

Temple Israel Bulletin

Volume LXXXVI
Bulletin No. 4

December 2025
Kislev / Tevet 5786



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Shalom & greetings! It has hardly been a minute since I wrote for the Bulletin for November, and here it is, time to submit for December. The time is rushing by!

LOOKING BACK

For a month with no special holidays, it felt very busy, and the days were full. One of the reasons for that, from my perspective, was the commencement of our full load of courses and classes again, so that we returned to meeting online for Torah Study, Death Chatter, Jewish Literature, and A Bisell Torah as in past, and in addition we added three new courses meeting in person at the Temple: Judaism – How to Get More Out of Being Jewish; Sacred Text Study – close reading of a Verse; and Ask the Rabbi (focusing on things those in the class asked to cover).

We had a good turnout for the online courses (as in past), and they were all interesting and had lots of participation. Similarly, all three of the new courses had a wonderful level of interest, and all three had a great turnout and a very lively discussion. If you did not sign up for any of the courses, there is still room for you to join these classes.

I appreciated Rabbi Berman joining me to co-teach the Ask the Rabbis class, and look forward to his presence and continuing contributions going forward.

I also have made an effort to attend Rabbi Berman's Torah at 10 and Talmud at 10 sessions each week, as well as the really interesting Veterans Day program he arranged with IDF and US Military personnel.

The result was that this variety of courses, along with the WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) course I taught on Jewish Poetry, certainly kept me busy and hopping, and it appears that the same will be true for the rest of the year. I may have bitten off more than I can chew!

The Ritual Committee met to review the High Holiday services. Overall, as reflected in their report, there were few things to criticize about how they were presented, and the suggestions made will be incorporated into the services as they are planned for next year.

I was honored to be invited to give the invocation at the WV NAACP State Conference event Celebrating The Honorable Irene C. Berger on Wednesday, November 19th, 2025. Judge Berger is a very impressive person and a highly respected Judge, and has had a long and distinguished career as an attorney and judge in West Virginia, currently sitting on the Federal bench as the U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of WV, as well as serving on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

LOOKING AHEAD

Most things go on regularly, as scheduled; the only big items that are ahead on the calendar in December are the Joint Congregational Hanukkah Dinner with B'nai Jacob, scheduled for Sunday, December 14th, at 6:00 p.m., to be held at Temple Israel this year.

Information has been sent out already – watch for updates. The event is compliments of Temple Israel and B'nai Jacob Synagogue. Seating is limited to 115 - RSVPs are due by December 6th to the Temple Israel Office (Melissa, at 304-342-5852, or templeisraelwv@gmail.com). Bring

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SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We thank Cookie Glasser, Sisterhood Program Chair, for organizing the Sisterhood's meeting in October at the Historic Glenwood Estates. After a highly productive meeting, Marla Griffith, Executive Director, guided us on a tour of the Estate. Ms. Griffith's expertise was evident, and the Estate is stunning.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it stands as a cherished legacy for Charleston, West Virginia. If you have the opportunity to visit during their December open house, it's truly worth your time.

Sisterhood Program: Tea with friends and neighbors on January 25, 2026. More information to follow.

SISTERHOOD FOOD DRIVE

See back page for
requested items



**Covered dish
dinner
following
Shabbat service
on January 9**



**Hanukkah Dinner
with B'nai Jacob
Sunday, December 14
at Temple Israel**

**RSVPs due
at Temple Israel Office by
December 6**

AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER & JANUARY

This is a projected calendar of events; it may be incomplete or changed. Services are both in-person and online. 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.**

