



Above: Three matzot. Inset: Pesah plate. Source: Wikimedia Commons

Jewish cultural event

Klezmer concert April 30 at Temple Israel at 7 PM

Klezmer – Eastern European Jewish celebration music – has had a long and fascinating journey.

With roots that pre-date the Middle Ages, Klezmer music incorporates many of the sounds that surrounded the wandering Jews as they relocated from place to place.

Not surprisingly, then, Klezmer music derives from Slavic, Middle Eastern and Balkan sounds glued together with the rich modalities and melodic tendencies of

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Photo courtesy Michael Winograd

From the Rabbi's Desk

Clearing out chametz — Passover as a new opportunity for change and growth

Shalom & greetings!

It is mid-March as I write this, and the weather has been very much variable so far! It seemed that spring was here as March came in, but it soon got cold and rainy again. I am hoping that the arrival of April will bring with it more consistently nice weather, along with the holiday of Passover, our time of renewal, rebirth, liberation, and redemption.

Calendar News

On April 5 it is Ta'anit Bechorot, the fast of the first born, from sunup till sundown, at which time we begin the festival of Passover, and hold the first Seder. This is when the Temple's congregational Seder is scheduled (please see information that was sent out in February to Temple and Sisterhood

members, and make your reservation if you haven't already done so). The seven days of Passover are from the first full day on April 6 through sundown on April 12 (extending to April 13 for those who celebrate eight days).

We are supposed to eliminate all Chametz (things that contain leavening or that can become leavened) prior to Passover, and avoid owning or using any such product throughout the holiday. There are different degrees of strictness, and the most stringent are extraordinarily difficult to observe: including, "selling" your pets in order not to feed them anything forbidden, or removing all leavened foods from your home, and "selling" anything that remains (including crumbs or dust!) so they aren't in your possession. Some people have the custom

of "selling" their homes and moving to a hotel or going on a cruise that is strictly Passover-observant, so not only do they not "own" anything forbidden, they aren't even in the vicinity of something they might have missed (think of any dust that might get into a crack in the wall when you use flour)!

For most of us, such measures aren't necessary, and the rabbis did not really want us to focus on them. Instead, they looked to the concept of Chametz as a way to think about behaviors, practices, and activities that we may follow through the year, and use this period as an opportunity to re-examine and re-evaluate them. The concept is that most of us (if not all) have some things we could do to make ourselves better people, more like our ideal, what we could become. Using Passover, which falls roughly six months after Yom Kippur, as another chance for a conscious "course correction" is a brilliant opportunity, and allows us to seek growth

(Continued on page 4)

Worship services, Passover Seder & Torah study

Religious services are both in-person and online (Zoom and Facebook) except as noted. Torah study sessions are online only (Zoom). No Torah study in April. Next one is in May.

Wednesday, April 5	6:00 PM	Congregational Passover Seder, <i>in-person only</i>
Friday, April 7	5:30 AM	Shabbat service, Shabbat in Passover
Friday, April 14	5:30 PM	Shabbat service
Monday, April 17	6:00 PM	Yom HaShoah service
Friday, April 21	5:30 PM	Shabbat service
Friday, April 28	5:30 PM	Shabbat service, with Yom HaZikaron & Yom Ha'Atzma'ut observed
Friday, May 5	5:30 PM	Shabbat service with Pesach Sheni, Covered Dish Dinner to follow
Saturday, May 6	7:00 PM	Havdalah service
Sunday, May 7	10:30 AM	Torah Study, Parashah Behar-Bechukotia, Leviticus 25:1-27:34, <i>online only</i>

In the Congregation & Community

Refuah Sheleimah/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 since the last bulletin article who agreed to have their name listed:

Arthur Epstein
Jonathan Freedman
Karl Gattlieb
Jack Goldfarb
Doris Goldfarb
Carolyn E. Huberman
Mel Hutt
Delia Kurland
Gary Markham
Steve Meyer
Hedy Poppelsdorf
Allan Tweddle
David & Shelly Winowich and family
Natalie Winowich and family
Beth Steinberg Winter and family
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)

Baruch dayan haemet. Temple Israel extends condolences to Lynn Gattlieb and family on the death of Carole Darling, Lynn's aunt and the wife of the late Sandy Darling in Pittsburgh on Feb. 17. May the mourners be comforted from heaven, and the memory be a blessing.

