

# Temple Israel Bulletin

Tu B'Shevat observed at Shabbat service February 3rd

Volume LXXXII  
Bulletin No. 6

[Almond landscape in Andalusia region of Spain—Wikimedia Commons](#)

February 2023  
Shevat / Adar 5783



Photo by N. David Stern

## ***Sisterhood for the holidays: delivering Hanukkah gift bags and preparing breakfast for Sojourner's Shelter***

The Helen F. Thalheimer Care Committee of Temple Israel Sisterhood delivered Hanukkah bags to 17 members of our Temple community. Thanks to Lynn Gattlieb, Beth and Gary Winter, and Betty and David Stern for helping with delivery.

Sisterhood provided Christmas Day breakfast for families at Sojourner's Shelter. Also, Sojourners had requested that juice boxes were needed for children during winter break, and Sisterhood was glad to provide them.

*Care Committee*

*(Continued on page 4)*

## ***Message from the Temple president***

## **Temple security is everyone's concern—learning best practices**

*Dear Members of the Temple Israel Community:*

At the January board of trustees meeting, the Co-Chairs of the Security Committee, David Shapiro and David McAfee, addressed security concerns. With the rise in hate and anti-Semitism, the board felt a conversation regarding Temple safety was in order. Our discussion focused on security cameras inside and outside our Temple. The Security Committee will follow up with more information about cameras and grant

opportunities in the next few weeks.

The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) has encouraged Reform congregations to review security practices. Recently, the URJ hosted "The Power of Hello" webinar with Secure Community Network (SCN), which is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Used effectively, the right words can be a powerful tool when security issues arise. Simply saying "Hello" can prompt a casual conversation with a person, providing an

opportunity for Temple clergy, staff, and members, to observe and establish a connection. It also enables individuals to observe and evaluate suspicious behaviors, empowering them to lower risks and obtain help when necessary.

The SCN also presented "Surviving Hostage Situations" in January. The webinar presented practical steps to take at the onset, duration, and resolution of a hostage situation. Panelists included a

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Shabbat worship services & Torah study

**Religious services are both in-person and online (Zoom and Facebook)**

**Torah study sessions are online only (Zoom)**

Friday, Feb. 3	5:30 PM	Shabbat service, with Tu B'Shevat observance and Refugee Shabbat included, followed by a covered dish dinner, hosted by Sisterhood
Sunday, Feb. 5	10:30 AM	Torah study, Ex 18:1-20:23, Parashah Yitro, online ONLY
Friday, Feb. 10	5:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Torah, Parashah Yitro (Lay-led)
Friday, Feb. 17	5:30 PM	Shabbat service, and Reproductive Rights Shabbat
Friday, Feb. 24	5:30 PM	Shabbat service
Saturday, Feb. 25	7:00 PM	Havdalah service
Friday, March 3	5:30 PM	Shabbat service with Purim observance, followed by a covered dish dinner, hosted by Sisterhood
Sunday, March 5	10:30 AM	Torah study, Exodus 30:11-34:35; Numbers 19:1-22, online ONLY

## In the Congregation & Community

### **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:

Marsha Albert and family: David Pushkin, Christi Peraino, Lesli Kay, and Michael Pushkin

Arthur Epstein

Johnny Ferrara

Jonathan Freedman

Karl Gattlieb

Jack Goldfarb

Dona Hall

Margie Hutt

Mel Hutt

Gloria Kelley

Myla Kreinik

Delia Kurland

Laura Malloy

Gary Markham

Hedy Poppelsdorf

Zelda Pushkin and family

Allan Tweddle

Barbara Braun Tweddle

Gayle Twigger-Shaw

Rabbi Victor Urecki (Harav Avigdor

Chayim ben Eliahu Noach ve Rachel)

Natalie Winowich

Nick Winowich

Beth Steinberg Winter

Rachel Leah bat Shayna Chaya veShmuel

All who are impacted by the Pandemic or other illnesses

All affected by natural or man-made disasters, war or violence

All others in need of prayers for healing and wholeness

### **Baruch Dayan Ha'emet (Condolences):**

Temple Israel extends our deepest condolences to Marsha Albert and her family including Zelda Pushkin, David Pushkin and Christi Peraino, Michael Pushkin, Lesli Kay, and Grace Pushkin on the recent unexpected and tragic death of Kai Pushkin, age 5 months, in Charleston. Baruch dayan haemet. A private interment was held at the Temple Israel Cemetery. May the memories be for a blessing, and may all the mourners be comforted from heaven.

