

# Temple Israel Bulletin

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November 2025  
Cheshvan / Kislev 5786

## FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Shalom & greetings! Welcome to the Bulletin for November 2025. The High Holiday season is behind us – just as I sat down to write this, we concluded the last of the Sukkot events, all the way through Hoshanah Rabbah, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah. The “month of celebrations” is done for this year. Now, we have entered the time in the Jewish calendar when other than Shabbat and Rosh Chodesh, we have no major holidays for a while. After almost a solid month of holidays, that actually sounds pretty nice – a spot of calm on the calendar!

### LOOKING BACK

I hope that your High Holy Days were meaningful, uplifting, and fulfilling. I was delighted and moved by this sacred span of weeks this year, and felt very happy with how things went. Of course, that is from my perspective, and I realize that others may have had different experiences. If you have anything you would like to share about the holiday season, good or bad, I would be grateful to hear from you, or you are welcome to tell Ronni Spudich (chair of the Ritual Committee) or Richard Gottlieb (President of the Congregation). Constructive criticism is welcomed, considered, and incorporated as appropriate, while any kudos are gratefully received.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I trust that the entire Congregation feels refreshed and renewed after our High Holidays services. I thought it particularly meaningful that so many Congregants were able to participate in the services. Following the High Holidays, we then celebrated Sukkot and Simchat Torah with great enthusiasm and joy. The Holidays never fail to make me appreciate our Jewish Heritage and renews my pledge to maintain that tradition in Charleston, WV, as long as we can.

In that regard, our Board of Trustees continue discussions regarding consolidation with that of B'nai Jacob. As I announced during Rosh Hashanah, we are now actively considering a proposed “Covenant” between the Congregations which outlines how a consolidated congregation could best function. This covenant recognizes that we will be able to retain and perpetuate the principles of Reform Judaism going forward. It is anticipated that the Temple Israel Board of Trustees will vote on whether to approve the Covenant by December 2025. Assuming that both the Temple Israel Board of Trustees and the Synagogue Board of Trustees agree upon the language of the Covenant, it would then be circulated to both Congregations for their consideration.

As always, please let me know if you have suggestions or comments with respect to the Temple activities.

Best regards, *Richard Gottlieb*  
Temple Israel President

## SISTERHOOD

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Sisterhood Break-the-Fast was a huge success! We thank all those who participated in the cooking, setting up, and cleaning up.

We had a great Schmooze on Monday, October 6. We decorated the Sukkah and shook the lulav and etrog. Please think about joining us on the second Monday of each month for Sisterhood Schmooze. The dates are listed in the Sisterhood Yearbook.

We are excited to have two new Sisterhood members – Elizabeth Gottlieb and Sharon Rubin. We look forward to their participation!

As our Sisterhood continues to grow and bring people together, we encourage everyone to take part in upcoming events and activities. We look forward to seeing you at future meetings and celebrating many special moments together.

*Ina Angel*, Temple Israel Sisterhood President

Read more Sisterhood news on page 7!

## CONGRATULATIONS, RABBI BLAIR!

We are proud to congratulate Rabbi Blair who has been selected as a 2025 Purple Ribbon Award winner by the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence!

The Purple Ribbon Award is given in recognition of those doing exemplary work, going beyond their professional obligations, taking practical and statewide actions to support victims and survivors of domestic violence, decrease abuse, or increase safety in intimate partner relationships in the state of West Virginia.

The award was presented to Rabbi Blair in a public presentation on October 23, to recognize outstanding commitment working in collaboration with WVCADV.