Baruch Dayan Haemet. Temple Israel extends condolences to Beth Steinberg Winter on the recent death of her sister-in-law, Margie Hutt, in Virginia Beach on March 18. May the memory be a blessing, and may all who mourn this loss be comforted from heaven, and the memory be a blessing.

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:

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

April: Zel Lewis, Ditty Markham, Fran Thalheimer, Karl Gattlieb, Lynn & Karl Gattlieb

May: Sharon Jubelirer, Barbara Braun, Ellen Kay Bastron, Duke Bloom, Lena Thoren Glasser, Shelly Winowich, Trish & Dylan Erwin, Rabbi Earl Jordan, Doris Goldfarb, Dottie Baer Garner (MILESTONE)

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.

Mazal tov to Debby Sonis, who authored an article about the life and many achievements of Norman Fagan, the first commissioner of the W.Va. Department of

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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
2312 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, W.Va. 25311
(304) 342-5852
www.templeisraelwv.org
templeisraelwv@gmail.com

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

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

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

April 7th

Edith Goldstein Hallam	April 8
Charles Austin Kreinik	April 8
Ellis C. Amburgey Jr.	April 10
Sarah Lazar	April 10
Fanny C. Berman	April 11
Bette Rascover	April 11
Simon Barton	April 12
Joseph L. Galperin	April 12
Sam Hess	April 12
Maxwell Lopin	April 12
Mrs. Harry Beren	April 13
Josef Grossman	April 13
Alma Goldberg	April 14
Beatrice Rebecca Jurin	April 14

April 14th

Miriam Beren	April 15
Bea Dorzback	April 15
Allen Lipton	April 15
Anna Schneider	April 15
Alcine Allen	April 16
Bertie Cohen	April 17
Edna Jacobson	April 17
Lillian Mendeloff Lakin	April 17
Sara H. White	April 17
John Albert Amburgey	April 18
Walter Schwartz	April 18
Manuel Gersman	April 19
Louis Glasser	April 19
Kate Levey	April 19

Joseph Lopin	April 19
Harry Pincus Jr.	April 19
Adam Hunter Aaron	April 20
Louis W. Cohen	April 20
Abraham Klein	April 20
Selma Molly Beskin	April 21
Robert Gordon Markham	April 21
Gerald Bernard Ostand	April 21
William F. Wood	April 21

April 21st

Norma Hess Builtman	April 22
Abrahma Carroll	April 22
Yudell Abe Blocker	April 23
Joseph Horowitz	April 23
Bill Howley	April 23
Nancy Segall Levine	April 23
Richard Lewent	April 23
Rubin Sokolovsky	April 23
Beatrice Hess	April 24
Henita Gattlieb Picket	April 24
Martin Blackman	April 25
Settie Swarts	April 25
Estelle Kasanof Gottlieb	April 26
Dr. Morris I. Mendeloff Jr.	April 26
Sabina Rosenberg	April 26

April 28th

Herschel Shapero	April 29
Bernice Rosenthal Roche	April 30
Suzanne Grinberg	May 1



Condolences on p. 2

Photo by Greg Proctor

Millie Kahn	May 1
Robert David Kaye	May 1
Anne Mae Walter	May 1
Sylvia Glasser	May 2
Julius Hess	May 2
Alvin Julius Lindenberg	May 2
Mary Mildred Ardman	May 3
Mary Lillian Dees	May 3
Doris Gilman	May 3
Harry Greenspon	May 3
Lois Silverstein Kaufman	May 3
Cecil R. Sessions	May 3
Henry Sloman	May 3
Vilma Lehman	May 4
Manuel Rotgin	May 4

April at a Glance

This calendar may change after the Bulletin is published — please visit the Temple website for the current schedule. Services are both in-person and online, except as noted. The format of meetings and other events varies — check Rabbi Blair's twice-weekly LINKS emails for details. If you aren't receiving LINKS emails, please contact Rabbi Blair. Masking is suggested if you have symptoms, and full vaccination is required to attend in person.