Temple Israel extends our deepest condolences to Sandy Murphy and Charlie Loeb and their family on the recent death of Sandy's mother at the age of 95. Baruch dayan haemet – may the memories be for a blessing, and may all the mourners be comforted from heaven.

### **Mazal Tov (Congratulations):**

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

*(Continued on page 6)*

*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, especially if you've dropped your landline.*

**TEMPLE ISRAEL**  
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(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

## February Yahrzeits—names are read at the Shabbat service prior to the Yahrzeit date

### February 3rd

Leora Osgood May	Feb. 4	Rose Brady	Feb. 16
Ruth Teichman	Feb. 5	Jacob Kandel	Feb. 16
John Warren	Feb. 5	Jerome Warner Schwabe	Feb. 16
Myron "Mike" Greenwald	Feb. 6	Clara Price	Feb. 17
Leonard Ingraham	Feb. 6	Gershon Spivack	Feb. 17

Dorothy Stack	Feb. 6		
Dorothy Stack	Feb. 6		
Mary Weisberg	Feb. 6		
Charles Ardman	Feb. 7		
Carl M. Beren	Feb. 7		
Esther Fisher Beren	Feb. 7		
Nat Jurin	Feb. 7		
Fannie Bryan Kahn	Feb. 7		
Harry Silverstein	Feb. 7		
Louise Herzog Sclove	Feb. 8		
Morris Siegler	Feb. 8		
Bernard L. Wasserman	Feb. 8		
Joseph Weisberg	Feb. 8		
Barbara Reinfeld	Feb. 10		

### February 10th

Lorene Adler	Feb. 11		
Irving Badner	Feb. 11		
Louise Parker	Feb. 11		
Helaine Rotgin	Feb. 11		
Garald F. "Gary" Allen	Feb. 13		
Sylvia G. Goldman	Feb. 13		
Alan A. Greenspon	Feb. 14		
Roselind Case	Feb. 15		
Norma Cohn	Feb. 15		
Dr. Morris I. Mendeloff Sr.	Feb. 15		
Clara Warner Schwabe	Feb. 15		

### February 17th

Isadore J. Berman	Feb. 18		
Doris Mack	Feb. 18		
Newton Margolis	Feb. 18		
Miriam Mayer	Feb. 18		
Aaron Cohen	Feb. 19		
Fannie Galperin	Feb. 20		
Philip Frankenberger	Feb. 21		
Howard Michael Levinson	Feb. 21		
Helen Tweddle	Feb. 21		
Melvin H. Hager	Feb. 22		
Pauline Reinfeld	Feb. 22		
Irma Rose	Feb. 22		
June Warhoftig	Feb. 22		
Betsy Gooding	Feb. 23		
Doris Lewis	Feb. 23		
Sylvia Berman	Feb. 24		
Rachel Cassidy	Feb. 24		
Samuel Cremer	Feb. 24		
Henry Greenberg	Feb. 24		
Sadie W. Levin	Feb. 24		

### February 24th

Rabbi Abraham Feinberg	Feb. 25		
Hazel Westen	Feb. 25		
Harry Beren	Feb. 26		
Annette Cohen Hark	Feb. 26		



Photo by Greg Proctor

Anne Shore Levinson	Feb. 27
Ida Schwartz Preiser	Feb. 27
Rebecca Taub Godfrey	Feb. 28
Ruth Schuchat Pilchik	Feb. 28
Laura Loeb Small	Feb. 28
Marcus "Bill" Thalheimer	Feb. 28
Gitta Yunker	Feb. 28
Frances Sokolovsky	March 1
Fred A. Bloomberg	March 2
Harry Grossman	March 2
Leah Klein	March 2
Marianne Lewent	March 2
Natalie Melman	March 2
Frank A. Baer Sr.	March 3
Barbara G. Bernstein	March 3
Alex Fahn	March 3
Sally Greenstein	March 3
Benjamin Machanoff	March 3
Erwin Mayer	March 3
Adele Lehman Metzel	March 3
Louis Tolchinsky	March 3

*Condolences on p. 2*

## February at a Glance

*This is a projected calendar of events; it may be incomplete or might be changed after the Bulletin is published. Services are both in-person and online/virtual. All meetings, classes, programs, and events are both in-person and virtual unless otherwise announced. Masking is requested; full vaccination is required to attend in person. If you aren't receiving emails from Rabbi Blair about these online sessions, please let him know.*

