



## Rabbi's Message

Shalom & greetings! I certainly hope that your new year of 5782 has started well, and that it will prove to be a year of blessings and joys for you.

We celebrated the High Holy days, including Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and then Sukkot and Simchat Torah as a community. It was a real joy to be able to share them with you – in-person or online. I hope you found our services to be inspiring, uplifting, and meaningful. I know that everyone involved in crafting them for you put their heart and soul into the effort.

### Notes & Announcements

As I write this it is mid- to late-September; we are in the midst of Sukkot. Due to the pandemic, our usual Sukkot gathering was not possible this year. Instead, Rabbi Urecki and I held a brief Sukkot service – with Rabbi Urecki in the B'nai Jacob Sukkah – and then we separated to each hold our own observance for Erev Sukkot. We also planned a pulpit exchange at our Shabbat service, at which we also observed a modified Simchat Torah. The pulpit exchange continued on Saturday morning at the B'nai Jacob Shabbat morning service. We then joined B'nai Jacob for their Simchat Torah celebration as well. Clearly, this has been a month filled with holidays and observances.

The "Understanding the High Holidays" program for WVIRM Immigrant Wel-

come Week took place on Sept. 19, featuring Rabbis Urecki and Blair. You can view the recording of the event on Facebook. Also on Facebook, you can view a series of videos by several clergy members of the Charleston Ecumenical and Interfaith Coalition (CEIC), produced in remembrance of 9/11. To access the links to either of these online programs, visit [www.templeisraelwv.org](http://www.templeisraelwv.org) and click the respective link in the paragraphs beneath the "Welcoming Week" graphic, which is beneath the "Upcoming Events" schedule.

The Temple board of trustees has chosen, in light of the worsening reports (counts and measures in Kanawha County and West Virginia), to step back from the recently adopted policy allowing in-person attendance at services, and instead restrict access to the building to essential personnel. There will be **NO IN-PERSON attendance, and the building is closed, including for worship.** This status will be reviewed at

the next board meeting on Oct. 12, when the board will determine any change in status, while continuing to review the situation.

***(Please see "October at a Glance" for the times of events list below.)***

We enter October with a Shabbat service on Friday evening, Oct. 1, including a Torah reading from Bereshit (Genesis). We follow that up with a **Temple Israel Torah study** on Saturday morning.

**Sisterhood Schmoozes** return starting Oct. 11. I will be offering a class through the **WVU OLLI program** for two successive Tuesdays, Oct. 12 and 19, focusing on Jewish end-of-life rites, rituals, and practices. The **Temple board of trustees will meet** Oct. 12.

Sisterhood will hold its board and

*(Continued on page 6)*

### ***Here's what the busy hands on the back cover (and the masthead) were up to***

Late this past summer, on Aug. 25, a small group gathered at the Lucy Quarrier Weavers studio to observe Cookie Glasser at her loom. Cookie had volunteered to create new mats for the lecterns and candle table in the Sanctuary, and invited us to participate in the process.

Rabbi Blair, Fran Thalheimer, Marsha Albert, Ina Angel and I each took a turn "throwing the shuttle" under Cookie's guidance, and managed not to do any permanent damage. It was exciting to see an ancient art in progress, creating a lasting memento for Temple Israel, and to have each had a hand in our history. Thank you, Cookie!

*Gayle Twigger-Shaw*

# October worship services & Torah study

*All religious services and Torah study sessions 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, Oct. 1 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service with Torah. Parashah Bereshit. Gen. 1:1-6:8 .

Saturday, Oct. 2 at 10:30 AM Torah study

Friday, Oct. 8 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service

Friday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service.

Friday, Oct. 22 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service

Friday, Oct. 29 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service

## Next month

Friday, Nov. 5 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service with Torah. Parashah Toldot. Gen. 25:19-28:9.

Saturday, Nov. 6 at 10:30 AM Torah study

## Temple board suspends in-person services: Letter from Temple president Francine Thalheimer

Due to the high Covid numbers as reported last Saturday by our Security Committee Co-Chairs, and the recommendation by the Security Committee to suspend in-person worship, the Temple Board has voted to suspend in-person worship until further notice. Your Board will continue to receive regular weekly COVID reports from the Security Committee and will reopen the Temple for in-person worship as soon as the Board determines the COVID situation permits.

