

July 2021

Tammuz-Av 5781

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

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[temple18@goeaston.net](mailto:temple18@goeaston.net)

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Saturday, July 3, 10:00 a.m.  
Torah Portion: Pinchas  
Numbers 25:10-30:1  
Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3

Friday, July 9, 6:00 p.m.  
Torah Portion: Mattot/Massei  
Numbers 30:2-36:13  
Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-24

Saturday, July 17, 10:00 a.m.  
Torah Portion: Devarim  
Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22  
Haftarah: Isaiah 1:1-27

Friday, July 23, 6:00 p.m.  
Torah Portion: Va'etchanan  
Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11  
Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26

Saturday, July 31, 10:00 a.m.  
Torah Portion: Ekev  
Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25  
Haftarah: Isaiah 49:14-51:3

## FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



Remember Who You Are!

*Shelach L'cha*

June 5, 2021

I'm appreciative to Rabbis Mitchell Green, Jonathan Sacks and Chaim Barlevy, whose scholarship and wisdom inform these remarks.

Our Torah portion opens with Moses exerting his leadership. The Children of Israel are poised on the east side of the river, ready to enter the promised land. Moses makes a command decision and orders the tribes to: *Shelach lecha* "Send out for yourself," a scouting party to check out this 'promised land,' to return with an eye witness account of this land that flows with milk and honey and report back their findings.

The scouts return from their mission and present Moses with a report that's less than unanimous. Ten of the scouts tell Moses a story filled with fear and fright, but the remaining two, Joshua and Caleb, stand in opposition to the majority. God is livid, incensed, outraged. We haven't seen God this mad since the golden calf episode. Yet again, God stands ready to wipe them out, (So what else is new?), "to strike them with pestilence and disown them." Even when Moses intervenes and persuades God to be forgiving, the 10 are struck down by a plague and the entire Israelite community is forced to wander one year for each of the 40 days of the scouting mission. God condemns to death every individual over the age of 20, insuring that this "generation of doubt" never sets foot on that promised soil.

What happened here? What went so wrong with this mission? What in the report was inaccurate, distorted, imprecise?

Truth be told, the 10 reported what they saw. There was no spin in their account. But they returned frightened by what they saw. Captured by their own fears, they not only communicated those fears to Moses but to the Israelites as well, infecting the community with the doubt, hesitation and distrust. Their attitude was contagious. The 10 incited the people to abandon hope instead of inspiring the people to embrace faith. Torah tells us: "They came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the people of Israel; and brought back word to them, and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. They told him, 'We came to the land where you sent us, and it does indeed flow with milk and honey; and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people, who live in the land, are strong, and the cities are walled, and very great; and moreover we saw giants, the *b'nai Anak*. The Amalekites live in the land of the Negev; and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, live in the mountains; and the Canaanites live by the sea, and near Jordan.' Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.' But the 10 said, 'We are not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.' So, to the people, they delivered a negative re-

port about land they scouted saying, 'The land is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and we saw giants there. We saw the Nefilim, the sons of Anak, who come from the Nefilim; we look like grasshoppers to ourselves, and so we appeared to them.'

Their fear is understandable. The real issue is their reaction and response to their fear. How they responded to this fear is questionable. The behavior of these 10 individuals, leaders of our people, is viewed by our tradition as nothing short of reprehensible, a profound sin.

This entire episode is understood by our Sages as a huge communal failing. Rabbinic tradition puts it up there with the sin of the golden calf - idolatry. Why? What's going on here? What message is Torah sending us? Think about this: The Talmud tells us that on account of this episode and the people's behavior, the Temple was destroyed.

The Talmud also reports that the scouts delivered their report to Moses on the 9th of Av, *Tisha B'Av*. The *Midrash* depicts God listening to the proceeding, and after hearing more than the Divine ears could take, God says: 'You have wept a causeless weeping before Me. I shall therefore fix for you a permanent weeping for future generations. At that hour it was decreed that the Temple should be destroyed and that Israel should be exiled among the nations.'

