

Shabbat service for Veterans Day and Kristallnacht Nov. 10 at 5:30 PM

Temple Israel Bulletin

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Fall colors in mountains near Bemis, Randolph County, West Virginia. Photograph by Jarek Tuszyński, via Wikimedia Commons.

Rabbi's Message

Shalom & greetings!

We recently celebrated the High Holy Day season, including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. That was more than enough celebrating for me for a while – I am just as happy that the next Jewish holiday of note will be Hanukkah.

Not that the calendar is empty: Nov. 4 is the Yahrzeit for Yitzhak Rabin, Nov. 5 is the end of Daylight-Saving Time, Nov. 7 is Election Day (in some states, but not West Virginia), Nov. 9 is Kristallnacht, and Nov. 11 is Veterans Day (we will be observing Kristallnacht and Veterans Day in the Shabbat service on Friday, Nov. 10). Looking toward the end of the month, Thanksgiving falls on Nov. 23, with the Temple office closed both Thursday and Friday. Hanukkah begins at sundown on Dec. 7, and ends at sundown on Dec. 15 (eight candles are lit on Thursday evening, Dec. 14).

I want to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to those who have let me know that they enjoyed the High Holiday services. It is gratifying and meaningful to me to hear that we make

our congregation and community feel connected religiously, spiritually, and in friendship with each other – I cannot think of a more wonderful way to support, nurture, and re-vitalize our community. I thank everyone who offered kind words, and appreciate all those who had constructive criticisms to offer to help us do better in future.

I have already said that it takes a village to make something as significant as the High Holy Day season work; I hope you all know how much I and others value and appreciate your contributions and especially your presence. Gathering and sharing the holidays makes it feel special, and makes me know that we are not only a congregation, but also a family – that is a source of deep satisfaction and joy for me, and I hope for you as well.

* * * *Late Addition* * * *

A short time after I created the first draft of this article, we arrived at the weekend of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, and an overwhelming tragedy unfolded in Israel as Hamas attacked the southern portion of the nation, using rockets, heavy equipment, gliders, drones, and whatever else they had amassed. As you know, they infiltrated with the purpose

to commit atrocities and crimes against humanity, and caused untold horrors, torture, death, and destruction, with the death toll exceeding 1,200, more than 3,000 known injured, and at least 200 taken as hostages into Gaza with their fate unknown as I submit this. Our hearts were broken and we were gripped by an array of emotions that was indescribable, still unresolved today.

On Oct. 10, Rabbi Urecki and I created a service to offer prayers and express our hopes in the face of this awful, disgusting, inhuman action. We wanted to offer hope and comfort, but realized there is nothing we can say, and very little we can do, in response, other than send donations to support our brothers and sisters in Israel, and gather together in prayer to express our unity and resolve that this will not shake us, and that even in the face of despicable and senseless acts of terror we will hold on to our hope and pursue our core and deep Jewish values; that we will respond appropriately, but continue to call on and hold our leaders and fellow Jews accountable, to not allow rage and hatred to overtake or control actions

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Shabbat worship services & Torah study

Religious services are both in-person and online (Zoom and Facebook).
Torah study sessions on Nov. 5 and Dec. 3 are online only.

NOVEMBER & EARLY DECEMBER

Friday, Nov. 3	Shabbat service at 5:30 PM, covered dish dinner to follow
Sunday, Nov. 5	Torah Study at 10:30 AM, <i>online only</i> . Parashah Chaye Sarah – Torah: Genesis 23:1-25:18. Haftarah: I Kings 1:1-31.
Friday, Nov. 10	Shabbat service with observance of Veterans Day & Kristallnacht at 5:30 PM. Parashah Chaye Sarah.
Friday, Nov. 17	Shabbat service at 5:30 PM, lay-led
Friday, Nov. 24	Shabbat service at 5:30 PM, lay-led. Parashah Vayeitzei.
Friday, Dec. 1	Shabbat service at 5:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 3	Torah Study at 10:30 AM, <i>online only</i> . Parashah Vayeshev – Torah: Genesis 37:1-40:23; Numbers 7:18-23. Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7.