December		January	
Wednesday, December 3 10:00 a.m.	How to Get More Out of Being Jewish, Even If... In Person Chapters 2 & 3, pages 15-56 	Thursday, January 1	OFFICE CLOSED NO A Bisell Torah
Thursday, December 4 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online	Friday, January 2 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Friday, December 5 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Sunday, January 4 10:30 a.m.	Torah Study, <i>Parashah Shemot</i> [Exodus 1:1-6:1], Online
Sunday, December 7 10:30 a.m.	Torah Study, <i>Parashah Vayeshev</i> [Genesis 37:1-40:23] Online	Sunday, January 4 4:00 p.m.	Jewish Literature Online
Sunday, December 7 4:00 p.m.	Jewish Literature Online	Sunday, January 4 7:00 p.m.	Death Chatter Online
Sunday December 7 7:00 p.m.	Death Chatter Online	Wednesday, January 7 10:00 a.m.	How to Get More Out of Being Jewish, Even If... In Person Chapters 3 & 4, pages 35-82 
Monday, December 8 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Sisterhood Schmooze in the Sisterhood Lounge Brown Bag Lunch	Thursday, January 8 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online
Tuesday, December 9 5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting	Friday, January 9 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service <i>Torah Parashah Shemot</i> (Ex. 1:1-6:1) Covered Dish Dinner Oneg Shabbat 
Thursday, December 11 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online	Monday, January 12 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Sisterhood Schmooze in the Sisterhood Lounge Brown Bag Lunch
Friday, December 12 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service <i>Torah Parashah Vayeshev</i> (Gen. 37:1-40:23)	Tuesday, January 13 5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sunday, December 14	First Candle of Hanukkah is Lit in the Evening	Thursday, January 15 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online
Sunday, December 14 6:00 p.m.	Hanukkah Celebration & Dinner with B'nai Jacob @ Temple Israel 	Friday, January 16 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
December 15 - 22	Hanukkah	Monday, January 19	OFFICE CLOSED MLK Jr Holiday
Tuesday, December 16 7:00 p.m.	Sacred Study - Close Reading In Person Chapters 1 & 2, pages 23-57 	Tuesday, January 20 7:00 p.m.	Sacred Study - Close Reading In Person Chapters 2, 3 & 4, pages 37-108 
Wednesday, December 17 10:00 a.m.	Ask the Rabbis In Person Jewish Denominations 	Wednesday, January 21 10:00 a.m.	Ask the Rabbis In Person Stones on Graves & Other Jewish Memorial Rituals / Rites 
Thursday, December 18 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online	Thursday, January 22 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online
Friday, December 19 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service Lay-Led	Friday, January 23 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Sunday, December 21	Eighth Candle of Hanukkah is Lit in the Evening	Sunday, January 25 11:00 a.m.	Sisterhood Program: Tea Invite Your Friends & Neighbors! 
Sunday, December 21 ~6:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Public Lighting of Hanukkah @ Light the Night GoMart Ballpark Tickets @ Group Rate 	Thursday, January 29 4:30 p.m.	A Bisell Torah Online
Thursday, December 25	OFFICE CLOSED NO A Bisell Torah	Friday, January 30 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service <i>Shabbat Shirah</i> Social Action Shabbat Tu B'Shevat Observance 
Friday, December 26 5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service		
Tuesday, December 30	Asarah B'Tevet Fast of 10th of Tevet		



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK CONTINUED



(Continued from page 1)

your Hanukkiah and two candles to light that evening (1st night of Hanukkah!).

Further, on Sunday, December 21st, Rabbi Berman and I will be doing a Hanukkah event at GoMart Ballpark for Light the Night falling on the last night of Hanukkah. You are warmly invited to join us as we light the menorah (eight candles!), and attempt to gather members of the Jewish community to join in singing Hanukkah songs, and celebrating the final night of the holiday. Michael Pushkin will be our onsite musician for this event. We have been given a window from (approximately) 6:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. to do so. Please feel invited to join us for this event. Watch for more information about how to buy tickets and where we will gather in the stadium for our celebration.

I also plan to continue to offer another WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute class in the winter semester; the dates are tentatively set for February 5, 12, and 19, at 12:45 p.m. -2:15 p.m., and we will be focusing on the poetry of Yehudah Amichai. Please register through the WVU OLLI system for this course.