It wasn't enough for them to be punished. Their response and actions had far-reaching consequences. That's the obvious lesson here. But, an equally essential, more subtle point is contained in this passage. Our Sages are teaching us that **attitude implies outcome**.

You know, it might be easy to dismiss this explanation for the destruction of the Temple and the downfall of Jerusalem as anachronistic; the rabbis reading back into history in order to explain why the Temple was destroyed. But our *parasha* begs us to look deeper into the text - something of import clearly bothered the biblical author as well as our Rabbinic sages with regard to these 10 individuals.

Rashi explains the sin of the 10 scouts as a lack of faith in God. Remember, Caleb says, yes, the ten have reported accurately, we saw what we saw. But, we can prevail, we can overcome. Says Caleb, "be positive, remain confident and don't lose faith." How do the 10 respond? "We cannot go up against that people, they are stronger **mimenu** - a word whose meaning is quite ambiguous - and maybe purposely so. Rashi understands that the antecedent to this ambiguous pronoun *minenu* is God: "**ha-am, ki chazak hu mimenu** - the people there are stronger than God." The scouts underestimate, no, not underestimate, they devalue and discount God's power.

But there is another understanding of **mimenu**. **Mimenu** can just as easily translate as 'than we are' - "because the people there are stronger than we are." Understood in this way, the failure, the sin of the 10 spies suggests, not just a diminution of God's power, but a genuine lack of faith in themselves. In their report to Moses and the community, these 10 saw themselves as insignificant: "we looked like grasshoppers to ourselves and so we must have looked to

them." What an assumption! These 10 are not the riff-raff of the community. These are the leaders - the heads of each tribe - those in whom the community places its trust and those to whom the community turns for guidance and support. The community looks to these individuals to set the tone for their approach to the world. The failure of the 10 is not just the loss of faith in their own ability. The failure of the 10 is that, by virtue of who they are, they caused the people to doubt, to become insecure and started questioning the very truths and the very faith which had sustained them up until that point. The 10 forgot who they were and who they represented.

Dr. P.M. Forni, who headed the John's Hopkins Civility Project, notes that often rudeness arises out of insecurity. "Our personal insecurities," he writes, "are projected, literally shifted onto others in the form of hostility. This core lack of confidence leads to a self-absorbed defensiveness that takes precedent over the larger needs of the community."

Writes Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, "God's anger, God's fury, isn't necessarily about what the people think of God; it's about what the people think of themselves. Their quick assumptions and self-negation leads to a self-absorption that overshadows the communal agenda and leads to further uprising."

What if the people looked beyond the challenge? What if, instead of fixating on their insecurities, they could have channeled their energy into first, being in the moment and fully appreciating this rich land of opportunity before them that awaited them, and second, working to overcome fear by organizing the community towards a common goal?

The scouts were accurate in their reporting. They described the challenges ahead. But, their quick judgments led them to failure. Their **fear-stained attitudes** eclipsed their vision of what was possible. And as the Book of Proverbs teaches us, "Where there is no vision the people perish." Their insecurities overshadowed their own strengths and that blinded the people to the strength they had within themselves. They forgot who they were. Only Joshua and Caleb saw beyond the obstacles and as a result they experienced the joy of that land flowing with milk and honey.

Perhaps one of the greatest lessons we can learn from the episode of the 10 spies is to remember who we are, where we are going and before whom we stand.

Torah's use of the ambiguous **mimenu** is purposeful. How on earth can we appreciate the Divine presence in this world if we can't get past our own limitations. Lack of faith in ourselves ultimately leads to a lack of faith in all that is around us, including God's power.

Let us learn from the mistake of the 10 spies. Let us remember that not only does action have consequence but, more importantly, that attitude implies outcome. Let us confront the challenges ahead with optimism coupled with faith, **with a sense of purpose driven by promise**. Then we will continue to be worthy of God's blessing and the privilege of partnering with God will make us giants in our own right. Amen

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Summer is here, and it's time to be with our families and friends and, for some of us, to make up for more than a year lost in the isolation of the terrible Covid pandemic. We're so grateful that this July 4th can be more of a together holiday!

