

Temple Israel Bulletin

Volume LXXXIII Feb. 2nd: HIAS Refugee Shabbat & covered dish dinner February 2024
Bulletin No. 6 Feb. 23rd: Reproductive Rights Shabbat & Purim Katan Shevat / Adar-I 5784

Rabbi's Message

Shalom & greetings!

January brought winter temperatures for sure! I hope you are staying cozy and comfortable. A reminder – we still have three Hanukkiot (Hanukkah candelabras) that were left behind at the Temple after the Hanukkah Dinner in December. If you are missing yours, please contact me or Greg Proctor to pick it up.

Events Locally and Globally

Our congregational president Gayle Twigger-Shaw is addressing security issues in this bulletin, which have arisen since the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by Hamas. I also want to say something about it all:

Unfortunately, considering recent local events, we witnessed an increase in publicly expressed opinions about Israel's response to the attack on it by Hamas. As I am sure you know, tensions have been inflamed in our local community, some of which has made the news.

Simply put, several people wanted the Charleston City Council to pass a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Some were also seeking to condemn Israel for its response to the attacks. The Council did not follow the wishes of this group, and as a result, tempers became high, there was much vitriol and strong words, but as is often the case in situations like this, not much has happened (to this point – and I pray it does not). Frankly, I believe that no matter what the Council does, it will never satisfy the protesters. At the same time, Council statements or actions will have no practical effect on U.S. policy, and will make absolutely no difference to the situation in Gaza. This is a no-win situation locally.

Despite what has occurred, I write now seeking to reassure you about

whether this international situation will impact our safety and security locally. First and foremost, although feelings and tempers are running hot, I have not heard or experienced any degree of increased animosity or any actions directed at people or institutions in the local Jewish community. There has been no increase in antisemitism to my knowledge, although some social media posts have been ugly, and I have noticed more of these than in the recent past. I have not been told of any violent or actionable attacks on individuals or Jewish institutions here.

Looking at what I have been able to learn about all that has happened, I am writing now with the hope of offering reassurance and comfort that despite the unpleasant and disturbing events and ugly things said in public, I do not think we need to be concerned for our safety or security. Despite that, some additional measures are being implemented to assure the wellbeing of all who come to the two Charleston congregations to worship, study, or gather.

As I indicated, the Temple board has been informed about the situation, and individuals are monitoring things closely, communicating among the local Jewish community and with other Jewish organizations that can offer advice, suggestions, and assistance. We are in regular contact with the Charleston Police Department, the FBI, Secure Community Network, the U.S. Attorney's office, the U.S. Department of Justice, and numerous Jewish organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League, Federated Jewish Charities, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington.

Elsewhere in this Bulletin, Gayle has mentioned what we are doing at Temple Israel regarding safety and security. I can only add that, short of making the building

(Continued on page 4)

Message from the President Temple security measures are wide- ranging and ongoing

For those with concerns regarding security at Temple Israel, please know that we are aware and vigilant. We are following expert advice provided by the Charleston Police Department, the FBI, Secure Community Network, the U.S. Attorney's office, the U.S. Department of Justice, and numerous Jewish organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League, Federated Jewish Charities, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington.

Additionally, our doors are secured by electronic locks and security mechanisms, and connected to an alarm system. Additionally, we are installing a monitored camera system. Security measures and procedures include cyber security, entry at limited access points, with our doors unlocked only when someone is keeping an eye on them. We contract private-duty officers from the Charleston Police Dept. when there is a large event being held inside the Temple, and the CPD adds patrols in our area whenever there is an additional police presence needed.

I hope this information will reassure and comfort you, and I look forward to seeing you soon at Friday evening services and special events in months to come.

Gayle Twigger-Shaw,
President

Shabbat worship services & Torah study

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

Torah study sessions are online only.