- There will be no Torah study in April; the next Torah study will be May 7.
- There will be no Covered Dish Dinner in April; the next Dinner will be May 5.

- *Passover: April 6 – 12 (until April 13 for those observing eight days): the Seder is the evening of April 5.*
 - *Counting of the Omer: April 7 – May 25 (often done on the prior evening).*
 - *There will be no Charleston Death Café in April; the next Café will be May 28.*
- Sunday, April 2 at 4:15 PM – Jewish Literature, online only
- Wednesday, April 5 at 6 PM – Congregational Passover Seder, in-person only, RSVP required by March 28
- Thursday, April 6 – Temple office closed in observance of first day of

Passover

- Thursday, April 6 – NO A Bissell Torah (first day of Passover)
- Friday, April 7 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, Shabbat in Passover
- Monday, April 10 at 10 AM – Zoom Leadership Check-in, online only
- Tuesday, April 11, at 5:30 PM – Temple Israel board of trustees meeting, in-person only.
- Wednesday, April 12 – Temple office closed in observance of seventh day of Passover
- Thursday, April 13 at 4:15 PM – NO A

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For up-to-date schedule info, PLEASE CHECK the “Upcoming Events” widget on the homepage.

From the Rabbi's Desk, continued

(Continued from page 1)

and improvement in emotional, ethical, and spiritual aspects of our being. I certainly hope that this will be both an opportune and a productive practice – certainly for myself, and for anyone who wishes to engage in it.

We begin to count the Omer starting the evening of April 6 or the daytime of April 7, marking off 49 days, which brings us to Shavuot. This period marks the time from Liberation and Redemption, to Revelation and the Matan Torah – the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Many look at this time as a cycle of moving through engagement with the aspects of G-d we may encounter in a deliberate and conscious manner.

I think this rabbinic approach to what we think of as “chametz,” coupled with the immersion and focus on the godly aspects in the world that the Omer calls us to consider, provide a deeply spiritual practice, one that can be transformative.

A few days after Passover, we will arrive at Yom HaShoah, Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day, which falls on the evening of April 17 through the end of the day on April 18.

Rosh Chodesh Iyar is April 21 & 22, which is also the Shabbat on which we read Parashah Tazria-Metzora. Yom Hazikaron (Israeli Memorial Day) is April 25, and Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day) is April 26. We will observe these in the Shabbat service on April 28.

And on the evening of April 30, there will be a Klezmer concert at the Temple. Please see info in this issue of the Bulletin for details.

On May 5 will be a regular Shabbat service, but it will include our acknowledgement of Pesach Sheni, the Second Passover: a chance for those who did not observe it – for whatever reason – to celebrate the holiday.

We are holding our third Havdalah

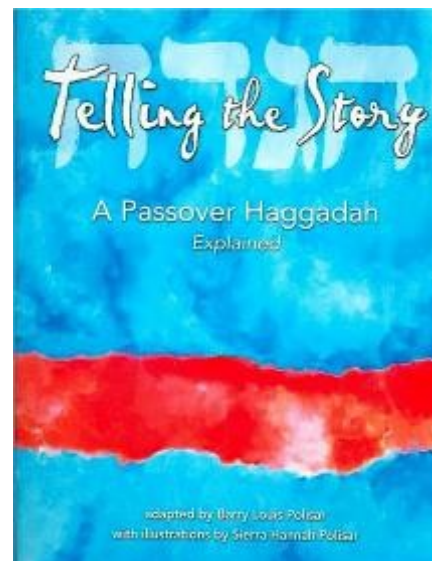
service of the year on May 6.

