

Hanukkah Dinner: Sunday, Dec. 10 at 5:30—RSVP by Dec 4th

Temple Israel Bulletin

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Rabbi's Message

Shalom & greetings!

A Difficult Time. This is the Bulletin article for December. I write in a very somber mood. The recent past has been a difficult time in many ways, certainly following the events of Oct. 7 in Israel; continuing through the justified response of Israel to that terrorist attack, with the tragedy of the loss of lives in Gaza due to Hamas using civilians as living shields to try to prevent any effective response by Israel; exacerbated by the indefensible reactions of many people, nations, and international organizations who want Israel to simply serve as a sitting duck target, absorbing whatever is done to it and doing nothing to prevent it or cause it to stop; and more specifically, including horrendous and hate filled words and actions in many places, not least of which have been in the United States, and particularly troubling, on campuses, in numerous verbal and physical attacks on Jewish students and professors for no reason except the hate born of antisemitism.

Adding to the pain and insult has been the piling on of those with whom we have worked for years to further joint goals of seeking a more just world, but who have now shown that this goal does not apply to us in their hearts; and most painful of all, seeing that there are some in the secular and even the Jewish world who value the lives of Jews so lightly or not at all.

This is not an easy time for Jews – many of us are hurting, and we find little comfort.

I say little – but I want to emphasize that there IS some, because we are hearing from people in our communities who express their support and concern for us locally, in Israel, and everywhere. We take heart in their reaching out to us, we are deeply grateful, and we feel blessed by their concern and care. We thank them, and pray that these good people be blessed for their kindness and compassion. We pray that we may work with them to make a better and more godly world in the days ahead.

We take heart also in the gathering of close to 300,000 Jews on the Mall in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 14 to demand the safe return of hostages, to express support for the state of Israel, and to speak out against hatred, bigotry, and antisemitism. May the voices raised there, and by those supporters who were not able to be present, be heard loudly and clearly, and may those in positions of power or authority listen and respond appropriately.

We pray for an end to terrorism and hatred, the safe return of all hostages and captives, and a cessation of bloodshed, war, and death, with a lasting peace for all who seek it – in Israel, in Gaza, and everywhere in the world. Ken yehi ratzon (may it be so, soon).

The events of the world do not change the fact that things continue in our small corner of it, and in many ways, as we

approach Thanksgiving, we still have a great deal to make us grateful. I have already mentioned that we have received many positive messages of support and expressions of concern, a truly overwhelming show from many in our community.

In addition to the support coming from the larger community, I am deeply appreciative that we have a congregation and a Jewish community that is so connected and caring, making this a warm and vibrant home that welcomes each of us, and any others who come to this area. For a Jewish community the size of Charleston and the Kanawha Valley, and including our members in the Parkersburg-Marietta area, we are both fortunate and blessed to have the rich diversity and variety of Jewish and secular events spanning cultural, religious, educational, culinary, and social realms. I have felt especially grateful to find that no matter where I have gone, I have felt warmly welcomed, and I hope that is so for everyone. This is a lovely community, and a tiny gem shining out brightly in the world. If only this were the experience of all everywhere!

I will count these among the many blessings I enjoy as I gather with family and friends for the Thanksgiving holiday that is just around the corner as I write this, and these are the feelings I will carry forward as we enter the celebration of the holiday of lights. I often find myself

(Continued on page 4)

Shabbat worship services & Torah study

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

Torah study sessions on Dec. 3 & Jan. 7 are online only.

DECEMBER & EARLY JANUARY

Friday, Dec. 1	Shabbat service at 5:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 3	Torah Study at 10:30 AM, Parashah Vayeshev [Gen 37:1-40:23, Numbers 7:1-8] – online only
Friday, Dec. 08	Shabbat service at 5:30 PM, Hanukkah, 2 candles plus Shamash candle
Friday, Dec. 15	Shabbat service at 5:30 PM, Beckley guests expected
Friday, Dec. 22	Shabbat service at 5:30 PM
Friday, Dec. 29	Shabbat service at 5:30 PM
Friday, Jan. 5	Shabbat service at 5:30 PM, Covered Dish Dinner to follow
Sunday, Jan. 7	Torah study , Parashah Vaera [Ex. 6:2-9:35] – online only

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

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.