Thursday, Feb. 2 at 4:15 PM – A Bissell Torah, online only  
 Friday, Feb. 3 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, with Tu B'Shevat observance and Refugee Shabbat included, followed by a covered dish dinner, hosted by Sisterhood.  
 Sunday, Feb. 5 at 10:30 AM - Torah study, Ex 18:1-20:23, online only, Parashah Yitro  
 Thursday, Feb. 9 – NO A Bissell Torah  
 Friday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 PM –Shabbat

Service with Torah, Parashah Yitro (Lay-led)  
 Monday, Feb. 13 at 10 AM - Zoom Leadership Check-in, online only  
 Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 5:30 PM – Temple Israel board of Trustees meeting  
 Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 6 PM – Leora May Book Club (location TBA)  
 Thursday, Feb. 16 at 4:15 PM – A Bissell Torah, online only

(Continued on page 6)



## Rabbi's Message, continued

(Continued from page 1)

Tu B'Shevat, the 15th day of the month of Shevat, known as the New Year for the Trees, our holiday marking creation and the environment, and fulfilling the mitzvah to allow a tree to develop a strong and healthy root system before commercially harvesting produce from it, is on Feb. 6 (we will observe it in the Shabbat service Feb. 3, along with Refugee Shabbat and Shabbat Shirah).

On Feb. 17, we will hold another special Shabbat: Shabbat Shekalim, and the Torah reading is from Parashah Mishpatim. In addition, this is Reproductive Rights Shabbat, including special readings and a guest to deliver the dvar Torah, Alannah Boyle of NCJW.

Rosh Chodesh (the start of the new month) for Adar is Feb. 21 & 22.

The 7th of Adar, the day set aside to honor Chevrah Kadisha members, is on Feb. 28. This date is selected because it is understood to be the day on which Moses died, and G-d served as the Chevrah Kadisha for him, so the human members of the Chevrah Kadisha are given the day "off."



[Wikimedia Commons](#)

The Fast of Esther is on March 6 – this is an observance to remember the fast that Esther asked all the Jews to undertake with her as she prepared to go before the king without being summoned.

Then, the holiday of Purim itself falls on March 7 (and we will observe it in the Shabbat service March 3). This is also

Shabbat Zachor, the sabbath of remembrance, when we recall the evil that was intended by Amalek, connected by the Rabbis midrashically with Haman.

The following week is Shabbat Parah – the sabbath of the red heifer, on March 10 -11; we read from Parashah Ki Tisa (Exodus 30:11-34:35; Numbers 19:1-22).



[Wikimedia Commons](#)

On March 17-18 we observe Shabbat Hachodesh, marking the beginning of the month in which Passover will fall. The Parashah read is the combined portion of Vayakhel-Pekudei.

Rosh Chodesh Nisan is March 23.

Parashah Vayikra is read March 24-25.

Shabbat Hagadol, the Great Sabbath, the one immediately prior to the start of the festival of Passover, falls on March 31 - April 1. The Parashah read is Tzav.

Finally, on April 5 is Ta'anit Bechorot, the fast of the first born. This lasts until sundown, when we begin the festival of Passover, and hold the first Seder. (This is when our Temple Israel congregational Seder will be held, so please make note of it.) Passover runs from the first day on April 6 through the 7th day of the holiday on April 13 (extending to the 14th for those who follow the custom of eight days).

We begin to count the Omer starting the evening of April 6 or day of the 7th, marking off 49 days, which brings us up to Shavuot.

As you can see, a lot will be going on – and it continues following Passover!

This means that our calendar is busy and full. I know that I, your officers and board members, and committee members

are all trying to best serve our congregation and community, and to offer meaningful, inviting, and engaging services, programs, classes and activities.

### ***You are why we're here***

But all is for naught, without you. You are the reason we work so hard and do what we do.

I know that not every event is of interest to all – and we may not be hitting the right thing(s) to appeal to you – so won't you please let us know what you want? What we are missing, how we can do better? Offer us your ideas and suggestions, both for events to schedule and how to encourage people to participate!

### ***Highlights since the last Bulletin***

The following is a list of significant events, from my perspective (Please see the Temple website for full descriptions.)