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 into season of many holidays for various Faith Traditions, as well as our own (Thanksgiving,

Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Diwali, and others), I offer this prayer.

May we each draw closer to the divine, and be guided towards our best selves.

May our faces shine forth with the light of the Holy One, bringing hope and love into the world.

May our hearts be a conduit for the divine to flow into the world.

May we be moved by the immanent presence of the Holy One, so that our world will be bathed in the spirit of kindness, holiness, and care for our fellows.

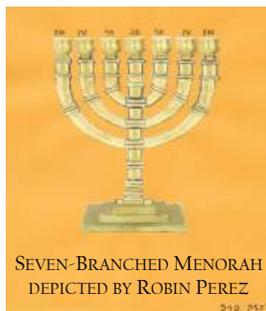
May the blessings we share bring forth peace for all.

May we each by our presence and actions make the world a better place than we found it.

And may we be granted blessings, and find ways to express gratitude for each one of them.

Warm wishes for you throughout the year of 5786.

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



NEED A CHANGE IN 2026?

Did you know that you may request to change your dues billing cycle? For example, if your dues are billed quarterly and you wish to be billed once a year in January or October instead of quarterly, that adjustment can be made.

Billing cycles to choose from are:

- Annually in January or October
- Quarterly
- Semi-annually in April and October

Please contact the Temple Israel Office to request a change.

PARTICIPATION REQUESTS

If you are willing to lead a service, or read Torah or Haftarah for our services occasionally, ***we would warmly welcome your participation.***

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

We invite you to participate in services by leading a prayer (or perhaps several) or doing a reading (or several) during 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 Rabbi Joe to 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.



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* ▪ rabbijoeb@gmail.com ▪ 304-989-4014

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

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

December 5

Lavalie Bixby Hoss	12/6
Howard J. Klapper	12/6
Frederick Barkus	12/7
Marcus Lopin	12/7
Albert Thalheimer Jr.	12/7
Bernard Mordecai Weinstein	12/7
Frederic J. Glazer	12/8
Mary Schuchat	12/8
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

Larry Zakin	12/10
Maxwell Lewis Broverman	12/11
Jess Cohn	12/11
Minna Gersman	12/11
Cecile Rossin	12/11
Anna Klein Broida	12/12
Sheila Ross	12/12

December 12

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
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
Milton Cohen	12/19
Jeanette Green	12/19
Robert Silverstein Sr.	12/19

December 19

Esther "Mickey" Baer	12/20
Mollie Jordan	12/20
Manuel Cremer	12/21
Sanford "Sandy" Darling	12/21

Samuel Rosen	12/21
Hyman Bernstein	12/22
Goldie Cohen	12/22
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
Rudolph Grinberg	12/26
Beatrice H. Kleeman	12/26

December 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
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

OUR THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTORS



Thank You for Making Shabbat Even More Special

November 28, 2025 – Flowers on the bimah given by Marsha Albert in memory of her husband, Robert Albert.

Helen F. Thalheimer Care Committee of Temple Israel Sisterhood

Thank you for your continued concern for the Goldies, from Ed Goldberg.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A thoughtful contribution, given by Kim & Bob Aaron.
 A thoughtful contribution, given by Ditty & Gary Markham.
 A thoughtful contribution, given by Millie Snyder.
 A thoughtful contribution, given by Julie Margolis.
 A thoughtful contribution, given by Richard Hess.
 A thoughtful contribution, given by Donna Goldberg with the following acknowledgments:

- *Thanks to all who contributed side dishes and desserts for the October 10th covered dish dinner. They perfectly complimented the brisket and salmon that I supplied in memory of Jerry Goldberg's 5th Yahrzeit.*
- *Thanks to David McAfee for the delicious Challah he baked to honor Jerry's memory.*
- *Thanks to Rabbi Joe for all his extra efforts to make Jerry's Yahrzeit special.*
- *David, Jessica, and Joanna loved coming home to the warmth of their Temple Israel Family!*

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

Please make **Sisterhood** donations payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood.



