

October 2020

Tishrei - Cheshvan 5781

**TEMPLE
B'NAI
ISRAEL**

THE SATELL CENTER
FOR JEWISH LIFE ON
THE EASTERN SHORE

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FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



Shore Monthly magazine celebrates the unique and colorful life on the Eastern Shore. In the September/October issue the article "Stronger Together", written by Amelia Blades Steward and Manning Lee, presents the inspirational stories of six community responders - including Rabbi Hyman - whose creative solutions help the needs in our communities, particularly the challenging issues created by COVID-19. In lieu of the Rabbi's monthly message, here is his *Shore* magazine story.

As a community responder in the spiritual front lines, Rabbi Peter Hyman led the charge in helping his congregation and others with the spiritual nature of our place in the COVID-19 crisis and through other recent well-known national events. Most notable was his participation in his synagogue a unifying gathering of all faiths during the Charleston shooting several years ago.

When asked how difficult it was not to gather and be unified in the synagogue, he noted, "I was able to get to one protest in town." He felt encouraged by every element of our community. "I saw Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Islamic Society as well as members of the Synagogue come to the table with shared wisdom and values. It is energizing and powerful to see a full palette of the community participating with both the young and old coming together for the George Floyd protest," he expressed.

In preparation for one of the first teachings during the shutdown, Hyman searched the Torah for wisdom on Egyptian plagues as well as other plagues in scripture. "I shared with my congregation the term "Pikuach Nefesh", which is explained by several Talmudic Rabbis who speak of this principle, "If you've been exposed and want to go to Synagogue for worship, you may not because you may not endanger yourself or others even if the notion of the motivation is noble. You may not do it because the end result is you're going to cause damage, hurt or possibly cause death," reported Rabbi Hyman.

"I just looked at the Jewish responsibility. This shutdown is and was not a religious principle, but a health issue. From a Jewish perspective, its everybody's responsibility to be protective of one another and themselves. That wisdom comes from the Torah and any scripture. If you're dead, then you cannot participate in any worship," he explained. Rabbi Hyman believes it is in our best interest to listen and adhere to the guidelines given to us by those charged with our care.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Services will be streamed on the TBI Facebook page until further notice

Friday, October 2, 7:30 p.m.

Sukkot Service

Torah Portion: Yom Rishon shel Sukkot

Leviticus 23:33-44

Haftarah: Zech 14:6-9,16-21

Saturday, October 10, 10:00 a.m.

Sukkot/Yizkor Service

Torah Portion: Shemini Atzeret

Deuteronomy34:1-12, Genesis1:1- 2:3

Haftarah: Joshua 1:1-18

Friday, October 16, 6:00 p.m.

Torah Portion: B'reishit

Genesis 1:1-6:8

Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5-43:10

Saturday, October 24, 10:00 a.m.

Torah Portion: Noach

Genesis 6:9-11:32

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-55:5

Friday, October 30, 6:00 p.m.

Torah Portion: Lech Lecha

Genesis12:1-17:27

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27-41:16

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Friends,

Thank you to all the people who have made the celebration of the High Holidays so warm and meaningful. I know we went into the Holidays with some fear and trepidation about how it would be not all being together. Although it was not ideal, I think it really was remarkably good. I don't mean that it went well; I mean that the feeling/emotion was good. My apologies again to those who could not get on line for Rosh Hashanah. I am writing this before Yom Kippur, but I hope that we got all the kinks out of the problems. I was so pleased to see that we had people watching from 9 states and Israel. We must be doing something right if former members joined us. Some even participated in the Zoom Oneg that followed Friday night's service. It was good catching up with them.

I have always thought that it is a shame that newspapers and the nightly news on television do not take a day a week during which they report good news. Actually, some programs do try to end on an upbeat note. I try to keep my letters positive, but if you have something good to report, I would love to hear about it and with your permission, I could include a "mazel paragraph". Maybe you became a new grandparent, or tried a new recipe successfully, or lost 10 pounds, or have been spending your time during COVID learning another language. I am willing to start: I am delighted that during the past 6 months, I have reconnected with some friends and family that I had lost touch with. It has really enriched my life. Now it is your turn!

Stay healthy,

Elaine

During the past six months, I didn't have a new grandkid or tried a new recipe or win the lottery, but I did finish another wooden model boat — a sharpie schooner. With center-boards and shallow balanced rudders they were well suited for oystering in tidal waters.

— Steve Sand



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Temple Members,

As I reflect over the last year, I am reminded that we spent more time in 5780 under threat of a pandemic than in "normal times." However, we were still able to create community and interact together as a congregation through the use of online virtual meeting technology. Virtual meetings were new to many of you and required a lot of patience to understand and put in practice. Yet, we learned, and we adapted quite quickly.