The Temple will continue to provide services virtually on Zoom and also on Facebook. Our Shabbat Service, scheduled for this Friday, September 24, 2021 at 5:30 PM will only be virtual on Zoom and on Facebook.

The Temple's Security Committee will be monitoring Covid numbers in our community and in our state. Those reports be shared with our congregation on a regular basis.

Our utmost concern is to keep our congregants and our staff safe and healthy. Any questions or concerns, please contact me.

L'Shanah Tovah,

Francine Thalheimer, President



Greg Proctor

## Flowers on the bimah

The congregation would like to thank those who sponsored the flowers on the bimah over the High Holy Days:

### Rosh Hashanah

- Ronni and David Spudich, in memory of Ronni's parents, Helen and Edward B. Cohen, and Ronni's brother, Ricky Cohen; and
- In loving memory of Lenard Kushner, by his wife, Ann, and his sons, David, Noah, and Adam.

### Yom Kippur

- Temple Israel Sisterhood

*Anyone wishing to have flowers placed on the bimah to honor an occasion or to remember a loved one, please contact Betty Stern. The cost is \$40. Please make your check payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood.*

*If you move, change your email address or change your phone number, please let the Temple office know about it, so that we are always able to stay in touch. Thank you.*

TEMPLE ISRAEL  
2312 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, W.Va. 25311  
(304) 342-5852  
[www.templeisraelwv.org](http://www.templeisraelwv.org)  
[templeisraelwv@gmail.com](mailto:templeisraelwv@gmail.com)

Francine Thalheimer, President  
Joseph M. Blair, Rabbi

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

## October yahrzeits

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

### October 1st

Nat Spigel (2)  
Helen Jacobs (3)  
Lucille Barrett (4)  
Irma Hallo (5)  
Betty Levine (5)  
Geneva Mann Sessions (5)  
Betty Burkhardt (6)  
Jerry Goldberg (6)  
Dottie Greenspon (6)  
Bertha Sclove (6)  
Frank B. Wotiz (6)  
Jeanette Gotlieb (7)  
Rebecca Blankstein (8)  
Harold Freedman (8)  
Amelia L. Hess (8)  
Alan Land Susman (8)

### October 8th

Freda Gordon Kopelman (9)  
Bernice "Bea" Cohen (10)  
Leona Spigel (11)  
Stella Hess Swarts (12)  
Bernard Sclove (13)

### October 15th

Madeline Erlich (16)  
Sam Kopelman (17)

Jacob Nusbaum (20)  
Bertha "Bertie" Feldman (21)  
Frank McCallum (21)  
Grace Ratowsky (21)  
Augusta Angel (22)

### October 22nd

Howard Coleman (24)  
Sidney Gattlieb (24)  
Lucille Goldfarb (25)  
Karen Bramnik Syken (26)  
William L. Sloman (27)  
Lena Baker (29)  
Dorothy Rae Boiarsky (29)  
Ira Loeb (29)

### October 29th

Dr. Myron I. Price (30)  
Harry Fleischmann (31)  
Simon Meyer (31)  
Alece Schwabe (Nov. 1)  
Max Frankenberger (Nov. 2)  
Robert Herzbach (Nov. 2)  
Celia Jurin (Nov. 2)  
William F. Hoss (Nov. 4)  
Seymour Kantor (Nov. 4)  
Joseph Klee (Nov. 4)  
Louis Goldfarb (Nov. 5)

## Taking care of the cemetery

*Containers of visitation stones added*

*Photo by N. David Stern*

Much work has been completed this summer at the cemetery. Grass has been mowed in a timely manner, some of the large trees have been thinned and low branches removed.

Stone Cleaning is on schedule with Sears Monument.

Three concrete containers holding small stones have been placed. One is located on the middle road by the Marks-Funt plot. Another on the middle road by the steps with the green railing (*above*). The third one on the lower road near the turn-a-round. These stones are available for those wishing to remember a loved one while visiting the cemetery.

