

November 2020

Cheshvan-Kislev 5781

**TEMPLE
B'NAI
ISRAEL**

THE SATELL CENTER
FOR JEWISH LIFE ON
THE EASTERN SHORE

7199 Tristan Drive
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-0553
bnaiisraeleaston.org
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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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

Saturday, November 7, 10:00 a.m.
Torah Portion: Vayeira
Genesis 18:1-22:24
Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-37

Friday, November 13, 6:00 p.m.
Torah Portion: Chayei Sarah
Genesis 23:1-25:18
Haftarah: I Kings 1:1-31

Saturday, November 21, 10:00 a.m.
Torah Portion: Toldot
Genesis 25:19-28:9
Haftarah: Malachi 1:1-2:7

Friday, November 27, 6:00 p.m.
Torah Portion: Vayetzei
Genesis 28:10-32:3
Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



A Final Word...

Let me begin by stating, yet again, this monument must be moved to a different and more appropriate location. For me, this is a given. But there is a deeper question, a more penetrating question that this statue raises ... and that question is: how do we deal with hard history and how do we reconcile the stark and painful reality of the past with the hopeful promise of the future?

Prof. Dell Upton, chair of the Department of Art History at the University of California, Los Angeles, wrote that "these monuments were not intended as public art," but rather were installed "as affirmations that the American polity was a white polity," and that because of their explicitly white supremacist intent, their removal from civic spaces is a matter "of justice, equity, and civic values." According to historian Adam Goodheart, these statues were meant to be symbols of white supremacy and permanent reminders of white supremacy. The history these monuments celebrate tell only one side of the story, however — one that was openly pro-Confederate. Furthermore, Confederate monuments were erected without the consent or even input of Southern African-Americans, who remembered the Civil War far differently, and who had no interest in honoring those who fought to keep them enslaved. According to Civil War historian Judith Giesberg, professor of history at Villanova University, "White supremacy is really what these statues represent."

You know, the Rabbis in the Talmud engage in a long and detailed discussion about the nature of sin. "Sin," they say, "is like pounding nails into a wooden plank. Repentance is like removing those same nails". "But," say our Sages, "Even when the nail is removed, the hole still remains." The damage caused to another human being is done and it can never be undone - the holes, the painful scars will always be there. So ... what do we do with the hard history that confronts us, that shapes us, that helps define us and that demands a response from us?

We may not and cannot ignore the hard, painful and complicated components of our history. We cannot overlook it. And, we must certainly not dismiss it. Besides, the "holes in the wood remain" as a constant reminder and proof of the past, even if we try to distance ourselves from those events and realities.

But, what we may not do is give honor where honor is not deserved. We dare not offer praise when the object of that praise is not praiseworthy. Let's remember what this monument represents: it is a testament to white supremacy, it memorializes an unrecognized, treasonous government whose founding principle was the perpetuation of slavery and oppression. The presence of this and other Confederate memorials, over a hundred years after the defeat of the Confederacy, continues to disenfranchise and alienate African Americans...and, may I add, other Americans as well. This monument must be moved to a more appropriate location. The message

this statue communicates and the cause that it represents should not be publicized on the front lawn of our County Court House. Its being placed there is wrong and inappropriate. The message sent by its being where it is now does not fit with what and who I know this town, this county and this community to be.

Recently, someone approached me and said, "Rabbi, what you are forgetting is that this monument is a piece of art." Let us make no mistake, this monument is not nor was it ever meant to be seen as art. It was created to communicate a political perspective and perpetuate a strong and unambiguous position.

Removing this statue and other Confederate monuments is not "removing history." It is removing an object that represents a dishonorable cause from a place of honor. We must never forget, hide nor stop learning from those hard, painful, difficult and shameful components of our history. But, we must also be careful that the ugly and shameful elements of our past, elements that in their own right continue to teach and inform us, be exhibited and displayed in appropriate and proper places; but certainly not in locations of honor.

To quote Dan Manning, "Removing Confederate monuments is not "removing history." It is removing a dishonorable cause from a place of honor. Let's move those statues that celebrate a cause we as Americans have long since rejected to a museum so that we can learn from them ... not celebrate them."

I implore the County Council. .. Do the right and righteous thing ... MOVE THE STATUE.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Friends,

With all the issues that are going on in the world, it is so nice to look at what our congregants are doing, and *qvell!* We have so many exciting things going on. The Life-Long Learning Committee's cooking series finished the series with rave reviews! Thank you to the committee and Susan Barocas. Interestingly, we had some people tune in who had not come to any of the other programs. It is good to see that we are widening our scope.

The Sukkah happenings were also a success. I won't say much about it because I know there is a Shofar article about the activity. Thank you to Lori Ramsey and Ben Schlessinger's committee for orchestrating and implementing the health procedures.

