

June 2021

Sivan-Tammuz 5781

**TEMPLE  
B'NAI  
ISRAEL**  
THE SATELL CENTER  
FOR JEWISH LIFE ON  
THE EASTERN SHORE

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## FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



I am continually astounded by Torah. I am moved not only by the words in our sacred scroll and how these ancient sentences, paragraphs and chapters address the realities of human nature and relationships, but I am also struck by Torah's nuanced subtlety...those "**ah ha**" moments which are embedded in the fabric of the text. Torah's wisdom presents itself just at the right times and at precise moments when such wisdom is needed. How edifying to witness the efficacy of that sacred wisdom, guidance and direction as we navigate the challenging waters of human existence.

I experienced such an "**ah ha**" moment recently as I was preparing and reviewing the Torah portions entitled *Acharei Mot* and *Kedushim*. *Parashat Acharei Mot* records and recounts the death of Aaron's two sons. Aaron's sons were executed...killed. It is a sad, painful and heartbreaking episode in the life of Aaron's family and in the collective experience of the People Israel. *Parashat Acharei Mot* is followed immediately by *Parashat Kedushim*. After the execution of Aaron's sons, Torah presents us with a *parasha* that demands we separate ourselves from what just happened. The term **kodesh** means "unique - distinct." We are not to forget what happened nor are we to excuse or ignore the details of this episode. But there is a reason that *Parashat Kedushim* follows *Parashat Acharei Mot*. Torah is rebalancing the scales. The most horrific of circumstances happened, for whatever reason, but now we must offset that gruesome reality and regain our stability. That's why *parashat Kedoshim*, the *parasha* that obligates us to separate and make holy, unique and distinct, follows *parashat Acharei Mot*. That's the "**ah ha**" moment of insight that applied to Aaron and his sons. It's the insight and realization that Torah presents us today, right now in the aftermath of all that we have been experiencing, witnessing and suffering, whether it be from the pandemic or from the societal realities we witness and confront.

*Parashat Kedoshim* is one of the supreme statements of ethics in all of Torah. So central is its message that our Rabbis assigned it for reading every Yom Kippur. It focuses on the right, the good and the holy. It contains some of Judaism's greatest moral commands: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," and "Let the stranger who lives among you be to you like the native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were strangers in Egypt."

*Parashat Kedoshim* presents us with examples of how Judaism understands and applies the concept of *kedusha* to our lives and to the world we live in.

Do not mate different kinds of animals.

Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed.

Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material.

Do not eat any meat with the blood still in it.

Do not practice divination or sorcery.

Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard.

At first glance, the connection between not wearing a garment woven of two different materials or planting two different crops in the same field and the concept of **kedusah** may not be apparent.

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Saturday, June 5, 10:00 a.m.

Torah Portion: Shelach

Numbers 13:1-15:41

Haftarah: Joshua 2:1-24

Friday, June 11, 6:00 p.m.

Torah Portion: Korach

Numbers 16:1-18:32

Haftarah: 1 Samuel 11:14-12:22

Saturday, June 19, 10:00 a.m.

Torah Portion: Chukat

Numbers 19:1-22:1

Haftarah: Judges 11:1-33

Friday, June 25, 6:00 p.m.

Torah Portion: Balak

Numbers 22:2-25:9

Haftarah: Micah 5:6-6:8

To comprehend and apply this dynamic definition, we need to understand Judaism's transformational and exceptional approach to the concept of **kedusha**. Once we understand this, we then comprehend and appreciate the application of the concept of **kedusha**. This allows for insight into the unique moral/social/spiritual vision of the Torah, which is unlike anything we find elsewhere.

Over the centuries, Western thinking has attempted to define and codify moral systems. Some focused on rationality, others on emotions like sympathy and empathy. For some the central principle was service to the state, for others moral duty, for yet others the greatest happiness for the greatest number. Writes Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, "These are all forms of moral simplicity. Judaism, Jewish teaching, Jewish belief, insists on the opposite: Judaism is moral complexity. The moral life isn't easy." And as the great Sholom Aleichem reminds us: "**Shver tsu zayn a yid...It's not easy to be Jewish!**" Sometimes duties and loyalties clash. Sometimes reason says one thing, emotion another. Judaism identified three distinct moral sensibilities each of which has its own voice and vocabulary. They are [1] the ethics of the king, [2] the ethics of the priest, and [3] the ethics of the prophet.