**Covered dish  
dinner  
following  
Shabbat service  
on November 7**







## AT A GLANCE: NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

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.**

### November

Sunday, November 2 10:30 a.m.	Torah Study   <i>Parashah Vayera</i> [Gen 18:1-22:24]   Online
Sunday, November 2 4:00 p.m.	Jewish Literature   Online
Sunday, November 2 7:00 p.m.	Death Chatter   Online
Tuesday, November 4 5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, November 5 10:00 a.m.	How to Get More Out of Being Jewish, Even If....   In Person 
Thursday, November 6 12:45 p.m.	WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Course – Another Engagement with Jewish Poetry, Session 2   Online   Taught by Rabbi Blair
Thursday, November 6 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah   Online
Friday, November 7 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service   Krystallnacht & Veterans Day Observance   <i>Torah Parashah Vayera</i> (Gen. 18:1-22:24) Covered Dish Dinner Oneg Shabbat 
Monday, November 10 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Sisterhood Schmooze in the Sisterhood Lounge   Brown Bag Lunch
Thursday, November 13 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah   Online
Friday, November 14 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Tuesday, November 18 7:00 p.m.	Text Study - Close Reading In Person 
Wednesday, November 19 10:00 a.m.	Ask the Rabbi   In Person 
Thursday, November 20 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah   Online
Friday, November 21 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Thursday, November 27	Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED   NO A Bisell Torah
Friday, November 28 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service   Lay-Led

### December

Wednesday, December 3 10:00 a.m.	How to Get More Out of Being Jewish, Even If....   In Person 
Thursday, December 4 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah   Online
Friday, December 5 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Sunday, December 7 10:30 a.m.	Torah Study, <i>Parashah Vayeshev</i> [Genesis 37:1-40:23]   Online
Sunday, December 7 4:00 p.m.	Jewish Literature   Online
Sunday, December 7 7:00 p.m.	Death Chatter   Online
Monday, December 8 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Sisterhood Schmooze in the Sisterhood Lounge   Brown Bag Lunch
Tuesday, December 9 5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, December 11 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah   Online
Friday, December 12 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service   <i>Torah Parashah Vayeshev</i>   (Gen. 37:1-40:23)
Sunday, December 14	First Candle of <b>Hanukkah</b> is Lit in the Evening
Sunday, December 14 6:00 p.m.	<b>Hanukkah</b> Celebration & Dinner with B'nai Jacob @ Temple Israel 
December 15 - 22	<b>Hanukkah</b>
Tuesday, December 16 7:00 p.m.	Text Study - Close Reading In Person 
Wednesday, December 17 10:00 a.m.	Ask the Rabbi   In Person 
Thursday, December 18 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah   Online
Friday, December 19 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service   Lay-Led
Sunday, December 21	Eighth Candle of <b>Hanukkah</b> is Lit in the Evening
Thursday, December 25	OFFICE CLOSED   NO A Bisell Torah
Friday, December 26 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Tuesday, December 30	<b>Asarah B'Tevet</b>   Fast of 10th of Tevet
Thursday, January 1	OFFICE CLOSED   NO A Bisell Torah
Friday, January 2 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service

## Lost & Found

We've accumulated several Lost & Found items. Please check the coat rack in the hallway for items you may be missing.

## FROM THE RABBI'S DESK CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

As you can imagine, the planning and preparations for the Yom Tovim took a great deal of energy, time, and effort on the part of many people, and the coordination and leading of the services was complex and daunting, but it felt to me that almost everything fell into place, and for that I am deeply grateful to those who helped make it so. If you noted any “glitches” or “hiccups,” I accept responsibility for them.

I have said in past that it takes a village – and there are so many people to acknowledge and thank for helping make this holiday a meaningful, spiritual, and beautiful highlight on our calendar. I am embarrassed that this year I don't even know all those who helped, or all the things that everyone did – too much was going on, and I couldn't keep up or keep track. I don't want to miss thanking anyone, but I know I cannot possibly note everyone, so I will limit my acknowledgements to those who helped to make the entire set of holiday services special, and simply express my thanks for all others who helped with the Dessert Oneg, the Break-the-Fast, the flowers, and so much more.

I could not have made the services work without the tireless efforts behind the scenes of Jill Epstein, David McAfee, Tasha Medley, and Melissa Bart, all of whom took on lots of tasks that were necessary and without which things would not have run as smoothly as they did.

Melissa did an excellent job of keeping up with the changes, and getting readings and other assignments out to those participating ahead of the services.

Jill and David went above and beyond, and in addition to their usual very busy House Committee tasks, also switched the books in and out, put up and took down the Sukkah, and made sure that the building was ready and in good shape for our celebrations.

