



Rabbi's ReMarks



We have now celebrated a second weekend of joint Shabbat services that are intended to expose Temple Israel and Temple B'rith Sholom congregants to a variety of Jewish worship styles and experiences. The location of services over the next two months will continue to rotate between the two Temples, and both rabbis will participate in leading the worship (sometimes solo and sometimes jointly). You will want to keep the flyer enclosed in this bulletin at hand for the coming weeks. I enjoyed conducting both Friday evening and Saturday morning services on Shabbat Terumah (February 16th and 17th) at Temple B'rith Sholom using the *Mishkan Tefillah* prayer book. Rabbi Datz led services at our Temple on Shabbat Zachor, the Sabbath of Remembrance preceding Purim, using *Siddur Sim Shalom*. His Friday evening sermon "Finding Satisfaction in Others", based on the relationship of Moses and his brother Aaron, the High Priest, was deeply moving and timely; and the discussion he led during the Shabbat morning Torah service regarding troubling aspects of the Purim story was both interesting and lively. I am looking forward to the continuation of these joint services, which will run through mid-April. I am earnestly hoping that our "experiment" will succeed in forging closer bonds between the members of our respective Temples and will help move us along toward the consolidation on which we've been working for the past two years.

You will most likely receive this newsletter after the Temple Israel Choir's performance of its 2018 Purim spiel, *Megillah Man*, based on the music of Billy Joel. I have a very minor part in the production but have been attending rehearsals. The choir has been working very hard, and I know that you will very much enjoy and appreciate their presentation.

In preparation for a session of a women's book group that I will be conducting this spring, I am currently re-reading Rabbi Harold Kushner's *To Life*, a book that I consider to be one of the best introductions to basic Judaism available. Rabbi Kushner in his opening pages makes an important point that cannot be emphasized enough: in Judaism the notion of belonging to a people takes precedence over matters of theology or ritual practice. Our religious tradition began not with reflections on a theological or philosophical idea but rather developed out of our experiences as a people. Thus, the opening chapter of *To Life* is devoted to re-telling and expounding upon the stories we Jews tell about ourselves and our people, about our experiences, and about the way we view our role within history.

The most important of our stories focuses on the Exodus from Egypt, our foundational narrative of oppression and deliverance. The Exodus teaches us to identify with those who are marginalized and vulnerable within our communities and our world, "because we know the heart (i.e., the feelings) of the stranger". Our experience of God's redemptive power in Egypt establishes the Divine claim to sovereignty over our people and proclaims loudly and clearly that humans are meant to be servants of the Almighty alone and not of each other. Our tradition demands of us that even when we are enjoying freedom, comfort and prosperity, that we remember the times of oppression and suffering, because we live in a world that has yet to experience *ge'ulah shleimah*, complete and final redemption. Exploitation and injustice are still a daily fact of life for too many in our world. At the *seder*, we eat the *maror* (representing our remembrance of the bitterness of slavery) after we have tasted the *matzah*, which symbolizes our flight to freedom. We recall the Exodus twice daily in our liturgy in the paragraph immediately following *K'riat Shema*. And we remember our deliverance from slavery in Egypt in greater detail and at greater length on Passover, telling the story through both text and symbol, so as to hand it down to our children in a memorable and impressive manner that they can understand and appreciate.

Many of us will be having home *seders* on the first night of Passover (Friday evening, March 30th). There will be an additional opportunity to gather in fellowship, to tell the Passover story, and to taste the traditional *seder* foods at the Community Seder, which will take place on Saturday evening, March 31st at Temple B'rith Sholom.

Although Passover is a month away, it will be upon us before we know. To one and all I wish a happy and meaningful Passover holiday.

Rabbi Barry A. Marks

President's Message

As I prepare this message to you, we have had our first experience in a two-month trial in which both synagogues have services together. Many of you have gotten notification and understand that this is not just a trial period, but this differs from prior joint services in that at times Rabbi Marks will lead services at Temple B'rith Sholom and the service will be the one which, on Friday nights, Temple B'rith Sholom utilizes. On those weeks, Saturday morning services will also be at Temple B'rith Sholom with Rabbi Marks officiating at the same type of service which we traditionally have had at Temple Israel. Other weeks Rabbi Datz will lead joint services at Temple Israel utilizing our prayer books and service.

We may try to mix things up a bit both to experiment and to show both congregations the diversity of worship. This will allow people to observe both Rabbis leading the service rather than sharing the lead.

Both my own opinion and from what I have heard from several others, this first week which began on Friday, February 16, went extremely well. I do hope that you will consider coming to one or more of these services at both Temples and experience the diversity we have in our community.