Jeremiah and Ezekiel, for example, talk about their distinctive sensibilities:

As the Prophet Jeremiah proclaimed: The teaching of the law, *Torah*, by the priest, will not cease, nor will counsel, *etzah* from the wise, *chacham*, nor the word, *davar*, from the prophets.

Priests think in terms of law, *Torah*. Prophets have "the word," "a vision," revelation. Elders and the wise have "*etzah*" considered opinion. What does this mean?

The books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are books of "wisdom" of which the supreme exemplar was King Solomon. Wisdom in Judaism is the most universal form of knowledge. It is practical, pragmatic, based on experience and observation; it is judicious and prudent. It is a prescription for a life that is safe and sound, without excess or extremes, but hardly dramatic or transformative. That is the voice of wisdom, the virtue of kings.

The prophetic voice is quite different, impassioned, fervent, direct and radical in its critique of the misuse of power and position. The prophet speaks on behalf of the

people, the poor, the downtrodden, the abused. The Prophets think of the moral life in terms of relationships: the dynamic between God and humanity and between human beings themselves. The Prophets speak of **tzedek** - **distributive justice** - **mishpat**, retributive justice, **chessed** - loving kindness and **rachamim** - compassion. The prophet has emotional intelligence, sympathy and empathy, feeling the plight of the lonely and oppressed. In Jewish tradition, prophecy is never abstract. It responds to the here and now of time and place. The priest hears the word of God for all time. The prophet hears the word of God as it resonates in the immediate present.

Torah makes it clear, the job of the **Kohanim** is to impose order, Judaism's understanding of order, upon chaos. Torah establishes boundaries in both time and space. There are holy times and holy places, and each time and place has its own veracity, its own setting in the grand scheme of things. Torah makes it clear that a successful society is one in which everything is in its proper place and being responsive and empathetic toward the stranger, the orphan and the person who has no place of his or her own.

In this light, those **mitzvot** in **Kedoshim** which, at first glance, seem so unrelatable, so distant and removed from the world and reality as we know it, are not strange or incomprehensible or unrelatable at all. Our Torah presents justice tempered by righteousness and compassion. **Kedusha** is integral to an ordered universe. When the boundaries between different kinds of animals, grain, fabrics are breached, when the human body is disrespected or when people inflict pain and tragedy on one another, the sacred order, that overarching sense of **kedusha**, which connects us, yet at the same time separates us, is threatened and placed in jeopardy.

Torah's message to us, actualized through the idea of **Kedusha**, is this: just as there is a scientific order to nature, so there is a moral order, and it consists in keeping separate the things that are separate, and maintaining the boundaries that respect the integrity of the world God created and seven times pronounced good.

This is what Torah means when it refers to us as "*a kingdom of priests and a unique and distinct people.*"

#### TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

##### Officers and Board of Directors:

**President** - Ben Schlesinger  
**1st Vice President** - Barry Koh  
**2nd Vice President** - Norman Bell  
**Secretary** - Cheryl Kramer  
**Treasurer** - Sandra Seitz

##### Board Members:

Jim Brodsky      Liz LaCorte  
Carol Brown      Laurie Lewis  
Merry Danaceau      Ron Schechter  
Belinda Frankel      Barbara Spector  
Elaine Friedman (IPP)

**Rabbi** - Peter E. Hyman

**Executive Director** - Lori Ramsey

**Office Manager** - Nancy Cummings

**Shofar Editors** - Stephen & Jean Sand

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you Elaine, Rabbi Peter Hyman, Board members, and fellow Congregants. My great thanks to you all for giving me the honor to serve as your President of Temple B'nai Israel, the Satell Center for Jewish Life on the Eastern Shore!

Elaine, you have been a phenomenal president and such a warm presence throughout your tenure, six years in all! You've succeeded in so many crucial projects for our Temple and community, and especially keeping the light shining during this awful pandemic. You will be an impossible act to follow – thank you!

Thank you also to our outgoing Directors. We all owe you a debt of gratitude for your tireless service to the Temple – it's been great working with you and – guess what – it's not over! Going forward, I plan to call and learn from your dedication and experience.

