

# Temple Israel Bulletin

Volume LXXXII  
Bulletin No. 9

Memorial Day is May 29th

May 2023  
Iyar / Sivan 5783



*Army Lt. Gen. Jack Woodall (ret.), president, Mid Atlantic Branch Second Infantry Division Association, observes the presentation of the colors ceremony performed by the D.C. National Guard Honor Guard on May 28, 2018, at the Second Division Memorial.*

*Photographer: US Army, DCNG, SPC Kevin Valentine. Source: Wikimedia Commons.*

## *From the Rabbi's Desk*

### ***Continuing the countdown from Passover to Shavuot: the seven divine attributes and how we see our place in the world***

Shalom & greetings!

Spring, finally! The garden at the Temple has been blooming and showing gorgeous colors for more than a month now, and it has been glorious – thanks to Ellie Schaul for keeping up with the garden! As I write this in mid-April, the year is flying by. Today is gorgeous – and though the weather has been a bit warmer than ideal, it is truly Spring – so Passover, the Spring Holiday, was a true harbinger of the season. I hope you are able to enjoy this weather.

#### ***Calendar News***

Passover has literally just finished as I write this, and we have finished with matzah (for now). That means we are already counting the Omer. We began starting the second day of Passover, on the evening of April 6 or on the day of April 7, marking off 49 days till Shavuot.

This marks the period from Passover to Shavuot, Liberation and Redemption to Revelation and the Matan Torah – the

giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Many have the custom of looking 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.

The Omer count period is used to cycle through a series of seven manifestations of G-d's presence in the world, representing each of the seven days of the week, and representing each week of the seven-week period of the counting of the Omer. This creates an overlapping and “doubling” effect for each of the manifestations. The seven manifestations are:

**Chesed** – Lovingkindness: expansiveness, inclination towards others, desire to give. Associated with Abraham.

**Gevurah** – Strength: restraint and concentration, inward withdrawal of negative emotions (such as fear, terror, anger, and hate), control, justice. Associated with Isaac.

**Tiferet** – Beauty: harmony, truth, compassion, balance of the powers of

attraction and repulsion. Associated with Jacob.

**Netzach** - Victory: The source of conquest and the capacity for overcoming, the urge to get things done. Associated with Moses.

**Hod** - Splendor: Persistence or holding on, the power to repudiate obstacles and to persevere, it's also the source of humility. Associated with Aaron.

**Yesod** - Foundation: The vehicle or the carrier from one thing or condition to another, the power of connection, the capacity or will to build bridges, to make connections, and to relate to others. Associated with Joseph.

**Malkhut** - Kingdom): Also called Shechinah. Sovereignty, rule, the ultimate receptacle, the realization of potential, the Divine Presence. Associated with David.

The structure of the counting using these attributes or manifestations of G-d

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Worship services and Torah study

**Religious services are both in-person and online (Zoom and Facebook) except as noted.**

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

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-Bechukotai, Leviticus 25:1-27:34, online only
Friday, May 12	5:30 PM	Shabbat service with Torah, Behar-Bechukotai, and Sisterhood Installation of Officers
Friday, May 19	5:30 PM	Shabbat service
Friday, May 26	5:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Shavuot observed
Friday, June 2	5:30 PM	Temple Board leading the Shabbat service, with Covered Dish Dinner to follow
Sunday, June 4	10:30 AM	Torah study, Parashah Beha'alotcha, Numbers 8:1-12:16, 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:

Arthur Epstein  
Jonathan Freedman  
Karl Gattlieb  
The Goldfarb family  
The Hicks family  
The Hutt family  
Delia Kurland  
Gary Markham  
The Mendeloff family  
Hedy Poppelsdorf  
Allan Tweddle  
Beth Winter and family  
The Winowich 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)**

Temple Israel extends our sincere condolences to the entire Goldfarb and Goins family on the recent passing of Doris Goldfarb, long-time active member of the Charleston Jewish community. The funeral was held at the B'nai Jacob Eternal Home, officiated by Rabbi Urecki. May all the mourners be comforted from heaven, and may the memory of Doris be a continuing blessing to all who knew and loved her.