Regular and ongoing events, including:

Shabbat services, including those with Torah readings, monthly covered dish dinners, and weekly Oneg Shabbatot; Torah Study; the Zoom Leadership Check Ins; Charleston Death Café; Jewish Literature; A Bissell Torah (focusing on the tales and sichot of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov)

WV Council of Churches: Dismantling Racism Task Force

WV Council of Churches: Interfaith Program Unit

WV Faith Table: democracy and voting rights support

I took part in the 2023 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration and Celebration, offering a prayer, at the WV Culture Center on Jan. 16, and also attended the MLK Day celebration at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in St. Albans.

I participated (and will continue to do so) in these organizations: WV Faith Leaders Network; WV Clergy Committed to Human & Civil Rights; WV Clergy for Reproductive Choice; WV Cares

(Continued on page 5)

***Sisterhood Message*****Thanks for making Shabbat dinners wonderful; WRJ March convention in Ocean City: think about joining us there!**

We had our most recent Shabbat Pot Luck Dinner Friday evening, Jan. 6 after services and it was well attended. The food, as always, was delicious. It is wonderful getting together to eat and schmooze with old friends as well as meeting new friends.

The Women of Reform Judaism's Mid-Atlantic District is having a convention on March 23 - 26 at the Grand Hotel and Spa in Ocean City, Md. Please consider joining us. We can discuss it at our Sisterhood board meeting that will be held Feb. 19 at 11 AM.

*Ina Angel, Sisterhood Vice-President*

***Rabbi's Message, continued***

*(Continued from page 4)*

Dementia Advisory; WV Civic Engagement Table; WV Citizen Action Group; WVU OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Initiative) online courses, teaching "More Midrash: Diving in Again" Feb. 7 & 14.

Certainly not a highlight, but something very significant: I was asked to assist and support a family making final arrangements and funeral for an infant. This is not the first time I have had this experience, but it is still extraordinarily difficult and heartbreaking, yet I know I feel nothing like what the family must be experiencing. My heartfelt wishes for them to be comforted from heaven – may we all offer them our support, love, and tender care. They chose a private interment so there is no ceremony to announce.

***Support and Contact with the Rabbi, leadership and staff***

As always, I want to serve you in as many ways and as well as it is possible. Please be in touch with me (the rabbi – see below for my email and phone number), or alternatively, Greg in the office House Coordinator David McAfee, members of the board, or committee members if you have needs, suggestions, concerns or questions. You are also invited to attend the Zoom Leadership Check-ins monthly as another forum

where you can talk to leadership and other members.

***Thoughts, Blessings, and Salutations***

As I have mentioned, there was a tragic loss of an infant in our community recently. We are heartbroken, and send love and care to those in mourning. We will do what we are able for them – knowing it can only soothe the pain they feel, not remove it, but it is all we have the power to do.

I am not writing to bemoan that we cannot "fix" it for them (though that is certainly true): instead, what I want to address is that this devastating event highlighted something that is not often acknowledged, and should be.

In the face of the unthinkable, our community and congregation pulled together and did what was necessary to offer all the comfort and support possible to the affected family. From the actions of the Chevrah Kadisha in our community, to the Helen F. Thalheimer Care Committee of Temple Israel Sisterhood, to the Cemetery Committee, to everyone who reached out, this was a response from the heart, with compassion and care, at the time it was needed.

What I want to point out is that this is a source of hope, a sign that we are doing the right thing, Jewishly; offering Kavod (honor) to the deceased, and Nechamah (comfort) to the bereaved. These are the

core of the some of the highest levels of the mitzvot (commanded actions, good deeds) that we have as our guideline for living a good, meaningful, and godly life.

I am writing to say "thank you" cvbnm to all who stepped up, in whatever way, for this family – and by extension did so on behalf of all of us who live and work in this community, as well as for all of us because every one of us will be in a somewhat similar position of having suffered a devastating loss at some time in our lives. It is an honor to live and work among people who fulfill these core mitzvot at critical moments for those in circumstances that call for it. In response, I want to extend a sincere Kol Hakavod – every honor to the members of our congregation and community. May we all be blessed with the fruits of our efforts to support and sustain those among us who need it, and may those efforts help us to continue to form and live as a kehillah kadoshah – a holy community.