To our continuing and new Officers – Barry Koh, Norm Bell, Sandra Seitz, and Cheryl Kramer – and Directors – Carole Brown, Jim Brodsky, Ron Schechter, Laurie Lewis, Merry Danaceau, Belinda Frankel, Barbara Spector and Liz LaCorte – and to our indomitable and inspirational

Rabbi – I thank each of you for your ongoing and future guidance, leadership and dedication to our community. You are all amazing people and I can't wait to work with you.

And to our bright and dedicated staff – Executive Director Lori Ramsey and Office Manager Nancy Cummings – my special thanks-in-advance to you – and of course to our Rabbi – for putting up with me as I figure out the best way to do this job!

Like many people, my wife Joyce and I moved to our new home on the Eastern Shore, only 90 minutes from the hustle of urban life, because of our peaceful way of life here, welcoming friends and community, and our magnificent Bay and its waters. We joined Temple B'nai Israel before our new house was completed, and the Temple has anchored our home with such wonderful people and programs. As some of you know, my day job has been in energy, and Joyce's is in the environment. Looking ahead, let us work together to ensure we and our children honor *tikkun olam*, through repair, learning, teaching, and sustainable practices that embrace this wonderful place and our climate.

To everyone, as the pandemic recedes into history, let's all redouble our involvement, our attendance, and participation in the amazing array of Temple programs, clubs, food and more!

Our Mission Statement reminds us that Temple B'nai Israel is here to provide religious services and education, social activities and lifelong learning, and a warm community for both traditional and interfaith Jewish families.

I look forward to seeing and greeting everyone, to outreach and hearing your ideas and thoughts on the best ways to carry our vital mission forward together. To our wonderful Congregation of families and friends – thank you for this opportunity!

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Thank you for your patience as we navigate reopening the Temple. The Reopening Work Group meets regularly and has been expanded to include the Executive Committee, to ensure that even more voices are heard. Each step in this process is carefully researched and deliberated, with the safety of all members in mind.

While there will be changes to how we operate, one thing that will not change is our commitment to broadcasting services online via Facebook. We understand that many of you are not able to attend services in person, and we will continue to reach out to you and the broader Jewish community each week through this medium.

Last week, we were able to open the Temple to in-person card playing. It was wonderful to hear the sounds of canasta players in the lobby, as vaccinated members once again joined together to enjoy gaming fun and friendship.

Finally, I would like to thank those of you who have added Temple B'nai Israel as their designated non-profit through Amazon's Smile program. We received our first check of \$25 last month. As more of you take advantage of this program that is of no cost to you, we hope that those checks will begin to increase.

Shalom,



## Officers and Board of Directors 2021-2012



**Dr. Ben Schlesinger - President**

*"It is an honor to be elected to work with this dynamic board and I look forward to listening to members and their concerns, as well create even more opportunities for all of us to practice our Jewish value of Tikkun Olam over the next two years."*



**Dr. Barry Koh - 1st Vice President**

*"While TBI offers many ways for Jews on the Eastern Shore to come together as a community, for me, worship is the heart of the synagogue. As such, I would like to help others gain more appreciation for services and the spiritual aspects of Judaism."*



**Norman Bell - 2nd Vice President**

*"I hope to use my previous experiences to contribute to Temple B'nai Israel's on-going growth, and its continued integration into the greater community."*



**Cheryl Kramer - Secretary**

*"I will work to incorporate the broad spectrum of ideas, concerns, and interests of our congregation into every facet of our strategic planning to achieve the future longevity and health of Temple B'nai Israel."*



**Dr. Sandra Seitz - Treasurer**

*"My goal while I am Treasurer is to help Temple B'nai Israel become debt-free."*



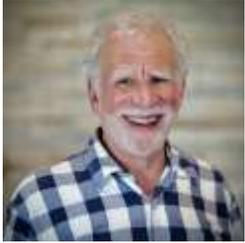
**James Brodsky**

*"TBI is not only the center of Jewish religious and cultural life on the Eastern Shore, it is also an integral part of the larger Eastern Shore community. With and through Rabbi Peter and our fellow congregants, it is a cultivator of the deeper, spiritual values that all too often, and particularly in our troubled times, otherwise can fade or recede. As a member of the Board, I hope to be able to help it continue to grow in all of these areas."*



**Barbara Portnoy Spector**

*“Being a member of the Temple and serving on the board is important to me because I consider B'nai Israel the center of my religious and cultural life. I have a responsibility to help maintain the Temple's good health.”*



**Ron Schechter**

*“I look forward to supporting the Temple in the areas of governance and finance.”*



