

Shabbat Shalom!

Our Friday night Shabbat service for December 3rd, 2021 took place this evening as scheduled. We included Hanukkah and Rosh Chodesh in this service! It was a three Torah night! 😊

Our continuing appreciation to David Stern and Bob Morris for enhancing our services musically – they added much to our celebration of Hanukkah tonight!

Thanks to Betty Stern for lighting the Shabbat candles.

Many thanks to Judy Lundy and Betty Stern for assistance as the Gabbaim (Torah service helpers).

And appreciation to Judy for accepting the honor of the Aliyah for the Torah reading.

Thanks to Fran Thalheimer for offering us announcements for the week.

Once again, we appreciated Rich Katz's service as our technical guru!

If you want to have a role in our services, please be in touch with Ronni Spudich about lighting candles, or Betty Stern about an Aliyah. If you want to lead a reading, read Torah, or lead part of or a complete service, please contact me.

The service tonight was livestreamed to the Temple Facebook page (or at least, I believe it was). You should be able to view the recorded service from tonight on the Temple Facebook – Scroll down to find this service recording on the Temple page here: <https://www.facebook.com/2550469431660054/>

The recording of the Zoom service is found here - you should be able to download this version if you wish.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vDP7TVnNwPAntxTniGOY27GVD5VPOsf7/view?usp=sharing>

The board has voted to revert to the policy that the building will be open for in-person attendance at worship services. You are to be fully vaccinated and wearing a mask at all times in the building. Please also respect others wishes with regard to social distancing.

There is no entry to the building for any meetings, social events, classes, or programs, and no food or drink is being served.

The situation continues to be monitored, and will be re-evaluated periodically, especially in light of any new variants. If there is any change, we will send word as widely and in as many ways as we can. PLEASE continue to be careful and follow the guidelines. Please get vaccinated if you have not already done so; consider getting the booster when recommended, and be safe, be kind, and be well.

As always, I would love to hear from you. If you want to chat for a few minutes, please let me know. We have many options available - on the phone, in a zoom meeting, or by text or email. Whatever works best for you. You can just let me know when you want to talk and we can arrange a time, or tell me when you are free and I can get in touch with you. I do ask your indulgence – at times I get overwhelmed, and may be slower to respond to calls or messages; I appreciate your patience with me during those times. It is never that I don't want to talk to you; please accept that as a given.

I sent the Thursday REMINDER LINKS Email with links and details about accessing the events coming up over the weekend yesterday evening (Thursday) – please save it, or transfer the link information to your calendar. If you didn't get that REMINDER LINKS Email, or any other, please contact me and I will re-send it to you. I will be sending a SUNDAY REMINDER LINKS EMAIL – that will cover events during the period of Monday-Thursday of the coming week. Another Thursday Reminder Links Email will be sent out on Thursday next week with information on events from Friday thru Sunday of the coming weekend. A lot is planned – please check these messages.

If someone wishes to be added to our email list, we can arrange that – just ask them to let me know directly (by email or text), so we are sure not to 'spam' anyone.

SIDDUR (PRAYER BOOK)

In light of the changing circumstances, the CCAR is providing free flipbooks for Mishkan T'fillah. To view the flipbooks as well as other resources, including discounts on print books and materials, visit https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/resources-repaginated/#dfliip-df_10112/1/.

You can also arrange to borrow a Siddur (Prayer Book) for Shabbat, Festivals, and Weekdays by contacting me (the rabbi), or the office (Greg), and arranging a time to pick one up.

TZEDAKAH

There is a continuing and large need around the world – please consider giving Tzedakah to help.

Many major organizations (AJWS, HIAS, JWA, JFNA, JNF, Mazon, Federated Jewish Charities, for example) and local groups (Covenant House and RCCR, as some examples) are doing meaningful work and could use your help. Critical needs exist locally and around the world that are worthy of support – please choose those that match your values and help as much as you can.

OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES

If you have attended a Shabbat service recently, or listened to the recordings, you heard Fran Thalheimer listing many of the options for actions with the RAC, the Union for Reform Judaism, and the Women of Reform Judaism, and other groups. There are efforts in the areas of Voting Rights and multiple other social justice issues. If you are interested, please contact Fran, or the RAC, URJ, or WRJ directly for information.

I am sure you have seen the listing of items requested for the Adopt-A-Family that Temple Israel is sponsoring. If you have any questions, or wish to make a donation, Ditty Markham and Dona Hall are heading up this effort. See the Bulletin for details. The deadline has been extended to December 6th.

The WV Council of Churches Interfaith Program Unit has decided to undertake a tzedakah/social action project each month, starting in December 2021. The first event is on December 10th. We have decided that we will collect new or gently used towels and washcloths, toiletries, socks and underwear, which will be collected, and then delivered to Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, where the unhoused are being provided an opportunity to safely shower. This type of self-care is especially important during periods of cold weather. I am participating in this initiative, and hope that you will join me in doing so. You can drop off donations (items or funds) for this project at the Temple, and I will make sure they are delivered on the 10th.

There are other options; if you want to learn about them, please be in touch.

Torah Study

Tomorrow morning, Saturday, December 4th at 10:30 am, we will have our First Shabbat Torah study. The reading is Miketz – Genesis 41:1-44:17, with Numbers 28:9-15 and 7:42-47 as additional readings. The Haftarah is Zechariah 2:14-4:7. See the Thursday Reminder Links Email for the zoom access information.

Hanukkah Dinner

Tomorrow evening, Saturday, December 4th at 5:30 pm, Temple Israel and B'nai Jacob are offering a Hanukkah candle lighting and dinner for members of Temple Israel and B'nai Jacob. Those who wish to attend must be vaccinated and wear a mask when not eating. The title of this event is 'Let There Be Hanukkah Lights' – you are encouraged to bring your own Hanukiah and light candles there. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Shelly and David Winowich by phone or email. Dress warmly!

Wishing you a Shabbat shalom, and a Shavuah tov! Chag Urim Sameach! Stay safe and well.

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair