TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

BULLETIN



Number 6, 2018-2019

February 2019, Shevat – Adar I 5779

Rabbi Debbie Stiel



Beineinu – Between Us By Rabbi Debbie Stiel

Towards a Liberal Religious Theology

John Shelby Spong is a prominent liberal Christian theologian and writer. Bishop Spong's intelligence and his thoughtfulness readily come through in his writing. In his later years, he has been refining his theology. Lorne Ruby lent me a book Spong penned a decade ago titled

Eternal Life: A New Vision. Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell. In reading the book, I found myself agreeing with him on a number of spiritual points. I really appreciated his theological explanations of ideas that are very difficult to articulate. I will share some of his beliefs which caught my attention in a moment.

I also found that a lot of the traditional Christian dogmas that he had to extricate himself from in order to come to a modern spiritual belief system that worked for him, are conveniently absent for us as liberal Jews. For example, he wrote "I find myself increasingly unable to tolerate an ecclesiastical hierarchy that pretends to speak for that which is holy in order to diminish that which is human." In Reform Judaism, we are blessed to have some very sage rabbis who provide guidance for the movement as leaders of the Union for Reform Judaism, teachers in the seminary (Hebrew Union College), scholars, and president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Still we are not very hierarchically organized, and these leaders write opinions or provide guidance; they do not impose doctrine. He also spoke about his personal movement away from the New Testament belief that only the sinless can save the sinful and away from a belief in heaven and hell. These are not doctrinal concerns for us.

Let me share with you some of the modern religious concepts that he put so well. A lot of these views are not uniquely his, but he shares them as part of his own integrated spirituality perspective. These resonate with me. Perhaps they will with you as well.

- "Human life is interdependent....And the more I gave, the more I seemed to have to give."
- "We are part of God and God is part of us. The task of faith has become living, loving and being."
- "The task of religion is not to make us religious but to make us human/whole/free... The goal of all religion is not to prepare us to enter the next life but to live and love now."
- "I have always been a religious seeker. Perhaps all humans are. Not all answers may be there to be found. It is the nature of human life to seek that which is ultimate."
- "Religion is ever changing. We are awakening to a sense of oneness with all that is. We need to rethink the word 'God'...not God as a great human being who can escape our limits. We need to grow up and stop the human attempt to see God as the divine parent figure. We are part of who God is. The human ability to claim our God consciousness is the essence of humanity. We can see God in non-personal rather than impersonal terms."

Many of Spong's thoughts mirror ideas available in modern Jewish theology today, for example in the neo-Chassidism of Rabbi Art Green and others. Of course, his belief that religion should focus on making us better humans in this life (rather than concentrate on the next life) is central to all of Jewish thinking. I do very much appreciate his movement from an anthropomorphic God to an understanding that God is totally different than we are. This belief is found in Maimonides and in the Chassidic masters. Liberal religious perspectives, like those Spong articulates, provide meaningful spiritual ideas for us today. I have only given you a bit of Spong's beliefs here, but I would invite you to pick up his book or Art Green's *Ehyeh* as you continue on your own spiritual journey.

Temple Beth Sholom 4200 SW Munson Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604-1879 Phone: 785-272-6040 FAX: 785-272-1565 Website: templebethsholomtopeka.org

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Einstein's Art and Carolyn Glassman Lia Shapiro-Felix and Joyce Shapiro

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-In memory of Joseph Kohn

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-In appreciation to Rabbi Stiel

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- -In memory of Isadore Goodman
- -In memory of Jim Carbley

Memorial Plaques Deborah Edelman-Dolan

- -In memory of Charlotte Edelman
- -In memory of Sheldon Edelman

INVITATION:

Please join us as we celebrate our birthdays (a milestone for Jack) and our anniversary at the oneg on Friday, February 22, 2019.

Jack and Rhoda Wisman



The Temple Beth Sholom family extends condolences to:

-To **Derie and Steve Briman** on the death of Derie's mother, Barbara Goodrich.

Zichrona livracha – May her memory be a blessing.



Shop for Judaica, support Temple Beth Sholom!

Temple's Gift Shop will be many open on Friday nights. The store will be open 15 minutes before Shabbat services a few times month for vour a needs. Cards. candles. books, small gifts, jewelry, holiday items and more. All proceeds support our Temple.

Yahrzeits

February 1 – Leo Shapiro, H. Irvin Goodman, Nancy Epoch, Nathan Einstein, Carl Malley, Helen Petruccelli, Sam Wisman, Myer Gordon, Bertha Gutovitz, Fay Ruby, Ida Rudnick

February 8 – Manuel

Pusitz, Sarah Gordon, Shirley Richter, Marjorie Elliott, Pauline Frien

February 15 – Rebecca Cohen, Sandra McKinnon, Frances Rosenberg, Rebecca Allis, Larry Goldstein, Rose Schulman, Raymond Briman. Hilda Gordon. Harriette Scrnopskie, Robert Wingard, Alexandra Hamilton, Hyman Abrams, Edwards. Wilma Irving Badner, Bella Silk Jacob August

February 22 – Leon Rudnick, Estelle Kolman, Gina Parker, Jacob Cohen, Myer Gartner, Tauba Pressman Gleichenhaus, Ethel London, Phil Becker, Stephen C. Moss

Upcoming Events for Your Calendar

March 22 – Purim Shabbat March 24 – Purim Day and Carnival May 2- Movie Big Sonia showing at Topeka Library (co-sponsored by TBS) May 5 – Temple's Yom HaShoah Shabbat Service May 10 – Temple's Yom HaAtzmaut Shabbat Service June 22- Temple showing of BlacKkKlansman







Friday, March 1 at 7:30 pm

Join us for Shabbat Across America and a Chocolate Shabbat Potluck Oneg! Shabbat Across America is a unity Shabbat program that encourages American Jews to come to Shabbat Services on this Friday night. We will come together for meaningful worship and a tasty potluck oneg! Bring your favorite chocolate dessert to share!





This acclaimed movie is about the life and career of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The documentary explores key moments in her life, events that affected her later court decisions, and her strong determination to see women given equal opportunities under the law. Join us for this delightful and inspiring movie about RBG - a remarkable American Jewish justice. Bring a snack to share. We will start with Haydalah!

King Lecture in Religious Studies at Washburn University presents: Dr. Eva Mroczek speaking on "Out of the Cave: Manuscript Discoveries and New Biblical Pasts: How can a text that is contingent on its material form and community context, inconsistent and incomplete, also be sacred?"

Monday, February 25, 2019 at 7:30 pm in Washburn A/B Memorial Union



Eva Mroczek is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at The University of California-Davis. She is a scholar of early Jewish texts and traditions, and her research spans both canonical and non-canonical works. She pays particular attention to the ways that ancient Jewish readers imagined their own books and the worlds that encompass them. This talk is free and open to the public. Reception following the lecture.

SAVE THE DATE:

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE Sunday, February 3, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Email Doug Meyers at <u>doug.meyers@redcross.org</u> to schedule your life saving appointment or for questions. Visit redcrossblood.org (Sponsor Key: TempleBeth) for additional information about eligibility or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Be sure to bring your photo ID and drink lots of water and eat prior to arrival.



Member News:



Lasting Legacy Online

Temple Beth Sholom members Elaine and Howard Schwartz want to share their exciting news and ask for your help to promote it! They have a new endeavor called Lasting Legacy Online. Elaine, a former nursing home administrator and manager of many state aging programs, knew the need for older persons to pass on their stories to family and friends. Dr. Howard Schwartz, former Judicial Administrator for Kansas, had the connections and the business sense to put the idea into action.

After researching the right questions, the online free program was launched. In 2013, Kansas Chief Justice Kay McFarland, Elaine's friend and Howard's former boss, became involved with helping to make this dream come true. LastingLegacyOnline LLC was officially established in 2016 and was registered/trademarked the same year. Howard, Elaine, and their 4 children/family members are the voices on the introductory video on the site. To learn more about how to tell your story, watch the other introductory video posted on Facebook at https://youtu.be/fE7O4xtZQPw.

To read Elaine's story go to https://www.lastinglegacyonline.com/members/eschwartz/profile/ and to read Howard's go to https://www.lastinglegacyonline.com/members/ojaschwartzgmail-com/profile/

Tell your story! If you have any questions, email Howard or Elaine. They hope the site is successful and that advertisers will use it as they do Facebook. It is not only for older people but people of all ages!



