

Temple Israel Bulletin

Volume LXXXV
Bulletin No. 6

February 2025
Shevat / Adar 5785



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Shalom & greetings!

CALENDAR

As I write this, we have come to mid-January, having completed our celebration of Hanukkah on January 2nd. We also had a special class in memory of Dr. Jubelirer, led by Rabbi Urecki, on January 7th.

The remainder of January looks to be more “normal,” with no special religious events noted. Following the secular new year observance, the only events of note are the 13th of January, when the Governor of West Virginia will be inaugurated, and the 20th of January, which is both Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and the day on which the inauguration of the President-elect of the U.S.A. is scheduled. Neither impacts our calendar (other than the closure of Kanawha Blvd on the 13th).

May it be a peaceful time for us all.

February is a time of many more special services and events. In fact, it turns out that each Shabbat, except February 7th, will have some special event associated with it, and that continues into March, with some special events in April. I hope you will join in to enjoy them all.

LOOKING AHEAD

On the calendar scheduled for January:

- January 17th at our Shabbat service, we included a reading from Torah Parashah Shemot [Exodus 1:1 – 6:1].
- Jewish literature was scheduled for January 19th at 4:00 p.m., online (cancelled for weather). Meeting next on February 16th.
- Rabbi Blair taught a course titled “*Jewish Tools and Practices in Times of Trouble*” on January 23rd for WVU OLLI; in addition, Rabbi Urecki is teaching “*What is Going On at the Southern Border?*” and “*Taste of Central America*,” a cooking class with Marilyn Urecki, both on February 19th. See the WVU OLLI registration site for details.

Looking beyond January, we have several upcoming events in February and March, and beyond, of note.

- Special Congregational Meeting on February 9th at 2:00 p.m.
- The Shabbat on February 14th we will read Torah from Parashah Yitro, observe Tu B'Shevat (the New Year for the Trees), and include observance of Social Action's issues in our service. That evening is also a covered dish dinner.
- In the Shabbat on February 21st, we will be observing Sisterhood's NCJW Reproductive Rights Shabbat, with speaker Katie Quinonez from the Women's Health Center of WV.
- Then, in the Shabbat on February 28th, we will observe Shabbat Shekalim, and have a speaker from Fairness WV to discuss LGBTQIA+ issues.
- The Shabbat on March 7th is Shabbat Zachor, reminding us of Amalek, and signaling that Purim is coming shortly. It will be a lay-led service.
- We will observe Purim in the Shabbat on March 14th, and read from Torah Parashah Ki Tisa. This will also be followed by a covered dish dinner.
- March 21st we will include observance of Shabbat Parah and HIAS Refugee Shabbat in the service. This is often known as the Sabbath of the Red Heifer.
- March 28th our Shabbat service will include observance of Shabbat HaChodesh, indicating that we are entering the month in which Passover falls.
- April 11th is Shabbat HaGadol, the Sabbath preceding the start of Passover.
- Passover begins on Saturday evening, April 12th – at which time we will hold the Congregational Seder; the holiday runs until sundown on Saturday, April 19th (according to the Reform and Israeli reckoning, but one more day to sundown on Sunday, April 20th, for those who observe the holiday for eight days).
- The Sabbath on April 18th is Chol Ha'mo'ed Pesach, the sabbath that falls during Passover.
- Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) is from sundown April 23rd to sundown April 24th. There

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Special
CONGREGATIONAL

MEETING

Members of
Temple Israel, please plan to
attend!

**Special Congregational
Meeting**

**Sunday, February 9
2:00 p.m.
Temple Israel**



Seven-Branched Menorah
depicted by Robin Perez

The 7-branched menorah has served as a symbol of Judaism and the Jewish people. It has been a Jewish emblem since long before the popularity of the Star of David, and depictions and replicas of it have been found in ancient synagogues all over the Land of Israel. G., Evelina. (2023, December 18). The Seven-Branded Menorah, Explained. *Judaica Web-Store.com*.

Rabbi Joe adds that the seven-branched menorah became a symbol of Israel, and one stands outside the Knesset.