As always, appreciation for the Temple Music team, N. David Stern and Bob Morris, with the addition of Sandra Groce who played that haunting Kol Nidrei instrumental. They added so much to our services.

Rich Katz did a fabulous job of sounding the Shofar for our Rosh

Hashanah service; unfortunately, he was out of town for work on Yom Kippur, so you were reduced to hearing the second string for the final sounding (that was me unsuccessfully trying to fill his shoes).

...know if you contributed to this year's High Holiday season, you are deeply appreciated and acknowledged, because it could not have happened without each and every one of you.

A special note of thanks to Josh Barrett for reading Torah on Rosh Hashanah – yishar koach!

Thanks to Donna Goldberg for the floral arrangements in the social hall – and to all who helped her. It was lovely.

Thanks to all who donated non-perishable food, and a big thanks to Cookie Glasser for taking the foodstuff collected over to donate to those in need.

I am grateful to everyone who made themselves available to participate in the services, and was delighted to be able to offer honors to so many members of our community. Much appreciation to Richard Gottlieb for agreeing to include so many. There are literally too many to name here, but know that every single one of you is appreciated and thanked from the bottom of my heart.

I know a lot of people were involved in the dessert Oneg at Rosh Hashanah, but I don't know everyone, so all I can do is say thank you to Mary Rich Maloy for heading it up, and ask her to let others involved know their efforts were appreciated.

The same is true for the Break-the-Fast after Yom Kippur; I gather many

members of Sisterhood were involved, but I have no way to know who did what, so all I can do is sincerely thank all of you. I know all those present enjoyed it immensely, as they have each year.

Please know that if you were one of the people who contributed to this year's High Holiday season, even if I didn't specifically note your name or what you did, that you are deeply appreciated and acknowledged, because it could not have happened without each and every one of you.

I pray that we may continue to enjoy such lovely celebrations as a kehillah kadoshah (a holy community), throughout this year, and in years to come.

### LOOKING AHEAD

There is a lot that is coming up from this point forward. Here is a bit, but watch for more to be forthcoming in other media from the Congregation.

First, we continue with our regular schedule of services, committee meetings, and other events. Be sure to look at the At-A-Glance section, as well as the website to see the most up-to-date calendar of events. Here are some that are coming up shortly.

- WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Course (OLLI): Another Engagement with Jewish Poetry, Thursdays, 10/30 and 11/6, 12:45 p.m., online. Instructor, Rabbi Blair. Please register through OLLI.

Looking a bit ahead into the month of November, here are some highlights.

- Torah Study, Sunday, 11/2, 10:30 a.m., *Parashah Vayera* [Genesis 18:1-22:24]

(Continued on page 6)



## Plan Ahead!

Hanukkah Dinner with B'nai Jacob is planned for Sunday, December 14, at Temple Israel

## Reservations Required

Watch postal mail and December's Bulletin for more details

# NOVEMBER YAHRZEITS

Names are read the Friday evening prior to the Yahrzeit date, which is beside names.

## OCTOBER 31

R. Bernard Bernheimer	11/1
Madeline Erlich	11/1
Alece Schwabe	11/1
Max Frankenberger	11/2
Robert Herzbach	11/2
Celia Jurin	11/2
Ethel Kart	11/2
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

## NOVEMBER 7

Hyman Gilman	11/9
Joseph Gotlieb	11/10
Florine Marks Isaac	11/10
Susan Jubelirer Nesi	11/10
Sam Badner	11/11
Louis Cohen	11/11
Harry Fleischmann	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

## NOVEMBER 14

Sydney M. Kleeman	11/15
Herbert Gottlieb	11/17
Minnie H. Kahn	11/17
Anna Barton	11/19
Franc Stern	11/19
H. H. Wills	11/20
Ester Mendeloff	11/21

## NOVEMBER 21

Edith Hartley Aaron	11/22
Frances W. Freedman	11/22
Nina Poppelsdorf	11/22
Sadie Shane	11/22
Louis Jordan	11/23
Edith Burnett	11/24
Arthur "Art" Weisberg	11/24
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