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY is February 3!!!!!! Doorstep would like cans of soup and crackers to help restock their food pantry. Please remember Doorstep when you are shopping for groceries! You may bring the soup and crackers to Temple.

Doorstep's 16th Annual Operation Soup Line will be Wednesday, February 27, 2018, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm! Lunch will be offered at the Kansas Expo Center.



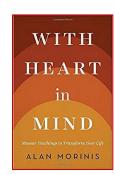
Temple's Tree of Life

The Tree of Life provides us with a way to honor and commemorate important life cycle events in our congregation. For a minimum contribution of \$72, a leaf will be inscribed to commemorate births, birthdays, weddings, B'nai Mitzvah, Confirmations, anniversaries, and other special events in our lives. Briman's Jewelers generously provides the engraving service.

Middot Va'ad: Gaining Jewish Wisdom and Understanding February 20, Noon – 1:00 pm

Bring a bag lunch and join us in the Temple Pusitz Library.

We are reading Alan Morinis' *With Heart in Mind* ~ *Mussar Teachings to Transform Your Life.* We study the character traits (middot) and work on bringing them into our lives in the right amount. Please bring the book to the Va'ad meetings. Newcomers are always welcome. We will be reviewing chapter 13, and reading chapter 14



Women's Night Out

will meet Thursday, February 28 at 6:00 pm at Annie's Place in Gage Center. Please contact Liz Bergmann-Harms with any questions.

Upcoming Committee Meeting:

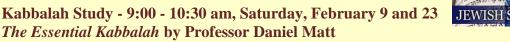
Social Action Committee Meeting on Sunday, February 10 at 1:00 pm

Men's Dinner Club

will meet Thursday, February 21 at 6:30 pm at Gyroville, 2855 SW Wanamaker Rd. Please contact Alan Parker with any questions.

Monthly Shabbat Morning Opportunities

Talmud Study – 9:00 am Saturday, February 2 and 16





Kabbalah is the mystical stream of Judaism. It attempts to reach beyond Jewish ritual law and practice in its quest for a greater, more personal, understanding of the spiritual journey...of God Himself...and ultimately of communion....of a direct and personal relationship with God. Join us as we delve into the insights of the Jewish mystical tradition using this text by Kabbalah scholar extraordinaire, Daniel Matt.

TaNaKh Study – 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, Saturday, February 9 and 23

In this group, we are reading the Bible all the way through. We are currently reading the book of Psalms. Each time we meet we read a few verses or a chapter out loud and then stop to discuss it before going on. We enjoy a free-ranging discussion of what was read and its implications.

Historical Corner by Jack Wisman

I want to thank those of you who read my Temple Beth Sholom 90th Anniversary history updates last year. I received a number of positive comments and I appreciate all of them!

I've written about the Topeka Cemetery before and talked about the establishment of the Jewish Section in the early 1870's. However, there is another Jewish cemetery in the area. There is a small exclusively Jewish cemetery in Eudora, Kansas – just east of Lawrence. This cemetery dates back to the early 1800's! It's maintained by the Lawrence Jewish community and is still being used, and, I understand, being mowed on a regular basis.



If anyone would like a tour of the Jewish section at the Topeka Cemetery, or information on the Eudora cemetery, let me know. Jewish cemeteries are not just places where people are buried, they're the history of a community.

Until next time, Jack.

February Tzedakah Recipient – Helping Hands Humane Society of Topeka

Mission Statement

As advocates for animal welfare, Helping Hands Humane Society, Inc. provides sanctuary for animals in need of compassionate care and protection. We accept responsibility for:

Fostering the adoption of healthy animals into responsible homes and reuniting lost animals with their owners

Reducing overpopulation by promoting sterilization of animals **Providing** an accessible facility with effective leadership and well-trained staff

Serving the community through education and addressing animal welfare issues

Maintaining a fiscally responsible organization by adhering to the highest standards of integrity



January 2, 2019, Board Meeting Highlights

- Temple Board continued to discuss ways to plan ahead for the benefit of our membership
- A Nominating Committee is being formed for filling upcoming board vacancies.
- The following upcoming dates were announced:

 Blintze cooking February 10 and 17

 Camp Rainbow Dinner March 2

 Temple's Annual Meeting June 23



SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT AT TEMPLE

Temple is looking to rent some of its space. We were very happy having Central Congregational Church and St Davids' Episcopal Church as tenants and are now looking to rent again. Doing so is a big help to our bottom line, and we have space we could readily share.