FEBRUARY & EARLY MARCH

Friday, Feb. 02	5:30 PM	Shabbat service Parashah Yitro, HIAS Refugee Shabbat, covered dish dinner to follow
Sunday, Feb. 4	10:30 AM	Torah study Parashah Yitro [Ex. 6:2-9:35] – online only
Friday, Feb. 09	5:30 PM	Shabbat service
Friday, Feb. 16	5:30 PM	Shabbat service
Friday, Feb. 23	5:30 PM	Shabbat service, Reproductive Rights Shabbat, guest speaker, Rosh Chodesh Adar-I, Purim Katan
Friday, March 1	5:30 PM	Shabbat service, covered dish dinner to follow
Sunday, March 3	10:30 AM	Torah study Torah study , Parashah Vayakhel & Shabbat Shekalim Exodus 35:1-38:20, 30:11-16 — 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 or in the recent deaths 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 holi-

days 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, please forgive any delay.

Rabbi Joe Blair

Tzedakah (Charity)

As usual, I am offering a reminder about Tzedakah. Tire-some as it may be to read, I urge you to take a moment, think of what matters most to you personally, and continue to be generous in supporting those causes. There are many good and worthy causes you can support. I hope that you will remember them as you plan and allocate your Tzedakah for the secular new year.

In this regard, I offer deep appreciation to each of you who donated to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in the past

calendar year - I was privileged to assist people twenty-three times in 2023 on your behalf – and I am confident that the people who were helped very much appreciated the support from the rabbi's discretionary fund.

Again; 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.

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.

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

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

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

February yahrzeits

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

February 2nd

Herbert Frankenger	2/3
Ben Marks	2/3
John A. Pianfetti	2/3
Esther Sloman	2/3
Leora Osgood May	2/4
Ruth Teichman	2/5
John Warren	2/5
Myron "Mike" Greenwald	2/6
Leonard Ingraham	2/6
Dorothy Stack	2/6
Mary Weisberg	2/6
Charles Ardman	2/7
Carl M. Beren	2/7
Esther Fisher Beren	2/7
Nat Jurin	2/7
Fannie Bryan Kahn	2/7
Harry Silverstein	2/7
Louise Herzog Sclove	2/8
Morris Siegler	2/8
Bernard L. Wasserman	2/8
Joseph Weisberg	2/8

February 9th

Barbara Reinfeld	2/10
Lorene Adler	2/11
Irving Badner	2/11
Doris Lewis	2/11
Helaine Rotgin	2/11
Nick Winowich	2/11
Garald F. "Gary" Allen	2/13
Sylvia G. Goldman	2/13
Alan A. Greenspon	2/14

Roselind Case	2/15
Norma Cohn	2/15
Dr. Morris I. Mendeloff Sr.	2/15
Clara Warner Schwabe	2/15
Rose Brady	2/16
Jacob Kandel	2/16
Jerome Warner Schwabe	2/16

February 16th

Carole Darling	2/17
Clara Price	2/17
Gershon Spivack	2/17
Isadore J. Berman	2/18
Doris Mack	2/18
Newton Margolis	2/18
Miriam Mayer	2/18
Aaron Cohen	2/19
Fannie Galperin	2/20
Philip Frankenger	2/21
Howard Michael Levinson	2/21
Helen Tweddle	2/21
Pauline Reinfeld	2/22
Irma Rose	2/22
June Warhoftig	2/22
Betsy Gooding	2/23

February 23rd

Sylvia Berman	2/24
Samuel Cremer	2/24
Henry Greenberg	2/24
Sadie W. Levin	2/24
Alex Diznoff	2/25



Photo by Greg Proctor

Rabbi Abraham Feinberg	2/25
Hazel Westen	2/25
Harry Beren	2/26
Annette Cohen Hark	2/26
Anne Shore Levinson	2/27
Rebecca Taub Godfrey	2/28
Laura Loeb Small	2/28
Marcus "Bill" Thalheimer	2/28
Ruth Schuchat Pilchik	2/29
Gitta Yunker	2/29
Frances Sokolovsky	3/1

February & early March at a Glance

This is a projected calendar of events; it may be incomplete or changed after the Bulletin is published. Services are both in-person and online. All meetings, classes, programs, and events are either in-person or virtual, as announced. Updates 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.