Staying in touch with the Rabbi

Please be in touch with me if you would like a visit or a conversation, have a question, 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, or have a suggestion or a concern about our community, please call me (the rabbi) at (304) 989-4014, or email me at RabbiJoeB@gmail.com

I read email and texts regularly (Shabbat and Jewish holidays excepted – in an emergency on one of these days, 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.). Please be assured that I will respond as soon as I am able, and forgive any delay.

Rabbi Joe Blair



Wikimedia Commons

Joint Temple-Synagogue Hanukkah celebration and dinner Dec. 10

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 5:30 PM at Temple Israel: Hanukkah Dinner for Temple Israel and B'nai Jacob members plus members of Sisterhood & Ladies' Auxiliary. RSVP the Temple office by Dec. 4.

You are welcome to bring your menorah from home—plus FIVE (5) candles to fit it—for the fourth-night community lighting display.

Tzedakah (Charity)

As always, but particularly at this time of the year when we have been thinking about how to improve on past actions for the future, please be generous. There are so many desperate needs in the world – the headlines tell us that there are many disasters, wars, and catastrophes all around us, not to mention all that is happening in Israel, and needs are extreme, both domestically and overseas.

Please do what you can, wherever you can – both financially and by volunteering. Reach out and assist whoever and whatever you are able, supporting whatever moves you. We know that Tzedakah is among the highest of all mitzvot possible.

May your heart be moved to give a little bit more than you otherwise might, and may your generosity be a blessing for those who receive it and reflect back onto you and your loved ones. If you want suggestions for organizations to support, I will be happy to offer some, but I know you probably already have your own favorites. Please see the Reminder LINKS emails for suggestions of places to help in Israel.

Rabbi Joe Blair

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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Rabbi James D. Cohn, Z"l
Israel B. Koller, Z"l

November yahrzeits

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

November 3rd

William F. Hoss	11/4
Seymour Kantor	11/4
Joseph Klee	11/4
Max Pitasky	11/4
Louis D. Glass	11/5
Louis Goldfarb	11/5
Phineas Berenson	11/6
Charles McHale	11/6
Floy M. Sessions	11/6
Eleanor "Ellie" Burka	11/7
Carl H. Lehman	11/7
Michael M. "Mike" Margolis	11/7
Edwin Stabins	11/7
Harry Fleischmann	11/9
Hyman Gilman	11/9
Joseph Gotlieb	11/10
Florine Marks Isaac	11/10
Susan Jubelirer Nesi	11/10

November 10th

Sam Badner	11/11
Louis Cohen	11/11
Lilla Wolf	11/11

Barbara Brooks	11/12
Isaac Salem	11/12
Albert Schwabe	11/12
Alma Bernheimer	11/13
Milton Gottlieb	11/13
Ellis C. Amburgey Sr.	11/14
Anna Gersman	11/14
Bernard Gottlieb	11/14
David H. Kahn	11/14
Jean Merz Klee	11/14
Sydney M. Kleeman	11/15
Louis Jordan	11/16
Herbert Gottlieb	11/17
Minnie H. Kahn	11/17

November 17th

Anna Barton	11/19
Franc Stern	11/19
H. H. Wills	11/20
Esther Mendeloff	11/21
Edith Hartley Aaron	11/22
Frances W. Freedman	11/22
Nina Poppelsdorf	11/22
Sadie Shane	11/22

November 24th

Minnie Hess	11/26
Morton A. Lewis	11/26
Harriet B. "Cissy" Abrams	11/27
Jearoll Casto	11/27
Doris Kleeman Leopold	11/27
Reba Markstein Lindenberg	11/27
Max Feinberg	11/28
Jane R. Glaser	11/28
Bernard H. Jacobson	11/28
Carol Katz	11/28
Robert "Bob" Albert	11/29
Jacob Solon Broida	11/29
Reba Blustein Cohen	11/29
Bob Baer	11/30
Maxine Stabins	11/30
Bernard Mordecai Weinstein	11/30
Joanne Mendeloff Misaqi	12/1

November & early December at a Glance

This is a projected calendar of events; it may be incomplete or need to be changed. Services are both in-person and online. All meetings, classes, programs, and events are either in-person or online, as announced. Updates to this information will be included in "Upcoming Events" on the Temple website, and in the Reminder LINKS emails sent out by Rabbi Blair twice-weekly. If you aren't receiving LINKS emails, please let Rabbi know. Covid-19 and influenza: masking is suggested if you are exhibiting any symptoms of illness or are likely to have been exposed; vaccination with a bi-valent vaccine is required to attend in person.

