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December 2021
Kislev / Tevet 5782

Temple Israel Bulletin

Eighth candle of Hanukkah is Sunday evening, December 5th

Rabbi's Message

Shalom & greetings!

As you read this bulletin, you will notice there is a lot happening in December. Many building projects are completed or underway, though final stages on some are months away.

The Temple board determined that, beginning with the Oct. 22 Shabbat service, we would be open for in-person worship. Attendees are required to be fully vaccinated and wear a mask at all times while in the building. The board also decided to go forward with both the Hanukkah dinner event on Dec. 4 (to be held outside in tents), and the concert (inside the building) on Dec. 11, so some loosening of restrictions is happening, but the Covid-19 situation will continue to be monitored, so policies may change (in either direction). If so, those changes will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

Announcements

Due to the pandemic and the safety policy adopted, we are still having no events other than religious services and related events in the Temple Israel building (the Hanukkah event is outside in tents).

I am writing this in mid-November, in the lead-up to Thanksgiving: Monday morning Zoom Check-ins are back on the schedule. Jewish Literature re-started Nov. 7 (Yente), and met again on the 21st (Old Love). The Temple board met Nov. 9. A Bissel Torah started up again Nov. 11, with a week off for Thanksgiving. The Sister-

hood board met Nov. 14.

Moving forward into the latter half of November, the Leora May Book Club was scheduled to meet Nov. 17. Rabbi Urecki and Rabbi Blair scheduled a pulpit exchange for Nov. 19 and 20. The Charleston Death Café was to meet Nov. 21. Hanukkah commences with the first candle on the evening of Nov. 28, continuing through to sundown on Dec. 6. (The Eighth candle is to be lit the evening of Dec. 5.)

December features many of our past regular events, but the times for some have changed, so please read carefully.

Friday, Dec. 3 at 5:30 PM: Shabbat service with Torah reading from Miketz (Gen 41:1-44:17 and Num. 28:9-15 and 7:42-47; triennial reading for Year Three is Gen 43:16-44:17, Num 28:9-15, 7:42-

47). The Haftarah is Zechariah 2:14-4:7. Rosh Chodesh Tevet is Dec. 4 and 5.

Saturday, Dec. 4: Temple Israel Torah study at 10:30 AM. Later that day, we will have the "Let There Be Hanukkah Lights" event – a community candle lighting and catered dinner, to be held in tents outside at Temple Israel, co-sponsored by B'nai Jacob Congregation, and open to members of both congregations. Reservations are required: please call Shelly and David Winowich (not the Temple office). Attendees must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask when not eating. It begins at 5:30 PM.

Sunday, Dec. 5: Jewish Lit. at 4 PM.

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Tzedakah (Charity)

The West Virginia Council of Churches Interfaith Program Unit is undertaking a Tzedakah/Social Action project each month, starting this month. The first event is collecting new or gently-used towels and washcloths, toiletries, socks and underwear, which will then be delivered to Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, where the unhoused are being provided a safe space to shower. This type of self-care is especially important during cold weather. I am participating in this initiative, and hope that you will join me. You can drop off donations (items or funds—make checks payable to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, memo "WV Council of Churches") for this project at the Temple, and I will make sure they are delivered on Dec. 10.

Please continue to be generous in your giving – needs continue to run especially high in light of the Corona Virus Pandemic effects, natural and man-made disasters, and the effects of war, oppression, and violence. Note the many Tzedakah opportunities that we have supported over the years: Manna Meal, Covenant House, Sojourner's Shelter, RCCR, Mazon, AJWS, HIAS, Jewish Federated Charities of Charleston, JNF, and all the other worthy causes in our community and beyond, new and old.

Rabbi Joe Blair

December worship services & Torah study

Services are both online and in-person, unless the Temple board changes the attendance policy. Saturday morning Torah study isn't a service, so it is Zoom-only. If you aren't receiving emails from Rabbi Blair about Zoom sessions, please let him know.

Shabbat services are scheduled every Friday at 5:30 PM. Pre-service Shabbat online social begins at 5 PM. Please see safety guidelines below.