At a Glance: February & March

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 Israel website and in the Reminder Links emails. **If you aren't receiving emails from Rabbi Blair about online sessions, please let him know.**

FEBRUARY	
Friday, Feb. 7 5:30 PM	Shabbat Service
Sunday, Feb. 9 10:30 AM	Torah Study, Yitro [Exodus 18:1-20:23], online
Sunday, Feb. 9 2:00 PM	Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, Feb. 9 7:00 PM	Death Chatter, online
Monday, Feb. 10 11:30 AM	Sisterhood Schmooze
Tuesday, Feb. 11 5:30 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, Feb 14 5:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Tu B'Shevat Observance, Torah Parashah Yitro, Social Action Issues Shabbat with covered dish dinner to follow
Sunday, Feb. 16 11:00 AM	Sisterhood Board meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 19	Leora May Book Group
Friday, Feb. 21 5:30 PM	Shabbat Service, Sisterhood's NCJW Reproductive Rights Shabbat
Friday, Feb. 28 5:30 PM	Shabbat Service, Shabbat Shekalim, with Andrew Schneider from Fairness WV to discuss LGBTQIA+ issues

MARCH	
Friday, March 7 5:30 PM	Shabbat Service, Shabbat Zachor, lay-led
Sunday, March 9 10:30 AM	Torah Study, Parashah Ki Tisa [Torah Exodus 30:11-34:35], online
Sunday, March 9 7:00 PM	Death Chatter, online
Monday, March 10 11:30 AM	Sisterhood Schmooze
Tuesday, March 11 5:30 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday, March 14 5:30 PM	Shabbat Service with Purim observance, Torah Parashah Ki Tisa, with covered dish dinner to follow
Wednesday, March 19	Leora May Book Group
Friday, March 21 5:30 PM	Shabbat Service, Shabbat Parah, HIAS Refugee Shabbat
Friday, March 28 5:30 PM	Shabbat Service, Shabbat HaChodesh



Temple Israel Social Action Committee's Tu B'Shvat Shabbat Service and Dinner will take place on Friday, February 14th. What better time to express our Reform movement's love and gratitude for the natural world, trees, and harvests, as well as our shared responsibility to care for the environment and all living things than by celebrating Tu B'Shvat on Valentine's Day! Please stay for dinner where vegetarian and other delicious dishes will be served, as well as homemade pies and traditional Tu B'Shvat fruits and nuts. We look forward to sharing this beautiful and meaningful Jewish holiday with our loving community.

NOTICE: CORRESPONDENCE/EMAIL

I send Reminder Links emails on Sundays and Thursdays (most weeks) using the Google email list. That email list is set to send a copy of each message to everyone at one time. It does not pick and choose who will receive the messages: anyone whose valid email is on the list should receive a copy.

If you are not seeing those emails in your inbox regularly, and you don't find them by looking in your Spam, Junk, or Trash folders, please be in touch with me (the rabbi) to try to remedy the situation. Some email providers (notably, AOL, but others as well) automatically mark messages from an email list as spam/trash/junk, unless they are marked otherwise in advance in their system. We want everyone who is interested to be able to receive those emails with the events and Zoom links for the upcoming time.
Rabbi Joe Blair ▪ rabbijoe@gmail.com ▪ 304-989-4014

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will be a communal observance of Yom HaShoah with a short service led by Rabbis Urecki and Blair on Wednesday, April 23rd at 6:00 p.m. More information and details will be forthcoming soon.

- Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Israeli Memorial Day and Israeli Independence Day) are on April 30th and May 1st, observed in our Shabbat service on May 2nd.
- Sisterhood Shabbat is on May 9th, followed by covered dish dinner.
- L"ag B'Omer (33rd day of the Omer count) and Pesach Sheni (Second Passover) will be observed in the Shabbat service on May 16th.
- Shavuot will be observed in the Shabbat service on May 30th.
- The annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4th. This will include election of Trustees, and the approval of the budget for Congregational Year 2025-2026 (July to June).
- The Third Annual Indoor Picnic Oneg Shabbat will follow the Shabbat service on June 13th.