Joint Temple-Synagogue Hanukkah 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 Temple office by Dec. 4.

Please note: All reservations must be made by Dec. 4 to assure seating. No reservations will be taken after that date. Greg Proctor in the Temple Office will take your name and number in your party.

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



Wikimedia Commons

Tzedakah (Charity)

As always, but particularly now when we are thinking of all the reasons to be grateful, 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.

Rabbi Joe Blair

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Gayle Twigger-Shaw, *President*
Joseph M. Blair, *Rabbi*

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

December yahrzeits

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

December 1st

Cherie Cremer	12/2
Hannah Kaplan	12/2
Dave Kahn Jr.	12/3
Mary Beth Chadwick	12/4
Minnie Elgart	12/4
Fran Fahey	12/4
Frances B. Kay	12/4
Cecile Rossin	12/4
Edward B. Cohen	12/5
Dr. Leonard M. Eckmann	12/5
Aaron Morton Kaye	12/5
Goldie Mendelsohn	12/5
Lavalie Bixby Hoss	12/6
Howard J. Klapper	12/6
Frederick Barkus	12/7
Marcus Lopin	12/7
Albert Thalheimer Jr.	12/7
Frederic J. Glazer	12/8
Mary Schuchat	12/8

December 8th

Jean Loewenstein Lazarus	12/9
Eloise Ella Atkinson Carrol	12/10
Hershel R. Hark	12/10
Emma Rae Jones	12/10
Abbon Kamons	12/10
Jo Marshuetz	12/10
Maxwell Lewis Broverman	12/11
Jess Cohn	12/11
Minna Gersman	12/11
Anna Klein Broida	12/12
Sheila Ross	12/12
Mollie Jordan	12/13
Patricia Logan	12/13

Lee Stern	12/13
Esther Darling Weingarden	12/13
Evelyn Forman	12/15
Marion Goldenberg	12/15
Severna "Cissie" Herman	12/15
Larry Zakin	12/15

December 15th

Hugh M. Jones Jr.	12/16
B. Paul Broida	12/17
Sara Goldhirsh Dash	12/17
Teresa Roberts Davis	12/17
Louis Engelman	12/17
Manuel Pickus	12/17
Sidney Robbins	12/17
Louis Schuchat	12/17
Avraham Angel	12/18
Helen Baer	12/18
Regina Goldberger	12/18
Rudolph Grinberg	12/18
Milton Cohen	12/19
Jeanette Green	12/19
Robert Silverstein Sr.	12/19
Esther "Mickey" Baer	12/20
Manuel Cremer	12/21
Sanford "Sandy" Darling	12/21
Samuel Rosen	12/21
Hyman Bernstein	12/22
Goldie Cohen	12/22

December 22nd

Naomi Jean Bright	12/24
Susan Fretwell	12/24
Louis Levey	12/24
Zelda Plotkin	12/24

Kate Srulovitz	12/24
David Selinger	12/25
Kaethe Wells	12/25
Beatrice H. Kleeman	12/26
Frances Roseblatt	12/27
Edward Doernberg	12/28
Paul Joseph Kaufman	12/28
Rose Jean Kaufman	12/28
Steven Miles Kaufman	12/28
Eva Waisburd	12/28
Fanny Wertheim	12/28
Nathan Forb	12/29

December 29th

Dorothy Allen	12/30
George Badner	12/30
Suzie Greenwald Chaskin	12/30
Max Greenstein	12/31
Sydney Joseph Kaufman	12/31
David Sanger	12/31
Otto Spiegler	12/31
Charles H. Levine	1/1
Sarah Rebecca Orelowitz	1/1
Albert Reinfeld	1/1
Irma Lowenthal Swarts	1/2
Edwin Yunker	1/2
Mildred Fleischmann	1/3
Samuel Beren	1/4
David Goldenberg	1/4
Coleman Jacobs	1/4
Sidney Marks	1/4
Goldie Remer	1/4
Dorothy Loeb	1/5
Fedor Poppelsdorf	1/5

December & early January at a Glance

This is a projected calendar of events; it may be incomplete or changed. Services are both in-person and online/virtual. All meetings, classes, programs, and events are either in person or virtual, as announced. Updates to this information will be included on the Temple website and in the Reminder Links emails. Wearing a mask is suggested if you are exhibiting any symptoms of illness; vaccination with a bi-valent vaccine is required to attend in person. If you aren't receiving emails from Rabbi Blair about online sessions, please let him know.