May we, in fact, live B'virkat Shalom  
(with blessings of peace),

*Joe*

Rabbi Joe Blair

*RabbiJoeB@gmail.com*

(304) 989-4014

*(my cell phone – please call this number to get in touch directly with me)*

*Greg Proctor*

*templeisraelwv@gmail.com*

*David McAfee*

*templeisraelhouse@yahoo.com*

## Our Thoughtful Contributors

*Donations to the Sisterhood Floral Fund are welcome any time. Please contact Betty Stern if you would like give flowers in celebration of a simcha or to remember a loved one.*

✱

*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.*

*Checks to the Library Fund, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Social Action Fund, or Unrestricted Fund should be made payable to Temple Israel.*

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

## February at a Glance, continued

*(Continued from page 3)*

Friday, Feb. 17 at 5:30 PM - Shabbat service, with Reproductive Rights Shabbat

Sunday, Feb. 19 at 11 AM –Sisterhood board meeting

Sunday, Feb. 19 at 4:15 PM – Jewish Literature, online only

Thursday, Feb. 23 at 4:15 PM – A Bissell Torah, online only

Friday, Feb. 24 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat Service

Saturday, Feb. 25 at 7 PM – Havdalah service

Sunday, Feb. 26 at 7 PM – Charleston Death Café. online only

### **Next month**

Wednesday, March 1 at 6:15 PM –  
*Tentatively scheduled:* Two Charleston Rabbis Discussion, online only

Thursday, March 2 at 4:15 PM – A Bissell Torah, online only

Friday, March 3 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat Service with Purim observance, followed by a covered dish dinner

Sunday, March 5 at 10:30 AM - Torah study, Exodus 30:11-34:35; Numbers 19:1-22, online only

## In the Congregation and Community, continued

*(Continued from page 2)*

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:

February: Barrie & Tod Kaufman, Ronni Cohen Spudich, Carole Lewis Bloom, Julie Adams & Josh Barrett, David Stern, Bob Aaron, Barrie Baer Kaufman, Margot Jogwick

March: Rachel Dash, Amy & David Shapiro, Marsha Albert, Shelly & David Winowich, Gary Markham, Bob Kimball, Glenn Goldfarb

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.

## Tzedakah (Charity)

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 remember the many Tzedakah opportunities that we have supported over the years: Manna Meal, Covenant House, YWCA's Sojourner's Shelter, RCCR, Mazon, AJWS, HIAS, Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston, 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 Blair*



### **February 3rd Shabbat service:**

**Covered dish dinner plus Tu B'Shevat observance and "Refugee Shabbat"**

*Bring a dish to share or just yourself—there's always plenty of good food. We'll have a special Oneg complete with holiday fruits and nuts.*

*Photo: Wikimedia Commons*



# Temple Israel Cemetery Policy

## Charleston, West Virginia

**Amended and Restated January 10, 2023**

This compilation of Cemetery policy is based on rules promulgated by the Board of Trustees of Temple Israel over the past quarter-century as well as by tradition and experience. The overarching theme is: "Maintain the Jewish character of the Cemetery."

### Rules

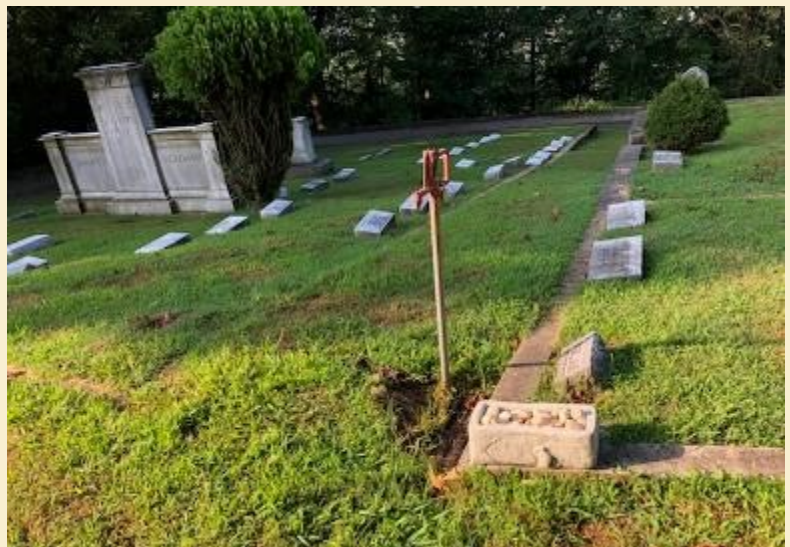
1. Artificial or cut flowers in containers are permitted.
2. Non-Jewish religious symbols are not to be displayed.
3. The only religious ceremonies to be conducted at the Cemetery are Jewish ones.
4. Concrete or metal vaults are not required.
5. A marker is required to identify the deceased buried in the lot. The marker may be placed up to a year later.
6. The head of the deceased is ordinarily pointed to the west.
7. Cremated remains may be buried at the Cemetery.
  - a. Cremated remains must be buried in a container that is biodegradable.
  - b. One set of cremated remains shall be buried in either the 'upper' or 'lower' half of the lot, and the location will be annotated on the cemetery plat.
  - c. A second set of cremated remains may be buried in the 'upper' or 'lower' half of the lot, whichever was not used for the first set of cremated remains. In this case, there must be an indication of who is buried in each half of the lot on the marker or markers placed on the lot.
  - d. No more than two sets of cremated remains may be buried in any lot.
8. Subject to prior approval of the Warden or the Cemetery Committee, respectful monuments and head and foot stones are generally acceptable.
9. Planting of plants or trees require prior permission of the Warden or Cemetery Committee.
10. Current cost per lot of \$700 (\$800 for nonmembers) includes Perpetual Care.
11. Unoccupied lots will not be expropriated by the Temple without permission of the family that owns them.