As you can see, there is a lot that is coming up on the calendar!

In addition to all the services and special events, we continue our regular ongoing activities. These include weekly Shabbat services, monthly Board of Trustees Meetings, scheduled Sisterhood meetings, weekly Oneg Shabbatot (plural), and scheduled classes and programs.

Please consider joining us for some or all of these:

- A monthly Torah Study on a Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.
- Death Chatter monthly on a Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m.
- Monthly Jewish Literature on a Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.
- WVU OLLI courses, including the one on January 23rd and another on May 7th and May 14th.
- Weekly A Bisell Torah sessions on Thursday afternoons at 4:30 p.m.
- Weekly Torah at 10:00 a.m. with Rabbi Urecki and Rabbi Blair on Tuesdays
- Weekly Talmud at 10:00 a.m. with Rabbi Urecki and Rabbi Blair on Thursdays

Please let the Temple office know if you're moving, dropped your landline, or you have new contact information, such as a new email address or phone number.

Don't forget Sisterhood Schmooze the second Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m.; Sisterhood Board meetings; Sisterhood General Membership meetings; and Leora May Book Group gatherings.

I always enjoy sharing these events with others, so I hope to see you at some or all of them, or at any special or additional events we hold beyond these. Whether you are here in person or attending online, I value your presence and participation as a member of the Congregation and community. Please know that you are invited to participate however, and however often, you are able and wish to do so.

For more details on events and activities, see the At-a-Glance and Religious Events listings in this bulletin – and because things can and often do change after the bulletin is published, the most up-to-date information is to be found in the Reminder Links emails sent on Sundays and Thursdays, and on the Temple Israel website — templeisraelwv.org.

NOTEWORTHY

We have a few members who are willing to read Torah or Haftarah for our services occasionally, and *we warmly welcome their participation; if you are interested in giving this a try, be in touch with me and we can work on it.*

Ronni Spudich is looking to invite members to bless and light candles for our services each week. If you are willing, please contact her.

A few members are willing to lead a service every now and then, but if this is too much for you to take on comfortably, we invite you to participate in services by leading a prayer (or several); doing a reading (or several) in the service; being called up for an Aliyah to the Torah; serving as Gabbai for the Torah Service; or giving a devar Torah (sermon). If you are interested in doing any of these, please be in touch with me, and we can select a date that works for you, as well as the role that you would like to take on. If you prefer, you can speak to Betty Stern or Ronni Spudich – all of us

would be happy to have you participate in a way that you wish.

THOUGHTS, BLESSINGS & SALUTATIONS

Recently, we witnessed and experienced the full arrival of winter weather, including extremely cold temperatures and a significant amount of snow and ice. 😞 Driving conditions were impacted, there were many closings and cancellations (including services on Friday the 10th of January) as a result, and transportation was hampered. As I write this, I am still waiting for the driveway of my apartment to be fully cleared.... And I am reminded of what it is that I don't like about winter! I am already wishing fervently for the arrival of Spring – even though I know it is too early for that.... So until it is time for the change of seasons, I will just have to settle for basking in the warmth of seeing you, in person or online, at one or more of the many events on our calendar.

Until then, I pray that we may each be blessed with the comfort and warmth of community, the joy of forming a kehillah kedoshah (a sacred congregation), and with health, love, prosperity, and a life filled with deeds of lovingkindness, which can all serve to bring us to be a blessing to each other and to the world, and to expand G-d's presence to reach every living thing, and all of creation. Please remember to take every opportunity to be kind to those around you; it will make a difference and improve the world!

I look forward to seeing you soon.