The Temple business office first started implementing new technology last fall, by slowly shifting administrative tasks to an online format. Whether it was signing up for a potluck dish, a D'var Torah reading for a Board meeting, or bringing dinner to the Talbot Interfaith Shelter, we have used *Sign-Up Genius* to organize meetings for the ease of committee chairs and members. This application allows members to sign-up at any time of day and committee chairs to directly receive this information for planning purposes, and then automatically sends you a "reminder" email regarding the item/event for which you signed up.

In January, we started using *Constant Contact* email software to send out notices to members. Previously, we had to send out the weekly announcements in two batches, to not overload our server. And we didn't have the ability to schedule outgoing emails I advance on different dates and times. Many of you have contacted us to let us know how much you appreciate this new format. As always, our membership email addresses are never shared with other institutions, and Constant Contact does not have access to your email address.

In addition, we have utilized *Survey Monkey* as an evaluation tool to gather information from Engage! Lifelong Learning viewers and general interest in Temple activities to better respond to our members. Finally, we tested two virtual meeting applications and selected *Zoom* as our preference, once the company had upgraded its security.

If you would like to learn more about how to use these new technology applications, or have any recommendations for others that may help to streamline Temple activities, please contact me on my cell at 919-428-0973.

In closing, many thanks to Marcia Shapiro, our Chair for High Holy Days, and Rob Styles. Marcia worked tirelessly to create digital booklets for all services, in addition to her usual responsibilities, and helped to produce each service. Rob was also a co-producer and his technical advice was invaluable in purchasing cameras, tri-pods, and lighting. I've included some photos to document our first virtual Rosh Hashanah, and a couple of other events that occurred over the last month.

Shalom,

Lori Ramsey



Captions for photos:

Bench: Many thanks to Sy and Pat Strongin, who supported the new building through sponsorship of this beautiful new bench that is now installed in the entry of Temple. Many thanks also to Bob Seitz for his time and hard work in planning and installing the bench!

Honey: We are thankful for The Membership Committee, who organized the delivery of honey to all members in wishing everyone a Sweet New Year.

Oneg: Rabbi Hyman hosted a "Virtual Oneg" via Zoom after Erev Rosh Hashanah.

Behind the Scenes: The producer's view of Rosh Hashanah.



Lori noticed this Yom Kippur morning visitor on the Temple lawn

Holidays of the Month

Sukkot

Sukkot - "booths" or "huts" - refers to the festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. It also commemorates the 40 years of Jewish wandering in the desert after the giving of the Torah atop Mt. Sinai. Sukkot is celebrated five days after Yom Kippur on the 15th of Tishrei and is marked by several distinct traditions.

One tradition, which takes the commandment to dwell in booths literally, is to erect a sukkah, a small, temporary booth or hut used during the 7-day festival for eating, entertaining and even for sleeping. It also serves to remind Jews of the biblical account of how God protected them, provided for their needs in the wilderness and, by implication, still watches over us today.



On every day of the holiday of Sukkot (with the exception of Shabbat), there's a mitzvah to take the "Four Kinds"—a *lulav* (date palm frond), an *etrog* (citron), at least three *hadassim* (myrtle branches) and two *aravot* (willow branches). When reciting the blessing over the lulav and etrog, one should wave them in six directions—north, south, east, west, up, and down. This action symbolizes that God can be found in all directions, not only in one particular place. The sages of the Midrash tell us that the Four Kinds represent the various personalities that comprise the community of Israel, whose intrinsic unity we emphasize on Sukkot.

The first two days of the holiday (one day in Israel) are yom tov, when work is forbidden, candles are lit in the evening, and festive meals are preceded by Kiddush and include challah dipped in honey.



The intermediate days are quasi holidays, known as Chol Hamoed. The final two days (one in Israel) are a separate holiday: Sh'mini Atzeret / Simchat Torah.

Sh'mini Atzeret / Simchat Torah

Immediately following Sukkot comes the two-day festival of Sh'mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. (In Israel, the festival is "compacted" in a single day).

Sh'mini Atzeret means "the eighth [day] of retention"; the chassidic masters explain that the primary purpose of the festival is to retain and "conceive" the spiritual revelations and powers that we are granted during the festivals of the month of Tishrei, so that we could subsequently apply them to our lives throughout the year.