Last week our Thursday movies began. Several people took part. We are trying to get some of our other activities started up again. I would like to relaunch the **Temple members only** Book Club again. Please let me know if you are interested. We are ready for new members. We were alternating books that have a Jewish theme with books that do not.

The Rabbi is beginning his Torah Class in November. He always gets a big group of both Jews and non-Jews, which makes the discussions especially interesting. We are in the process of solidifying the plans for the reopening of the religious school.

We are still looking for a chairperson of the Communications Committee.

Have a great month. Please stay healthy!

Shalom,

Elaine

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Temple Members,

Since 2018, November 1st is one of the most conflicted days of the year for me. It is the day we held a vigil at the synagogue to honor and grieve the victims from the massacre at Tree of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh. It was also the day we welcomed over 500 friends, neighbors and clergy into our beautiful new Temple. Non-Jews felt the call to be present, in support of Jewish people on the Eastern Shore. It was also my first day of work at Temple B'nai Israel.

Resilience is a quality that is often spoken of as a marker of success in an individual, but I believe it is also a marker of success for a group. The members of Temple B'nai Israel continue to demonstrate this trait, especially in these times of adversity.

My work with you includes management of the building and grounds, working with our Treasurer to manage costs, identifying grant opportunities, working with committee chairs, helping to manage communications and fundraising, assisting the Rabbi in community relations, and supporting the Board of Directors and its President.

And now, because our Temple and its people are resilient, I have increasingly pivoted to other tasks — broadcasting weekly religious services from Zoom to Facebook, establishing and running a Webinar for the wonderful Chef in Residence Lifelong Learning Program, and a recent Bat Mitzvah. In addition, we are now holding Thursday Movie Matinees, Book Club, Canasta and Mahjong games, as we work to replicate previous programs in this new virtual environment.

Hakarat hatov. This Hebrew term for gratitude, or “recognizing the good,” truly resonates, even when there are bad things in the world. In that respect, I extend my gratitude to the resilient members of Temple B'nai Israel, who continue to support me and this beautiful Temple, through your volunteerism, donations, and continued participation in Temple life.

Shalom,

Lori

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A Quadruple Thanksgiving

I have fond childhood memories of celebrating Sukkot at our Temple, converting our back-patio awning structure into a Sukkah, and eating under the stars. Fast-forward 50+ years, and this year the pandemic has certainly turned traditions like celebrating Sukkot into challenges. I was delighted when Temple B'nai Israel announced a Sukkah that could be reserved for a family or group to enjoy. But my delight was short lived as getting our distributed family to travel to Easton during COVID was just not going to happen. That's when our Easton Village neighbors and fellow congregants Judy & Jess Haberman had the most excellent idea to gather up fellow neighbors who were also congregants to celebrate Sukkot together. Most of us were new to this area, new to the Temple, and so it was a great opportunity to get to know each other and share this wonderful holiday in a COVID safe way.

When we arrived, we were greeted by Lori Ramsey, Executive Director, who shared that 21 congregants had signed up to gather in the Sukkah. I was impressed at how big the Sukkah was, 12' X 32' with two entrances, windows, and the prayers were printed inside. The Sukkah decorations included a garland of jalapeno peppers and herbs from Gloria Paul's garden, handmade paper garlands from Max and Ryan LaCorte, flowers from Jess & Judith Haberman and Barbara & Len Spector, and friends strung popcorn garlands and brought apples and pears. Additional decorations were available for each of us to add our personal touch to the décor.

Couples sat together, socially distanced from others across the three round tables with four chairs each (hand sanitizer and anti-bacterial wipes at each table). The night was cool, but with the tent sides down, even with the door and windows open for ventilation, we were all cozy. Lightning bug lights in hurricane glass lamps cast a soft light inside the Sukkah. We all enjoyed the evening, and were thankful for many blessings: the Fall harvest, being brought out of slavery (40 years of hut living during wandering), a wonderful nearby Temple congregation, and our new Easton Village neighbors.

Diane Tinney



Barbara & Len Spector
Raquel Schuster & Michael Stoff



Judy Haberman



Susan & Murray Sarubin



Diane Tinney & Jim Keene



LaCorte Family



Irene & Howard Rosenberg
Debra Moon



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.

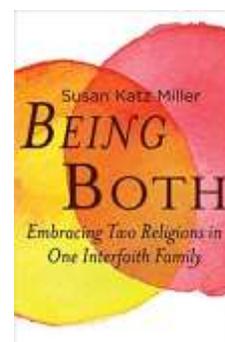
- What choices do interfaith families have?
- Will they stay affiliated with religious institutions?
- How can we see these families as enriching, rather than simply problematic?

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*.

