



# Temple Israel Bulletin

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November 2022  
Cheshvan / Kislev 5783

New York City's Central Park, Thanksgiving Day 2017

## Rabbi's Message

Shalom & greetings!

As I write this, we have just completed our service observing Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, the tail end of Sukkot (though the holiday actually runs through Monday night Oct. 17, or Oct. 18 for those observing a full 8 days). It has been almost a month of holidays and special events, in addition to our usual activities and observances. I felt really good about our High Holidays, and found it to be inspiring, uplifting and a source of joy to spend them with you – I sincerely hope you felt the same way. At the same time, I have to admit that I am a bit drained by all the activity and events – and I will be looking to ‘re-charge my batteries’ in the next several weeks so I can dive back in full-tilt for the rest of this year. I am grateful that there are no major holidays for a bit – until we arrive at Hanukkah, actually – and I will be looking forward to observing it with you. (Please note that a communal Hanukkah dinner is being planned, and mark Dec. 19 as the likely evening.)

The High Holy Days (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) seemed lovely, but I am not in a position to see them from the perspective of a congregant, so **I would very much appreciate your constructive feedback and comments about how we could make them better.** If you prefer, you are welcome to give your thoughts to

Ronni Spudich or other members of the Ritual Committee instead. The Committee will soon meet to evaluate the Holidays and plan ahead for next year.

I am aware of technical problems at some of the services and want to reassure you that we are working to resolve them. There are many interlocking pieces and parts, including a variety of software, hardware, equipment, installation, and operator training components, some of which are beyond our control (the internet, software updates, equipment failures, and so on). Please understand that everyone working on the streaming of services is doing their best. We will make it work, though there will probably be hiccoughs along the way. We all feel frustrated when it does not work perfectly, and rush to try to make it right, but it's most likely not going to be perfect 100% of the time. We hope you can be patient. I think all of us care about delivering the best possible experience, aiming as high as humanly possible. When things do go wrong, we heave-to and try to address it ASAP.

### Survey Results

Back in September, I asked for input on which calendar events you wanted to see retained, and how often and when you wanted them to be held. Thanks to all who responded with their preferences. All have been taken into account, and based on the majority of comments and suggestions, I've come up with a working calendar for this



**Save the date for the  
Community Hanukkah Event  
on Dec. 19 at Temple Israel—  
see p. 2 for details.**

year. I hope that it suits most of us: I couldn't fill all requests – some conflicted, and there were scheduling issues. Following the suggestions of the largest number responding was the major factor in my making decisions about scheduling.

Here's the schedule (at least until there is a need to change it) for religious services, classes, and events that are in my realm (please remember that other events, such as Sisterhood, Committee, and Board activities are scheduled by

*(Continued on page 7)*

# November Shabbat worship services & Torah study

**Religious services will be available for both in-person and online participation.**

**Torah study sessions are available on Zoom only.**

Friday, Nov. 4	5:30 PM	Shabbat service, followed by a covered dish dinner, hosted by Sisterhood
Sunday, Nov. 6	10:30 AM	Torah Study, Gen. 18:1-22:24
Friday, Nov. 11	5:30 PM	Shabbat service with Kristallnacht and Veterans Day Observed; Torah reading Parashah Vayera
Friday, Nov. 18	5:30 PM	Shabbat service
Friday, Nov. 25	5:30 PM	Shabbat service, lay-led
Friday, Dec. 2	5:30 PM	Shabbat service
Sunday, Dec. 4	10:30 AM	Torah study, Gen. 32:4-36:43

## Sept. & Oct. Highlights, and thanks to all who made the Holidays so special

The following is a list of the most significant events that took place since September, from my perspective.

High Holiday preparations and the services for Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah.

Additional preparation for Shabbat Shuvah, services including Torah Readings, Torah Study sessions

Preparations for and leading the Hal Selinger Memorial Celebration of Life

WV Council of Churches Board Retreat - Dismantling Racism Task Force, preparations and participation

WV Civil & Human Rights Stakeholders Summit: Building Bridges, Diversity in WV panel, preparations and participation

WV Faith Table: Executive Committee work

WV Faith Table: Communications Committee work

Don Deutsch unveiling ceremony

Participation in multiple system tests for video and sound issues

A Note of Appreciation at the Conclusion of the High Holidays

Putting on the High Holy Day services and all the related events is no small task, and it only happens because members of our congregation and community step up and support these major events in our communal life.