Temple Israel extends our sincere condolences to the Mendeloff, Hicks, and Winowich family members on the recent sudden passing of long-time member, past Sisterhood president, and past congregational president, Natalie Winowich, so soon after the loss of Natalie's husband Nick. A Memorial

Celebration of Life was held at Temple Israel, with interment at the Temple cemetery, officiated by Rabbi Blair. May the memory of Natalie be a continuing blessing to all who knew and loved her, and may all the mourners be comforted from heaven.

Condolences to Beth Steinberg Winter and family on the recent loss of her sister-in-law, Margie Hutt. May all the mourners be comforted from heaven, and her memory be a blessing.

Condolences to Millie Snyder on the recent loss of her friend, Carolyn E. Huberman. May all the mourners be comforted from heaven, and her 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:

*(Continued on page 5)*

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

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

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

### May 5th

Rebecca Grace Roueche	May 6
Stanley E. Deutsch	May 7
Sara Samuel Silverstein	May 7
Paul Weintraub	May 7
David Badner	May 8
David McHale	May 8
Alison Ruth Kaplan	May 9
James Edward Amburgey	May 11
Benjamin David	May 11
Thomas Jay Kramer	May 11
Dr. Philip David Maimon	May 11
Harry Mellman	May 11
Linda Rubin	May 11
Dr. Jack Basman	May 12
Esther Galperin	May 12
Gordon Mae Hendrick	May 12
Joan Markham Siebert	May 12

### May 12th

Craig Fillmon	May 13
Tracie Christian Rose	May 13
Jerome Goldberg	May 14
Norman Lakin	May 14
Sherry Lovett	May 14
Frieda L. Barton	May 16
Jerome Harold Deutsch	May 16
Milton Fenster	May 16
Rae Tagress Rosenberg	May 16
Ruth Barton	May 17

Sadie Carroll	May 17
Morton F. Hess	May 17
Herbert Mitchell Barrett	May 19
Marjorie "Petie" Kwass	May 19

### May 19th

Ben Goldfarb	May 20
Joseph Bernard Randall	May 20
Sadie Goldberg	May 21
Julia Shreve	May 21
Michael Zide	May 21
Dorothy Fishkin	May 22
Fannie Gottlieb	May 22
Helen H. Hess	May 22
Fay Kulowski	May 22
Matthew H. Small	May 22
Gerald Allen Amburgey	May 23
Sayde Cohen	May 23
Tracy Auden Fretwell	May 23
Richard "Ricky" Cohen	May 24
Patrick J. Gleason	May 25
Mary Mannis	May 25
Nathaniel Rose	May 25
Robert W. Garner II	May 26
Samuel Mendelsohn	May 26

### May 26th

Joe Greenburg	May 27
Emily Marks	May 27
Robert Silverstein	May 27



Photo by Greg Proctor

Mark E. Grinberg	May 28
Samuel Dash	May 29
Jane Mayer Silverstein	May 29
Florence Mann	May 30
Monica Montanaro	May 30
Ruth Silverstein Sherman	May 31
Lester J. Mann	June 1

Condolences on p. 2

## May 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.

*Counting of the Omer: April 7 – May 25 (often done on the prior evening). Shavuot will be observed at the May 26 Shabbat service.*

Wednesday, May 3 at 6:15 PM – Two Charleston Rabbis Discussion, online only

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

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

Saturday, May 6 at 7 PM – Havdalah service

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

Monday, May 8 at 10 AM – Zoom Leadership Check-in, online only

Tuesday, May 9, at 5:30 PM – Temple Israel board of trustees meeting, in-person only

Thursday, May 11 at 4:15 PM – A Bissell Torah, Online Only

Friday, May 12 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service with Torah, Behar-Bechukotai, and Sisterhood Installation of Officers

Sunday, May 14 at 4:15 PM – Jewish Literature, online only

Wednesday, May 17 at 6 PM – Leora May Book Club, venue TBD

(Continued on page 6)

PLEASE VIEW THE "UPCOMING EVENTS" WIDGET FOR CURRENT SCHEDULE



## From the Rabbi's Desk, continued

(Continued from page 1)

would have us focus on one of them for each of the seven weeks of the counting of the Omer, and also focus on one of them for each of the seven days in that week, so that week 1 would be Chesed/Lovingkindness, with the first day being Chesed within Chesed, the second day being Gevurah/Strength within Chesed/Lovingkindness, the third being Tiferet/Beauty within Chesed/Lovingkindness, and so on through that week, continuing the pattern for each subsequent week until the 49th day, which would be Malkhut/Sovereignty within Malkhut/Sovereignty, ending with the entry that evening into the holiday of Shavuot, the time of Matan Torah/the Giving of the Torah and Revelation at Sinai.