November

Friday, Nov. 3 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, covered dish dinner to follow

Sunday, Nov. 5 at 10:30 AM – Torah study, online only. Parashah Chaye Sarah – Torah: Genesis 23:1-

25:18. Haftarah: I Kings 1:1-31.

Friday, Nov. 10 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat Service, Veterans Day & Kristallnacht observed, Torah Parashah Chaye Sarah

Monday, Nov. 13, 11:30 AM—1 PM—Sisterhood Schmooze

Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 5:30 PM – Temple Israel board of trustees meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 5:30 PM – Leora May Book Club, at the Olive Tree

Friday, Nov. 17 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, lay-led

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 23 & 24 – Temple office closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, Nov. 24 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, lay-led, Torah Parashah Vayeitzei

December

Friday, Dec. 1 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Sunday, Dec 3 at 10:30 AM – Torah study,

online only. Parashah Vayeshev – Torah: Genesis 37:1-40:23; Numbers 7:18-23. Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7.

Thursday, Dec. 7 evening – First night of Hanukkah, 1 candle is lit

Friday, Dec. 8 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, 2 Hanukkah candles are lit

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 5:30 PM – Hanukkah Dinner for Temple Israel and B'nai Jacob Synagogue, to be held at Temple Israel. Dinner is open to Temple and Synagogue members, plus members of Sisterhood and the Ladies' Auxiliary. 4 Hanukkah candles are lit. **RSVP to the Temple office no later than Dec. 4.** You are welcome to bring your menorah from home, with FIVE (5) candles to fit it, for the community lighting display.



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. If we spoke and you did not want your name announced in the Mi Sheberach list, please know that I have included you in my personal prayers for healing and wholeness, though your name is not listed here.

Kim Aaron
David Bailey
Lois Bailey
Deborah Brandon
Holden Mathew Briant
Melissa Cadle
Patricia Cohen Coniglio
Arthur Epstein
Jonathan Freedman
Karl Gattlieb
Ed Goldberg
Bob Gordon
Mel Hutt
Rabbi Earl Jordan
Gloria Kelley
Dorothy Kurland
Laura Malloy
Jim Muldoon
Gary Markham
Jim Muldoon
Hedy Poppelsdorf
Amy Shapiro
Julie Schaul
N. David Stern
Deb Straw
Matt Tomaszewski
Barbara Braun-Tweddle
Penny Williams
Gary Winter
Rachel Leah bat Shayna Chaya veShmuel

All who are impacted by illness or poor health

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

All others in need of prayers for healing and wholeness, however that may manifest and whatever it may be for them

Mazal Tov (Congratulations)

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

To those who reached or will reach milestones, and to all who had any birthday or anniversary or other life event worth celebrating! Among those we know who are to be acknowledged we include:

October: **Mary Hart (MILESTONE), Richard Hess (MILESTONE), Ina Angel (MILESTONE), Ladonna & David Kushner (MILESTONE), Julie Schaul, Gary Winter, Marlo Weisberg, Nancy & Ray Dodson (MILESTONE), Millie Snyder, Alan Fleischmann (MILESTONE), Debby Sonis, Gloria Kelley (MILESTONE), Marsha Platnick (MILESTONE), Anne & Bill Kroesser**

November: Barbara Braun-Tweddle, Roger Forman, Jennifer Stern, Mark Schaul, Betty Stern, **Jill Epstein (MILESTONE), Gregg Stern, Steve Meyer, Anne Fishkin (MILESTONE), Kim Aaron**

December: Ellie Schaul, Steve Jubelirer, **Cookie Glasser (MILESTONE), Robert Hess, David Feibelman, Melissa Cadle, Jackie Artz, Ellyn & Ed Goldberg, Laura & Jace Goins, Marion Baer, Arla Ralston & Roger Forman, Joy Kleeman**

If you have a milestone 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.