In addition to acknowledging our "staff" members, I want to express thanks personally to all who were involved in making this happen, in every possible way, from participating in services, accepting honors, sitting on the bimah, opening/closing the Ark, serving as Gab-baim, to setting tables, arranging flowers, cooking, donating, plating food, helping to serve, pitching in to clean up, to bringing food donations and sending money for Mazon and other Tzedakah, and including every other way any of you were involved in making our holidays so very special.

I am not going to try to name all those who participated in this way – I would miss someone, and that would make me feel terrible, because EVERY SINGLE PERSON who helped was key to

making it a time of celebration and joy, allowing us to offer an uplifting and meaningful holiday period. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! May we celebrate together many times in future!

*Rabbi Joe Blair*

### Joint Temple-Synagogue Hanukkah Celebration on Dec. 19 at the Temple

The Community Hanukkah Event will be held Monday, Dec. 19 at 5:30 PM at the Temple.

This will be a catered dinner, so reservations are required. Temple-member RSVPs must be called in ONLY to event co-chair Shelly Winowich, NOT the Temple office.

Attendance is limited to members of Temple Israel and B'nai Jacob Synagogue.

*Please let the Temple office know if you're moving, or if you have new contact info such as new email address or phone number, or if you've dropped your landline.*

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# November Yahrzeits

*Names are read the Friday evening prior to the Yahrzeit date, which is beside the name.*

## November 4th

Louis D. Glass	Nov. 5
Louis Goldfarb	Nov. 5
Phineas Berenson	Nov. 6
Charles McHale	Nov. 6
Floy M. Sessions	Nov. 6
Eleanor "Ellie" Burka	Nov. 7
Carl H. Lehman	Nov. 7
Michael M. "Mike" Margolis	Nov. 7
Edwin Stabins	Nov. 7
Hyman Gilman	Nov. 9
Joseph Gottlieb	Nov. 10
Florine Marks Isaac	Nov. 10
Susan Jubelirer Nesi	Nov. 10
Sam Badner	Nov. 11
Louis Cohen	Nov. 11
Lilla Wolf	Nov. 11

## November 11th

Barbara Brooks	Nov. 12
Isaac Salem	Nov. 12
Albert Schwabe	Nov. 12
Alma Bernheimer	Nov. 13
Milton Gottlieb	Nov. 13
Ellis C. Amburgey Sr.	Nov. 14
Anna Gersman	Nov. 14
Bernard Gottlieb	Nov. 14
David H. Kahn	Nov. 14

Jean Merz Klee	Nov. 14
Sydney M. Kleeman	Nov. 15
Herbert Gottlieb	Nov. 17
Minnie H. Kahn	Nov. 17

## November 18th

Anna Barton	Nov. 19
Harry Fleischmann	Nov. 19
Franc Stern	Nov. 19
H. H. Wills	Nov. 20
Esther Mendeloff	Nov. 21
Edith Hartley Aaron	Nov. 22
Frances W. Freedman	Nov. 22
Nina Poppelsdorf	Nov. 22
Sadie Shane	Nov. 22
Edith Burnett	Nov. 24
Arthur Weisberg	Nov. 24

## November 25th

Minnie Hess	Nov. 26
Morton A. Lewis	Nov. 26
Harriet B. "Cissy" Abrams	Nov. 27
Jearoll Casto	Nov. 27
Louis Jordan	Nov. 27
Doris Kleeman Leopold	Nov. 27
Reba Markstein Lindenber	Nov. 27
Max Feinberg	Nov. 28
Jane R. Glaser	Nov. 28



Photo by Greg Proctor

Bernard H. Jacobson	Nov. 28
Carol Katz	Nov. 28
Robert "Bob" Albert	Nov. 29
Jacob Solon Broida	Nov. 29
Reba Blustein Cohen	Nov. 29
Bob Baer	Nov. 30
Maxine Stabins	Nov. 30
Joanne Mendeloff Misaqi	Dec. 1
Cherie Cremer	Dec. 2
Hannah Kaplan	Dec. 2

*Condolences are on p. 4*

# November at a Glance

*This is a projected calendar of events; it has not been finalized and may be incomplete. Religious services are both in-person and online. Please check Rabbi's twice-weekly emails to find out which classes, programs, and events are online or in-person. If you aren't receiving emails from Rabbi Blair, please let him know.*

Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 6:15 PM—Two Charleston Rabbis