I think that this rabbinic approach, to the immersion and focus on the godly aspects in the world that the Omer reminds us about, calls us to consider our own place and role in that world in light of these divine attributes, using them as the yardstick against which we can measure ourselves, and provides an extremely spiritual practice, one that can be transformative and deeply meaningful for us individually and collectively.

I hope that you will consider engaging in this ancient counting ritual combined with the spiritual overlay from Kabbalistic thought that I have described. You can find apps (many of them free) to help you with this practice to place on your phone for both Apple and Android devices. One that I have used in past is from NeoHasid.org, but Chabad offers one, and there are many others available.

Only a few days after the end of Passover, we arrived at Yom HaShoah, Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day, which this year fell on the evening of April 17/day of April 18. We held a joint Synagogue-



[Baruch Zvi Ring - Memorial Tablet and Omer Calendar - Google Art Project.](#)  
Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Temple service on April 17 at the Temple, conducted by Rabbi Urecki and me, with congregants from both congregations (and the community) attending, and as with other services, it was attended in-person and online – the recording is available through the Temple's website. Unfortunately, again this year we were not able to hold the reading of names vigil that marked this day in the time before the Covid-

19 Pandemic.

Following Yom HaShoah, there were several days of note on the calendar – Rosh Chodesh Iyar, Yom Hazikaron (Israeli Memorial Day), and Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day), leading up to the arrival of Shavuot, which begins the evening of May 25. Here are highlights to look forward to this month:

On May 5 there will be a regular Shabbat service, which will include Pesach Sheni, the "Second Passover," a chance for those who did not observe the holiday for any reason to do so, as well as the next scheduled covered dish dinner following that service.

On May 6, we are holding our third Havdalah service of the year;

May 7 is our next Torah study; a Zoom Leadership Check-in will be on May 8.

May 9 is L'ag B'Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer count, and is also the date of the next Temple board of trustees meeting; May 12 is our Shabbat service with Torah reading, Parashah Behar-Bechukotai and Sisterhood Shabbat service with the Installation of Officers.

May 14 is Mother's Day, and while we have tentatively scheduled the Jewish Literature discussion that day, we might need to postpone it for the holiday.

The Leora May Book Club is scheduled to meet on May 17. Louis Weisberg is working with others in the community to schedule speaking engagements for Yoram Ettinger, the Israeli researcher and former ambassador, while he visits our area, as well as smaller gatherings. If you like to drive, you could arrange to drive Ambassador Ettinger to or from some of the meetings – offering you some private time to talk with him. If you are interested in attending events, hosting a small gathering or attending one, or offering to drive him, please be in touch with Louis or with Stephen Meyer. Ambassador Ettinger will be in the area May 19-24.

As I mentioned above, Shavuot begins – and the Omer count ends – at sundown on May 25. We will observe Shavuot in our Shabbat service on May 26.

The next Charleston Death Café will be held on May 28. Memorial Day is May 29 and the Temple office will be closed.

Please join us for the events, celebrations, holidays, programs, and classes that are being offered throughout the month of May.

### Thoughts, Blessings, and Salutations

As we count the Omer and cycle through the divine attributes, may we be elevated, moving higher and higher, closer to the ideal we strive to reach.

May this period of counting the Omer be a time for each of us to sharpen the focus of our spiritual lens, and to aim a little higher and do a little better. May you both appreciate and embody each of the divine attributes that are associated with the Omer count, and draw a little closer to the divine, and to the best version of yourself you can be.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace), and prayers for you to sense the divine that surrounds you,

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair

[RabbiJoeB@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiJoeB@gmail.com)

**Sisterhood Message****Greetings from Ocean City!*****A Privilege to Serve***

It was my privilege to travel to Ocean City, Md. with Sisterhood VP, Ina Angel, and Temple president, Fran Thalheimer, to attend the Women of Reform Judaism's (WRJ) Mid-Atlantic District Convention, held this past March 23-26.