February

Thursday, Feb. 1 at 4:30 PM – A Bissell Torah
Friday, Feb. 2 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, HIAS Refugee Shabbat with guest speaker, Torah Parashah Yitro, covered dish dinner to follow
Sunday, Feb. 4 at 10:30 AM – Torah study, Parashah Yitro, Exodus 6:2-9:35
Sunday, Feb. 4 at 7 PM – Death While Dining
Thursday, Feb. 8 at 4:30 PM – A Bissell Torah

Friday, Feb. 9 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service w/ Rosh Chodesh Adar-I
Monday, Feb. 12 at 11:30 AM – Sisterhood Schmoose
Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 3 PM – WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Class 1 (of 3) registration required
Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 5:30 PM – Temple Israel board of trustees meeting
Thursday, Feb. 15 at 4:30 PM – A Bissell Torah
Friday, Feb. 16 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service

(Continued on page 4)



Rabbi's Message, continued

(Continued from page 1)

a sealed fortress, we are taking the necessary precautions, doing all that is reasonable to assure the safety of all those who come to our building.

Personally, I feel comfortable and safe being in or around the building, which I often am during almost all times of day and night. The measures being taken will add another layer to the existing system (but not hinder our use or enjoyment of the building), but even today, before the new measures are fully in place, I believe all who come here are able to do so without feeling concern or alarm for safety, certainly to the same degree as anyone traveling around the Charleston area.

I also want to remind you that we continue to receive positive, kind, and loving messages of support and expressions of concern for us here and for Jews everywhere, a truly overwhelming showing from many in the larger community. Some have come from faith communities as a group, but many are from individuals and families who want us to know they care about and stand with us. This outpouring is truly a blessing. I hope others in our community are also hearing this message as I do, as it certainly offers hope at a time when the news often seems bleak, with so much division in our nation and the world.

Please, if you have any questions or concerns about safety, contact me, or Gayle Twigger-Shaw, or David McAfee,

and give us an opportunity to allay any unnecessary fears or concerns, and to hear what you think about security as we continue to refine our procedures. May we all feel safe and secure as we gather for worship, community, and learning.

Calendar News

Recent Highlights: Torah study for Parashah Vaera, Ex 6:2-9:35; Death While Dining (another really interesting conversation – thanks to those who participated); weekly meetings of A Bissell Torah; Jewish Literature (reading *Home* by Zeeva Bukai); the Tu B'Shevat observance and climate justice focus in our service on January 26th; the focus, conversations, and activities noted above in the larger community in regard to the proposed resolution and published letters regarding the conflict in Gaza and Israel; and all the many other events on our calendar.

Looking Ahead. February seems likely to continue as a busy time. We have regular services each Friday; A Bissell Torah continues weekly. On Feb. 2 our Shabbat service will focus on refugees and host a guest speaker, with Torah reading from Parashah Yitro (Exodus 18:1-20:23, Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:5-6, and we will read from Exodus 19:25-20:15) focusing on the Aseret Hadibrot (10 Commandments), followed by a covered dish dinner; Torah study on Feb. 4 for Parashah Yitro; Death While Dining on Feb. 4; I will offer another WVU OLLI online course on contemporary Jewish Poetry on Feb. 13, 20 and 27; the regularly scheduled Temple's board of trustees meeting will be Feb. 13; Jewish Literature class online Feb. 18; and a Shabbat service

with a focus on reproductive rights on Feb. 23, including a guest speaker.