Our Temple is teeming with great activities this summer and beyond! Just one example – be sure and check out the phenomenally interesting programs in the Engage series, presented by Cheryl Kramer with the wonderful energy of her Lifelong Learning Committee. Especially, don't miss the amazing October 16, 2021 "Fall into Dance: The Israeli Ballet Performs Paquita and Serenade," which will include an interview with Artistic Director Claire Bayless, and a Champagne Dessert Reception. What an opportunity! And the foodie series will continue this year as well, mmm – last year's classes with Anne Rosen, Marianne Styles and others were great. We're still trying to replicate these great dishes in our own kitchen!

Watch this space for a new Temple series of activities on earth and the environment. High on my agenda as president will be to encourage a deeper discussion that encourages awareness and appreciation throughout the Congregation of our responsibilities as Jewish people to be diligent stewards of our beautiful Chesapeake Bay, its surrounding waters, and the encompassing climate. LLL Committee members Doug Levin and Ron Rothman are cooking up some amazing activities, including taking younger and older Congregants out onto the Bay and into the marshes to learn how to preserve and enhance this region's beautiful and productive environment.

On another note, in late June I chaired my first Temple Board meeting. My thanks to all who attended! Special thanks to VP Barry Koh for a thoughtful d'var Torah, and to Treasurer Sandra Seitz, Rabbi Hyman, and Executive Director Lori Ramsey for in-depth reports. I'm delighted to report the Temple remains in excellent shape from the wonderful leadership of Immediate Past President Elaine Friedman.

Finally, as the awful Covid-19 pandemic winds down, and the masks fall away, it's important for everyone to get their vaccinations, including teens and adults. But we must all take extra care to be sure children are safe from this disease and we hope they'll get vaccinated as well later this summer or fall so we can relax.

*Ben Schlesinger*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear TBI Members,

We are very happy to see you at the Temple, whether it is at Shabbat Services, Canasta, Mah-jong, or meetings. And your positive response to the first Havdalah/BBQ this summer was heartening. Rabbi Hyman has scheduled another BBQ for August 14, so please save that date.

Summer on the Shore conjures up images of gardens bursting with color, sailing on the bay, fishing for rockfish, backyard grilling, picnics, and visits from friends and family. As you enjoy these activities, as well as vacation travel, please capture photos on your cell phone and text them to me with a brief caption. We can then share our summer activities with each other via the Shofar.

You may see a new face around TBI on your next visit. Dave Archer is now working with us part-time in maintaining our building and grounds. Dave and his wife Stacy live in Easton, and he is a retired United States Postal Worker. He has already proven valuable in his attention to detail, and I hope you will welcome him and say hello if you see him on campus.



And please don't forget to text me your summer photos at 919-428-0973.

*Lori Ramsey*

**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

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Carole 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

From Ruth and Don Saff,

Condolences to Barry Koh on the passing of his brother-in-law, Charles Aaron Sobel. He died on his 94th birthday and lived his life to the fullest. May his memory be a blessing.

Get well wishes to Myra Saff, sister-in-law of Don and Ruth Saff.



Congratulations to Ben Begley on his graduation from Easton High School and his acceptance to Virginia Tech.



Frank and Lisa Menditch have re-joined Temple B'nai Israel. They are building a home in Easton and will split their time between the Florida Keys and here once the home is built.

**LOOK WHO CAME TO VISIT TBI**

This peacock recently made a visit to TBI and settled down outside the front door. After a day or two it appeared lethargic, but thanks to Marcia Shapiro's inquiries a peacock breeder from Federalsburg came and picked up the bird, hopefully to nurse it back to health.





Vicki & Mark Cotter are celebrating the birth of their granddaughter, Hayden Nicole Sora Renaud to their son Kyle and his wife April. Hayden was born on May 8 and weighed in at 5 lbs 7 oz. The Cotter's, of course, believe she is "the most beautiful baby ever born!"