B'virkat Shalom (with blessings of peace), and prayers for good health, joy, and peace,
Rabbi Joe Blair
 rabbijoeb@gmail.com
 304-989-4014



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February Yahrzeits

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

January 31

Bessie Polan Brown	2/1
Harry Esler	2/1
Simon A. Levey	2/1
Samuel Oppen	2/1
Florence Jordan Silverstein	2/1
Hedwig "Hedy" Poppelsdorf	2/2
Eva Sanders	2/2
Mary Selinger	2/2
Herbert Frankenberger	2/3
Sarah Goldstein	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
Judith Pollack	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

February 7

Louise Herzog Sclove	2/8
Morris Siegler	2/8
Bernard L. Wasserman	2/8
Joseph Weisberg	2/8
Barbara Reinfeld	2/10
Lorene Adler	2/11
Irving Badner	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

February 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
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
Louise Parker	2/18
Aaron Cohen	2/19
Mary L. Darling	2/19
Fannie Galperin	2/20
Philip Frankenberger	2/21
Howard Michael Levinson	2/21
Helen Tweddle	2/21

February 22

Pauline Reinfeld	2/22
Irma Rose	2/22
June Warhoffig	2/22
Betsy Gooding	2/23
Sylvia Berman	2/24
Samuel Cremer	2/24
Henry Greenberg	2/24
Sadie W. Levin	2/24
Alex Diznoff	2/25
Rabbi Abraham Feinberg	2/25
Charles Richard Schaul	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

Condolences are on pp. 5 – 6

SUPPORT & CONTACT WITH THE RABBI

Please be in touch with me if you would like a visit or a conversation, have a question, wish to add (or remove) a name on the Mi Sheberach list, or have any other reason to speak with me.

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) at 304-989-4014, or email me at rabbjoeb@gmail.com.

I read email and texts quite regularly (**Shabbat & holidays - both Jewish and secular - excepted**). In an emergency on one of these days, please phone me on my cell, and leave a message expressing the urgency of the call and the nature of the need in the message. I will get back to you as soon as I am able. *Rabbi Joe Blair* ▪ rabbjoeb@gmail.com ▪ 304-989-4014

TZEDAKAH (CHARITY)

Repeating myself again because I know that it is so important - please be generous with your tzedakah. You may not realize how many have been helped, or how much it means to those I have been privileged to support, but trust me, they rely on the generosity and kindness of those who donate to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. It makes a world of difference to them. So, once more, I am asking for your consideration of donations to the Rabbi Discretionary Fund. I deeply appreciate everyone who has donated recently - sincere thanks from the bottom of my heart to all who have made contributions.

These funds are used in our own Congregation and Community to help those who have urgent needs. I am deeply grateful and truly honored to be allowed to act on behalf of Temple Israel in this way, and to serve as the hand of Temple Israel in assisting individuals in times of distress.

I can assure you that there have been multiple and significant needs supported by the fund. I mention this because I hope never to have to turn away one of our own who has a need, and I also want to acknowledge the generous support of several people recently, allowing me to meet current needs.

The only reason I am asking you to consider making a donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is to help me to support members of our community. As always, I thank all who have donated for your generosity and kindness in helping to fulfill this critical mitzvah.

We are taught that Tzedakah is among the highest of all mitzvot. I pray that your heart be moved to give more than you otherwise might, and that your generosity be a blessing for those who receive it. May the blessing you make possible reflect back onto you and your loved ones. *Rabbi Joe Blair*

In the Congregation & Community

Refuah Shelemah/Mi Sheberach (Healing & Wholeness & Blessings)

Prayers and wishes 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 or wellness. 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, even though your name is not listed here.

The Applebaum Family
Nadia Bastron and Family
Vic Bastron
Gail Bellamy and the Kurland Family
The Burkhammer Family
Jim Dean
Martin Dreifus
Arthur Epstein
The Family of Douglas Fisher
Jonathan Freedman
Karl Gattlieb
Jack Goldfarb
Rabbi Earl Jordan
Roberta Lee Levine
Gary Markham
The Ostand Family
Phyllis Randall
Penny Sappington
Mark Schaul
Fran Thalheimer
Barbara Braun Tweddle
Rachel Leah bat Shayna Chaya veShmuel
All who are impacted by illness or disease
All afflicted by natural or man-made disasters, war, or violence
All hostages and victims of terrorism and evil acts
All others in need of prayers for healing and wholeness

Mazal Tov (Congratulations)