Thursday, Nov. 3 at 4:15 PM – A Bissel Torah

Friday, Nov. 4 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Friday, Nov. 4 after the service – covered dish dinner, hosted by Sisterhood

Sunday, Nov. 6 at 10:30 AM – Torah Study, Gen. 18:1-22:24

Sunday, Nov. 6 at 4:15 PM – Jewish Literature

Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 5:30 PM – Temple Israel board of trustees meeting

Thursday, Nov. 10 at 4:15 PM – A Bissel Torah

Friday, Nov. 11 at 5:30 PM –Shabbat service with Kristallnacht and Veterans Day Observed; Torah reading Parashah Vayera

Monday, Nov. 14 at 10 AM – Zoom Leadership Check-in

Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 6 PM – Leora May Book Club; location TBA

Thursday, Nov. 17 at 4:15 PM – A Bissel Torah

Friday, Nov. 18 at 5:30 PM - Shabbat Service

Thursday, Nov. 24 & 25 – Thanksgiving: Temple office closed

Friday, Nov. 25 at 5:30 PM –Shabbat service, Lay Led

Sunday, Nov. 27 at 7 PM—Charleston Death Café

## Next Month

Thursday, Dec. 1 at 4:15 PM – A Bissel Torah

Friday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 PM –Shabbat service

Sunday, Dec. 4 at 10:30 AM – Torah study, Gen. 32:4-36:43



## In the Congregation & Community

(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 during the time since the last bulletin article who agreed to have their name listed:

Alan Fleischmann  
Jonathan Freedman  
Karl Gattlieb  
Dona Hall  
Margie Hutt  
Mel Hutt  
Gloria Kelley  
Dorothy Kurland  
David Kushner  
Laura Malloy  
Gary Markham  
Debbie Matthews  
Carolyn Ostand  
Hedy Poppelsdorf  
Mark Schaul  
The Thalheimer Family  
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 others 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:

October: **Mary Hart, Richard Hess**, Kathy Schulberg, Nikki Druckman, Norman Schlacht, **Ina Angel, Ladonna & David Kushner**, Steve Loew, **Julie Schaul, Nick Winowich (MILESTONE)**, Ari White, Bunker Carp Frank, Dolores Bloom, **Doris & Jack Goldfarb**, Bob Schwarz, **Gary Winter**, David Brown, **Marlo Weisberg, Nancy & Ray Dodson**, Aaron Persily, Judy Masinter, Neil Kessler, Bruce Sorgman, Jessica Bloom, Sema Fineberg, Alan Cohen, David Katzeff, Ross Abrams, Terry Preiser, Karen Freedman, Evie Breidenstein, **Millie Snyder (MILESTONE)**, Sallie Levenson, **Alan Fleischmann**, Deborah Levenson, Ilene Sheff Goodman, Blaire Malkin, Ellen Saxe Kanner, Steve Rubin, **Marsha Platnick, Deborah Sonis, Gloria Kelley**, Terrace Nason, Bruce Goldfarb, **Ann Fishkin & Bill Kroesser**, Karen Pressman, Mick Schwartz, Nancy Morton, Debbie Ebner

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

December: **Ellie Schaul**, Cindy Feltzin, Marty

Kommor, Ben Zacks, **Beth Emrick**, Beth Bloom, **Steve Jubelirer (MILESTONE)**, Ira Bloom, Joy Redmond, **Barbara Braun & Allan Tweddle, Cookie Glasser, Robert Hess**, Amy Bloom, Carol Pollock, **David Feibelman**, Harry Peck, Marty Kanner, Sam Belsky, **Melissa Cadle (MILESTONE)**, Ginny Kafka, **Jackie Artz**, Trigg Salsbery, Danita Nelhous, Caleb Leven, Donna Grove, Gina Puzzuoli, **Laura & Jace Goins, Ellyn & Ed Goldberg**, Dan Kurland, Steve Max, **Marion Baer, Arla Ralston & Roger Forman**, Richard Spiegel, Bruce Freeman, Melissa & Art Rubin, Nina Shinagel, **Phyllis & Harvey Sherman (MILESTONE)**, Joy Kleeman, Fred Pollock, Yaakov Pushkin

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)***

Baruch Dayan Haemet. Temple Israel shares condolences with Amy and David Shapiro on the recent death of Amy's brother-in-law Allan Shumofsky, in Connecticut, and to Amy's sister Claire Shumofsky and family. May the memory be a blessing, and may those who mourn be comforted from heaven.