## How I Spent My Summer Vacation

Jeff & Catherine Barron completed a 5-week, 9000 mile cross-country journey, through parts of 20 states



Posing with the Big Boys



Mitchell, SD

## **X Troop: The Secret Jewish Commandos of World War II**

Webinar presented by The National Museum of Jewish Military History

July 8, 2021 3:00 pm

June 1942. The shadow of the Third Reich has fallen across the European continent. In desperation, Winston Churchill and his chief of staff form an unusual plan: a new commando unit made up of Jewish refugees who have escaped to Britain. The resulting volunteers are a motley group of intellectuals, artists, and athletes, most from Germany and Austria. Many have been interned as enemy aliens, and have lost their families, their homes—their whole worlds. They will stop at nothing to defeat the Nazis. Trained in counterintelligence and advanced combat, this top secret unit becomes known as X Troop. Some simply call them a suicide squad.

Drawing on extensive original research, including interviews with the last surviving members, author Leah Garrett follows this unique band of brothers from Germany to England and back again. For the first time, X Troop tells the astonishing story of these secret shock troops and their devastating blows against the Nazis.

To register: <https://bit.ly/3hbFXw7>

*Thanks to Alan Mickelson for bringing this to the attention of the Shofar*

## June 26th Havdalah and BBQ Under the Pergola



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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.

# Engage!

Lifelong Learning



## Programming Calendar 2021 – 2022

***The Diaspora: Jewish Assimilation and its Impact on Literature, Humor, Music, Ethics, Art, Religions, Cuisine and Other People***

**July 15, 2021: Thursday 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

***Jews As News***

Presented by Steve Goldman

**August 15, 2021: Sunday 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

***From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran***

Presented by Award-Winning Author and Speaker, Jacqueline Saper

**September 26, 2021: Sunday 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

***“THE CAPTAIN and ME”, “THE DESIGNATED HEBREW”***

An Interview with Ron “Boomer” Blomberg, Baseball’s First Ever Designated Hitter

**October 16, 2021: Saturday 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.**

***FALL into DANCE: The Israel Ballet Performs Paquita and Serenade***

Intermission: An Interview with Claire Bayliss, Artistic Director, Israel Ballet and Champagne Dessert Reception

**December 19, 2021: Sunday 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

***Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life in Judaism***

A Conversation with Presidential Speechwriter and Author Sarah Hurwitz



**Engage!** Lifelong Learning Committee: Cheryl Kramer, Chair  
Mara Abrams, Paula & Norman Bell, Carole Brown, Susan Koh,  
Bernice Michael, Ron Rothman, Doug Levin, Nadine Sachs

# WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

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

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

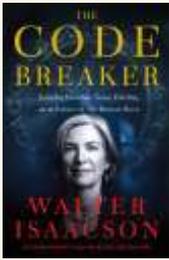
Canasta will meet at noon on Fridays when we do NOT have Shabbat evening services. Bring your own lunch and drinks.

For Mahjong we will select a day and time for in-person gaming as soon as we are able to fill a table.

For more information or if you would like to attend either of these activities, contact Lori at 919-428-0973.

# UP-COMING EVENTS

## **Book Club - Via Zoom TEMPLE 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)

July 12, 5:00 pm *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*, by Walter Isaacson

The bestselling author of *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Steve Jobs* returns with a gripping account of how Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna and her colleagues launched a revolution that will allow us to cure diseases, fend off viruses, and have healthier babies.

## Engage!

### Lifelong Learning



## **Jews as News**

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

Via Zoom - Registration Required <https://bit.ly/3ucXf0l>



ENGAGE! 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.

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.

# Save the Dates

## Engage!

### Lifelong Learning



#### From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran

Sunday, August 15, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE - Via Zoom

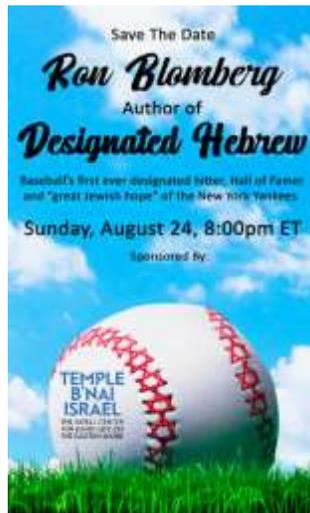
Join us via Zoom to hear a unique voice, as award-winning author, speaker, and translator Jacqueline Saper shares her memoir [From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran](#). Here is a short excerpt from her book.