As you can see, a lot is coming up. Please join me for the various events, celebrations, holidays, programs, and classes that are being offered, and offer your suggestions for how we can make it better. I look forward to spending quality time with you.

As directed by the Ritual Committee, I ordered 20 additional *Mishkah Tefillah* Siddurim (Prayer Books), which have been placed in the Sanctuary, and 50 more copies of the *Telling the Story* Haggadah, which we are again using for the Passover Seder (you can order your own, or download a PDF for free and print as many as you need – see the Temple website for the link on the home page).

Thoughts, Blessings, and Salutations

May this season of Passover – a time associated with redemption, liberation, salvation, and revitalization – prove a time of blessings and joys for you and your loved



ones. May the hope of rebirth and regrowth fill your world, and may you experience renewal spiritually, physically, emotionally, and in all ways.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace), and prayers for awakening and growth,

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair

RabbJoeB@gmail.com

(304) 989-4014 (my cell, please call it first)

Jewish news from around West Virginia

An opportunity to celebrate Jewish History in West Virginia

On April 14, 1862, there was a Passover Seder celebrated by 20 Jewish Union soldiers in the Ohio 45th Regiment, in Fayetteville, Fayette County, western Virginia. They were in winter quarters. This event was described by one of them, Joel Joseph, in an article he published in 1866.

This event is being honored and noted by an event in Fayetteville on April 3 at 11 AM, with an unveiling of an historical information plaque in Fayetteville. **For an article about this event, please see p. 8.**

Joe Golden

Summer camp for children to be held in Huntington again this year

B'nai Sholom Congregation in Huntington is planning to hold its in-person day camp again this year, Camp Keif. They would love to have Charleston children to join them! They are welcome for the full two weeks or just a part of camp. Sophie Golomb, a Huntington teacher and part of the B'nai Sholom community, led a dynamic and engaging camp last year and will be back in 2023. Please let Ronni Glaser or the congregation's office know if you have any questions or need more information:

CampKeifHuntingtonWV@gmail.com

or B'nai Sholom at (304) 522-2980.

Sisterhood Message

Making new friends and growing closer to long-time pals

As President of the Temple Sisterhood for almost a year, I have come to recognize that our ladies' organization is truly the "heart" of our Temple.

Throughout the 150 years since the congregation's founding, Sisterhood has been a steady force in the life of Temple Israel. I'm a Charleston native and old enough to vividly remember the "Virginia Street Temple" and being a member of the very active Youth Group.

The Sisterhood throughout these years has been prominent, willing and able in taking care of congregants, and a driving force within this community. We plan events, supply food and nourishment, keep tabs on members, recognize and help with family events (happy, joyous as well as times of loss and grief). We give charity, support community events, educate, facilitate, and participate.

Speaking for myself, I have made lovely new friends as well as grown closer to longtime pals. I have joined in and worked with many dedicated sisters who have guided me in the years since I have become a member of Temple Israel in 2016. It has been my honor to have served under the past two Sisterhood presidents, Gayle Twigger-Shaw and Millie Snyder.

I highly admire the dedication of our members as they take full responsibility for anything they volunteer to do and accomplish the task in mostly unsung ways.

For me it has been a somewhat easy first year of presidency, mainly because no one has said "no" and I can count on everyone to follow through on their commitments. Who else has a team so great? Every question has been

answered by longtime members and I have a Board that operates like clockwork.



Attendees at the March Schmooze, clockwise from lower left: Caroline Ostand, Beth Winter, Ina Angel, Trina Beall, Jill Epstein, Betty Stern. Photo by Marsha Albert (not pictured).

My wish is that more members would attend our meetings and programs. Perhaps we could make them more accommodating. I'm open for suggestions. Our facility is beautiful and even handicap friendly. And the Shabbat services are an inspirational way to end the week. Our Oneg Shabbat is also a tasty as well as a social treat.