To register



ENGAGE: WHAT A PARTNERSHIP!! October Virtual Chef in Residence series

This past month, Temple B'nai Israel and group of 24 participated in our *Virtual Chef in Residence Series*. Chef Susan Barocas partnered with the Lifelong Learning Committee to deliver what was deemed by all to be a delight!

From the beginning, her illustrated discussion on the long influence of foods on the expelled and converso Jews of Spain up to the inquisition set the "table" of what was to come in a delicious live cooking demonstration. The menu of Syrian Stuffed Onions, Persian Salmon, Sautéed Greens in Balsamic Vinegar, topped off by the most delicious Sponge Cake and Almond Marochinos was fun to watch, prepare and cook!!!. The Turkish Coffee House and Havdalah experience culminated the event and drove home Chef's Susan's authenticity, humble manner, sense of humor, passion and knowledge of the subject matter, whether it be history or food.



Persian Salmon baked by
Chef Mara Abrams



Sponge cake baked by
Chef Michele Jacobs



Almond Marochinos baked by
Chef Cheryl Kramer

AND SPEAKING OF COOKING CLASSES . . .

New Monthly Cooking Classes - A Members-only Event

*Our Chef in Residence program was such a success that we decided to host monthly cooking classes that feature Jewish delicacies, and taught by our own Temple members! Our first class, **HOLLA FOR CHALLAH**, will take place on **Sunday, November 15th at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.***

Learn to make the perfect Challah, just in time for Thanksgiving! Join members Roscoe & Beth Malone via Zoom, as they take us step-by-step from their kitchen to yours, on how to make a beautifully braided Challah!



Register today for this fun class for all ages! Click on the following link or type in your browser. Ingredient list and recipe will be emailed to you. <https://bit.ly/3ohHLXf>

Also ... please save the date for our second cooking class on how to make "**Lotsa Latkes**", as Programming Chair Anne Rosen shares recipes to add some variety to the traditional latke served for Hannukah. "**Lotsa Latkes**" will take place on Sunday, December 6th at 4:30 p.m. Ingredient list and recipes will be emailed to you. Register now by clicking on the following link or type it in your browser: <https://bit.ly/3mdbU89>

Yes, Now You Have Time to Study Torah

Torah Classes Resume in November - Wednesdays Noon to 1:00 p.m.



Remember when you always thought you would like to study Torah, but you just didn't have the time? Well, now is that time! Join Temple friends and community members as Rabbi Hyman leads us through the study of Torah each Wednesday, from Noon to 1:00 p.m. Classes will be held via Zoom and require a one-time registration. Click on the link below to register and receive your unique link to join us for class.

<https://bit.ly/2J5UnAt>

Let's Play Canasta & Mahjong!

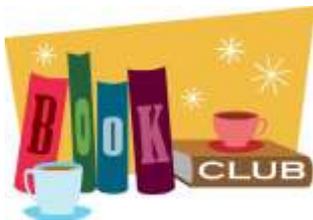
MEMBERS ONLY



In response to requests for virtual Canasta and Mahjong play, we are gathering a list of Temple members who would be interested in joining a group that would meet regularly to play. We're hoping to test a new Canasta software program, sponsored by the Canasta League of America. We welcome beginning and Mahjong Masters' recommendations regarding online play. Please click on the sign-up genius link below to let us know your interest. <https://bit.ly/35HYVVm>

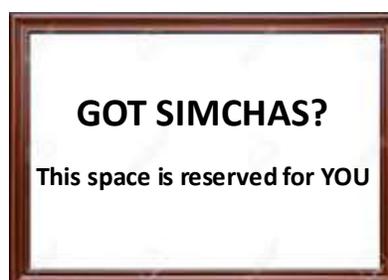
BOOK CLUB IS RESTARTING - VIA ZOOM!

MEMBERS ONLY



The pandemic has slowed our lives down a bit, which is music to the ears of book lovers! The cold weather is coming and provides another good reason to cuddle up with a good book and cup of tea or coffee! Join your Temple friends for a monthly Virtual Book Club via Zoom. Interested Temple members can contact Elaine Friedman for details at ejf1027@gmail.com

Is there a Simcha you would like to share? (an anniversary, new baby, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a graduation ...)
Send your submission to the Temple office or email the editors at srsand@atlanticbb.net.



THURSDAY MATINEE WATCH PARTIES MEMBERS ONLY



Since the pandemic, many families, friends and organizations are having movie watch parties via Zoom. Since we used to gather at Temple for Thursday Movie Matinees, we decided to restart this program, virtually. We will show a different movie each **Thursday at 4:00 p.m.**, through the rest of the year.