**Liz LaCorte**

*“I am focused on helping to create a Jewish community that continues to embrace interfaith families, including my own children.”*



**Belinda Frankel**

*“In joining the Temple Board, I hope to help create a Jewish community that brings a sense of shared history, commonality, and tradition that will be a meaningful aspect of our lives on the Eastern Shore.”*



**Dr. Laurie Lewis**

*“Having had the privilege of teaching in the Religious School for a number of years, my areas of interest relate to the development of the Temple's RS program and, more generally, to youth and family programming.”*



**Merry Danaceau**

*“I joined the board to represent Tilghman Island, in the nether regions of the Talbot Easton Shore.”*

**Carole Brown**

*“Being on the board allows me to help be a sounding board for fellow congregation members and bring their thoughts and ideas to the Board, as well as to various Committees. I am honored to be on the Board with such a group of energetic individuals that I have watched and participated with in helping our temple be such a vital asset to our members and the general community as well.”*

## MRPA Honors Steve and Amy Gervis

The Maryland Resource Parent Association's mission is to provide support service to all Resource Families in the state of Maryland. MRPA members participate on state and local Social Service work groups, advisory boards, commissions and councils, providing their input and guidance in such areas as general care and procedures, accessing mental and physical health services, and teen care.



TBI is pleased to announce that congregants Amy and Steve Gervis have been honored and recognized as Queen Anne's County 2021 Foster Parents of the year. MRPA's statement: *Amy and Steve have created a home that is a safe haven for children. They consistently go above and beyond to meet more than the basic needs of the children in their home by offering their time and guidance that is so very important to teenagers in care. Amy and Steve care deeply about the success of their children and always put in the extra effort to help them reach their goals. They advocate for children in their care as a true parent would and emotionally accept children for who they are. Because of all these wonderful attributes we are so proud to have Amy and Steve as resource parents in Queen Anne's County and nominate them as Resource Parents of the Year!!*

### TEMPLE REOPENING POLICY UPDATE

We are all pleased that the CDC and State of Maryland have relaxed their guidelines for wearing masks and keeping physical distances at various events. We hope this progress will continue. For now, however, we're keeping in place the Phase 1 Reopening Plan that we started this month, which allows Congregants to attend in-person Shabbat and other services at the Temple. We're delighted this is off to a good start and look forward to relaxing these guidelines when public health and that of our members allows.

Meanwhile, we're pleased to announce that small groups of fully vaccinated people may now hold their events, card games or committee meetings in-person at the Temple with face masks or distancing on a voluntary basis. Everyone is still required to wear a face mask while entering or walking through Temple, but upon arrival in the room where their event will take place, vaccinated attendees may at their discretion remove their masks. Vaccination cards will not be required – we will use an honor system and everyone will sign-in upon entering the building, as usual. Before and afterward, each group is responsible for wiping down with sanitizer any tables, chairs and fixtures that they use.

This policy went into effect starting with the May 20th Canasta games at the Temple.



Move the Monument Coalition invites you to join us on Saturday, June 19, for a March & Rally to move the Talbot Boys Confederate Monument off Courthouse property.

The march will begin at 11 a.m. near Easton Marketplace shopping center, 219 Marlboro Ave., Easton, and end with a rally at noon on the Courthouse lawn. Speakers will include clergy, elected officials and civil rights advocates.

Coalition members have been working closely with the Sheriff and County Health Departments to be sure all safety protocol is followed.

Remember, civil rights has nothing to do with politics; it is a moral issue. Stand with us for Justice and Equality in Talbot County.

## New Members Pamela and David Bernstein

Pam and David Bernstein have owned their Martingham home in St. Michaels for over 11 years. Originally purchased as a weekend escape from living and working in D.C., it became their full-time retreat with the onset of the pandemic and the ability for Pam to work remotely from their dining room table overlooking Hambleton Cove. While they never anticipated living in St. Michaels on a full-time basis, it turned out to be a blessing to be able to live in such a peaceful place during such a crazy time. A few months after settling in, they decided that it was important to join the Temple and become a part of the Jewish community on the Eastern Shore.