The House Committee coordinates our Oneg Shabbat receptions & Covered Dish Dinners.

If you would like to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat, please contact Jill Epstein.



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
 Rose Christian
 Anne Dever
 Jim Doria
 Arthur Epstein
 Sybil Epstein
 Frances Flannery
 Jonathan Freedman
 Karl Gattlieb
 Ed Goldberg
 Jack Goldfarb
 Mirabella Grizer and Family
 Lisa and George Hess
 Rabbi Earl Jordan
 Ruth Jordan
 Paula Kushner
 Zel Lewis
 Ruth Levy
 Judy Lundy
 Ditty Markham
 Gary Markham
 Natasha Medley and Family
 Daniel Meehan
 Deborah Meehan
 Steve Meyer
 Laura Patterson
 Kay Pickus
 Mark Schaul
 Paul Skaggs
 Family of Steve Small
 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)

Condolences to Natasha Medley and family on the recent sudden passing of her mother, Pam Medley. May those who mourn be comforted from heaven.

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.

In light of the recent observance of Veterans Day, our prayers go out to those who served their country, and especially those who fell in service to their country. We remember and appreciate all 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:

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

January: Russ Emrick; Caroline Ostand; Ken Silverstein; Elizabeth Kantor-Bright; David Kushner; Joan Randall; David Winowich; Ellyn Goldberg; Raya Redmond; Sharon Rubin; Richard Holicker; Johnnie Ferrara; Shelley Kanner; Tiana Hall; Richard Gottlieb; David Shapiro; Laura Goins; Beth Winter

Mazal tov to Ellyn and Ed Goldberg (and Roni and Abe Goldberg) on the Bat Mitzvah of Hazel in Harrisonburg, VA, on Nov. 21-22. *Yishar Kochachah* to Hazel!

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.

Dona Hall's mother, Rose Christian, was moved to Oakridge nursing care facility due to an infection; she is hoping to return to Harmony soon. Meantime, if you happen to be in the area and have an opportunity, a short visit would be welcomed.

I hope I included all who should be here (I tried!), but if I missed anyone or anything, please forgive me, and let me

(Continued on page 6)

IN THE CONGREGATION & COMMUNITY CONTINUED

(Continued from page 5)



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 note of thanks for continuing to inform others about Jewish events and learning in West Virginia: 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 wonderingjewsinc.com to find what is out there! *Rabbi Joe Blair*





Happy Chanukah
#1stai Jacob Synagogue

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!

TZEDAKAH (CHARITY)

I delivered a sermon recently about my feelings and concerns in regard to the loss of food assistance for those in need, particularly in light of the cuts to SNAP benefits (and other food assistance programs). I am gratified that others feel the same way, as a result of which you should have received a note in your email recently about the Sisterhood collecting food and funds to support food pantries locally. I certainly hope you will do all you can to help those in need at this critical juncture. Our nearby neighbors who are suffering from food insecurity need our support, and we are called by our faith and beliefs to do what we can.

In a similar vein, I also have to say that **requests for assistance from the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund hit an all-time high over the last several months**, and as a result the remaining balance is lower than what is usually disbursed in a given month. I have not yet, *Baruch Hashem*, had to say no or turn anyone away, but I am rather concerned that could happen shortly.

If you can help to replenish the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, it would be deeply appreciated – by me, but more, by those in our Congregation and Community who have expressed need recently. 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 am asking for your consideration of donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. And I hasten to say that I deeply appreciate everyone who has ever donated – my sincere thanks from the bottom of my heart to all who have made contributions in past. It is simply that needs have grown to exceed the amount in hand at present.

The funds in the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund 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 am sure you already know that 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.