Sisterhood history, cont'd

(Continued from page 5)

From 1945 to the present we can boast of having our name placed on an honor roll for Uniongrams and the YES Fund. In 1950 the first Interfaith luncheon in the Kanawha Valley was held at our Temple with 250 in attendance. The year 2017 marked the 67th anniversary of the interfaith luncheon with no years missed. The fifties were also busy. We started our first Holland bulb sale with 2017 being our 63rd sale! In the mid-fifties two institutes on Judaism were sponsored for the purpose of preventing prejudice.

In 1960 our congregation moved into our present building and with that move, we once again changed our name. We became "Temple Israel Sisterhood." We provided funds for the new Ark as well as pledges for the new kitchen, the Sisterhood lounge and the library. We are very proud of Or Ami awards during the 1970s for organizing a volunteer Citizens Recycling Center that operated for sixteen years and for presenting a Jewish Holiday exhibit at the local children's museum. In the 1990s our bold members sold 5,255 House Pins" earning \$21,020 for the benefit of the Sojourner's Shelter playground.

Our Sisterhood continues its support and contributions to Temple life by sponsoring the High Holy Days reception with the Temple Board and the Break-the-Fast. We have an outreach program to our college youth, pulpit flowers, and a Care Committee that reaches out to those in time of need. We are active in our community through our work with the Kanawha Valley Interfaith Council, Manna Meal and the Sojourners Shelter. Proceeds from the sale of our cookbook, "Kitchen Mavens' Recipes" was used to refurbish our Sisterhood Lounge.

Temple Israel Sisterhood remains a strong and vibrant organization. Join us and become part of this rich history!

Reprinted from the Temple Israel website, <https://templeisraelwv.org>

Sisterhood Message

Visiting our past: learning from previous presidents to build on their successes for a better Temple Israel Sisterhood

The distinction of serving as president of our Temple Israel Sisterhood for three terms belongs to only one woman, Francine Thalheimer. It was Fran who first responded to my invitation to meet with past Presidents to explore our history.

Fran graciously suggested lunch and we met in October to reminisce about her years as leader of Sisterhood and as an active member of our community and beyond.

The years that Fran presided were 1988-90, 2005-07, and 2010-12. All I can say is "Wow, what commitment!"

So, I had lots of questions, and Fran is seemingly one of the best persons to fill me in. Many of the women she brought up were pillars of our Temple history, including her mother-in-law, Helen Thalheimer, and other familiar names to me as I grew up in Charleston with their children. Women I also had looked up to.

Fran, a New Jersey native, arrived in Charleston in 1975 to take a job here. What she found along the way was a husband, David Thalheimer, and an extended family. Fate indeed. My disclosure is that Fran and David met at a Jewish singles party one Sunday afternoon and the rest is history. The late Suzie Chaskin and I hosted that party, I am happy to say.



Current Sisterhood president Marsha Albert (at right) on a recent visit with past-president Fran Thalheimer.

Photo courtesy Marsha Albert

Her three tenures as Sisterhood President highlighted Fran's passion for social justice. She credits the late Helaine Kaufman Rotgin as her mentor. But even before that, Fran's own mother instilled a strong sense of social action commitment.

Getting to know and work with strong and smart women on important social issues is wholly appreciated by Fran as she is gratefully involved both locally and throughout our WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism) mid-Atlantic region.

Fran credits husband David for always being supportive of her time and devotion to all her many worthwhile causes. She brings social issues to our current group at every Sisterhood board meeting, which I believe add to the soul of our Sisterhood. During our October Schmooze, Fran presented attendees with a postcard project to encourage Ohio voters to vote "yes" on an issue on their November ballot that supports women's health freedom. We all took postcards, provided by Fran, to write with enthusiasm.

Thank you, Fran.