[Please tell us about these events so we may 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/were to be acknowledged we include:

January: Russ Emrick, **Carolyn Ostand (MILESTONE)**, Ken Silverstein, Elizabeth Kantor-Bright, David

Kushner, **Joan Randall (MILESTONE)**, Ellyn Goldberg, Richard Holicker, Tiana Hall, David Winowich, Raya Redmond, Christine Peraino, Johnny Ferrara, Laura Goins, Richard Gottlieb, David Shapiro, Beth Winter

February: Barrie & Tod Kaufman; Ronni Spudich, Kate & Isaac Forman; Carole Bloom; Carol & Fred Pollock; Julie Adams & Josh Barrett; N. David Stern; Frank Baer III; Bob Aaron; Barrie Baer Kauffman; Margot Jогwick

March: Rachel Dash; **Amy & David Shapiro (MILESTONE)**; Daniel Goldfarb; Marsha Albert; Laura Malloy; Shelley & David Winowich; **Gary Markham (MILESTONE)**; Roy Herzbach; Sybbie Redmond; Bob Kimball; Draza & Harry Peck; Glenn Goldfarb

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 in the next bulletin). In no particular order:

We applaud Millie Snyder, who has been recognized by being awarded the key to the city by Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin, for her years of work and support to the city and beyond. Kudos to her!

This story appeared online (reproduced here):

CHARLESTON, WV (WOWK) – A beloved figure in the Charleston community has been presented with a great honor by the City.

Millie Snyder has lived and worked in Charleston since 1969, and she was presented with a Key to the City of Charleston.

Snyder owned the Shape Shop Cafe, which had been open for almost 50 years, until last month when she announced that they would be closing their doors.

Shape Shop Cafe was a health food restaurant on Charleston's West Side. Snyder opened the business in 1976 to serve "smart eats and treats" to the community. The Shape Shop Cafe also ran a food truck to attend different area events.

Snyder served as the president and CEO of Weight Watchers in West Virginia from Sept. 23, 1969, to July 15, 2013. Along with being a local entrepreneur, she is also an award-winning author and inspirational speaker.

Snyder says receiving a Key to the City is an incredible honor.

"There's an expression that there are no words," said Snyder. "I am very, very touched by the recognition that our mayor has bestowed on me."

Mayor Amy Goodwin says Snyder earned the honor for how her work has impacted the community. "Not just a business owner. She's not just an entrepreneur. She has intimately affected our lives, our body and our spirit." said Goodwin.

Snyder reflected on the support she has seen from the community, both throughout her career and upon the closing of her business. She told 13 News many people came to visit her in the days leading up to the last day of business.

"I don't know if I know the words," said Snyder. "I'd like to think that I am good at speaking on my feet, but that was so touching and it meant the world to me. So I consider myself a very blessed person."

Snyder plans to continue hosting her morning meetings, as well as expanding to host afternoon meetings in the new year.

"I'm excited to continue helping people help themselves. That's really what it's about," said Snyder.

And, Snyder's legacy with the building will continue to live on. Last week, West Virginia Health Right announced Snyder had donated the Shape Shop building to them to further their mission of helping the community. WV Health Right officials say they will use the building to strengthen their presence on the West Side and use it for either new or existing programs to reach more area residents.

URL link to this article:
<https://www.wowktv.com/news/former-owner-of-shape-shop-cafe-presented-with-key-to-the-city-of-charleston/>

Sha'ah Tovah to Sarah and Brett Radow on the recent engagement of their daughter, Joanna. She met a nice Canadian Jewish man, and they are planning their wedding for this summer. I am delighted to be working with them on the religious celebration. May the happy couple find much joy together.

Mazal Tov to Doug and Myla Kreinik who have completed their move to California. We wish them well.

Janie and Moe Rubenstein continue to offer access to Wondering Jews – a website sharing Jewish events and resources from around the state of West Virginia. Wondering Jews is the One Stop for All Things Jewish in West Virginia. Visit Wondering Jews at <https://wonderingjewsinc.com/>.

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.