Judaism teaches that Tzedakah is among the highest of all mitzvot. At this season of gratitude and Thanksgiving, light and hope, I pray that your heart be moved to give, so that your generosity will 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*



Sisterhood Care Committee delivered
15 goodie bags for Rosh Hashanah!



URGENT CONGERN—WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Over the past several months, it has been brought to our attention that medical waste materials have been openly left in bathrooms in the building. This is unsanitary at best, and may pose a health hazard to our cleaning staff, who certainly should not be exposed to such items. We have tried to provide means to address the issue by placing medical waste bags in the bathrooms (stronger bags that will contain the items, and prevent any potential contact with them by our staff); unfortunately, the medical waste has continued to be left in the open, and the special waste management bags were not used.

In order not to invade anyone's privacy around medical issues, we do not want or need to know who is responsible – it simply has to stop happening.

All we are concerned about is protecting the health and safety of our staff and the members of the congregation or public who enter our building. To do that, we are urgently requesting that if you have any medical waste (of any kind), that you dispose of it when in the building by using the special bags that are provided, which will preclude any unintentional or unnecessary contact by others with these items.

If you have special needs for supplies to comply with this request, please make those known. We can assist – perhaps by equipping the accessible bathroom with any special containers needed.

Again, this is a matter of health and safety – both for the person or persons using and leaving these materials, and for all others who enter the building and use our restrooms.

Thank you for your compliance, *House Committee*

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.

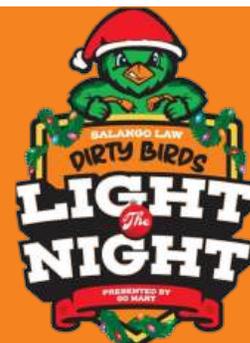
If you have any pastoral concerns, know of someone who needs pastoral or rabbinic support or assistance, have a suggestion or a concern about our community, please call me (the rabbi) at 304-989-4014, or email me at rabbijoeb@gmail.com.

I read email and texts quite regularly (**except on Shabbat & 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 ■ rabbijoeb@gmail.com ■ 304-989-4014



Join Rabbi Berman & Rabbi Blair for a
Festival of Lights Hanukkah Celebration!
 at
Light the Night
 GoMart Ballpark in Charleston
 Sunday, December 21
 from approximately 6:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



You are warmly invited to join Rabbi Berman & Rabbi Blair as we light the menorah (eight candles!) on the last night of Hanukkah!

We wish to gather members of the Jewish community to join in
singing Hanukkah songs
celebrating the final night of the Hanukkah holiday
lighting the Hanukkiah for the last night of Hanukkah

Watch for more information about how to buy tickets and where we will gather in the ballpark for our celebration. Tickets will be offered at a discounted group rate.

SISTERHOOD FOOD DRIVE

Due to the delay and withholding of funds and other food assistance programs, more people now need food assistance. The Sisterhood is organizing a food drive immediately until December 14th to support local food pantries.

Please bring a bag of food to the Temple and leave donations on the stage in the Social Hall. If that's not possible, consider donating money (checks made out to Temple Israel Sisterhood).

We welcome all canned or packaged food donations. Kindly ensure that no expired foods are donated. Some of these things are not covered with SNAP and are always needed. All and any of these will help a lot!

Food deliveries will begin immediately and continue **through December 14th**.

We appreciate your ongoing support!

Thank you on behalf of Ina Angel, Sisterhood President; Caroline Ostand, Sisterhood Community Projects; Sisterhood Schmooze

Requested Food Items

- Basics – cooking oil, sugar, flour, salt & pepper, other spices, dry or canned milk
- Canned – meat, ravioli, tuna, fruits, and vegetables
- Coffee, tea, hot chocolate
- Noodles – spaghetti, flat, mac & cheese
- Stuffing mix
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Cake mixes with icing
- Dish detergent



Graphic credits throughout the Bulletin are available upon request.



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