Marsha Albert, Sisterhood President

Temple Israel Sisterhood—150 years of fellowship and ideals

In 1874, one year after Virginia Street Temple was organized, our very dedicated women organized the ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society with a focus on charity at home and away. In 1984, our generous Ladies donated a Ten Commandments stained glass window to the Temple. It now illuminates our foyer at Temple Israel.

By 1914 we were fifty members strong and were led by Mrs. Ben Baer when we linked to the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. As women are prone to do, our name was changed to the Virginia Street Temple Sisterhood at that time. During the 1920s the Jewish Braille Institute gained support by resourceful women that was carried through the 1950-60s when tape recordings were made. In 1928 the Cradle Roll was in place for

preschoolers, a program that touched many lives and created many memories. In 1982, it was rekindled, providing holiday parties for preschoolers and their parents. At this time (2017) we do not have a Cradle Roll program.

During the Second World War, a Sewing Circle was organized to make garments for various charitable organizations, to knit sweaters and gloves for service men and roll bandages with the Red Cross. In 1943, sales of our FIRST cookbook, "What's Cooking," purchased a Red Cross Bloodmobile for Cairo, Egypt which displayed the name of the energetic and charitable Women of the Virginia Street Temple Sisterhood, Charleston, WV USA.

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Our Thoughtful Contributors

Sisterhood Funds

Y.E.S. Fund. Youth, Education, Special projects provides scholarship assistance for rabbinic students, supports activities for high school and college age youth through National Federation of Temple Youth, and contributes to special projects of religious education, social and humanitarian concern.

Uniongrams. A service of sending messages for all occasions. Proceeds aid YES Fund. Individual cards may be purchased at Temple office.

Circle of Service. A personal participation in the Youth, Education, and Special

Projects (YES) Fund. Membership is open to all interested people within or beyond the Sisterhood or the Temple family. Contributions are tax deductible.

World Union for Progressive Judaism. The international body of Reform/Liberal/Progressive Judaism that works in more than 25 countries. WUPJ helps establish congregations, develops religious educational material, provides rabbinic leadership, and serves in an advisory and advocacy role.

Services to the Blind and Visually Handicapped. Supports the Jewish Braille Institute.

When making donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Unrestricted Fund, or the Social Action Fund, please make your check payable to Temple Israel.

Please make Sisterhood donations payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood.

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

Thanks for making Shabbat even more special with food & flowers



Flowers on the bimah during the month of October were given by Sisterhood.

The Oneg Shabbat reception on Oct. 13 was given by Francine and David Thalheimer, in honor of and to welcome our WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism) Sisters from Beth El Congregation in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Photos by Greg Proctor



Loop technology in the Sanctuary for improving hearing at services

When the main Sanctuary was renovated (only a few years ago now), we installed Loop technology, a mechanism for hearing/audio assistance.

There are two ways it can work: I am reminding you of them in case this would be of help to you – it has been a while since anything was said about them.

1. **If you have hearing aids**, especially newer ones, they may include the required functionality to tune in to the Loop system, so the audio in the Sanctuary will be picked up directly by the hearing aids. To make this work, however, it is necessary that the system be enabled (turned on) in the hearing aid. Please check with your audiologist or provider to determine if your hearing aids have this ability, and have

it turned on if they do. That way, you will need to do nothing else – when you are in the Sanctuary, the sound will come directly to your hearing aids.

2. **If you don't have hearing aids, or your hearing aids don't include this technology**, you can still pick up the sound from the Loop technology using a receiver and earplug or headphone. We have three of these devices available – just let us know if you would like to use one for a service in the Sanctuary, and we can make sure it is provided for you to use.



Photo by Greg Proctor

Rabbi Joe Blair

Rabbi's Message, continued

(Continued from page 1)

taken or to escalate this terrible situation further. Those who perpetrated this atrocity should pay the full price, but we cannot paint all who live in Gaza with the same brush – that would reduce us to the level of the sub-humans who did this – and our faith calls on us to avoid that path. We face a difficult, painful, and uncertain path ahead, but we do so in knowing that our faith, tradition, and heritage are a source of true knowledge and guidance in navigating it. May we be granted wisdom, understanding, fortitude, and compassion in appropriate measure, and respond in such a way that we will deter anyone attempting this kind of attack again, helping to bring and sustain peace and safety for all.