*Cemetery Committee*

## October at a Glance

*Due to the high Covid numbers as reported by our Security Committee Co-Chairs, and the Committee's recommendation to suspend in-person worship, the Temple Board voted to suspend in-person worship until further notice. The board will continue to receive regular weekly COVID reports from the Security Committee and will reopen the Temple for in-person worship as soon as the board determines the COVID situation permits. The Temple will continue to provide services virtually on Zoom and also on Facebook.*

Friday, Oct. 1 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service with Torah. Parashah Bereshit. Gen. 1:1-6:8.

Saturday, Oct. 2 at 10:30 AM – Temple Israel Torah study (virtual only—this isn't a service, but a study session)

Friday, Oct. 8 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

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

Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 1 PM – WVU OLLI course: Jewish End of Life Practices (part 1)

Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 5:30 PM – Temple Board meeting

Friday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Sunday, Oct. 17 – Sisterhood board and

general membership meeting and program; meeting begins at 10:30 AM; program begins at 11:15: Temple members are welcome to attend the program portion.

Tuesday, Oct. 19 at 1 PM – WVU OLLI course: Jewish End of Life Practices (part 2)

Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 6 PM – Leora May Book Club

Thursday, Oct. 21 at 12 PM – WV Council of Churches Interfaith Program Unit Event

*(Continued on page 4)*



## 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. This list includes those on our list from the middle of August to the time of writing this bulletin:

Irwin Berry  
George Castelle  
Patricia Cohen Coniglio  
Jamie Dreifus  
Jonathan Freedman  
Mary Hogue  
Richard Holicker  
Margie Hutt  
Mel Hutt  
Joe Kohn  
Jon Kurland  
Dorothy Kurland  
Ann Kushner  
David Kushner  
Laura Malloy  
Gary Markham  
Stuart Miller  
Caroline Ostand  
Hedy Poppelsdorf  
Linda Rubin  
Kevin Smith & Family  
Olivia Sergot  
Linda Toborowski  
Barbara Braun Tweddle  
Natalie Winowich  
Nick Winowich  
Joanna Goldberg Zimmelman

All who are impacted by the Pandemic or other illnesses  
All affected by natural or man-made disasters or violence

All in need of prayers for healing and wholeness

*Mazal Tov* (Congratulations):

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

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

September: Jackie & Steve Artz, Ladonna Kushner, Josh Barrett, Rich Katz, Ron Eisinger, Gary Sheff, Brian Glasser, Jace Gons, Julie Adams, Ed Goldberg, Gail Bellamy, Bill Rosenfeld, Lynn & Steve Meyer, Lynn Gattlieb, Roberta Lee Levine, Gayle Twigger-Shaw, Sigal Kuhn, Terry Pickett, Don Deutsch

October: Mary Hart, Richard Hess, Ina Angel, Nick Winowich, Doris & Jack Goldfarb, Gary Winter, Nancy & Ray Dodson, Joy & Ken Kleeman, Millie Snyder, Alan Fleischmann, Debbie Sonis, Gloria Kelley, Anne Fishkin & Bill Kroesser, Nancy Morton

November: Ken Kleeman, Jean Urecki, Roger Forman, Natalie Cowley, Jennifer Stern, Mark Schaul, Natalie Winowich, Marilyn Urecki, Marc Slotnick, David Pushkin, Betty Stern, Jill Epstein, Gregg Stern, Linda Toborowski, Steve Meyer, Anne Fishkin, Kim Aaron (MILESTONE), Judy Watkins-Rimmey, Avrah Urecki Leven, Kathie Kommor, Ellen Slotnick

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.

## Contacting the Rabbi

If you feel you would like to talk, have any pastoral concerns, know of someone who needs pastoral support, have a suggestion to improve or a concern about our community, or just want to chat, please feel free to call me (the rabbi) at 304-989-4014, or email me at [RabbiJoeB@gmail.com](mailto: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 and texts quite regularly (Shabbat and holidays excepted). In an emergency, please phone me, and if you leave a message, please express the urgent nature of the call.

*Rabbi Blair*

## October at a Glance—continued

(Continued from page 3)

Friday, Oct. 22 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Thursday, Oct. 27 at 6 PM – Two Charleston Rabbis Discussion, with Mazon representative

Friday, Oct. 29 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

### Next Month

Friday, Nov. 5 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service with Torah. Parashah Toldot. Gen. 25:19-28:9.

Saturday, Nov. 6 at 10:30 AM – Torah study

## Thank you

We want to thank everyone who contributed to the Uniongram for our 35th anniversary. The Uniongram was beautiful and greatly appreciated.