### Eligibility for Burial

- A. All Temple members
- B. Immediate family of Temple members, including spouse and children, even if they are not Jewish.
- C. The local Jewish community

### Perpetual Care Services

- I. Maintenance of lawn, plantings and vegetation
- II. Repair of damage caused by acts of nature or vandalism
- III. In season, water spigots are available
- IV. Periodic clearing, removal and disposal of materials placed at gravesites



*Photo by N. David Stern*

## **President's message: Temple security projects, Feb. 17 "Repro Shabbat" and Passover, continued from front page**

(Continued from page 1)

survivor of the hostage incident at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas and security professionals with backgrounds in crisis negotiations.

I appreciate the commitment of our Security Committee in addressing the security needs of our congregation. It is important for our congregation to be proactive and prepared. Our doors are monitored before services and Temple events and are then locked after 30 minutes. If you arrive after the doors are locked, just ring the doorbell and someone will open the door.

In the December issue of the Bulletin, Caroline Ostand, Sisterhood's Community Service Chair for Sojourner's Shelter, reminded us that the shelter was in need of healthy snacks, juices, cereal, etc. during the holidays when schools were not in session. Ditty and Gary Markham decided to help and purchased a bundle of healthy foods and snacks, which they donated as members of Temple Israel. We want to thank the Markhams for their generosity (tzedakah) and their contribution to Sojourner's.

Lastly, I would like to remind you of some events in February:

Special Shabbat – Feb. 3 at 5:30 PM: We will be observing Tu B'Shevat and Refugee Shabbat, followed by a Shabbat Pot Luck Dinner and a special Oneg.

Leadership Zoom Check-in – Feb. 13 at 10 AM: Rabbi Blair will share highlights of his community activities in Charleston.

Special Shabbat – Feb. 17 at 5:30 PM: We will be observing Repro (Reproductive Rights) Shabbat.

**Save the Date: Temple's Passover Seder – Wednesday, April 5. More information will be in the March Bulletin.**

Francine Thalheimer, President



**Temple Seder April 5th**  
*Save the date!*

### **Staying in touch with the Rabbi**

If you feel you would like to talk, have any pastoral concerns, know of someone who needs pastoral or rabbinic support or assistance, have a suggestion to improve what we are doing, or a concern about our community, please feel free to call me **on my cell phone** at (304) 989-4014, or email me at [RabbiJoeB@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiJoeB@gmail.com)

I am available Sunday through Thursday much of the day,

and Friday generally 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 urgency of the call and the nature of the need in the message.

Rabbi Blair

### **Masthead landscape**

March is the time of year when the almond blossom is in full flow. The countryside is awash with the white and pink flowers. This is one of the valleys in Las Alpujarras, Andalucia, Spain.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Almond\\_Landscape.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Almond_Landscape.jpg)

Mark Chinnick, CC BY 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

### **Seder Plate**

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Passover\\_Seder\\_plates#/media/File:Pesahplate.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Passover_Seder_plates#/media/File:Pesahplate.jpg)

By Gilabrand - No machine-readable source provided. Own work assumed (based on copyright claims)., CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14969244>

### **Dried fruits**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tu\\_BiShvat#/media/File:DriedfruitS.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tu_BiShvat#/media/File:DriedfruitS.jpg)

By Gilabrand (talk) - en.wikipedia, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9019725>

### **Homemade Hamentaschen 2**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purim#/media/File:Homemade\\_hamentaschen2.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purim#/media/File:Homemade_hamentaschen2.jpg)

By Yoninah - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24750783>