Dave was born in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn and went all the way through school there, graduating from Brooklyn College in 1958. After graduation, he enlisted in the Coast Guard's Officer Candidate Training School and remained on active duty for over 35 years, achieving the rank of Captain. During this time, Dave also worked for the government as part of the Senior Executive Service for the Social Security Administration. Upon retirement from the Coast Guard, Dave joined Electronic Data Systems and worked there as a consultant for 15 years, during which time he traveled extensively to Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore until his "second" retirement. Dave and his first wife, Renee, lived for many years in Columbia MD, where they raised their two children and where he served two terms as President of Temple Isaiah.

Pam was born in northern Connecticut and after college moved to Washington DC in 1981 to attend graduate school at Georgetown University. While her original plan was to return to New England, she remained in D.C. and during her career which has spanned almost 40 years she worked for several prominent law firms as Executive Director/CFO. While she hasn't lived in Connecticut for many decades, she still considers herself to be a New Englander at heart.

This year marks a few milestones for the Bernsteins. They will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in August and Pam will retire from the world of full-time employment on July 5th. Dave is an active member at the Links at Perry Cabin and can be found on the golf course in all kinds of weather. Pam is already plotting her course following her retirement in July and has already signed up for several classes at the Art Academy Museum in Easton and Maryland Hall in Annapolis.

They will be traveling to Iceland on a hiking trip in late August with Dave's two grown children and five of the six grandchildren - a trip that was rescheduled from 2020 due to Covid. Pam and Dave look forward to meeting members of TBI now that life is beginning to return to "normal".

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## Sh'Bark Shalom Under the Pergola



Max LaCorte and Austin (Lori's pup)



Callahan Boys and Gizmo

# WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

## ***Torah Classes cancelled for the summer***

## **Canasta and Mahjong are now IN-PERSON!**

We are now organizing tables for bi-weekly and weekly gaming at the Temple. We have two full canasta tables and need more players to complete a third. Canasta will meet at noon on Fridays when we do NOT have Shabbat evening services. Bring your own lunch and drinks. Matchplay will begin immediately after. Contact Lori at 919-428-0973 for more information or if you would like to attend.

For Mahjong we will select a day and time for in-person gaming as soon as we are able to fill a table. Contact Lori at 919-428-0973 for more information or if you would like to attend.

# UP-COMING EVENTS

## Engage!

### Lifelong Learning

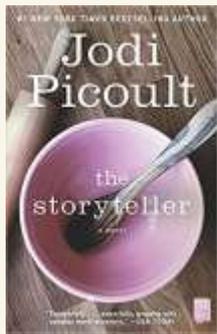


**Cancel Culture Through a Jewish Lens**  
**Sunday, June 6, at 7:00 PM (EDT)**  
**via Zoom**



Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3uZuMvM>

## Book Club - Via Zoom MEMBERS ONLY



Join your Temple friends for a monthly Virtual Book Club via Zoom. For details, contact Elaine at [ejf1027@gmail.com](mailto:ejf1027@gmail.com).

**June 7, 5:00 PM** The Storyteller by Jodi Picoult

Sage Singer is a baker. She works through the night, preparing the day's breads and pastries, trying to escape a reality of loneliness, bad memories, and the shadow of her mother's death. When Josef Weber, an elderly man in Sage's grief support group, begins stopping by the bakery, they strike up an unlikely friendship. Despite their differences, they see in each other the hidden scars that others can't.

# Engage!

## Lifelong Learning



## Jews as News

**Thursday, July 15, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

**Via Zoom - Registration Required**



The Lifelong Learning Committee is pleased to announce that congregant Dr. Stephen A. Goldman will present a historical retrospective of *Jews as News*. Dr. Goldman is a world-renowned expert in the collectibility of historical newspapers. For over fifty years, Dr. Goldman has been a serious collector of historical newspapers, news broadsides, and news books spanning six centuries from 1540 to the recent day. His collection became the core of the Newseum's News History Gallery from the inception of the Newseum in 1997 until its closing. Please join us via Zoom on Thursday, July 15 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM. We ask that you please register in advance to receive a unique link to the program. A summary of the presentation is below.

The past four centuries has seen the portrayal of Jews in the American media passing through many phases. The 18th and early 19th centuries featured the "introduction" of Jews and their religious ceremonies to a largely Christian American population unfamiliar with exactly who Jews were and what their beliefs were. During the mid-19th Century Jews became part of the political, economic, and military fabric of the US as prominent Jewish figures became fixtures in the American landscape.