Some 60 women from five states and Washington, D.C. convened in an atmosphere of comradery and sisterhood during programs, meals, services and full-time kibbitzing. And the ocean view hotel was more than accommodating.

The initiatives of our sister communities are wide and varied. Yet the main concern for women's rights and Jewish ideals is the standard banner.

I know that many of our members have enjoyed attending such conferences in the past. And I hope that there is a future for others as we go forward with our connection with WRJ. In fact, Fran was installed on the MAD's regional board and she is well connected to boot. Ina and I introduced ourselves as "friends of Fran."



Hopefully, our Sisterhood will highlight some of WRJ's initiatives with programs and activities. Jewish women and all women in general will be my focus for involvement in our community (which was the subject of our April 23 meeting).

Again, I am honored to have experienced this phenomenal convention.

Thank you, Sisterhood.

*Marsha Albert, Sisterhood President*

***In the Congregation and Community, continued***

*(Continued from page 2)*

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

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

June: Pam Goldfarb, Sue Eisinger, Steve Artz, Ronni & David Spudich, Jack Goldfarb, Anne Kushner, Betty & David Stern, Ditty & Gary Markham, Sarah & Brett Radow, David Thalheimer, Beth & Gary Winter, Doug Fisher

A few other events of note that I

heard about (I hope I captured all of them, but if I missed any, please forgive me, and let me know so I can acknowledge it next month):

Marsha Albert – mazal tov on grandson Alec Coulouris being accepted to the New School University Jazz Program.

Duke & Carole Bloom, and the entire Bloom clan – mazal tov on the naming of five grandchildren at one go!

Rachel Dash has returned from a trip to Guatemala. Ask her about it!

Roy Gooding has moved to South Carolina to be closer to his brother – mazal tov to him.

Mazal tov! Mary Rich Maloy was blessed with the birth of a granddaughter.

Stephen & Lynn Meyer – mazal tov on the marriage of granddaughter Sarah Sopher to Alex Bollinger.

Shelly & David Winowich moved to their new home in Concord, Mass., near their grandchildren – Mazal tov to them.

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.

***Support from and staying in touch with the Rabbi***

Please be in touch with me about anything I can offer; if you would like a visit or a conversation, or wish to add (or remove) a name on the Mi Sheberach list.

If you have any pastoral concerns, know of someone who needs pastoral or rabbinic support or assistance, have a suggestion or a concern about our community, please call me (the rabbi) on my cell phone at (304) 989-4014. If you prefer, you can contact the office and ask Greg to let me know you

called. Please feel free to email me. My email address is RabbiJoeB@gmail.com

I read email and texts quite regularly (Shabbat and Jewish 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 Joe*



## Mizrach Omer Calendar

*Mizrach Omer Calendar\**, by Moses H. Henry, Cincinnati, 1850. Ink on paper. Courtesy of the HUC Skirball Cultural Center Museum Collection, Los Angeles.

A mizrach serves as a symbolic orientation towards Jerusalem, the direction towards which prayer is oriented.

This highly complex mizrach illustrates Moses Henry's patriotism with the motif of the American eagle astride a shield and bunting of the Stars and Stripes.

The architectural images also make reference to the ideals of Freemasonry, as during the nineteenth century many Jews began to join Masonic orders.

This mizrach has a second function as an omer calendar, as the 49 roundels



in the border count the seven weeks between the holidays of Passover and Shavuot. The legend at the top reads "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither" (Psalms 137:5).

Source: Library of Congress. Author: Emil Flohri. Permission (Reusing this file): *Public domain*. This work is in the public domain in the United States because it was published (or registered with the U.S. Copyright Office) before Jan. 1, 1927. File name — \*please note misspelling of "calendar."

### May at a Glance, cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

Thursday, May 18 at 4:15 PM – A Bissell Torah, online only

Friday, May 19 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Thursday, May 25 at 4:15 PM – A Bissell Torah, online only

Friday, May 26 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat Service with Shavuot observed

Sunday, May 28 at 7 PM – Charleston Death Café, online only

Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day: Temple office closed.