If you know a church with similar values needing space, a business looking for offices, a baker/caterer/cook needing a kitchen, an organization wanting conference rooms, please let us know or have them call the Temple office or Alan Wisman.

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH THE BREAKTHROUGH CLUBHOUSE CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

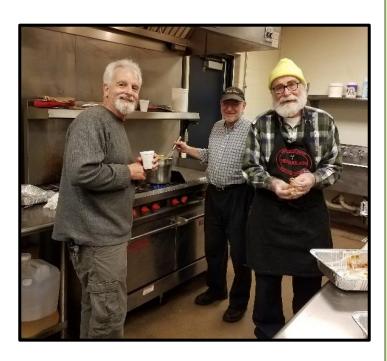
On Christmas morning, a small band of Temple volunteers converged on the **Breakthrough Clubhouse** at 12th and Van Buren to begin decorating tables and cooking a noontime dinner for the clubhouse clientele. Other volunteers arrived later to serve food and to clean up. The annual dinner, once again, proved to be a tasty and greatly appreciated occasion. Thank you again to the amazing group of nearly 30 people who helped with the dinner!

We received a letter from the Breakthrough house: "Dear Temple Members and Volunteers, Everyone at Breakthrough House wishes to thank Temple Beth Sholom and its volunteers for providing a wonderfully delicious Christmas dinner for our Clubhouse members' and consumers' holiday celebration this year. We are very appreciative of the time and effort that goes into preparing and presenting this amazing dinner at the Breakthrough House Clubhouse, now for the 29th year! Your time and resources are precious, and we are thankful you've chosen to share them with us, so that our members have a great meal on their Christmas holiday."









Jewish Cooking Ideas and Thoughts Online

Would you like to get e-mails about Jewish food and culture? Frayna Scrinopskie suggests signing up for these two websites' weekly e-mails:

https://whatjewwannaeat.com

https://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosher/

Do you have other favorites that you want to share? Let me know. - Rabbi



Submitted by: _

Edyka

Rachel Black's beautiful and moving song based on her grandmother's escape from a train car during the Holocaust is now available on CD at the Temple Gift Shop for \$5. Her first performance of this song was during the Kansas Holocaust Commemoration here in Topeka last year.

SAVE THE DATE

Join with your Temple Family for our PASSOVER SEDER (2nd Night)



The community seder is like one large extended family. You can sit with friends and enjoy a fun and meaningful seder and a tasty meal!

Saturday, April 20--6:00 pm--Temple Social Hall

Temple Beth Sholom Recognition Award: Miriam's Award Submit your Temple unsung hero today!

In the last few years, the Temple has recognized a few outstanding volunteers at each annual meeting and presented them with an award. This award will be given for outstanding support for the Temple Beth Sholom community through acts of deed and love. These qualities are much like those demonstrated by the strong and courageous Miriam, often the unsung hero.

Each year the Miriam's Award recipients will be selected from submissions from the congregation. This award is for a person (woman or man) who makes a continuous and significant contribution (perhaps behind-the-scenes) without whose efforts many activities and events in the Temple would not enjoy as much success. Please fill out the form below and send it in (or e-mail it) to the Temple office by <u>March 23</u>.

scenes) without whose efforts many activities and events in the Temple would not enjoy as much success. Ple
fill out the form below and send it in (or e-mail it) to the Temple office by March 23.
Suggested Award Recipient:
What has congregant done over that last few years that has contributed to the success of our temple?
As a result, how has this congregation benefitted from this person's contributions?
Why do you feel this congregant is an "unsung hero?"