Temple members: grab some popcorn, watch a movie & talk about it afterwards with your Temple friends! Just click on the Zoom link below at 4:00 p.m. each Thursday. The link will also be placed in the Weekly Announcements each week. The movie will be streamed directly into the Zoom meeting. Click here each Thursday at 4:00 PM: <https://bit.ly/35CWaEH>

November 5

Outback Rabbis (2019) Documentary



Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qoXNJGHo9mE>

On a road trip like no other ultra-Orthodox Chassidic Rabbis hit the Aussie bush looking for 'lost Jews'. Leaving the comfort of Melbourne Jewish life, two Rabbis and their families are heading into the heart of Australia on a journey filled with surprising and emotional encounters with Aussie out-back characters and laced with Jewish wit, music and culture.

November 12

Gentleman's Agreement (1947) NR

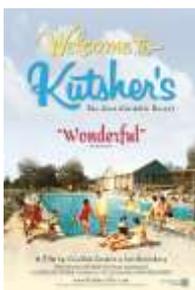
Trailer: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0039416/>

When journalist Phil Green (Gregory Peck) moves to New York City, he takes on a high-profile magazine assignment about anti-Semitism. In order to truly view things from an empathetic perspective, he pretends to be a Jew and begins to experience many forms of bigotry, both firsthand and through a Jewish friend, Dave Goldman (John Garfield). Phil soon falls in love with beautiful Kathy Lacy (Dorothy McGuire), but their relationship is complicated by his unusual endeavor.



November 19

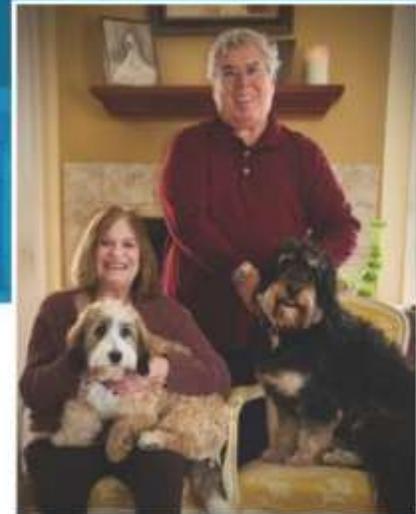
Welcome to Kutsher's: The Last Catskills Resort (2015) Documentary



Trailer: <https://www.kutshersdoc.com/trailers/>

Kutsher's Country Club was the last surviving Jewish resort in the Catskills. One of the legendary Borscht Belt hotels during its heyday, Kutsher's was family-owned and operated for over 100 years. The Catskills resorts were not only a Jewish refuge and family vacation paradise; they also gave birth to American stand-up comedy, an NBA All-Star tradition, and all-inclusive resorts. This film brings to life how Kutsher's thrived at the center of all this growth and excitement.

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What is the Yam Chai Society?

WHEN DENNIS PODOLNY was Chair of the Advancement Committee (2018-2020), he recognized the importance of establishing a process for congregants and friends to remember Temple in their estate planning. His parents were philanthropic throughout their lives to their Temple and arts organizations, setting an example for Dennis and his siblings.

Dennis' wife Janice was also a firm believer in gifting funds to organizations that aligned with their family's values, and to carry on the tradition created by their parents. In addition to their annual fund gifts, they both wanted to remember Temple B'nai Israel in their estate planning. An email and follow up phone call to their estate planner was all that was required to generate a document that was signed and included with their final directives.

Then Dennis worked with his Advancement Committee to create a legacy organization to encourage and honor others to remember Temple in their estate planning. This is how the **Yam Chai Society** was created for Temple B'nai Israel. Many thanks to Dennis and Janice, for allowing us to share your story and creating this new opportunity for giving at Temple.

If you have remembered Temple B'nai Israel in your estate plans, or would like to receive information on how to gift funds, please contact Lori Ramsey, Executive Director at 919-428-0973.



November 2020

Sun		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Standard time begins	2	3 ELECTION DAY	4 Advancement Committee Meeting 9:30 am	5	6 4:40 pm candle lighting	7 Shabbat Service Live Streamed via Facebook 10:00-11:00 am
8 4:00-5:30 pm Engage! <i>Interfaith Families as Bridge Builders</i> Susan Katz Miller speaker, via Zoom RSVP Required	9	10 Executive Committee Meeting 10:00 am	11 Veterans Day Office closed	12	13 4:33 pm candle lighting Shabbat Service Live Streamed Via Facebook 6:00-7:00 pm	14
15 Board Meeting 10:00 am Via ZOOM	16	17	18	19	20 4:29 pm candle lighting	21 Shabbat Service Live Streamed via Facebook 10:00-11:00 am
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Office closed	27 4:25 pm candle lighting Shabbat Service Live Streamed Via Facebook 6:00-7:00 pm	28
29	30					

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8 Goldsborough Street
 Post Office Box 1028
 Easton, Maryland 21601

Phone: 410-822-3900
 Fax: 410-822-8854

email: kopen@goeaston.net