December

Friday, Dec. 1 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service
Sunday, Dec. 3 at 10:30 AM – Torah study, Parashah Vayeshev [Gen 37:1-40:23, Numbers 7:1-8] – online only
Sunday, Dec. 3 at 7 PM – Death While Dining – online only
Thursday, Dec. 7 at 4:30 PM – A Bissell Torah – online only
Thursday, Dec. 7 evening – First night of Hanukkah, 1 candle plus Shamash candle

Friday, Dec. 8 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, Hanukkah, 2 candles plus Shamash candle
Sunday, Dec. 10 at 5:30 PM – Congregational & Community Hanukkah Dinner, 4 Candles plus Shamash candle
Monday, Dec. 11 at 11:30 AM – Sisterhood Schmooze
Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 5:30 PM – Temple Israel board of trustees meeting
Thursday, Dec. 14 at 4:30 PM – A Bissell

(Continued on page 6)



Rabbi's Message, continued

(Continued from page 1)

feeling that the lights of Hanukkah are the physical manifestations of the warmth and love that exist in our hearts, a visible expression of G-d's presence among us and in the world, and a hope for a more just and godly world.

May each of you feel blessed, and find many reasons to feel and to express gratitude at this season, and on into the year. I look forward to celebrating Hanukkah with you in the coming weeks, as well as sharing other times of joy and celebration.

Loop Technology Further Update

I mentioned the Loop Technology installed in the sanctuary last month. It is still there and functioning, but I have since been told that newer hearing aids do not include the capability to tune in (in order to make them smaller), so that option may not be available directly. However, there are **receivers in the choir loft area, with earphones**, so you can still use the system. Ask the tech crew about them if you want to use them at a service.

Calendar news

Recent Highlights. As I mentioned in my report to the Temple board of trustees, it

has been a very busy time. Some of the highlights included:

- a visit to Gassaway Presbyterian Church
- the visit of Alica Fruwahldova and her daughters
- the observance of the fifth anniversary of the Tree of Life attack
- our annual observance of Kristallnacht and Veterans Day
- ongoing Torah study
- participating at the Baha'i commemoration event concerning the execution of 10 women for refusing to renounce their faith
- and much more in addition to all the other things usually on the calendar.

Looking Ahead. We have regular services each Friday; A Bissell Torah continue from the 30 of November onward. The following are some additional events of note.

On Dec. 3 we have a Torah study in the morning, and the initial session of Death While Dining in the evening. Hanukkah begins the evening of Dec. 7, and we will include it in the Shabbat service on Dec. 8. The communal **Hanukkah dinner** will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10 (RSVPs are required no later than Dec 4). The regular monthly Temple board meeting will be Tuesday, Dec 12.

A little further ahead. The Torah study series will meet again on Sunday morning, Jan. 7, at 10:30 am looking at Parashah Vaera, Ex. 6:2-9:35. Death While Dying is planned for Jan. 7 as well.

Because things can change after the bulletin is published, the most up to date information is found in the Reminder Links emails and on the Temple Website.

Thoughts, Blessings, and Salutations

I extend to you, your loved ones, and to all wherever they may be, very warm wishes for blessings. If you are traveling, may it be safely.