Calendar news

Recent Highlights. Even before the attack on Israel, in all honesty, the last month has been a blur for me. No other time in the Jewish calendar year comes even close to the intensity and religious significance of this period that spans the High Holy Days. Frankly, the days all ran together, and I found myself having to run twice as fast just to remain in place (as Alice in *Through the Looking Glass*). In the end, though, I hope that you experienced it as worth all the effort, and that you felt as good about how it went this year as I do. Admittedly, I am exhausted and drained, but my sense is that it provided a strong sense of how connected we are, how much we need each other, and how important our congregation and community are to the wellbeing of each of us. May we go from strength to strength and be strengthened!

We restarted the (ir-)regular weekly series, A Bissell Torah, (some) Thursdays at 4:30 PM online (note the new time). You are invited to join this conversation connected (however loosely) to Torah in the broadest sense.

I was asked by Pastor James Riggs to speak at the Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church in Gassaway on Oct. 15 on the topic of Passover as it is written about in the

Tanach and as it is observed in the Seder.

Special Note: Thanks to everyone who helped welcome our guest speaker Alica Fruhwaldova with a lovely Oneg Shabbat reception following the Oct. 20 service.

Looking Ahead. November will be less hectic, but we still have lots planned.

In October I offered a class through WVU OLLI on Contemporary Jewish Poetry and Liturgy. I will have another course in the Winter session, again a three-session course, looking at writings of Gaya Aranoff Bernstein, Norman Fischer, and Merle Feld – quite different from what we read in October. If this is of interest to you, please look at the offerings from WVU OLLI, and register through them.

The Jewish Literature series will now be a regular monthly event, online only, meeting on the third Sunday of each month (unless that is a holiday) 4-5 PM (please note earlier time).

The United States Attorneys for the Southern and Northern Districts of West Virginia will partner with the American Jewish Committee (AJC) to provide a briefing/training regarding Antisemitism Awareness. The event is will be Nov. 6, 10 AM - 12 PM (registration closed Oct. 27). Temple Israel is co-sponsoring the local event with B'nai Jacob, with in-person attendance at B'nai Jacob; otherwise online. Rabbi Meyers from Tree of Life in Pittsburgh will be one of the speakers. With the continuing rise of antisemitic incidents, and in the environment that exists following the attack on Israel, this is timely and worthy of attention.

The Leora May Book Club is scheduled to meet Nov. 15 at 5:30 PM at the Olive Tree restaurant.

A little further ahead. The Torah Study series will resume on Sunday Nov. 5 at 10:30 AM, and plans are to hold it be held the first Sunday of each month (except May, when it will

move to May 12). Again, I look forward to sharing the pleasure of looking into some aspect of the text of the Torah parashah for that week with you.

After long consideration, I have discontinued the Charleston Death Café. The constraints on using the "Death Café" title did not allow us to explore other areas. Instead, on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 7 PM we will debut and test out a new online-only series, "Death While Dining" (title tentative). This generic approach will allow us to set an agenda, have speakers, and otherwise do things couldn't within the Death Café structure. I encourage you to have snacks or a meal with you during the session, so we can all converse and partake of refreshments. We will meet on the first Sunday of the month, and if it is successful, each subsequent month except May (due to a schedule conflict). I look forward to having some of you join me in this new offering. Please invite anyone interested in this topic to join us.

Rabbi Urecki and I will fix a time for both the Torah and Talmud classes to begin again after the conclusion of the holiday season, and urge you to join him (and me) in those sessions. The conversation is interesting, enlightening, and just plain fun.

Thoughts, Blessings, and Salutations

With the conclusion of the High Holiday season, we return to our usual greetings. I extend to you, and to all wherever they may be, very warm wishes for good things in life; may each of us be granted health, happiness, prosperity, love, and friendship, in addition to many joys and blessings throughout the year 5784 – and in particular, may there be peace and an end to war and bloodshed. Ken Yehi Ratzon – may it prove so.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace),
and prayers for all things good, for you
and your loved ones,

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair

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