Jewish immigration from Eastern Europe peaked in the late 19th and early 20th century as Americans became educated to the persecution of Jews throughout the world. Many Jews rose to prominence in the 20th century, but tragically many were being destroyed in the Holocaust perpetrated by Nazi Germany. In the aftermath of WW II, the focus of Jewry shifted to the newly declared State of Israel as Jews became a major part of the American mainstream.

Dr. Goldman will use the "magic carpet" of 4 centuries of original historical newspapers to show viewers just how the media portrayed Jews throughout this period of time and how the portrayal of *Jews as News* has changed over the centuries.

To Register: <https://bit.ly/3ucXf0l>

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORT 2021

We feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to work with our amazing TBI Religious School students this 2020-2021 school year; and what a year it has been!

Despite very real "Zoom fatigue" in many aspects of their school, family and social lives, we think the students were truly excited to reunite in study with their TBI classmates and continue to build the next generation of our Jewish life here on the Eastern Shore — after having the prior school year cut short due to a worldwide COVID pandemic. As we teachers have shared with each other in preparing for class, we hope the students will be able to look back one day and share stories with their children and grandchildren about our perseverance to preserve our community in these times. L'dor V'dor.

Bringing the school year to a close also brings to mind the following passage that we sometimes read during Shabbat services that resonates with us as teachers both as a foundation of lifelong Jewish learning and a reminder to "know before Whom we stand" and from Whom we ultimately derive our lessons: "Teach me, O God, a blessing, a prayer on the mystery of a withered leaf, on ripened fruit so fair, on the freedom to see, to sense, to breathe, to know, to hope, to despair. Teach my lips a blessing, a hymn of praise, as each morning and night You renew Your days, lest my day be today as the one before; lest routine set my ways."

This school year we enjoyed units covering: the miracle of the Festival of Lights; the importance of Tikkun Olam, no matter how big or small we are; how the environment sustains us and how we can help protect it for Tu B'Shevat; the value of acts of kindness (*chesed*) and the power of words (*lashon hara*); how Purim is really more about courage (*ometz*), perseverance and heart (*lev*), and not just costumes and cookies (although we agree, those are certainly fun!); how our ancestors were freed from Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and how to make our own matzah at home; as well as the ideas of memory and remembrance (*zachar*) as integral to our faith. We are concluding the school year with a study of the Counting of the Omer (and reviewing our Hebrew numbers) leading up to the significance of Shavuot and the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai.

Our challenges this year were numerous, including, as mentioned above, "Zoom fatigue", finding, revising, and differentiating course materials and methods for students of varying ages and abilities, all in a fully remote environment. Likewise, we struggled to find an appropriate balance of educational content, class length, enrichment and community building activities. We hope that our goal of teaching and enriching our students without overwhelming them was achieved.

Despite the challenges, we enjoyed so many wonderful moments of sharing family traditions with each other in class, learning prayers and blessings, reading story books, making beautiful artwork, singing new songs and playing fun games. We will miss the students over the Summer but are sure they are all looking forward to the break and will return refreshed and renewed for study in the Fall.

We look forward to the coming school year 2021-2022, and have many exciting ideas for new classes, whether we remain virtual or are able to reenter the classrooms, God willing.

L'shalom,

*Morah Anne Rosen and Cantor Marianne Styles*

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### Memoir Storytelling and Writing



*We are offering another Memoir Storytelling and Writing Group for Temple Members. In a spirit of sharing with each other, we will recount our life's milestones (so far), and other memorable moments. It could be part of a legacy or to record a life's journey. Memoir members in the past have found it satisfying and fun.*

Contact Shirley Sallet at [shirleysallet@aol.com](mailto:shirleysallet@aol.com) or 410-745-4059 for more information.

## Tidbits of Jewish History: The Jewish Roots of



The story begins in 1906 in Bastheim, Germany, when 13-year old Gustav Brunn began working as a tannery apprentice. He eventually bought the tannery and began selling cases and spices to sausage makers, the beginning of his career in the spice industry.

When Hitler came to power in 1933, Brunn lost customers and his bookkeeper resigned out of fear that the Nazis would punish him for working for a Jew. To protect his family and his livelihood, Brunn moved his shop to Frankfurt where there was a larger Jewish population.

In 1937, Brunn and his family applied for visas to the United States, planning was to leave the next year, but that changed following Kristallnacht. When the Jews were ordered to surrender their firearms to the nearest police station, Brunn complied but was taken to Buchenwald concentration camp. After two weeks, Brunn was released, thanks to a Frankfurt lawyer who bribed the Gestapo. Within a week, he and his family sailed for America, bound for Baltimore.