#### Next month

Thursday, June 1 at 4:15 PM – A Bissell Torah, online only

Friday, June 2 at 5:30 PM - Shabbat Service with Covered Dish Dinner to follow

Sunday, June 4 at 10:30 AM – Torah study, Parashah Beha'alotecha, Numbers 8:1-12:16, online only

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

## 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): 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.*



**Thanks for making Shabbat even more special...**

**...By giving bimah flowers**

April 14– Margot Jogwick, in memory of Natalie Winowich

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.

*From the Temple President*

## **Annual meeting to be held *June 14*; thanks to everyone who helped with the Seder; updates from the URJ and the RAC**

To our Temple Community,

I send greetings from the Temple board of trustees to everyone. Please plan to attend the congregation's annual meeting on Wednesday, June 14 at 6 PM at the Temple. I hope we can encourage everyone to attend in-person, as we will be discussing our Temple's Endowment Fund and other important issues. Your voice and participation are important at this meeting. Temple members will be receiving information by mail as we get closer to the June meeting. A reception, catered and organized by board member Mary Rich Maloy, will follow the meeting.

I want to thank all who attended the congregation's Passover Seder on April 5, and would like to recognize and thank some of our Temple members for their help: to members of the Ritual Committee for their selection of a new Haggadah; to Rabbi Blair for leading our Seder; to Ellie Schaul for the gorgeous floral arrangements on every table; to Betty Stern for her help in setting tables and her guidance on organizing the Seder; to Jill Epstein, our Temple's House Chair, who quietly and efficiently organizes our Onegs, special events, and dinners; to David McAfee, Co-chair of the Temple's Security Committee, for hiring police protection and for his help in the kitchen; to Greg Proctor, the Temple's administrative assistant, who manages Seder reservations and communications; and to David Shapiro, who fixed up a second microphone for participants to use as they read portions of the Haggadah. It truly does take a village!

Here are some updates from the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), which is the congregational arm of Reform Judaism in North America:

Earlier this year, the URJ retained a leading law firm to conduct an independent, comprehensive, and impartial investigation into sexual harassment, abuse, and misconduct. This included anything experienced or witnessed at URJ workplaces, summer camps, and programming, including youth programming. Learn more at the URJ's Ethics Accountability

page, including the report of the Independent Investigation:

<https://urj.org/what-we-believe/ethics-accountability>

As part of the continuing effort by the URJ and our Movement partners to ensure safe, respectful, and equitable workplaces, the URJ is urging all congregations to adopt an ethics code that addresses the behavior of lay leaders, volunteers, congregants, and staff. Learn more about "Join the Campaign to Adopt an Ethics Code for Our Congregation":

<https://urj.org/blog/join-campaign-adopt-ethics-code-your-congregation>

Learn about important initiatives at the Religious Action Center (RAC) of Reform Judaism, including the Reform Movement's 2023 Campaign for Climate Justice, and how you can act to shape the future of this important campaign, and register for the "D.C. Day of Action" to be held May 10 & 11:

<https://rac.org/>

Learn about how to support Israel's Democracy and the Israeli Reform Movement:

<https://urj.org/blog/how-help-support-israels-democracy>

Don't forget to look for Rabbi Blair's LINKS emails each Thursday and Sunday, which include important information about services, events, classes, and much more.

Lastly, a reminder about April 30 klezmer concert featuring Michael Winograd and The Honorable Mentshn, at Temple Israel (in-person only), that Sunday at 7 PM – jointly sponsored by Temple Israel, B'nai Jacob Synagogue and Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston.

Any questions or comments, please contact me at (304) 545-7967 or [fot51@aol.com](mailto:fot51@aol.com)

*Francine Thalheimer, President*

### ***Tzedakah (Charity)***

As I say each month, please be generous with your tzedakah. There are so many disasters, wars, and catastrophes locally, nationally, and around the world. Needs are extreme, both domestically and overseas.

Please do what you can, wherever you can – financially, or by volunteering, or both. Support whatever you are able and what moves you. Particularly following Passover, our holiday

celebrating liberation and redemption, it is most appropriate to think of helping others in need.

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 onto you and your loved ones.

*Rabbi Joe*