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Our Thoughtful Contributors

Helen F. Thalheimer Care Committee of Temple Israel Sisterhood

Sisterhood Care Committee delivered 15 Hanukkah goodie bags to members of our congregation. Thanks to Lynn Gattlieb and Beth & Gary Winter for delivering the bags.



Hanukkah Goodie Bags. Photo courtesy of Betty Stern.

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.

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Baruch Dayan Haemet (Condolences & Prayers)

[CORRECTION:] In January's Bulletin, I said that Rose Christian, mother of Dona Hall, was admitted to hospice. That was inaccurate. It should have stated that she was admitted to palliative care. I apologize for the misstatement, and take full responsibility for it.

With that correction, we continue to hold in our prayers Rose Christian, mother of Dona Hall, who has been admitted to palliative care. May she be comfortable and free of pain or discomfort.

I am deeply saddened to share that Daniel Kurland has become niftar. Dan died early Sunday morning January 26, 2025. Dan was a member of both Congregation B'nai Jacob and Temple Israel, attending and participating in many classes and courses offered by both. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Gail Bellamy, daughters Delia (Tanya), Jessi (Mark Byers), granddaughters Claudia Byers, Lydia Byers, Diana Byers, sister Rachel Kurland (David McWilliams), nephews Sam McWilliams (Geraldine), Benjamin McWilliams (Christine), Zelig Kurland

(Rachel Markowitz) and Brenda Kurland (Mitch Dernis). He was predeceased by his father, Samuel, and mother, Mildred; brother Jonathan Kurland and sister-in-law Dorothy.

Following Dan's wishes and the family's request, there will be no funeral; a memorial and celebration of his life will be planned at a later date. May Dan's memory be an enduring blessing, and may those who mourn be comforted from heaven.

I am deeply saddened to share that Douglas R. Fisher has become niftar. Doug died suddenly on January 23, 2025. Many may remember him - Douglas was a proud "Carbider." Doug survived his first wife, Carol Miller Fisher, and he joined Temple Israel after his second wife, Bonnie Lou Williams Fisher, died in 2017. Not long after that he moved to Edgewood Summit. A private family graveside service will be held at Sunset Memorial Park in South Charleston.

We continue to hold Harriet Deutsch and family in our thoughts regarding her home in Sarasota, FL, which was affected by Hurricane Helene.

Additionally, our heartfelt prayers go out to all who were affected by flooding, fires, or severe weather events throughout the U.S. and the world. Many have been devastated recently, including entire communities in the Los Angeles area of California, and several Jewish congregations. [All three of the rabbis at KI in Pacific Palisades (one of whom was a classmate of mine) lost their homes entirely, though the Synagogue was left undamaged at last notice.] Please consider donating to one of the organizations that are seeking to help the affected people recover from devastating losses.

We continue to offer prayers for those who are held captive, as well as their families. May there be a happy resolution and complete healing from their trauma soon for all those still alive and their families, and may the bodies of those who lost their lives be returned to their families to offer a dignified burial and some form of closure.

We pray also for all those who are under unilateral attack, and those who are innocents caught in the crossfire.

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SISTERHOOD FEATURE: MILLIE SNYDER, SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT 2020-2022

If you are still wondering who was inside the female gorilla costume several years ago at our Purim Party, I can reveal it was Millie Snyder. Millie is the happiest making others laugh, and this has been a trait since childhood in Baltimore, MD. Ask any of her friends and they will affirm that nobody tells a joke better than Millie!



Millie Snyder monkeying around. Photo courtesy of Millie Snyder.

Millie, with her husband, Harvey, were considering either Charleston or Huntington in 1969, when they brought Weight Watchers, Inc. to West Virginia. We have Harvey to thank for his quick response "Charleston!" Traveling through West Virginia on their maiden voyage, they both fell in love with the beauty of our state. They were Weight Watcher success stories and became lecturers for meetings in Baltimore, moving after marriage to Virginia, and then training in NYC to be eligible for a franchise.