In upcoming months, we will have quite a lot of activity. The adult education programs, done on a combined basis, have seemed to bring out more people for some fascinating experiences. In mid-April we will have our Temple annual meeting followed shortly thereafter by a wonderful celebration of Rabbi's 75th birthday. Please watch for details and if possible come and participate with us. Later in June, as we do every year, we will have our major fundraiser, the Century Brunch.

While I do expect to soon report to you on the status of the issue of consolidation of the congregations, I did at least want to let you know that the leadership of both congregations have been in touch with each other on a regular and an ongoing basis. These discussions will soon have the added voices of the successors to the presidency at both congregations as this spring will mark the end of the second year in that position for both of us. The position of the Temple Israel Board has been and continues to be that we supported the report and recommendations of the Joint Committee issued in January 2017. We believe that change is essential and that every issue needs to be open to discussion. It is our expectation that the Temple B'rith Sholom Board will be giving this issue its serious discussion at their next Board meeting after which both Boards will be able to determine whether future effort and discussion are appropriate at this time. I personally hope that we can bring this concept forward to a positive resolution. I do understand and hope all of you understand that these are complex issues that often take more time than we would like.

Saul J Morse



March Candle Lighting Times

March 2	5:34 pm
March 9	5:41 pm
March 16	6:49 pm
March 23	6:56 pm
March 30	7:03 pm

Other Events

Sunday, March 4	
Board Meeting	2:00pm
Monday, March 5,19,26	
Talmud Class	12:00 noon
Thursday, March 8	
Adult Education	7:00 pm
Ethics in Jewish Life: The Ethics of Torture and Just War	
Tuesday, March 13	
Sisterhood Book Club	1:00 pm
<i>Extreme Measures</i>	
<i>Jessica Nutik Zitter</i>	
<i>Temple Israel</i>	

Community News

B'rit Yisrael News

On March 4, the B'rit Yisrael school is going to celebrate Purim at Sky Zone. There we will have an opportunity to read the megillah with puppet props and eat Haman pizza slices and Hamantashen in addition to the jumping. The cost per child is 10.00. If you would like to join us, please rsvp as soon as possible to Elissa GoldbergBelle at 217 698 9727 or at brit.yisrael@yahoo.com

Also, on Wednesday March 14th we are being hosted by Grace United Methodist Church (1612 E. Capital) for our next Children of Abraham program. I should have more information on that program in early March. In April we will finish out the year with a larger joint project creating survival kits for victims of natural disasters.

In March, we will celebrate the coming of Passover with a mini Seder. We will keep you posted. Thank you one and all for your participation with our annual fund raiser, Friends of SBJE. We appreciate the help you give us, so we can continue to offer the best Hebrew and religious school program we can to our next generation of religious leaders.

Sincerely,
Elissa GoldbergBelle

Temple B'rith Sholom & Temple Israel Cruise News We are going International!



Travel with your friends on a fabulous European cruise!

***11-night Spain, France & Italy Cruise aboard the Celebrity Constellation
October 19, 2018 – October 30, 2018***

Ports of Call: Rome, Italy; Ajaccio, Corsica; Malaga, Spain; Seville, Spain; Gibraltar, United Kingdom; Sete, France; Provence, France; Portofino, Italy; Florence/Pisa, Italy

This promises to be a wonderful experience for all. Fun and fundraising at the same time!
For additional information, please contact: Howard & Lori Hammel at 217-741-6656 or lorihammell@gmail.com

Save the Date



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APRIL 21

**RABBI MARKS'
75TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!**



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Yahrzeits—March

1 Marilyn Weisbaum
 1 Mary Kohn London
 2 Mary-Shields Porter
 2 Mary Devera Cohen
 3 Morton J. Oberman
 3 Arnold Pell
 3 Rose Seigel
 3 Abraham Gordon
 4 Harry Gordon
 5 Fannie Snyder
 5 Julius Weiss
 6 Rebecca Audice Roberts
 7 Lilly Klein
 7 Henry Ludwig
 7 David Rubin
 7 Philip Marks
 7 Rebeca Singer
 7 Rose Stern
 8 Lena Gruebel
 9 Thelma Hornstein
 10 Estelle Barnholtz
 10 Eugene Clyman
 10 Fay Fishman
 10 Rosa Knopping
 10 Jeanette Oberman
 10 Sol Sanders
 11 Anna Carl
 11 John Julius Greenberg
 11 Jane Manfield
 11 Roger Alan Potish
 12 Joseph Feuer
 12 Ben Goldstein
 12 Charles Paris
 12 Charles Abraham
 12 Rev. Manuel Bass
 12 Mildred Cutter
 13 Hannah Hacker
 13 Irving Rossoff
 13 Ruth Hilch Blair
 13 Bessie Gudder
 13 Simon Schwartz
 13 Ida Yaffe
 15 Paul Ochman
 16 Mendel Korish
 16 Albert Seigel
 16 Willie Wancket