Friday, Dec. 3 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service with Torah — Parashah Miketz; Rosh Chodesh Hanukkah

Saturday, Dec. 4 at 10:30 AM Torah Study: Gen 41:1-44:17, Numbers 28:9-15, 7:42-47 (Online only.)

Friday, Dec. 10 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service

Friday, Dec. 17 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service

Friday, Dec. 24 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service

Friday, Dec. 31 at 5:30 PM Shabbat service with Torah — Parashah Va'eira

Saturday, Jan. 1 at 10:30 AM Torah Study: Ex. 6:2-9:35 (Online only)

The deadline for Adopt-A-Family donations has been extended to Dec. 6th. You can send a check— made payable to Temple Israel— to the Temple office, or contact Ditty Markham or Dona Hall. Please note: Donors to the 2021 Adopt-a -Family project will be acknowledged in the January 2022 Bulletin.

In-person attendance at Shabbat services is an option under board policy

From "Covid-19 Rules and Procedures for Reopening for Worship," which sets out the rules and procedures for those who choose to attend services in-person, and were adopted by the Temple Israel board of trustees Aug. 10, 2021: By way of overview, those Rules and Procedures provide that

"[T]hose congregants worshipping in-person in the Temple shall be fully vaccinated and masks shall be worn when in the Temple building. There will be no limit on the number of persons permitted to worship in the Sanctuary and no reservations are required. There will be no social distancing required, although worshippers may choose to social distance to the extent space permits. [N]o food will be served in the Sanctuary or social hall to keep our congregants safe. If announced in advance, there may be an opportunity for those attending in-person to gather before or after the service on the Temple grounds or in the social hall and foyer. Please remember that our goals are to meet the needs of our congregants who want in-person worship and to keep everyone as safe as possible."

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.

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Francine Thalheimer, *President*
Joseph M. Blair, *Rabbi*

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

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

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, when I try to avoid using devices that require me to type). In an emergency, please phone me, and if you leave a message, please express the urgent nature of the call.

Rabbi Blair



www.templeisraelwv.org

Visit the Temple website for updates and links to online resources

December yahrzeits

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

December 3rd

Mary Beth Chadwick (4)
 Fran Fahey (4)
 Frances B. Kay (4)
 Edward B. Cohen (5)
 Dr. Leonard M. Eckmann (5)
 Goldie Mendelsohn (5)
 Lavalie Bixby Hoss (6)
 Howard J. Klapper (6)
 Frederick Barkus (7)
 Marcus Lopin (7)
 Albert Thalheimer Jr. (7)
 Selma Widman (7)
 Frederic J. Glazer (8)
 Jean Loewenstein Lazarus (9)
 Rudolph Grinberg (10)
 Hershel R. Hark (10)
 Emma Rae Jones (10)
 Jo Marshuetz (10)

December 10th

Maxwell Lewis Broverman (11)
 Jess Cohn (11)
 Patricia Logan (13)
 Esther Darling Weingarden (13)
 Evelyn Forman (15)
 Severna "Cissie" Herman (15)
 Larry Zakin (15)
 Hugh M. Jones Jr. (16)

Sara Goldhirsh Dash (17)
 Teresa Roberts Davis (17)
 Manuel Pickus (17)

December 17th

Avraham Angel (18)
 Helen Baer (18)
 Robert Silverstein Sr. (19)
 Esther "Mickey" Baer (20)
 Samuel Rosen (21)
 Goldie Cohen (22)
 Naomi Jean Bright (24)
 Susan Fretwell (24)
 Zelda Plotkin (24)

December 24th

David Selinger (25)
 Kaethe Wells (25)
 Mildred Fleischmann (26)
 Beatrice H. Kleeman (26)
 Edward Doernberg (28)
 Paul Joseph Kaufman (28)
 Rose Jean Kaufman (28)
 Steven Miles Kaufman (28)
 Eva Waisburd (28)
 Nathan Forb (29)
 Dorothy Allen (30)
 George Badner (30)
 Suzie Greenwald Chaskin (30)



Photo by Greg Proctor

Sydney Joseph Kaufman (31)
 Otto Spiegler (31)