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

Thoughts, Blessings, and Salutations

At a time when we are overwhelmed by devastating news reports, our minds are numbed and our hearts are stricken by all the ills and evils that abound in our world. In the face of all that, we pray for healing and wholeness to all with an end to terrorism and hatred, the safe return of all hostages and captives, a cessation of bloodshed, war, and death with a lasting peace for all who seek it everywhere in the world. I pray that all may find healing, and that those who have lost loved ones be comforted. I pray that you and your loved ones may experience blessings of health, loving family and friends, wellbeing, and peace. May we each have reason to feel and express gratitude for all our blessings. 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

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

At a Glance, continued

(Continued from page 3)

Sunday, Feb. 18 at 11 AM – Sisterhood board meeting

Sunday, Feb. 18 at 4 PM – Jewish Literature

Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 3 PM – WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Class 2 (of 3) registration required

Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 5:30 PM – Leora May Book Club

Thursday, Feb. 22 at 4:30 PM – A Bissell Torah

Friday, Feb. 23 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, Reproductive Rights Shabbat, special speaker; Purim Katan

Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 3 PM – WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Class 3 (of 3) – registration required

Thursday, Feb. 29 at 4:30 PM – A Bissell Torah

March

Friday, March 1 at 5:30 PM – Shabbat service, covered dish dinner to follow

Sunday, March 3 at 10:30 AM – Torah study, Parashah Vayakhel & Shabbat Shekalim Exodus 35:1-38:20, 30:11-16

Sunday, March 3 at 7 PM – Death While Dining

Sisterhood Message

Mentoring and friendship: “Whatever Lois told me to do, I did” — continuing a tradition of service

Beth Steinberg Winter served as Temple Israel Sisterhood President for two separate terms, 2004-05 and 2014-2016. As I do myself, Beth considers the position to be an honor. Her active participation with our Sisterhood has been a constant since arriving in West Virginia in 1974. Her journey from Brooklyn, New York to the Charleston area was related to her late husband Andy Hudnall's Carbide job offer, as many a Charlestonian found their beginnings that way.

Except for a few years in Kentucky, Beth has been a West Virginian for most of her adult life, even transplanting her mother, the late Frances Sokolovsky, here in her later years.

Likewise, Beth's close ties to Temple Israel have been equally long lived. In fact, her romance with husband Gary Winter got its start right here at a Yom Kippur Break-Fast, when Gary coyly made the first move, bringing Beth a food offering (Beth even remembers what it was). I cannot think of a better way to get a girl's attention, especially if she has been fasting.

Their short courtship pre-marriage was a prelude for their commitment to Temple Israel as well as to one another.

They were married under the huppah here and hardly a week goes by without their attending a religious service or event, or performing a service for the congregation. Gary has become one of our tech providers since the streaming of our services on Zoom and Facebook have become a staple.

Beth's mentor, big sister-figure, and “boss” in Sisterhood was Lois Coleman. “Whatever Lois told me to do, I did,” says Beth. She learned from an expert: Beth's mother, Frances was a



Photos courtesy Marsha Albert

big influence, especially with her style and “always making things pretty.”

“Magical” is the word used most by Beth when describing her life and her affiliation with Temple Israel. On a personal note, when I first joined the congregation after moving back to Charleston, Beth and her beautiful smile welcomed me at an Oneg Shabbat reception following a service. What could have been warmer and nicer?

Thank you, Beth!

Marsha Albert, Sisterhood President

At left: Beth Winter displays a photo from the Sisterhood Installation of Officers in 2009. **Below:** Celebrating a birthday at the January Schmooze—from left: Caroline Ostand, Lynn Gattlieb, Ina Angel, Joan Randall.



P.S. We are happy that the monthly Sisterhood Schmooze has grown into an interesting and fun experience for the women who attend. And we invite anyone to join us. — Marsha



Our Thoughtful Contributors

Thanks for making Shabbat even more special

Jan. 12 – Both the flowers on the Bimah and the Oneg Shabbat reception following the service were given by Marsha Albert in loving memory of Kai Alexander Pushkin – grandson of David and Christina, son of Zelda Pushkin, and great-grandson of Marsha Albert.

Jan. 26 – The flowers on the bimah were given by Cookie Glasser, to honor the memory of her parents Helaine and Charlie Rotgin – consummate

protectors of the environment and whose essence was love and peace. The special Oneg Shabbat reception following the service, in celebration of Tu B'Shevat, was sponsored by the congregation and organized by the Social Action Committee and the House Committee.



Photo by Greg Proctor

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.

Caring for our Torahs

Thanks to Ellie Schaul for shepherding the project, from start to finish, of refurbishing of the silver rimonim set, which caps one of our Torah scrolls.