The Pesah Seder is approaching and I'm looking forward to seeing many members with their families. Rabbi Blair will lead us in a beautiful traditional Passover observance, I know.

The Spring Sisterhood meeting on Sunday, April 16 at 11 AM will be a yearly roundup as well as offering an informative program. Kayla Young,

who is a member of the WV House of Delegates now in her second term, will present an overview of this year's legislative session, including a Q&A. All Temple members are welcome to attend this program, including lunch: the cost is \$10, and please RSVP to me by email.

We are currently collecting for a "Linen Shower for Vets" (see the announcement on this page) and have baskets throughout the Temple to take your donations of bed, bath, and kitchen linens.

Spring is a time for renewal. Let us have a blooming good season and a reason to congregate and enjoy the gift of friendship and our religious heritage.

Marsha Albert, Sisterhood President

Sisterhood is having an April shower—bringing linens!

Between now and the April 16 combined board and general membership meeting, luncheon, and program (see article at right), Sisterhood is collecting donations of household linens for residents of the transitional apartments at the Roark-Sullivan Lifeway Center: twin sheets, blankets, pillows, bath towels, wash cloths, and kitchen linens. Collection baskets are in the main lobby and on the stage in the Social Hall.

Contact Caroline Ostand with any questions.

Sisterhood board and general membership meeting, luncheon and program April 16 to feature Del. Kayla Young as our speaker

In addition to the "Linens Shower" (see article this page), the Sisterhood board and general membership meeting, luncheon, and program, on Sunday, April 16 at 11 AM, will feature House of Delegates member Kayla Young (D-Kanawha, 056) as our program speaker.

The cost of the luncheon is \$10, payable at the door. Everyone is invited to the program and the luncheon. Please contact Marsha Albert to make your reservation for the luncheon.

Our Thoughtful Contributors

Thanks for making Shabbat even more special...

...By giving bimah flowers

March 3 – Beth and Gary Winter, in memory of Beth's Mamala Frances Sokolovsky, and her Tante Doris Mack

March 31 — given by Alan Fleischmann, in memory of his mother, Honey Fleischmann, who passed away in 2020

...By sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat

March 3 – Beth and Gary Winter, in memory of Beth's Mamala Frances Sokolovsky, and her Tante Doris Mack

March 31 — given by Alan Fleischmann, in memory of his mother, Honey Fleischmann, who passed away in 2020

✦

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.

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

Calendar News

Highlights since the March 2023 Bulletin

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

Regular and ongoing events: Shabbat services, including those with Torah readings; monthly covered dish dinners; and the weekly Oneg Shabbat; Torah Study; Charleston Death Café; Jewish Literature; A Bissell Torah

Pastoral Contacts, including accompanying a family as they approach a death.

I planned and worked with others to bring about the Reproductive Rights Shabbat that was held.

I participated (and will continue to do so) in meetings of:

WV Faith Leaders Network

WV Clergy Committed to Human & Civil Rights

WV Clergy for Reproductive Choice

WV Cares Dementia Advisory

WV Civic Engagement Table

WV Citizen Action Group

WV Faith Leaders in Action

I participated in an Interfaith event as a panelist at Bluefield State University focusing on interfaith issues and racial equity.

WVU OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Initiative) courses: I taught a two-session course titled "More Midrash: Diving In Again."

I attended several webinars on a variety of topics, including: (1) Perinatal Loss and Pastoral Care, (2) Selected poems of Yehuda Amichai, and (3) Poetic Midrash.

Rabbi Joe



REMINDER
The Temple's congregational Seder will be Wednesday, April 5th at 6 PM.
RSVPs due March 28th.