## NOVEMBER 28

Robert "Bob" Albert	11/29
Jacob Solon Broida	11/29
Reba Blustein Cohen	11/29
Bob Baer	11/30
Maxine Stabins	11/30
Joanne Mendeloff Misaqi	12/1
Cherie Cremer	12/2
Hannah Kaplan	12/2
Dave Kahn Jr.	12/3
Mary Beth Chadwick	12/4
Raymond Dodson	12/4
Minnie Elgart	12/4
Fran Fahey	12/4
Frances B. Kay	12/4
Edward B. Cohen	12/5
Dr. Leonard M. Eckmann	12/5
Aaron Morton Kaye	12/5
Goldie Mendelsohn	12/5



# 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, though your name is not listed here.

David Bailey  
Maria Gaona Bellamy  
Sally Bowyer  
Carl Cardwell  
Rose Christian  
Anne Dever  
Jim Doria  
Arthur Epstein  
Jonathan Freedman  
Karl Gattlieb  
Ed Goldberg  
Joe Golden  
Jack Goldfarb  
Mirabella Grizer and Family  
Lisa and George Hess  
Rabbi Earl Jordan  
Ruth Jordan  
Paula Kushner  
Zel Lewis  
Judy Lundy  
Ditty Markham  
Gary Markham  
Deborah Meehan  
Steve Meyer  
Laura Patterson  
Kay Pickus  
Mark Schaul  
Paul Skaggs  
Bob Steinberg  
Barbara Braun Tweddle  
Nancy Tyler  
Wesley Walker

We also recall in our prayers:

All who are impacted by illness or disease  
Everyone afflicted by natural or man-made disasters, war, violence, terrorism, or oppression  
Hostages, captives, prisoners, and their families  
Each person in need of prayers for healing and wholeness  
And specifically including those who are in your heart or mind at this time

## **Baruch Dayan Haemet (Condolences & Prayers)**

Our heartfelt prayers go out to all who

were affected by fires, floods, or other severe weather events throughout the U.S. and the world. Many have been overwhelmed and left in dire straits, and are in need of assistance. 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, and for the return of those who died while in captivity, as well as for the healing and comfort of their families. Our hearts are with them all. May there be a happy resolution and complete healing from their trauma soon for all 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. May there be a cessation of hostilities and an end to the death and injuries taking place.

We pray also for all those who are under attack, and those who are innocents caught in the crossfire. May there be an end to all their suffering, and may peace come to pass throughout the world - in Ukraine, and everywhere.

Our prayers go out to those fallen in service to their country and to members of the military, First Responders, and all who placed themselves in the way of harm for the sake of others.

We pray, as well, for all killed as a result of violence. We pray for the peace of their souls, and for comfort for their families and loved ones. May their memories be a blessing.

## **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:

**October:** Mary Hart; Richard Hess; Ina Angel; **Janie & Moe Rubenstein (MILESTONE)**; Ladonna & David Kushner; Julie Schaul; **Gary Winter (MILESTONE)**; Marlo Weisberg Erwin; Millie Snyder; Alan Fleischmann; Debby Sonis; Gloria Kelley; Marsha Platnick; Steve Meyer

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

**December:** Ellie Schaul; Beth Bloom Emrick; Cookie Glasser; Robert Hess;

David Feibelman; Harry Peck; Jackie Artz; Ellen Kay & Victor Bastron; David McAfee; Ellyn & Ed Goldberg; Laura & Jace Goins; Angela Cannon; Arla Ralston & Roger Forman; **Joy Kleeman (MILESTONE)**

A belated Mazal tov to Lynn & Steve Meyer on the birth of their great-grandchild, Jessica Bollinger!

Mazal Tov to JayJay and DJ (and grandmother Tasha Medley) on the birth of their daughter, Nai'Lani Dayana Staples, on September 19, 2025.

Mazal tov to Ann Kushner on her upcoming move to Heritage in Huntington. She will have the same cell phone; please use that to contact her. She does not yet know when this move will take place; for the time being she is still at Harmony at South Ridge.

I hope I included all that should be here (I tried!), but if I missed anyone or anything, please forgive me, and let me know so I can acknowledge it in the next bulletin.