Beginning with three counties, they grew to include sixty-eight counties over four states. Millie is still amazed at how quickly they were welcomed and appreciated for their open meetings literally "everywhere." West Virginians struggling with obesity and other weight and nutrition issues had the advantage of these master teachers who shared their stories and totally supported their gracious members.

After forty-four years of owning the franchise and after Harvey's death, Millie sold it back to Weight Watchers in 2013. But, Millie continued to own the Shape Shop Cafe, write cookbooks, participate on talk shows, start a Mediterranean Diet program and support group, and even operate a healthy food truck until most recently.

During all those years, Millie has been active in both the B'nai Jacob Ladies Auxiliary, as well as our Temple Israel Sisterhood, serving as President from 2020 to 2022. This is known as "the Covid years." As Millie says, "we didn't need to get out of our pjs to attend Zoom meetings."

Millie's generosity of heart and spirit throughout our community has been recognized and appreciated. She recently donated her Shape Shop Cafe building on the west side of Charleston to WV Health Right, long-time provider of medical and dental care for the underserved in our community. WV Health Right is a well-known and utilized facility for many years.

Tzedakah or "giving back to cure the world" is the ultimate mitzvah in Judaism. Millie Snyder exemplifies that quality in how she lives her life.

Thank you, Millie!

Interview and article by Marsha Albert, past Sisterhood President.

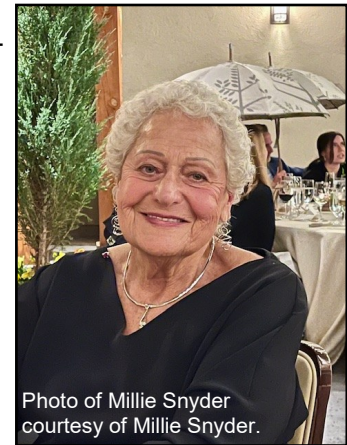


Photo of Millie Snyder courtesy of Millie Snyder.

(Continued from page 6)

THANK YOU TO SISTERHOOD

Thank you for your donation of towels, sheets, and personal care items made on 12/30/2024 to the **YWCA Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women and Families**.

Your commitment to helping the YWCA Charleston make a difference to the homeless population in our community, especially during these economically trying times, is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely, Jennifer Fleshman, Program Director

SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A donation was given to "Guns to Gardens," which was approved at the General Membership meeting in October.

Betty Stern continues to take donations for the Floral and Care Committee.

As part of a Sisterhood project, Caroline Ostand provided a large easy-to-fix breakfast at the shelter for their 70 residents and 10 children on Christmas morning.

Please remember that Sisterhood will coordinate the Shabbat Service for Reproductive Rights February 21, and the guest speaker will be Katie Quiñonez, Executive Director, Women's Health Center of WV. I will be asking the Sisterhood members to participate in the service.

I appreciate your commitment and service to our Temple and Sisterhood.

Ina Angel, Sisterhood President

May there be an end to all their suffering soon, and may peace come to pass throughout the world.

Our prayers go out to those fallen in service to their country, and fellow members of the U.S. Military, the IDF, First Responders, and all who placed themselves in the way of harm for the sake of others. We pray for the peace of their souls, and for comfort for their families and loved ones.

Rabbi Joe Blair

Federated Jewish Charities of Huntington WV is looking for camp counselors for their day camp this summer, planned for 2 weeks in June or July.

Housing and a stipend will be offered. The expectation is 6 children between the ages of 7 - 13.

The planners will work with the counselors on content they would teach.

Please share and contact:

Linda Klein
412-414-5605



B'nai Jacob's Auxiliary is Having a Noodle Kugel Bake-off Fundraiser!

Members of both congregations are invited to enter the competition. Judging by guest judges, Charleston Gazette-Mail restaurant critic, **Steven Keith (The Food Guy)**, and **Judy Grigoraci**, the former Charleston Gazette-Mail "From the Kitchen" columnist, will take place at a fundraiser luncheon on March 9, 2025, and everyone who attends the luncheon will be able to vote for their favorite kugel.

Temple Israel
Social Action Committee's
Annual Tu B'Shuat
Shabbat Service & Dinner
Friday, February 14th



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