Wikimedia Commons

April at a Glance, continued

(Continued from page 3)

Bissell Torah

Friday, April 14 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Sunday, April 16 at 11 AM – Sisterhood board and general membership meeting, luncheon and program (see p. 5), in-person only

Monday, April 17 at 6 PM – Yom HaShoah service, at Temple Israel

Wednesday, April 19 at 6 PM – Leora May Book Club, location TBA

Thursday, April 20 at 4:15 PM – A Bissell Torah, online only

Friday, April 21 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat

service

Sunday, April 23 at 4:15 PM – Jewish Literature, online only

Thursday, April 27 at 4:15 PM – A Bissell Torah, online only

Friday, April 28 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, with Yom HaZikaron & Yom Ha'Atzma'ut observed

Sunday, April 30 at 7 PM – At Temple Israel: Klezmer concert featuring Michael Winograd & The Honorable Mentshn, sponsored by Temple Israel, B'nai Jacob Synagogue, and Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston; in-person only

✦

Next month

Wednesday, May 3 at 6:15 PM – Two Charleston Rabbis Discussion (tentatively scheduled)

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

Friday, May 5 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service with Pesach Sheni, Covered Dish Dinner to follow

Saturday, May 6 at 7 PM – Havdalah service

Sunday, May 7 at 10:30 AM – Torah study, Parashah Behar-Bechukotia, Leviticus 25:1-27:34, online only

PLEASE NOTE: The Bulletin ISN'T updated once it's posted to the website.

Klezmer concert: Michael Winograd & The Honorable Mentshn, April 30, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

Jewish cantorial music from the Synagogue.

At the forefront of today's Klezmer landscape is clarinetist Michael Winograd and his band The Honorable Mentshn.

Winograd is one of the most inspired klezmer musicians of his generation. His current band is the best thing going at the moment. The level of Winograd's cadre of musicians is kind of astronomical. — **Dr. Hankus Netsky, Jerusalem Post, Feb. 2023**

Making records and touring internationally, Michael Winograd and the Honorable Mentshn spread the Klezmer wherever they go.

In 2022 Michael and the band released their newest album "Early Bird Special." They



"To Me You're Beautiful," a popular song from the 1932 Yiddish language musical comedy, I Would if I Could.

[Photo of poster: Wikimedia Commons](#)

toured the music throughout the United States and Canada with packed performances in concerts and festivals. In 2023 they look forward to returning to the Jewish Culture festival in Krakow, Poland, and perform their first-ever concerts in West Virginia.

Michael Winograd & The Honorable Mentshn will perform in concert at Temple Israel, Sunday, April 30 at 7 PM. The show is sponsored by Temple Israel, B'nai Jacob Synagogue, and Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston.

Josh Barrett



[Drawing: Wikimedia Commons](#)

In the Congregation and Community, continued

(Continued from page 2)

Culture & History, in the Winter 2022 edition of Goldenseal, the magazine of West Virginia traditional life.

Mazal tov to Shelly & David Winowich, on their upcoming move to Massachusetts to be closer to family.

Mazal tov to Natalie Winowich, who is moving to Milwaukee, Wis. to be closer to family.

Mazal tov to Roy Gooding, who is moving to South Carolina to be closer to family.

We offer Mazal tov wishes to Amy and David Shapiro, who recently announced that they will be moving to Maryland

later this spring, to be closer to family. We are sad they will no longer be here among us in Charleston, but we wish them only joy and the very best on this next chapter of their adventures. We will have a more formal "farewell" closer to the time they plan to move, but for now, we wish to acknowledge them, and all they are still doing for our congregation and community.

Todah Rabah (Thank You!)

From Dona Hall: "I appreciate all the phone calls, texts, and visits from my fellow congregants from Temple Israel. To be included in these past months of lists for both bulletins and the services of Mi Sheberach prayer, has been a great

source of support and encouragement to me. The cards, notes, Uniongrams and Bimah flowers brought to my home from the Helen F. Thalheimer Care Committee of Temple Israel Sisterhood have been a constant inspiration and motivation to my recovery, both physically and emotionally. I hope to resume attending Temple services soon and being a member of this great community. Again, thank you."