May each of us be granted health, happiness, prosperity, love, and friendship, in addition to many joys and blessings – and in particular, may there be peace and an end to war and bloodshed, and may all hostages return safely home. May the light of G-d fill Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, our lives, and our world. Ken Yehi Ratzon – may it prove so soon.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace),

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair

RabbiJoeB@gmail.com

(304) 989-4014

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
Patricia Cohen Coniglio
Arthur Epstein
Jonathan Freedman
Karl Gattlieb
Bob Gordon
Mel Hutt
Rabbi Earl Jordan
Dorothy Kurland
Steve Ludwigs
Laura Malloy
Gary Markham
Jim Muldoon

Hedy Poppelsdorf
Amy Shapiro
David Shapiro
N. David Stern
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

(Continued on page 6)

Sisterhood Message

More sharing of Sisterhood's history from leaders who are still active and glad to be of service to the congregation

It felt like old home week to chat with Betty and David Stern regarding their combined years of membership and service to Temple Israel. In fact, the two were married at The Daniel Boone Hotel because the "new" Temple on Kanawha Boulevard was still under construction (you do the math).

Betty and I grew up in Charleston's East End, attended the same schools, belonged to same religious youth groups, and even played together on the B'nai Jacob girls basketball team in the 1950s. We laughed about how girls only played on half of the court then (the weaker sex, I'm guessing). Well, Betty was pretty good, a starter and scorer, while I do not recall being let off the bench.

David came from Weston, W.Va., and the couple met at WVU. Settling in Charleston where both taught school at first, Betty worked many years at The Art Store with Sherry Lovett and Ellie Schaul. All along, Betty was active in Temple Sisterhood as well as many community causes.

Serving as Sisterhood President in 1985-87, Betty described her first Sisterhood experience as working in the kitchen carefully forming butter pats on a plate while supervised by one of the older ladies as leaving a lasting impression on her. Some scenes like this are easily visualized.

The Friday night service's Oneg Shabbat reception can be attributed to Betty, as she was responsible for making it a weekly mainstay during her presidency. Betty's mother was a Sisterhood member when the ladies needed to separate the Holland bulbs from large bundles before distribution.

David's many years as our musical director began in 1964 when he was called in as a substitute. No one can even imagine services without him now. He is truly our "music man."

Reminiscing with Betty and David was indeed a trip down memory lane, when young couples returned to Charleston after college to begin careers and families. As David said, "we were the young ones." It was a heyday for both of Charleston's Jewish congregations with filled seats, bustling Sunday schools, and youth groups. Several ladies' groups existed then also.

Betty has been a rock in our Sisterhood fulfilling many unsung jobs. She is Sisterhood's "forever Treasurer" and co-chairs our extremely active Helen F. Thalheimer Care Committee. She is that quiet entity who always gets the job well done. "Call Betty" is a familiar phrase when it comes to getting



David and Betty Stern.
Photo courtesy N. David Stern

stuff accomplished. Her stated desire is for our smaller congregations to keep Jewish life active in Charleston.

Thank you, Sterns.

*Marsha Albert, Sisterhood
President*

The first Sisterhood board and general membership meeting and luncheon of the New Year was held Oct. 25. After lunch, it was all-aboard a KRT trolley bus for the Charleston "Public Art Trolley Ride" tour led by Jeff Pierson, Director of Public Art for the city.

*Pictured below: Harriet Deutsch (L);
Program Chair Cookie Glasser
(middle); Karen Lukens (R). Photo
courtesy Marsha Albert.*



Our Thoughtful Contributors

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

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.

Hanukkah Dinner info from our president

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

It's that time of the year! The Hanukkah Dinner, sponsored by Temple Israel and B'nai Jacob Synagogue, will be held on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at Temple Israel.

Bring dreidels and a menorah from home – and five (5) candles that will fit your menorah – and other festive memorabilia to share on the special table! The dinner is being catered by Tastefully Dun, and a great menu has been planned.

Please note: All reservations must be made on or before Dec. 4 to assure seating. No reservations will be taken after that date.

Gayle Twigger-Shaw, President, Temple Israel



In the Congregation and Community, cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

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:

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 (MILESTONE), David Feibelman, Melissa Cadle, Jackie Artz, Ellyn & Ed Goldberg, Laure & Jace Goins, Marion Baer, Arla Ralston & Roger Forman, Joy Kleeman

January: Caroline Ostand, Ken Silverstein, Elizabeth Kantor-Bright, David Kushner, David Winowich, Ellyn Goldberg, Richard Holicker (MILESTONE), Johnny Ferrara (MILESTONE), Tiana Hall, Hedy Pop-pelsdorf, Richard Gottlieb (MILESTONE), David Shapiro (MILESTONE), Lauar Goins, Beth Winter

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.