The "Four Kinds" are not taken on Sh'mini Atzeret. We still eat in the sukkah (according to the custom of most communities), but without making the special blessing in the sukkah. On the second day of Sh'mini Atzeret (i.e., the ninth day from the beginning of Sukkot) - and in Israel - we go back to eating in the home.

The second day of Sh'mini Atzeret is On this day we conclude, and begin The event is marked with great rejoicing, in which we march, sing and reading table in the synagogue. "On ing, "we rejoice in the Torah, and wants to dance, so we become the



Simchat Torah ("Rejoicing of the Torah"). anew, the annual Torah reading cycle. ing, especially during the "hakafot" pro- dance with the Torah scrolls around the Simchat Torah," goes the chassidic say- the Torah rejoices in us; the Torah, too, Torah's dancing feet."

During the Torah service, the concluding section of Deuteronomy (D'varim), the fifth book of the Torah, is read, and, immediately following, the opening section of Genesis (B'reishit). This practice represents the cyclical nature of the relationship between the Jewish people and the reading of the Torah.

The symbolic message of the customs associated with Simchat Torah emphasizes that the Torah is the prized possession of the Jewish people, representing our heritage and history and linking Jews to each other over many generations. The words recited at the end of reading each book of the Torah inspire and represent this history: Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazeik. "Be strong, be strong, and we will strengthen each other," building a living Judaism through study, action, and commitment.

The Immigration Task Force, Mobilizing for Humane Treatment of Immigrants
is a local, non-partisan volunteer group joined together on the moral grounds of justice, compassion and human dignity to promote humane treatment of immigrants.

Independent of the Temple, Robin Stricoff and Dave Bobrow, both Temple B'nai Israel members, lead this task force. They recently updated task force members and friends on the current treatment of immigrants to the U.S.

We want to update you on two specific and troubling situations occurring on a national level with local implications. The first is DACA focused, the second deals with imminent changes in the application fees charged immigrants by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS).

Here is a brief summary of each of these situations.

As for the Dreamers, while the 5-4 Supreme Court vote has blocked the Administration from dismantling this program, the Dept. of Homeland Security has been barring new DACA applications and reducing the duration of renewals from 2 years to 1 year.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Fee Schedule revisions take effect October 1. Fees are increased an average of 20%. While some are reduced others are raised very substantially, in one case by over 500%, to well over \$1,000. Fee waivers for qualifying individuals are for practical purposes eliminated. These changes will be burdensome to our friends, neighbors, work colleagues and families of those attending our county schools.

According to Mathew Peters, Executive Director Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center, the Center in the past 10 months has been able to secure over \$25,000 in fee waivers for eligible clients. Mathew adds, "In October, with no fee waivers, each and every case will be burdensome. Citizenship will cost \$1,170. Green Card Renewal will go down a bit to \$500. Work Authorization will go up to \$550. DACA fees will not change and stay at \$495. Further, "Processing an asylum case is nearly impossible now, so the \$50 application charge is a drop in the bucket for what someone would have to pay a skilled attorney to navigate submitting an application."

You can find detailed information on the Federal Register, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Fee Schedule and Changes to Certain Other Immigration Benefit Request Requirements

Robin and Dave are in conversation with our partners Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center and Mid-Shore Pro Bono to develop an earmarked fund and process to help with application fees. More to follow.



We warmly welcome the newest members of our Temple Family

Nicole Smith and Ted Harris

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

1933-2020



Joan Ruth Bader
1935



High school yearbook



1946-next to the Rabbi



Engagement photo 1953



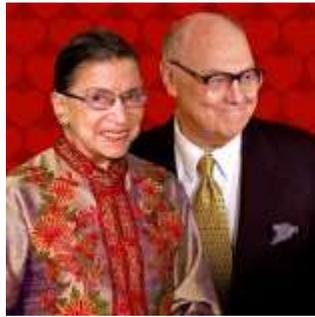
Wedding photo 1954



Family vacation 1979



Supreme Court swearing-in
1993



Ruth & Husband Martin



O'Connor, Sotomayor
Ginsburg, Kagan



*Fight for the things that you care about,
but do it in a way that will lead others to
join you.*

— Ruth Bader Ginsburg



A Journey Through Sephardic History, Culture and Cuisine

ENGAGE! and join Chef Susan Barocas for a fascinating journey through Sephardic history, culture and cuisine. Over three programs, we'll learn, cook and enjoy gathering together virtually as Chef Susan—whose ancestors fled the Inquisition finding new homes in the Ottoman Empire—shares her knowledge, recipes and personal stories. All registered participants will receive a copy of Susan's recipes from the series.