Please do let me know about reasons to celebrate and offer congratulations. 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.

A moment of Shehechyanu to note: we offer thanks and a hearty Baruch Hashem for the return home of the twenty living hostages, with hopes and prayers that the deceased hostages may also find their way home to their loved ones soon. We pray that the seeds of hope planted will flourish and grow into peace for all in the middle east, speedily and soon. May the bloodshed, death, and destruction cease for all.

I hope I included all who should be here (I tried!), but if I missed anyone, please forgive me, and let me know so I can acknowledge it in the next Bulletin.

Please do let me know about reasons to celebrate and offer congratulations. 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.)

Rabbi Joe Blair



## FROM THE RABBI'S DESK CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

- Jewish Literature, 11/2, 4:00 p.m.
- Death Chatter, 11/2, 7:00 p.m.
- Shabbat service with Krystallnacht and Veterans Day observed, Torah *Parashah Vayera*, with Covered Dish Dinner to follow, Friday, 11/7, 5:30 p.m.

You probably saw the messages sent out with the survey to assess interest for courses to be offered. This was in response to the Board of Trustees' request that I plan events that would take place in the building, and encourage people to come in person. Although some may wish to have online access to these, we do not have the technology to carry that off, so for now, we will have the same online options as in past, and add these as in person options. By the same token, those events that have been online will continue to be offered in that mode to accommodate those who attend who are not in a position to do so in person.

I suggested five options. I am very gratified – a significant number of people responded and indicated that they were interested and would attend. I tallied the results, and found that three of the options were the most frequently selected. As a result, I will add these options to the calendar, starting in November. The other two course options will be held in reserve, ready to be offered in the future. The courses to be offered will be:

1. Looking at one verse of Sacred Text through different lenses, based on a book by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. The verse is Gen. 28:16, and we will look at how seven famous commentators might examine and understand this verse. Meeting (generally) on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
2. How to Get More Out of Judaism, Even if.... (based on the book by Gil Mann). This will be a six-session course, starting with the material in the chapters of the book, and ranging from there to open the conversation to the participants. Meeting (generally) on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.
3. Ask the Rabbi. This is a "catch-all," open to questions raised, or

shorter topics than a full course. We already have a few suggestions for topics from the survey, but we will try to make room to look into whatever is a question that participants want to explore. Meeting (generally) on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

To be clear, the online options offered in past will continue as they had been.

These include:

- Torah Study, Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m., generally on the Sunday prior to the first Friday Shabbat. We will study the parashah for the coming Shabbat.
- Jewish Literature, Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m., generally on the first Sunday of each month.
- Death Chatter, Sunday evening at 7 p.m., generally on the first Sunday of each month.
- A Bisell Torah, Thursday afternoons at 4:30 p.m., generally weekly (depending on holidays and other events that conflict with this time).

Rabbi Berman will begin the Torah and Talmud classes that Rabbi Urecki and I led in the past. Torah class is at 10:00 a.m. Tuesdays in person weekly at B'nai Jacob, and Talmud class is 10:00 a.m. Thursdays online weekly.

I also plan to continue to offer WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute classes each semester; the dates and times will vary, but they have usually been during the midday. Watch for more information about these when they are scheduled. [One is scheduled for 10/30 and 11/6 in the Fall Semester; another is planned for 2/5, 2/12, and 2/19; registration is still open.]

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

These include monthly Board of Trustees meetings, scheduled Sisterhood meetings, weekly Ongei Shabbat (plural), and the return of scheduled classes and programs (i.e., A Bisell Torah, Leora May Book Group).

For more details on scheduled 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 calendar – templeisraelwv.org.

### THOUGHTS, BLESSINGS & SALUTATIONS

As we enter fully into this new year, I offer you this prayer.

*In this year, may we draw closer to the divine, and be guided towards our best selves.*

*May we be a vehicle to bring G-d's presence to every living thing we encounter, and thereby to all of creation.*

*May we be moved to take every opportunity to be kind to those around us; this will make a difference and improve the world. We know that there are so many reasons to feel down, dispirited, or despairing; may we each raise our own spirits and those of everyone we encounter by sharing kindness and love. In this way, may we each make the world a better place than we found it.*

I hope to see you at some of the events that are upcoming in our community.