We offer a hearty Mazal Tov to Ellyn & Ed Goldberg (grandparents), and to Abe and Roni Goldberg (parents), as well as to Leo Goldberg, on his Bar Mitzvah in Harrisonburg, Va. on Nov. 17-18! I still recall when Leo arrived at the religious school there – it is hard for me to imagine he is old enough to celebrate this milestone. I know he will do a fabulous job!

At a Glance, cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

Torah – online only

Thursday, Dec. 14 evening – Last (eighth) night of Hanukkah, 8 candles plus Shamash candle; Hanukkah ends at sundown on Friday, Dec. 15

Friday, Dec. 15 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service (Beckley guests expected)

Sunday, Dec. 17 at 11 AM, Sisterhood board meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 5:30 PM – Leora May Book Club

Thursday, Dec. 21 at 4:30 PM – A Bissell Torah – online only

Friday, Dec. 22 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

Monday, Dec. 25 all day – Temple office closed

Thursday, Dec. 28 at 4:30 PM – A Bissell Torah – online only

Friday, Dec. 29 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

January

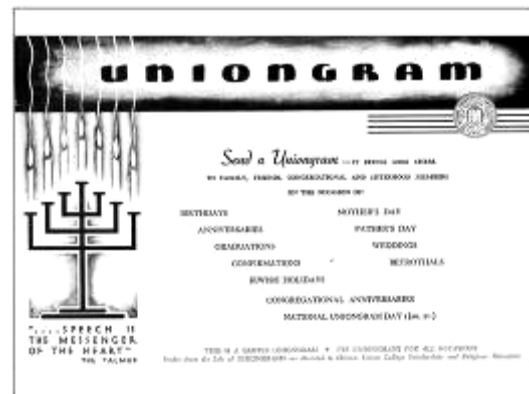
Monday, Jan. 1 all day – Temple office closed

Thursday, Jan. 4 at 3:30 PM – A Bissell Torah – online only

Friday, Jan. 5 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, Covered Dish Dinner to follow

Sunday, Jan. 7 at 10:30 AM – Torah study, Parashah Vaera [Ex. 6:2-9:35] – online only

Temple Israel Sisterhood 2024



Courtesy WRJ

Anniversaries

<input type="checkbox"/>	Barrie and Tod Kaufman	40th	Feb. 04, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Betty and David Stern	65th	June 14, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sara and Brett Radow	40th	June 20, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Liz and Louis Weisberg	35th	July 16, 2024

signature

Birthdays

<input type="checkbox"/>	Caroline Ostand	75th	Jan. 04, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Liz Kantor-Bright	70th	Jan. 07, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ronni Spudich	75th	Feb. 07, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Margot Jogwick	90th	Feb. 28, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsha Albert	85th	March 10, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann Kushner	85th	June 12, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Ostand	85th	July 02, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Louis Weisberg	65th	July 08, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackie Artz	85th	Dec. 16, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Bright	70th	Dec. 17, 2024

signature

**Mail your completed form,
along with your check, to**

Temple Israel Sisterhood
2312 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25311

**Thank
you!**

WRJ Uniongrams

Uniongrams are a project of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) and Temple Israel Sisterhood.

The Uniongram is a message from you to the designated person on the occasion listed. All monies collected are sent to URJ to support youth camps and the training of rabbis.

Please check all of the names of people to whom you wish to send a Uniongram. **Return this form with your check to the Temple office no later than Jan. 03, 2024. Price is \$2 per Uniongram.** Please make your check payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood.

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 make checks payable to Sisterhood.

If you are the parent or grandparent of a college student, please share their address with the Temple office so that Sisterhood can stay in touch during the school year.

Please make sure that we have your contact info up to date for the Sisterhood Yearbook. If you have dropped a landline or made other changes to your phone number or email address, please let the Temple office know.



Photo by Greg Proctor