Thursday, October 1, 7-8:30 pm

Tastes Across Centuries: The Enduring Influence of Foods from Spain's Sephardic Jews

Follow the food trail of Sephardic Jews from the 2nd century BCE through the 15th century Inquisition and into modern history and onto our tables today. Chef Susan will take us on a fascinating journey that reveals the surprising influence Sephardic cuisine has had on many cuisines around the world.

Saturday, October 10, 4:00-6:30 pm

Sephardic Cooking Demo and Cook-along

Join Chef Susan in cooking a meal with dishes from the wide world of Jewish cuisine or sit back and enjoy watching the demonstration to cook later. Ingredient, equipment and prep ahead instructions will be sent to registered participants on October 5 to give time for shopping and preparations. Recipes will be mailed day of the program.

Menu

- Persian Spiced Fish
- Onions Stuffed with Aleppo Rice (Hashu)
- Spanish Sauté of Greens with Raisins and Vinegar (Verduras)

And a special surprise dessert demonstration!

Saturday, October 17, 6:30-7:30 pm

Havdalah and Tastes of Turkish Coffee and Sephardic Sweets

"The heart seeks neither the coffee or the coffee house. The heart seeks a friend. The coffee house is just an excuse." (Turkish proverb)



FEE: \$36 for the series to all Congregants, Friends and Family, via PayPal. Checks can be also sent to Nancy in the office if you prefer.

To Register

Click here



Interfaith Families as Bridge Builders

An Intimate Conversation with Author Susan Katz Miller

As part of our Lifelong Learning series, please join author Susan Katz Miller and Temple B'nai Israel on Sunday, November 8, 2020 from 4:00-5:30 pm via ZOOM, as she facilitates important conversations on interfaith families, interfaith communication, interfaith peacemaking and complex religious identity.

An interfaith kid, interfaith spouse, and interfaith parent, Susan tells the stories of three generations in her interfaith family, and invites you to tell your own story. We are a mixed multitude in America now. Whether you are in a Jewish family with Christian in-laws, a Christian family with Muslim stepparents, or a secular humanist with Buddhist practices, our religious landscape looks increasingly like a kaleidoscope.

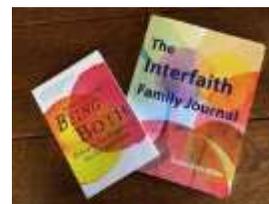
- What choices do interfaith families have?
- Will they stay affiliated with religious institutions?
- How can we see these families as enriching, rather than simply problematic?

Drawing primarily on her new workbook, *The Interfaith Family Journal*, Susan will provide strategies for building successful and happy interfaith families. Bring your own experiences to this important and timely conversation.



Washington, DC-area author Susan Katz Miller, a former *Newsweek* reporter, is a member of a three-generation interfaith family. She has written two books on interfaith families: *The Interfaith Family Journal* (2019) and *Being Both: Embracing Two Religions in One Interfaith Family* (2013). Her work has been featured on The Today Show, NPR's All Things Considered, in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Susan has consulted for groups of rabbis, spoken at the Parliament of the Worlds Religions and at Harvard Divinity School, and keynoted at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, and at an academic conference in Birmingham, England. She is also a former columnist on interfaith families for *The (Jewish Daily) Forward*.

Look for future communications regarding the registration process.



October 2020

Sun		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Engage! LLL Tastes Across Centuries: The Enduring Influence of Foods from Spain's Sephardic Jews 7:00-8:30 pm	2 6:26 pm candle lighting Sukkot Live Streamed Via Facebook 7:30-8:30 pm	3
4	5	6	7 Advancement Committee Meeting 10:00 am	8	9 6:15 pm candle lighting	10 Shabbat Sukkot/Yizkor Service Live Streamed via Facebook 10:00-11:00 am Engage! LLL Sephardic Cooking Demo and Cook-along 4:00-6:00 pm
11	12 Columbus Day Office closed	13 Executive Committee Meeting	14	15	16 6:05 pm candle lighting Shabbat Service Live Streamed Via Facebook 6:00-7:00 pm	17 Engage! LLL Havdalah and Tastes of Turkish Coffee and Sephardic Sweets 6:30-7:30 pm
18 Board Meeting 10:00 am Via ZOOM	19	20	21	22	23 5:56 pm candle lighting	24 Shabbat Service Live Streamed via Facebook 10:00-11:00 am
25	26	27	28	29	30 5:47 pm candle lighting Shabbat Service Live Streamed Via Facebook 6:00-7:00 pm	31

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A Unique waterfront restaurant in the oldest historic building in St. Michaels serving a full selection of classic Eastern Shore fare and great steaks.

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