The rimonim were repaired by Scott Petit of Petit Jewelry Designs of Charleston, who has done similar work for the Temple over the past few years. As always, the repair to our treasured pieces was beautifully done, and Scott donated his labor. His generosity is greatly appreciated.

Gayle Tigger-Shaw, President

From Wikipedia:

Torah finials or rimonim/rimmonim ([Hebrew: רִמּוֹנִים, lit. "pomegranates"], singular: rimon /rimmon) are silver or gold finials adorning the top ends of the rollers (עצי חיים) (Atzei Chaim) of a Sefer Torah (Torah scroll). Very often the rimonim are adorned with little bells and are very intricate.



Photos by Greg Proctor



There will be a Covered Dish Dinner following the Shabbat service on Feb. 2nd. Please join us and bring a dish to share—the Temple will supply roast chicken—or just bring yourself. Join us for a wonderful Friday night with friends and family.

Photo by Wendie Freedman

HIAS Refugee Shabbat
with guest speaker
Friday, Feb. 2nd at
5:30 PM followed
by the covered
dish dinner.

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.

The Brown Family
 Patricia Cohen Coniglio
 The Crocker Family
 Arthur Epstein
 Vera Flint
 Jonathan Freedman
 Karl Gattlieb
 Ed Goldberg
 Richard Gottlieb and Family
 The Harwood Family
 Mel Hutt
 Rabbi Earl Jordan
 Dorothy Kurland
 Roberta Lee Levine
 Judy Lundy and Family
 Mark Malloy
 Gary Markham
 Peggy Silverstein O'Connell
 Hedy Poppelsdorf
 Dr. H. Bruce Rinker
 Amy Shapiro
 David Shapiro
 N. David Stern
 Matt Tomaszewski
 Barbara Braun Tweddle
 Elliott Urecki
 Jean Urecki
 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 who are 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:

January: **Caroline Ostand (MILESTONE)**, Ken Silverstein, **Joan Randall (MILESTONE)**, **Christina Peraino (MILESTONE)**, **Elizabeth Kantor-Bright (MILESTONE)**, David Kushner, Dorothy Kurland, David Winowich, Ellyn Goldberg, **Richard Holicker (MILESTONE)**, **Johnny Ferrara (MILESTONE)**, Tiana Hall, Hedy Poppelsdorf, **Richard Gottlieb (MILESTONE)**, **David Shapiro (MILESTONE)**, Laura Goins, Beth Winter

February: **Barrie & Tod Kaufman (MILESTONE)**, **Ronni Spudich (MILESTONE)**, Kate & Isaac Forman, Carol Lewis Bloom, Julie Adams & Josh Barrett, N David Stern, Frank Baer III, Bob Aaron, Barrie Baer Kaufman, **Elliott Urecki (MILESTONE)**, **Margot Jogwick (MILESTONE)**

March: Rachel Dash, Amy & David Shapiro, Daniel Goldfarb, **Marsha Albert (MILESTONE)**, Laura Malloy, Shelly & David Winowich, Gary Markham, Bob Kimball, Glenn Goldfarb, Greg Proctor

**Feb. 23rd at
 5:30 PM
 Reproductive
 Rights
 Shabbat
 With
 Purim
 Katan**



Wikimedia Commons

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.

Baruch Dayan Haemet (Condolences)

Temple Israel extends our sincere condolences to Judy Lundy and family on the recent death of her brother, Joseph "Joe" Franklin Amburgey, after a long illness. May all the mourners be comforted from heaven, and may his memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him.

Temple Israel extends our sincere condolences to Richard Gottlieb and family on the recent death of his cousin, Lynn Gottlieb Aaron, in Lewisburg following an illness. May all the mourners be comforted from heaven, and may her memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved her.

Temple Israel extends our sincere condolences to Lauri & Britton Harwood and family on the recent loss of their son, Hamilton Harwood. May all the mourners be comforted from heaven, and may his memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him.

Rabbi Joe Blair