*Sharon and Steven Jubelirer*

## ***Sisterhood Message***

# **Be authentic — be magnificent — be yourself!**

Be the architect of your own destiny!

Most of us are raised to fit in and be part of the status quo. As a result, we end up attributing our accomplishments to the people we were pretending to be, instead of the magnificent women we really are. Sure, we are honest, trustworthy, and benevolent – but are we authentic?

I dare you, right here and right now, to strip yourself down to the real you and be authentic. Be willing to sacrifice who you are for who you could become. Imagine the freedom of going through your day being on top, unapologetically yourself, marching to your very own beat, while letting go of the baggage you thought was necessary to your life. Embrace the idea that the only person you are destined to become is the person you truly are inside. Be the architect of your own destiny.

As you embrace your authentic self, your confidence and self-worth will soar. You will have the courage to stand a little taller and reach a little further than ever before. And your example will encourage others to do the same. Go ahead. Give it a try! I dare you.

This motivational message comes to me through Blue-Mountain Arts, and I am sharing it with you in the hopes that it will be encouraging and uplifting.

Take good care!

*Millie Snyder,  
Sisterhood President*

## **Immigrants on the program at Oct. 17 Sisterhood board and general membership meeting — all congregants welcome to attend program**

At Sisterhood's Oct. 17 combined board and general membership meeting, Donna Hamra – who is active in the WV Inter-faith Refugee Ministry – will be the guest speaker during the program portion. Her topic is "Immigrants in our Community."

In addition to talking about her involvement in the faith-based organization, Donna will also share the "flavors" of local restaurants owned and operated by immigrants.

The meeting will be held online, on Zoom, and begins at 10:30 AM, with the program to start around 11:15. Please note that all members of the congregation are welcome to attend the program portion. An email will be sent out with the LINKS info approximately one week prior to the event.

*Marsha Albert  
Sisterhood Vice President*

## **Sojourner's Shelter could use your help—please donate or lend a hand**

Below is a list of items greatly needed by Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women and Families, which is run by the Charleston YWCA.

While this is a Sisterhood project, we would be so grateful if some of these items could be donated and taken to the YWCA on Washington Street by willing and generous members in our congregation.

The constraints of Covid have created some genuine hardship for this group and many others. All efforts and donations will be welcomed by them and sincerely appreciated!

*Caroline Ostand*

Juice or Juice pouches (Kool-Aid Jammers, Capri Sun, etc. for children)

Fresh Fruit

Coffee

Healthy snacks for children

Deodorant

Baby wipes

Heavy-duty potholders

Cereal

Laundry detergent

First-Aid kit

Towels and washcloths

Full- and Twin-size sheets

Pillows and pillow cases

Underwear (males, females and children) – all sizes

Household cleaning supplies

Black trash bags – 55-gallon, white trash bags

Shower curtains

Brooms and mops

Plastic containers with snap on lids

Gift certificates to Kroger, Sam's, and Walmart

### ***Volunteer opportunities***

- Various activities with children program
- Arts and crafts, reading, games, etc.
- Cooking and serving meals
- Assisting with clerical support, filing, organizing, etc.
- Assisting with tasks such as painting, repairs, pick up donations, etc.







What are all these people doing? See the article on the front page to find out. *From left: Marsha Albert, Cookie Glasser, Fran Thalheimer, Rabbi Joe Blair, Ina Angel, Gayle Twigger-Shaw, Cookie. Photos by the participants.*

## Rabbi's Message, continued

(Continued from page 1)

general membership meeting on Oct. 17. **The Leora May Book Group** meets Oct. 20. The WV Council of Churches Inter-faith Program Unit will hold an online event on Oct. 21.

Rabbi Urecki and I will hold a **Two Charleston Rabbis** event, together with a representative of Mazon, the Jewish Response to Hunger, on Wednesday, Oct. 27. And as always, we have Shabbat services each Friday at 5:30 PM, with the social time beginning at five o'clock.

### **Scheduling: What Works for You?**

I plan to return to our calendar, in the weeks and months to come, several events that we have had in past, but

before I schedule them, I want to ask for your input on day and time. In short:

**A Bissell Torah** – a short conversation jumping off from some topic that is related to Torah (at least vaguely) was held weekly on Thursdays at 3 PM. I have heard from several people that this time was not good for them. When would be best? Should this be weekly, or less frequent?