Baruch dayan haemet. Temple Israel extends condolences to Julie Margolis and all of the family on the recent death of her mother, Moira F. Flanagan, age 101, in Vermont. May the memory be a blessing, and may those who mourn be comforted from heaven.

Baruch Dayan Haemet. Temple Israel shares condolences with the family of Willis "Junior" Johnston, Temple Israel's former custodian, on his recent death. May the memory be a blessing, and may those who mourn be comforted from heaven.



**Sisterhood Message****Thanks to those who welcomed us into the Temple for High Holy Days services—a sacred and moving experience**

After our beautiful High Holy Days Services in our Temple, a congregant approached me to comment on how meaningful it was to sit in the Sanctuary once more and absorb the spirituality of the services and especially the familiar music.

With security measures in place and a lull in our Covid count, it was indeed a pleasure to feel the warmth of a partially-full congregation for these sacred and moving services. Of course, thanks to our Zoom station and technical experts, we were able to offer all services to members who chose to participate from their homes.

I appreciate the effort of everyone involved in the re-opening of our Temple doors to welcome the New Year in such a festive way, including the Rosh Hashanah reception and the Break-Fast following the Yom Kippur evening service. It was also a pleasure to meet and greet our new members from the Parkersburg-Marietta Jewish Community who drove in to attend.



*Photo by Greg Proctor*

Musing about November 2022, and the “Covid Effect” still looming over our in-person participation at Temple Israel: I wonder when or “if ever” we will have seats filled at services and other events and business as usual?

As far as our Sisterhood is concerned, we have streamlined our meeting schedule and are considering utilizing Zoom as well as in-person meetings this year. I appreciate all comments and/or suggestions from our members on how to proceed as an active arm of our congregation. We are a positive influence in our community.

Our national organization WRJ is stressing our getting out the vote in order to preserve our rights as women and I would hope that our members are heeding this plea.

*Marsha Albert, Sisterhood President*

**Additional photo credits—thanks Wikimedia Commons!****Masthead—Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade 2017**

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Macys\\_Thanksgiving\\_Parade\\_\(37733875745\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Macys_Thanksgiving_Parade_(37733875745).jpg)

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**Front page—Lit Hanukkiyah**

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**Back page—****Candles in the Dark**

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

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**Coast Guard at the Maryland Food Bank in Halethorpe, Md., Feb. 2, 2011**

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Volunteers\\_assist\\_food\\_bank\\_DVIDS1099790.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Volunteers_assist_food_bank_DVIDS1099790.jpg)

Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert Brazzell, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons





Organizers of the Temple's High Holy Days food drive appreciate the congregation's generous response. Your donations of non-perishables were delivered to the food pantry at Covenant House, which serves the needy in the Charleston area. Special thanks go to Betty Stern and Richard Hess for transporting bags and bags of groceries!

Bags photo & Leaves photo by Greg Proctor

*Sisterhood is hosting a covered dish dinner Friday, Nov. 4, right after the Shabbat service. Watch your email for details.*

## Our Thoughtful Contributors

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



*Save the date for the Community Hanukkah Event on Monday evening, Dec. 19 at Temple Israel*

## ***Tzedakah means so much to so many in need, and is a blessing to all of us***

I keep saying it, but it is always true. Please be generous — needs locally, nationally, and around the world continue to run very high in light of the many issues, including natural and man-made disasters, limitations on immigration, and the effects of war, oppression, and violence that are seen widely.

Needs are extreme, both domestically in the United States and overseas. Please be generous and do what you can, wherever you can.

Please note the many Tzedakah opportunities that we have

supported over the years: Manna Meal, Covenant House, Sojourner's Shelter, RCCR, Mazon, AJWS, HIAS, Charleston Jewish Federated, JNF, and all the other worthy causes in our community and beyond, new and old, and offer whatever support you are able.

Tzedakah is among the highest of all mitzvot possible; may your heart be moved to give a little bit more than you otherwise might, may your generosity be a blessing for those who receive it, and may that blessing reflect back onto you and your loved ones.

*Rabbi Joe Blair*

## Rabbi's Message, continued

(Continued from page 1)

others, and are listed elsewhere):

**A Bissell Torah.** Online, weekly on most Thursdays, at 4:15 PM (but canceled in any given week when there's a holiday or other events that conflict). Please note the change in time.