Temple Beth Sholom 54th Annual Jewish Food and Cultural Fair Sunday, April 28, 2019

Blintze Brunch Cooking February 10 and 17 at 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Knish Cooking March 17 at 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Silent Auction Prizes

The Blintze Brunch has historically been one of our most successful fundraisers. We would like to see it grow of course! We are going to try and do this by getting higher value items for the Silent Auction (Over \$50 or higher). We do 65% of our business with food item sales and 35% of the day's sales on Nonfood items- i.e., the silent auction and the raffle. Our goal is to make the figures a more 50/50 proposition so that we can help increase our gains. The Blintze Brunch Committee has been acquiring these items since last fall and made solid progress so far. If you know any business or personally would like to assist in getting donations or have a donation for the Silent Auction, please let us know.

We will be advertising these items with pictures on our emails, Facebooks, and various advertising options. We are very excited about this and will keep everyone "in the loop" as we go forward. We also may be changing the bidding process for the Silent Auction. We have been looking at various online options to take the bidding electronically so that once you leave you can continue to bid on items.

If you have any question or have something to donate, give Jack Wisman or Todd Gordon a call.

A Primer to Temple Beth Sholom's Facebook Sites

Temple Beth Sholom - Topeka – is a public page. Feel free to encourage people you know to look at our Facebook page. This page is a good place for us to share upcoming Temple activities that are open to the public.

Temple Beth Sholom, Topeka – is a private, closed Facebook group. This is only open to Temple members. Please do not invite non-Temple members to join. This is a good place to list questions that you want our Temple members to answer or to share pictures of our recent activities.

Topeka Blintze Brunch – please "like" this page and encourage your friends to "like" it. We will post information about the upcoming Blintze Brunch to this public page.

Monthly Meditation Practice
Wednesday, February 20, 7:00 – 8:00 pm
In the Temple's Pusitz Library
Led by Cynthia and John Toth

Next Meditation Practice March 20 Led by Hadi Green

Temple Beth Sholom 2019 Annual Meeting Sunday, June 23

-Election of Officers and Board members -Slide show of past year's happenings

-Slide show of past year's happenings
 -Approval of the budget and discussion of other Temple matters

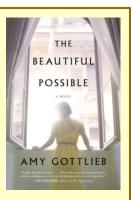


Calling all dancers! Any adults interested in folk-dancing for the Blintze Brunch, please contact Frayna Scrinopskie – ASAP. Novices welcome!

Temple Book Group, March 17, 2019, 2:00 pm

The Beautiful Possible, a 2017 National Book Award finalist by Amy Gottlieb, is a novel with conflicting ideas: the search for God and the struggle to find one's identity.

Three protagonists: Walter, a refugee from WW II, struggles to come to terms with the loss of his family; Rosalie, young, searches for meaning in her newfound adulthood; Sol, a soon-to-be rabbi who believes his happiness will be found in the study of the Bible.



PASTA BAR DINNER ToMaTY Invites You to a Night Benefitting



Serving children with cancer and blood-related diseases

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, March 2, 2019, 6:00 pm
Temple Beth Sholom, Topeka.
All Proceeds go to Camp Rainbow to create a summer camp experience for kids needing a break from cancer treatment!

State of Kansas Holocaust Commemoration Service

Monday, April 29, 2019

1:00 pm

Downtown Ramada Inn

420 SE 6th Avenue, Topeka

Keynote Address:

Gitla Doppelt, Holocaust Survivor



MAZAL TOV TO:

- -To **Ben and Henri Gaeddert** on their wedding on December 30, 2018.
- -To **Ragen and Marj Murray** on the birth of their grandson, Joaquim Santos. Parents are Laura (Murray) and Louri Santos.
- -To **Melissa and Paul Hungerford** on the birth of their grandson, Abraham Joshua (Avi) Rubin. Parents are Emily (Hungerford) and Andrew Rubin.
- -To **Allen and Gail Gutovitz** on the birth of their grandson, Sam David Pappas. Parents are Debbie (Gutovitz) and Brian Pappas.
- -To **David Chall and Susan Zuber-Chall**, on the birth of their great-grandson, Richard Anthony Flick. Parents are Brandon and Meredith Flick.

