eliminate the dangers of anyone tripping over the wiring and equipment that is now spread throughout the Sanctuary and lobby. We hope to welcome congregants into the Sanctuary for the High Holy Days (in accordance with the policy described).

At the May meeting, the Temple board accepted the Security Committee's recommendations regarding in-person use of the building, which follows guidelines established by the CDC for when and under what conditions it is safer/safest to hold functions of a specific size. The policy has triggers both to open and to limit access, depending on current conditions. We continue to err on the side of safety for all in our community, while moving toward more access, and to remaining flexible should conditions change.

Once it is determined that the criteria of this policy are met, the building will be available for specific uses in accordance with the policy. The number of people to be admitted to any given event will be set as defined under the triggers established in the plan.

Please know that the Temple board and congregational leaders are working toward a return to our accustomed activities as it is deemed prudent. We ask that everyone abide by the limitations and conditions for inperson events. At the same time, we intend to provide online access so that anyone is able to participate, whether they can enter the building or not, and no one is obligated to attend inperson. In the meantime, please be patient – this may take some time to complete.

If you are eligible for vaccination, please take advantage of the opportunity – this will help speed the return to our accustomed activities. But, simply getting the vaccine alone is not enough yet, and we will need to continue our current policies for a time. Please stay safe and healthy – continue to use masks, handwashing, and social distancing, even after you have been vaccinated.

Services

Until we can safely hold in-person gatherings, we will continue online weekly Shabbat services, 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. Once in-person gatherings are resumed, we will continue to offer online access via Zoom and livestreaming on Facebook for remote access.

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.

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 Temple board if you have any needs, suggestions, concerns, or questions.

Blessings & Salutations

I wish you all the best as we move into summer. May this time be pleasant and positive for you, and an opportunity to rest, refresh, and renew yourself in anticipation of the coming New Year.

I look forward to seeing you online, and soon, perhaps in-person.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace),

Joe

Congratulations! Mazal tov to Jacob Stern, son of Jennifer and Gregg Stern and grandson of Betty and N. David Stern, who was graduated this spring from WVU with a B.S. in Business Administration.

Social Action Corner continued

(Continued from page 6)

well, while simultaneously having to operate with decreased contributions and funds from other sources.

At press time, the May 24 SAC meeting is devoted to FY 2021-2022 Program Initiative and Work Plans that look to coordinate programs and actions with the Sisterhood and other community organizations. We continue to look forward to follow-up conversations with the Temple board. We are also reviewing best methods to increase congregational knowledge and awareness of the issues that we are involved with and the recommended solutions we seek.

Our meetings are always open, and we invite your participation.

Cookie Glasser and Rachel Dash, Co-chairs

Rabbi Joe Blair



Temple Israel • Charleston, W.Va.



Photo credit: Nina Subin

Congregational Enrichment Sunday, June 6 at 3 PM: Jewish Literature class with special guest speaker, renowned American author Allegra Goodman

The June 6 Jewish Literature class will feature the Zoom visit to the Charleston Jewish community of noted author Allegra Goodman *(The Chalk Artist, Intuition, The Family Markowitz).* She will be sharing and discussing some of her writing, and will be available for questions and conversation.

The session begins at 3 PM – watch your email for information on how to connect. This is open to all in the Jewish community – though we can only host up to 100 screens connecting to our Zoom account — but, those who cannot access the live session will be able to enjoy a recording of it at another time.

For more info about the author, please visit <u>https://allegragoodman.com/</u>