Brunn struggled to find work in Baltimore and finally landed a job at McCormick & Company, the world's biggest spice maker. However, after only a few days McCormick learned that Brunn was Jewish, and fired him, directing him "to go and see the Jewish charities."

Brunn pursued his career in the spice industry, opening his own store, the Baltimore Spice Company. Soon, seafood vendors were stopping in his store, searching for spices for steaming crabs. Brunn began experimenting with his own blends, giving samples of his new spice blend to the seafood vendors, and over time, his blend caught on.

With a popular product, Brunn needed a catchy name, and a friend in advertising suggested "Old Bay Seafood Seasoning" after the Old Bay Line, a well-known Baltimore steamship company. Brunn trademarked "Old Bay," giving his spice blend an instant feeling of tradition and a strong regional identity.

McCormick, intimidated by Old Bay's rising demand, began packaging their crab seasoning in identical cans. Over the years, McCormick tried to buy the Old Bay brand, but Brunn rejected every bid. Since McCormick couldn't buy Old Bay, they were determined to copy it, relying on a law that required companies to declare the ingredients on the packages. Brunn, aware of this possibility, kept his recipe safe by omitting his four main ingredients.

The Brunn family sold the company in 1985, and the company was then sold again in 1990. In a twist of fate, Old Bay ended up in the hands of McCormick & Company. According to Brunn, they claim to have not altered the recipe and the can remains almost identical to this day.

LEAH SIESFELD, 2021

*Thanks to Belinda Frankel for submitting this "tidbit" to the Shofar.*

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## Tile Painting at the Oxford Community Center



## Tree of Life

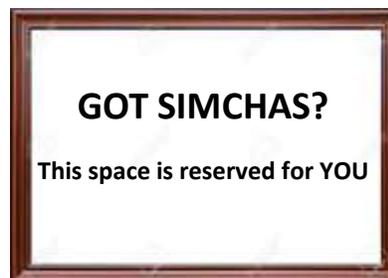


Have you admired our beautiful "Tree of Life" in our lobby, and wondered how you could honor the life events of your loved ones? Please view our recently produced Tree of Life video featuring Rabbi Hyman and member Anne Rosen, by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/3pleE5o>

Purchasing a leaf is a meaningful opportunity to memorialize and honor special milestones and people in your life, while also raising needed funds for our synagogue. Please consider honoring a teacher or special mentor, acknowledging the birth of a new baby, celebrating a birthday, wedding, anniversary, or bar/bat mitzvah of family members.

Leaves are available for purchase for \$500 each. For more information on the ordering and payment process, please contact Nancy Cummings at the Temple office at 410-822-0553.

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



### AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM GENERATES FUNDS FOR THE TEMPLE

The Amazon Smile program is a simple way to give to Temple B'nai Israel without spending any money. All you need to do is click on the link below, and TBI will become your charity of choice. For each purchase that you make, Amazon will put aside 0.5% and donate it to Temple. To make TBI the recipient of your Smile account, click here: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1164017>. Then bookmark **smile.amazon.com** for all of your Amazon purchases to ensure that we receive this benefit. Thank you!

# June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 <b>8:07</b> pm candle lighting  Canasta In-person Noon-1:00 pm	5 Shabbat Service In person (RSVP) and Facebook 10:00-11:00 am
6 Lifelong Learning Bari Weiss Via Zoom RSVP required 7:00 pm	7 Book Club Via Zoom 5:00-6:00 pm	8	9 Advancement Committee Meeting 10:00-11:00	10	11 <b>8:11</b> pm candle lighting  Shabbat Service In person (RSVP) and Facebook 6:00-7:00 pm	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 <b>8:14</b> pm candle lighting  Canasta In-person Noon-1:00 pm	19 Shabbat Service In person (RSVP) and Facebook 10:00-11:00 am
20 Fathers Day	21	22 Executive Committee Meeting 10:00-12:00	23	24	25 <b>8:15</b> pm candle lighting  Shabbat Service In person (RSVP) and Facebook 6:00-7:00 pm	26 Havdalah and Barbeque under the Pergola 6:00 pm
27 Board Meeting 10:00-12:00	28 Lifelong Learning Committee meeting 10:00-11:00	29	30			

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