December 31st

Charles H. Levine (Jan. 1)
 Irma Lowenthal Swarts (Jan. 2)
 Coleman Jacobs (Jan. 4)
 Sidney Marks (Jan. 4)
 Dorothy Loeb (Jan. 5)
 Fedor Poppelsdorf (Jan. 5)
 Jean T. Goldman (Jan. 6)
 Anna Sloman (Jan. 6)
 Sarah Goldstein (Jan. 7)
 Harriet W. Margolis (Jan. 7)

Condolences are on p. 5

December at a Glance

Services are both in-person and online via Zoom and Facebook, unless the board changes the policy. However, all meetings, classes, programs, and events are online unless otherwise noted, via Zoom until further notice. If you aren't receiving emails from Rabbi Blair about these Zoom sessions, please let him know.*

Thursday, Dec. 2 at 10 AM – Talmud Class

Thursday, Dec. 2 at 4 PM – A Bissell Torah

Thursday, Dec. 2 at 6:30 PM – Two Charleston Rabbis

Friday, Dec. 3 at 5:30 PM – In-person and Online Shabbat service with Torah reading – Parashah Miketz; Rosh Chodesh Hanukkah

Saturday, Dec. 4 at 10:30 AM – Temple Israel Torah Study; Gen 41:1-44:17, Numbers 28:9-15, 7:42-47

Saturday, Dec. 4 at 5:30 PM – "Let There Be Hanukkah Lights" – candle lighting and dinner; outside at Temple Israel. Reservations required (contact Shelly and David Winowich). Co-sponsored by Temple Israel and B'nai Jacob Congregations.

Sunday, Dec. 5 at 4 PM – Jewish Literature.

Monday, Dec. 6 at 10 am – ZOOM Check-in

Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 10 AM – Torah Class

Thursday, Dec. 9 at 10 AM – Talmud Class

Thursday, Dec. 9 at 4 PM – A Bissell Torah

Thursday, Dec. 9 at 6 PM – Mazon program to address hunger issues in WV – a follow-up on the Oct. 27 Two Charleston Rabbis event, led by Lauren Banister of Mazon.

Friday, Dec. 10 at 5:30 PM – In-person and Online Shabbat service

Sunday, Dec. 12 at 10:30 AM – Temple Israel Sisterhood Board Meeting

Monday, Dec. 13 at 10 AM – ZOOM Check-in

Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 10 AM – Torah Class

(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:

Melissa Cadle
George Castelle
Patricia Cohen Coniglio
Harriet Deutsch and family
Jamie Dreifus
Jonathan Freedman
Arnie Hartstein
Mary Hogue
Margie Hutt
Mel Hutt
Dorothy Kurland
Ann Kushner
David Kushner
Roberta Lee Levine
Laura Malloy
Gary Markham
Paul and Caroline Ostand and the Smith family
Hedy Poppelsdorf
Linda Rubin
Olivia Sergot
Barbara Braun Tweddle
Natalie Winowich
Nick Winowich

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 anni-

versary or other life event worth celebrating! Among those we know who are/were to be acknowledged we include:

November: Toby Sherer, Sara Cohen, Donna Hark, Stefanie Simunic, Harriet Sutter, Lee Diznoff, Ken Kleeman, Jean Urecki, Ed Weisberg, Chip Borstein, Roger Forman, Natalie Cowley, Jennifer Stern, Natalie Cowley, Peggy Kundin, Mark Schaul (MILESTONE), Natalie Winowich, Marilyn Urecki, Sam Miller, Jane Hark, Roberto Kusminsky, Barbara Rubin, Sue Rubenstein, Melinda Susser, Barbara Buchanan, Marc Slotnick, David Pushkin, Debra Levine, Betty Stern, Jill Epstein, Gregg Stern, Eve Fingert, Linda Toborowsky, Steve Meyer, David Covey, Marty Pressman, Patrick Smolder, Anne Fishkin, Kim Aaron (MILESTONE), Judy Watkins-Rimmey, Avrah Urecki Leven, Jolleen Zacks, Kathie Kommor, Ellen Slotnick, Bruce Goldfarb