Warm wishes for you now, and throughout the year of 5786.

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



Please be in touch with me (the Rabbi) 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 rabbijoebl@gmail.com.

I read email and texts quite regularly (**Except on Shabbat and holidays, both Jewish and secular**).

In an emergency on one of these days, please phone me **on my cell phone** 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

## SISTERHOOD | COMMUNITY TZEDAKAH

Through the hot summer, the staff at Peak Living Services Veterans Lifeway Center have continued to serve 25 Veterans a week, who stop in for support, meals, counseling and services, including personal care items. The long-term plan is to keep rotating Veterans into independence through the Center's apartment program and direction toward other employment steps. November 11 is Veterans Remembrance Day and we ask that the Temple Israel Community continue to support the Veterans.

Thank you! Caroline Ostand, Temple Israel Sisterhood Local Projects Coordinator

**S**isterhood  
enjoying  
the  
Sukkah

Sisterhood spent an enjoyable Monday Schmooze decorating the Sukkah in early October.

A huge thank you to David McAfee for erecting and dismantling the Sukkah!

Decorators shown below are Caroline Ostand, Elizabeth Gottlieb, Dona Hall, Fran Thalheimer, Betty Stern



**A warm welcome to new  
Sisterhood Members**

**Elizabeth Gottlieb  
&  
Sharon Rubin**

*We look forward to schmoozing with you!*



Ina Angel's grandson, Hillel, visited from Boston, and helped decorate the Sukkah.

His height was an added bonus in getting the job done!

## TZEDAKAH (CHARITY)

I have asked you to consider giving Tzedakah in almost every Bulletin in which I have written anything since I came to Charleston. The frequency of my request is an indication of the value I attach to this Mitzvah, and how important I believe it is.

This month, having completed our High Holy Day celebrations, I ask again. 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, I ask for your consideration of donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

I deeply appreciate everyone who has ever donated – my sincere thanks from the bottom of my heart to all who have made contributions.

The 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 reaching out and assisting 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 many people over the past years, allowing me to meet the needs as they arose.

And lest it not be obvious, **there are many worthy causes** that deserve your consideration – in addition to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. Please do all you are able. Support those causes that are close to your heart.

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*



# West Virginia Goes to Israel

## April 19 - 26, 2026

### Where We're Going:

- ☆ Masada at Sunrise
- ☆ The Western Wall + Tunnel Tour
- ☆ Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum
- ☆ Machane Yehuda Market
- ☆ Kalisher Ulpan in Be'er Sheva

### What's Included:

- ☆ Hotels
- ☆ Breakfasts, many lunches & dinners
- ☆ Secure group travel

### Preliminary Cost

Estimated Cost: \$4,000 per person  
Deposit: \$500 to reserve your seat  
Final Payment Due: March 1, 2026

### Travel Requirements

Passport: Must be valid for 6 months beyond return date  
Electronic Travel Visa (ETA-IL): Required for most visitors to Israel  
Travel Insurance: Required

For questions or details, please contact  
Linda Klein  
412-414-560  
abaxlp@aol.com

Federated Charities of Huntington, WV



**Happy Chanukah**  
B'nai Jacob Ladies' Auxiliary

Invites you to their

**Annual Chanukah Gift—  
Art & Special Crafts Show**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**  
**10:00 am—2:00 pm**

Hot Dogs & Our Famous Latkes

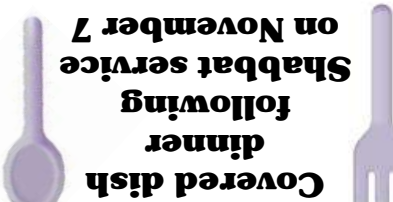
Also Featuring: your favorite vendors with  
jewelry, woodwork, specialty cards, art,  
and much more!

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS!**

Graphic credits throughout the Bulletin are available upon request.



**FALL BACK**  
Daylight Saving Time Ends November 2nd  
Turn clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. on  
Sunday, November 2nd



**Covered dish  
following  
Shabbat service  
on November 7**

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