*As a child and a teenager in pre-revolutionary Iran, it was "the best of times." Little did I know that months later, it would be "the worst of times," a revolution, war, clashes between the aristocracy and the peasants. Beginning in the late summer of 1978, the fomenting revolt of the masses gradually increased in fervor. Daytime in Tehran was chaotic as demonstrators burned tires in the streets, and the military fired into the crowds. Schools were shut down, and food, water, and electricity were rationed. Nighttime in Tehran was pulsating, as residents chanted Allahu-akbar from their rooftops.*

*On January 16, 1979, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi left the country. Two weeks later, on February 1, 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Iran after fifteen years in exile. The Ayatollah became the Supreme Leader of an Islamic theocracy, where the clergy dominated all government spheres. I remained in post-revolutionary Iran for eight more years. During this time, I adapted to a flurry of political dictates and the implementation of new restrictions such as the law of mandatory veil for women enforced by the morality police, the American Hostage Crisis, the Iran-Iraq war, and much more.*



Saper's memoir is the winner of the Chicago Writers Association 2020 Book of the Year Award for Traditional Nonfiction. The book is also a finalist for the Eric Hoffer 2021 Book Award, the Feathered Quill 2021 Book Award, and the Clara Johnson 2020 Book Award. Zoom registration will be provided via email to members and friends.

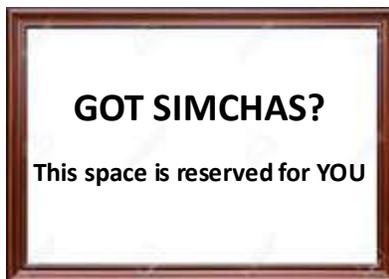


### Honoring Our Loved Ones: Memorial Wall Inscriptions



Our beautiful Memorial Wall is located in the lobby of our Temple, featuring an eternal light from our original building and metal plates with inscriptions of our loved ones. It is a distinguished, reverent way of paying respect and tribute to their memories and reflecting the prominent places they occupy in our hearts. Plaques are available for a \$500 donation. Please contact Lori Ramsey at the Temple office for more information.

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 [srsand@atlanticbb.net](mailto:srsand@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!

# July 2021

| Sun | Mon  | Tue | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat   |
|-----|--|-----|---|--|---|---|
|     |  |     |   | 1  | 2<br><b>8:15</b> pm<br>candle lighting<br><br>Canasta<br>In-person<br>Noon-1:00 pm  | 3<br>Shabbat/<br>Birthday Service<br>10:00 am |
| 4   | 5<br>Office Closed<br>4th of July                              | 6   | 7   | 8<br>Membership<br>Committee<br>Meeting<br>10:30 am                        | 9<br><b>8:13</b> pm<br>candle lighting<br><br>Shabbat Service<br>6:00 pm            | 10  |
| 11  | 12<br>Book Club<br>5:00 pm via<br>Zoom                         | 13  | 14  | 15<br>Lifelong Learning<br>Steve Goldman<br><i>Jews as News</i><br>4:00 pm | 16<br><b>8:09</b> pm<br>candle lighting<br><br>Canasta<br>In-person<br>Noon-1:00 pm | 17<br>Shabbat Service<br>10:00 am             |
| 18  | 19   | 20  | 21  | 22   | 23<br><b>8:05</b> pm<br>candle lighting<br><br>Shabbat Service<br>6:00 pm           | 24  |
| 25  | 26<br>Lifelong<br>Learning<br>Committee<br>meeting<br>10:00 am | 27  | 28<br>Advancement<br>Committee<br>Meeting<br>10:00 am | 29   | 30<br><b>7:58</b> pm<br>candle lighting<br><br>Canasta<br>In-person<br>Noon-1:00 pm | 31<br>Shabbat Service<br>10:00 am             |

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