**Charleston Death Café.** Online, monthly on the last Sunday (this would be the fourth Sunday, or the fifth Sunday when there are five Sundays in a month) at 7 PM. Please note the change in time and the date.

**Havdalah.** These services will be in-person and online, on selected Saturdays at 7 PM, held three times during the year: Dec. 10, Feb. 25 & May 6.

**Jewish Literature.** Online, every third week on Sundays at 4:15 PM, starting Nov. 6. Please note the date and time changes.

**Torah Study.** Online (until an adequate system for hybrid participation can be worked out for events held outside the Sanctuary). It will be held monthly on the first Sunday at 10:30 AM.

**Two Charleston Rabbis.** Online, monthly, on the first Wednesday at 6:15 PM. (It will be canceled or rescheduled in any given week when holidays or other events conflict). Please note the change in time.

**Zoom Check-ins.** This is a significant revision, including its being renamed *Zoom Leadership Check-ins*. This will be online, monthly on the second Monday of the month at 10 AM, with one or more members of the Temple board in attendance. History: the check-in was established to keep the congregation and community in contact during the Pandemic, particularly while we couldn't meet in person, none of which is still the case. Over time, these sessions became opportunities for committees to share information about what was happening or planned in the congregation and community. Some participants specifically wanted to include congregational officers, to hear news and

to share concerns. If additional meetings to conduct congregational or committee business are needed, or there is a desire to have a different type of meeting for socialization, those can be scheduled independent of the **Zoom Leadership Check-in**, but not necessarily as ongoing events.

### B'nai Jacob-based Classes

Classes held with B'nai Jacob Congregation (using Rabbi Urecki's Zoom account; announced by Rabbi Urecki with links in his newsletter). I will be participating in some of these classes, and invite you to join with me.

**Torah Class.** Online and in-person, weekly on Tuesdays at 10 AM, starting Nov. 1.

**Talmud Class.** Online and in-person, weekly on Thursdays at 10 AM starting Nov. 3.

**Adult Hebrew Class.** Online and in-person, or via recordings, 10 AM. It started Oct. 24. Email [nancy@bnaijacob.com](mailto:nancy@bnaijacob.com) for information or to register. (I know little about this class, but am listing it to inform anyone interested.)

### Thoughts, Blessings, & Salutations

The High Holy days bring home the theme of judgement and our fate - we hear it in the Unetaneh Tokef prayer, asking who shall live and who die; we speak it in the confessional prayers we recite listing the catalog of sins we may have committed or allowed to occur in our community; it is driven home in the metaphor that is included in our liturgy concerning the book of judgement, in which G-d inscribes our fate based on what we have done in the past year, and how we have approached the process of Teshuvah (repentance and return) over the holiday season. The liturgy speaks of Yom Kippur as the day on which G-d closes that book, having entered the appropriate judgement for each living being, with Ne'ilah, the Concluding service of Yom Kippur described as our last opportunity to make amends.

There is, however, another tradition that speaks to G-d as merciful, compassionate, and gracious, and in this light Yom Kippur is not the last moment for Teshuvah. Seeing G-d as a loving and forgiving father figure, this tradition teaches that even after Yom Kippur ends, and the book is closed, with our fate written in it, G-d offers us yet a little more leeway. Up until the conclusion of Simchat Torah, it tells us, we can still repent and return, we can still make amends, we can still seek to effect a tikkun and turn to the correct path, and up to that time G-d is still willing to re-open that book and amend the judgement in light of our sincere Teshuvah. It is only after Simchat Torah that the book of life is finally sealed, according to this tradition.

This additional opportunity to effect change and reconnect with G-d and the person we are meant to be is, at least in my thoughts, an additional reason that the period of Sukkot and Simchat Torah is identified as "zman simchateinu" – the time of our rejoicing. Not only do we celebrate the bounty of creation and G-d's gifts, we also rejoice that we have been granted additional time to complete the necessary work and take the steps to be reunited with G-d, re-oriented to the correct path, and renewed in our determination to live in accordance with the guidelines and lessons that we have been gifted in the Torah.

Truly, all of this is ample reason to rejoice. May this period of zman simchateinu be, for all of us, not only the time, but more - our lived experience and our reality at this moment and throughout 5783.

As before, I wish you all possible blessings, and a Shanah Tovah Umetukah Tichateimu – may you be sealed for a good and sweet new year.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace),

Joe

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