December: Marty Kommor, Ellie Schaul (MILESTONE), Ben Zacks, Beth Emrick, Ira Bloom, Steve Jubelirer, Joy Redmond, Barbara Braun & Allan Tweddle (MILESTONE), Cookie Glasser, John Sutter, Amy Bloom, Carol Pollock, David Feibelman, Harry Peck, Melissa Cadle, Marty Kanner, Sam Belsky, Ginny Kafka, Jackie Artz, Trigg Salsbery, Danita Nelhaus, Donna Grove, Gina Puzzuoli, Laura & Jace Goins, Dan Kurland, Steve Max (MILESTONE), Marion Baer, Arla Ralston & Roger Forman, Richard Spiegel, Phyllis & Harvey Sherman, Bruce Freeman, Nina Shinagel, Joy Kleeman, Fred Pollock, Yaakov Pushkin

January: Russ Emrick, Kristin Clendinning, Caroline Ostand, Barry Diznoff, Ken Silverstein, Elizabeth Kantor-Bright, David Kushner, Betty Diznoff, Nancy Boulianne, Dorothy Kurland, Mike Bloom, Tammy Nearman, Alvin Preiser, Richard Holicker, Sharon Rubin, Cindy Persily, Tiana Hall, Hedy Poppelsdorf, Richard Gottlieb, David Shapiro, Arnie Hartstein, Beth Winter

Mazal tov to Amy & David Shapiro on the birth of their grandson, Jude Warren Hildenbrand on Oct. 26 to parents Annie

December at a Glance—continued

(Continued from page 3)

- Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 PM – Temple board meeting
- Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 7 PM – Leora May Book Club (details TBA)
- Thursday, Dec. 16 at 10 AM – Talmud Class
- Thursday, Dec. 16 at 4 PM – A Bissell Torah
- Friday, Dec. 17 at Noon at St. Marks UMC in downtown Charleston
*outdoors: 12-12:15 PM:
Interfaith Service of Unity and Reconciliation (masks and social distancing required)
- Friday, Dec. 17 at 5:30 PM – In-person and Online Shabbat service
- Sunday, Dec. 19 at 4 PM – Jewish Literature
- Sunday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 PM – Charleston Death Café
- Monday, Dec. 20 at 10 AM – Zoom Check-in
- Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 10 AM – Torah Class
- Thursday, Dec. 23 at 10 AM – Talmud Class
- Thursday, Dec. 23 at 4 PM – A Bissell Torah
- Friday, Dec. 24 at 5:30 PM – In-person and Online Shabbat service
- Monday, Dec. 27 at 10 AM – Zoom Check-in
- Tuesday, Dec. 28 at 10 AM – Torah Class
- Thursday, Dec. 30 at 10 AM – Talmud Class
- Thursday, Dec. 30 at 4 PM – A Bissell Torah
- Friday, Dec. 31 at 5:30 PM – In-person and Online Shabbat service with Torah, Parashah Va'eira

Next Month

- Saturday, Jan. 1 at 10:30 AM – Temple Israel Torah Study: Ex. 6:2-9:35.
- Sunday, Jan. 2 at 4 PM – Jewish Literature

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Rabbi's Message, continued

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Mondays: Zoom Check-ins at 10 AM.

Tuesdays: Torah at 10.

Thursdays, Talmud at 10.

Thursdays, A Bissel Torah at 4 PM.

Fridays at 5:30 PM, in-person and online: Temple Israel Shabbat service.

Thursday, Dec. 9 at 6 PM: The follow-up to the Two Charleston Rabbis with Mazon event that took place Oct. 27. Lauren Banister of Mazon will facilitate this event, which will focus on concrete steps we can take to address hunger in West Virginia.

Saturday, Dec. 11: Nefesh Mountain concert at 7:30 PM at Temple Israel, preceded by Havdalah at 7 o'clock. Concert is co-sponsored by Temple Israel, B'nai Jacob Congregation, and Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston.

Sunday, Dec. 12 at 10:30 AM: Temple Israel Sisterhood board meeting.