17 Anna S Barker
 17 John Cohn
 17 Fannie Davidovitch
 17 Sabina Werner
 18 Harry Matlins
 18 Morris Strum
 18 Nolan Lipsky
 18 Albert Victor
 19 Aida Rovin
 19 Lloyd Sanders
 19 Herman Tanner
 20 Dr. Maurice London
 21 Vivian Clyman
 21 David Epstein
 21 Dorothy Kaiserman
 21 Sol Weinberg
 22 Edward Levin
 22 John Pollack
 22 Bloomie Stein
 23 C. Sidney Stone
 24 Charles Faingold
 25 Jacob Oberman
 25 Mayme Vinik
 26 Sam Nagorsky
 27 Sara Grebler
 28 Nathan Cohn
 28 Bella Prastein
 29 Frank Oppleman
 29 Mollie Perlmutter
 29 Sol H. Sabath
 29 Hilda Spiegel
 30 Mary Fink
 30 Lee Wolfson

Sisterhood Bookclub: Please join the Sisterhood Book Group on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 1:00 pm, where we will discuss the book, *Extreme Measures – Finding a Better Path to the End of Life* by Jessica Nutik Zitter, MD. All are welcome, even if you haven't read the book! End of Life planning is not a cheerful subject, but it is a vital one. We will explore topics such as starting The Conversation with our loved ones; ways to communicate our wishes; concrete steps we can take to be sure our wishes are honored, and other areas that come up as we share our ideas with each other. Refreshments will be served.

Tributes

GENERAL FUND

Yahrzeit Of:

Gustava Skrovronsky by Gina & Ken Kaeser

Evelyne Marks by Richard Damashek

Julius Schwartz by Gloria & Mike Schwartz

Sylvia Gubin by Scott & Betsy Gubin

In Honor Of:

Carl Faingold by Anne Morgan & Saul Morse

Barry Weiss by Anne Morgan & Saul Morse

In Memory Of:

Linda Nagorsky by Fran & Mo Nagorsky

FEUER-BROZGOLD FUND

Yahrzeit Of:

Rose Pell by Florene Pell

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Yahrzeit Of:

Joseph I Cohn by Sara Cohn Brown

Erma Cohn by Sara Cohn Brown

MUSIC FUND

In Honor Of:

Saul Morse by Carol & Jay Kitterman

Barry Weiss by Jackie & Norman Perlmutter

Barry Weiss by Carol & Jay Kitterman

Barry Weiss by Annette & Jerry Schwartz

Sisterhood Tributes

In Memory of

Sam Carl

Mollie Weiss

Sandy & Barry Weiss

Mazel tov

to **Danielle Morrison**, daughter of Vaughn Morrison and Sherry Knight, who has earned her PhD from the University of Glasgow, in Glasgow Scotland

to **Genie Melamed**, a senior at the University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign, who has been named to the Dean's List.

Joint Temple Events

Shabbat Dinner

Friday March 16
Temple Israel



Menu:
Oven fried Chicken
Vegetable
Potato Kugel
Salad

Vegetarian & gluten free meals available upon request.

BYOB

\$ 18 for Adults
\$ 6 children under 12

Please RSVP to
Temple Office (546-2841)
by Friday, March 12

Joint Temple Events



Dear Everyone:

Please join us at the fourth annual Community Seder for wonderful food and camaraderie

Our Main Dinner menu will include:

Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls
Gelfilte Fish
Bar-bi-cue Beef Brisket
Mashed Potatoes
Carrot Tzimmes
Assorted Desserts

Along with Wine and all the Accoutrements that go along with a Traditional Seder

A Vegetarian Meal will be provided upon request

Catered by Michael Higgins, Maldaner's restaurant

at Temple B'rith Shalom

Saturday, March 31, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Adults: \$36.00 (Ages: 13+) Pre-Adults: \$15.00 (Ages: 4-12)

Children: Free (Ages: 0-3)

Late reservations, \$5/pp surcharge;

Last minute reservations only if there are cancellations: call Kathi Holley 546-5783

If you have not done so, please do not forget to RSVP by check or by phone

Reservations are a must by Friday, March 16th (per Maldaner's)

Temple Office: 525-1360 Extension #4

Checks made payable to: Temple B'rith Shalom, 1004-1008 S.4th, 62703

Debbie Weiner
Dinner Coordinator

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF SPRINGFIELD
1140 West Governor Street
Springfield, IL 62704

Phone: 217.546.2841

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