**Charleston Death Cafes** were held on Sunday evenings monthly at 7:30 PM. Is this still something that should be offered, and if so, how frequently, and on what day and at what time?

**Havdalah** was something a few folks asked about. It would be on Saturday evenings (it could be at a set time, or vary with the time of sunset). How often would you want this to be offered, and when?

**Jewish Literature** – a discussion of short readings that were Jewish from Yiddish, Hebrew, or English writers – was held on Sundays at 2 PM twice a month. Again, this was not ideal for everyone; what would be better?

**Two Charleston Rabbis programs** were roughly monthly on Wednesdays or Thursdays at about 6 PM. Is there a better time or day (of course, it has to take into account other events and Rabbi Urecki's schedule)?

**Temple Israel Zoom Check Ins** were held on Mondays at 10 AM weekly. Is

(Continued on page 7)

## Rabbi's Message, continued

(Continued from page 6)

this still useful and something people want, and is there a better day or time for this?

**Sporadic classes:** if I offer a class, either a single session or a short series of two to four sessions, what day(s) or time(s) would be best?

I would very much appreciate hearing from you to help me schedule events to make them available to the most people possible. Please get back to me, ideally by Oct. 10. That way I can plan the calendar and incorporate the events information into the next Bulletin! Thank you.



Greg Proctor

### Prayer Books

If you borrowed a High Holiday Machzor (prayer book), please arrange to return it. Simply call or email me (the rabbi) or Greg in the office, and we can arrange for you to drop off the books at a convenient time. Call my cell phone at (304) 989-4014 or email me at my email address below, or contact the Temple office (304) 342-5852, (email address below) to let us know when you would like to return your book(s).

Please note: you are welcome to borrow prayer books, Mishkan T'filah, for our Shabbat services. Again, contact me to arrange to pick one up. The Siddur for Sabbath and Holidays is also available for free from the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), online, as a flip book. Please access the link on the Temple's website in the center column of the home page, where you will see the logo of the Mishkan T'filah; simply click the

logo, then follow the instructions on the CCAR page.



Greg Proctor

### Temple Building Projects and Facilities Upgrades

Several maintenance and repair projects have been completed or are underway in several parts of the building. So many of the committees and the Temple board have been working hard to keep things up and be ready to have you return, and it really shows! I think you will be happy and pleased with it all. It is really nice to see all the love and care being lavished on this beautiful facility.

Until the triggers in the policy indicate otherwise, all events that would normally be held in the building – programs, classes, and meetings – will be held online only. Events at other locations may have different policies, for example, meetings of the Leora May Book Club.

For information on how to access online events, please see the weekly LINKS email for how to connect via Zoom.

### 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), the house coordinator (David McAfee), members of the board or committee members if you have any needs, suggestions, concerns, or questions. We are here for you.

### Tzedakah (charity)

Please be generous – needs continue to run especially high in light of the Corona Virus Pandemic effects, natural and man-made disasters, and the effects of war, op-

pression, and violence. Note the many Tzedakah opportunities that we have supported over the years: Manna Meal, Covenant House, Sojourner's Shelter/YWCA, RCCR, Mazon, AJWS, HIAS, Charleston Federated, JNF, and all the other worthy causes in our community and beyond.

### Blessings & Salutations

Writing to you in the midst of Sukkot and Simchat Torah, I wish you much joy and many blessings at this time of our rejoicing, and hope that your year of 5782 will be a year of joy, health, prosperity, love, and blessings for you and for your loved ones. May we all be safe, and may the world be made more godly, with peace and justice prevailing. Amen.

I look forward to seeing you.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace),

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair

[RabbiJoeB@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiJoeB@gmail.com)

Temple office email address

[templeisraelwv@gmail.com](mailto:templeisraelwv@gmail.com)

## A brief history of visitation stones



Photo by N. David Stern

The act of placing **visitation stones** is an act of remembrance or respect for the deceased. The practice is a way of participating in the mitzvah of burial. Marking a grave with stones was customary in Biblical times before the adoption of gravestones.

From [Wikipedia article](#) "Visitation Stones"