Dec. 14 at 5:30 PM: Temple board of trustees meeting.

The Leora May Book Group is scheduled to meet Dec. 15, time and place TBA.

Sunday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 PM: Charleston Death Café.

There will be a Shabbat service with Torah on Friday, Dec. 31, at 5:30 PM, Parashah Va'eira, Ex. 6:2-9:35. Triennial reading Ex. 8:16-9:35.

Saturday, Jan. 1 at 10:30 AM: Temple Israel Torah Study.

Prayer Books

Please note: you may borrow prayer books for our Shabbat services. Contact the rabbi or Greg to arrange to pick one up. The Siddur for Sabbath and Holidays is also available as a flip book for free from the Central Conference of American Rabbis. See the Temple website for links to the CCAR.

Temple building projects

Committees have been busy with updates and maintenance, and it's wonderful to see how much has been accomplished. The TLC being lavished on our beautiful building is keeping it a comfortable and welcoming home for the congregation.

Services: opening of the Zoom session, entry to the building

When in-person attendance at worship services is permitted, those who are fully vaccinated are welcome to attend. Masks must be worn inside at all times. The doors to the building will be unlocked 15 minutes prior to the service's scheduled start time, then relocked 15 minutes after the service begins. To save wear-and-tear on those who are helping to keep our facility secure, please arrive during that half-hour window. If you arrive after the doors are relocked, please press the intercom button and wait for a response.

The online Zoom session of services will continue to be opened for social time 30 minutes prior to the service's scheduled start time. For a regular Shabbat or special evening service, the online Zoom session will open at 5 PM for a social time, and the service will commence at 5:30.

Until the Temple board determines otherwise and unless otherwise noted, all other events, programs, classes, and meetings will be held only online, not in-person inside the building. Any 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 twice-weekly Reminder 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 Temple board, or

committee members if you have any needs, suggestions, concerns, or questions. We are here for you.

Blessings & Salutations

I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was more than just turkey and football this year, and that you had and felt many reasons to be thankful. My prayer is that the light from the lamps of Hanukkah, our festival of lights, will enlighten the world around you, offering you an awareness of the many blessings, and illuminating the myriad of spiritual gifts, that surround you at all times. May you be filled by that light with warmth and awareness, and the feeling that you are a precious soul in the marvel of Creation. Chag Urim Sameach (happy festival of lights).

I look forward to seeing you, online or in-person.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace),

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair

RabbiJoeB@gmail.com

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In the Congregation, continued

(Continued from page 4)

and Pete Hildenbrand.

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 our condolences to Paul and Caroline Ostand and to the Smith family on the recent passing of Kevin Smith in Ohio. May those who mourn be comforted from heaven, and may the memories be for blessings.



Photo courtesy Nefesh Mountain



"A master class in string music: Nefesh Mountain preaches peace, understanding, and acceptance with musical muscle."
—*Rolling Stone*

Continued from the back cover—Nefesh Mountain in LIVE CONCERT Dec. 11 at Temple Original, spirited and uplifting Jewish-themed songwriting

Temple Israel, B'nai Jacob Congregation, and Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston present: Nefesh Mountain in LIVE CONCERT at Temple Israel on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 PM.

The Jewish Community is invited to join us at Temple Israel in-person, or online via Zoom, for a concert by one of the most exciting acts in Jewish-themed music today. Nefesh Mountain has appeared in concert to wide acclaim in many synagogues and temples, and at Jewish events throughout the country, as well as in some of the most prestigious venues for folk, bluegrass, and Americana music audiences.

Nefesh Mountain is a uniquely Jewish-American voice, fusing bluegrass and acoustic folk instrumentation with contemporary and traditional Jewish themes. The Temple's Congregational Enrichment Committee took interest in bringing the band to Charleston after its chair, Josh Barrett, saw them perform in South Carolina last

year: "I knew of Nefesh Mountain, and that they were a popular act performing for Jewish congregations and communities and URJ events, but

hearing and seeing them in person surpassed our expectations in every way. My wife Julie and I were knocked out by their musicianship, their virtuosic instrumental work, their spirited singing, and their original and uplifting Jewish-themed songwriting."