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.

Staying in touch with the Rabbi

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) whenever you need.

If you feel you would like to talk to me, 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 call me on my cell, (304) 989-4014, or email me at RabbiJoeB@gmail.com

If you don't tell me, it's possible I have no way to know about your need. When in doubt, please be in touch with me.

I am available Sunday, Tuesday through Thursday most of the day, and Friday generally until 3 PM, to allow time to prepare for the Shabbat service.

I try to observe Shabbat as much as possible, so I don't schedule meetings or events other than services then.

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 on my cell phone, and if you leave a message, please express the urgency of the call and the nature of the need in the message.

Rabbi Joe



Hmm...Sunday, April 30th at 7 PM? At Temple Israel in Charleston, W.Va.? I need to write that down...

Save the date: Sunday, April 30th at 7 PM at the Temple!

Erika Kapin Photography

Who is this man? Why does he have a clarinet on his table? And more importantly, is he going to eat all those half-sour pickles and drink the rest of that egg crème?

See the front page for all the details.

But, like him, be sure to mark your calendar for an amazing evening of Klezmer music at the Temple, Sunday, April 30th at 7 PM!

Celebrating Passover in the New River Gorge—historic unveiling in Fayetteville April 3rd

Fayetteville, WV – Join us as we unveil a new Civil War Trails sign at Love Hope Center for the Arts on April 3rd, at 11:00am. The community is invited to attend the event located at 100 Rotan St., Fayetteville, WV 25840 on the 161st anniversary of the historic Passover Seder which took place there in 1862.

Guest speakers will include Dr. Joseph Golden from Temple Beth El, in Beckley; Ennis Smith, Director of Destination Development for the West Virginia Department of Tourism, and local officials.

This is the first Civil War Trails site in the nation which champions the story of Jewish soldiers. The men under the command of the President-to-be Rutherford Hayes who were camped in the wilds of West Virginia managed to pull together all the items required to properly observe the Passover holiday. Drew Gruber who oversees the multi-state Civil War Trails (CWT) program said, "In the

midst of our nation's darkest hour, these soldiers came together, enabled by the larger community and in doing so they offered peace and hope to a nation at war."

This project is the result of several years of dedication by local historians, Temple Beth El in Beckley, Love Hope Center for the Arts and the New River Gorge Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). Dr. Joseph Golden, Secretary of the Temple Beth El congregation reads from the soldier's diaries during their own Passover celebrations and has also researched the story of the 1862 Seder.

Despite being a historic story, it rings true for the Jewish community today. "Commemorating this Passover Seder celebrated by 20 Jewish Union soldiers has importance to the Jewish community in Fayette and Raleigh Counties. Although we are a minority, and they were a minority in the Union Army, they were and we are part and parcel of the diverse fabric that make up this nation of ours" said Dr. Golden.

The team at the New River Gorge CVB who is the sustaining partner for the CWT program in the County is equally as excited to for the new site. "This is an asset to our growing tourism industry and community,

said Becky Sullivan, Executive Director of the CVB. "We are finding more and more than people love learning the history of the places they visit," she continued. This same sentiment was echoed by Secretary Ruby of West Virginia Tourism, whose office assists in promoting the over 150 Civil War Trails sites and stories across the state. Secretary Ruby said, "West Virginia has such a rich, diverse history that deserves to be celebrated—this site is no exception. Travelers get to experience history first-hand with the help of the Civil War Trails signage. I'm thrilled that another stop has been added to honor this event in our great state."

Parking for the unveiling is available at Polecat Tacos, 190 S Court St, Fayetteville, WV 25840.

For more information about the unveiling, or for journalists please call Civil War Trails at (757) 378-5462. Be sure to snap a selfie with the new sign and check in @lovehopearts, #civilwartrails, #signselfie, #gogorge.

To begin planning your trip to visit this site request a free brochure at newrivergorgecvb.com