After a long delay due to Covid-19 related closures and cancellations, Nefesh Mountain has recently resumed touring. "When we learned they had been booked to perform in Charleston on NPR's locally produced radio show 'Mountain Stage' we jumped at the opportunity to have them perform a full-length concert for the

Jewish community here in Charleston. They agreed, and they are as thrilled to be able to play for us as we are to have

them." Thanks to financial help from Federated Jewish Charities, B'nai Jacob Congregation, and the Temple Israel board, the Congregational Enrichment Committee will present a truly memorable musical experience that will feature Hanukkah-themed songs, Nefesh Mountain originals, and some wonderful tunes written by Woody Guthrie.

Thanks to congregants Rich Katz and David Shapiro, who have provided technical support over the past year for beautiful live-streamed experiences at Temple Israel, members of the Jewish Community may attend the concert remotely on Zoom with a passcode-protected link to see the show.

Persons wishing to attend in-person at the Temple must be fully vaccinated and masks must be worn throughout the performance.

Seating will be limited. Those who wish to attend the concert in person at the Temple should notify us in advance.

Learn more about Nefesh Mountain at <https://www.nefeshmountain.com/>

Photo: Wikipedia



We will have a Havdalah event as part of the concert evening on Dec. 11, at around 7 PM. The featured performers from Nefesh Mountain will lead a Havdalah service prior to the start of the concert that night.

Our Thoughtful Contributors

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), should be made payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood with a note on the memo line telling us which fund the donation is for.

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. All donations made to this fund will be disbursed for one purpose: to help Temple members in financial distress.

Unrestricted donations or those to the Temple Israel Library or to the Reba and Charles Cohen Children's Library should be made payable to Temple Israel.

Please pay dues with a separate check.

If you are making a donation to more than one fund, **please write a separate check for each donation.**

Please mail your check to Temple Israel, 2312 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston WV 25311.

Sisterhood Message

Why I am looking forward with hope

Dear Sisters of Temple Israel Sisterhood:

With the most optimism and hope I've experienced in a long while, I feel as though we are turning a significant corner and learning how to manage the remains of Covid-19. Day by day, we seem to be returning to more of a normal existence.

My optimism is, in no small part, because we are looking forward to our Hanukkah dinner on Dec. 4, chaired by Shelly and David Winowich. The event promises to be different and unique in that we will be sitting outside in a heated tent, enjoying a catered dinner as we celebrate the holiday.

Also, less than a week after the Hanukkah dinner, we will have a Havdalah service on Dec. 11, led by the very talented musicians of the group Nefesh Mountain, who will be performing in concert that evening at Temple Israel for the Jewish community of Charleston.

Accordingly, I will be looking at the festivities that surround us in our daily lives, watching so many of our non-Jewish friends celebrate Christmas, as we prepare ourselves for welcoming in a brand-new year 2022! In our wildest dreams we never could've planned for a pan-

demic nor known what to do if one came, but lo and behold, it came and we did what we had to do, and yes, we survived! Respectfully speaking, many lives were lost, both throughout West Virginia and the United States, as well as around the world.

I hope as time moves us along following these events, we will be able to get back to more normalcy for our Sisterhood activities. My term as president of Sisterhood will conclude in May 2022, and while we have spent virtually no physical time together, we have done our very best to keep our organization intact and running smoothly, with general membership meetings and programs, as well as our monthly Sisterhood board meetings.

As I cite all of this optimism, I hope to see you at the Hanukkah Dinner, at the concert, and at services at Temple Israel. I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, and hope that you can share it with the people who mean the most to you!

Smiling from behind my face mask,

Millie Snyder,
Sisterhood President

Hanukkah lights in the dark

By - מלין - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=43625278>
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CandlesInTheDark.jpg>

Colorful dreidels2

By Adiel Io - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6587839>
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Colorful_dreidels2.JPG

Detail from a miniature in the Barcelona Haggadah, British Library Add MS 14761, fol. 26.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Havdal.jpg>