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Want to keep up with Temple EVENTS?! Access Temple's Calendar with the following link: http://templebethsholomtop eka.view-events.com					Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Rabbi Stiel/ Rhoda Wisman/ Paul Evans	Talmud Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning service 10:30 am
3 Blood Drive 11:00 am to 4:00 pm RS Hebrew classes 9:30 am Adult Beg Hebrew class 9:30 am Adult Int Hebrew class 10:30 am RS classes 10:30 am Adult Adv Hebrew class 11:30 am	4 Chair Yoga 7:00 pm	5	6 Religious School Hebrew 5:30 pm Board Meeting 7:00 pm	7	8 Simchat Shabbat Service 7:00 pm Rabbi Stiel/ Rhoda Wisman	9 Kabbalah Study Group 9:00 am TaNaKh Study 10:30 am
Blintze Cooking 9:00 am RS Hebrew classes 9:30 am Adult Beg Hebrew class 9:30 am Adult Int Hebrew class 10:30 am RS classes 10:30 am Adult Adv Hebrew class 11:30 am Social Action Committee meeting 1:00 pm	11 Chair Yoga 7:00 pm	12	Religious School Hebrew 5:30 pm	14	15Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Deborah Edelman- Dolan/ Julie Petruccelli- Treen/ Warren Sickel/	16 Talmud Study 9:00 am
Blintze Cooking 9:00 am RS Hebrew classes 9:30 am Adult Beg Hebrew class 9:30 am Adult Int Hebrew class 10:30 am RS classes 10:30 am Adult Adv Hebrew class 11:30 am	18 Chair Yoga 7:00 pm	19	20Middot Va'ad 12:00 pm 5:30 pm Religious School Hebrew Meditation led by Cynthia Toth 7:00 pm	21 Men's Dinner Group at Gyroville 6:30 pm	22 Shabbat (Torah) Service 7:30 pm Rabbi Stiel/ Warren Sickel/ Paul Evans/	23 Kabbalah Study Group 9:00 am TaNaKh Study 10:30 am Movie Night 7:00 pm
RS Hebrew classes 9:30 am Adult Beg Hebrew class 9:30 am Adult Int Hebrew class 10:30 am RS classes 10:30 am Adult Adv Hebrew class 11:30 am	25 Chair Yoga 7:00 pm	26	27 Religious School Hebrew 5:30 pm	28 Women's Night Out Annie's Place 6:00 pm		

Temple Beth Sholom

4200 SW Munson Ave, Topeka, KS 66604-1879

The Temple Beth Sholom Bulletin is published by Temple Beth Sholom at 4200 SW Munson Ave., Topeka, KS monthly. Material for inclusion should be received at Temple office NO LATER THAN the 8th of the month prior to publication Website – templebethsholomtopeka.org Rabbi – Debbie Stiel President - Alan Parker Vice-President – Lorne Ruby Secretary - Tara Gordon Financial Secretary – Margot Brown Treasurer – Alan Wisman Past President: Laurie McKinnon Board members: Dennis Dobson, Leora Forstein, Ezra Ginzburg, Jane Greene, Henri Gaeddert, Doug Meyers, Julie Petruccelli-Treen, Richard Shapiro, Howard Schwartz Christine Montgomery, ToMaTY President NON-PROFIT ORG.

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Return Service Requested

Worship Services



Friday, February 1 Shabbat Service - 7:30 pm

Service led by Rabbi Stiel and Rhoda Wisman. Paul Evans will accompany. Oneg sponsored by Ben Lange and Laurie McKinnon.

Saturday, February 2 Shabbat Morning Service – 10:30 am

Service led by Rabbi Stiel and Warren Sickel. Rabbi Stiel will read Torah.

Friday, February 8 Simchat Shabbat Service -7:00 pm

Service led by Rabbi Stiel and Rhoda Wisman. Rabbi Stiel will tell a story. February Birthday and Anniversary blessings will be offered. Oneg sponsored by Ezra and Barbara Ginzburg.



Friday, February 15 Shabbat Service - 7:30 pm

Service led by Deborah Edelman-Dolan, Julie Petruccelli-Treen and Warren Sickel. Oneg sponsor needed.

Friday, February 22 Shabbat Service - 7:30 pm

Service led by Rabbi Stiel and Warren Sickel. Paul Evans will accompany. Torah chanted by Sophie Thayer. Oneg sponsored by Rhoda and Jack Wisman and friends.

Office Hours – Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 or by appointment
COMMUNICATION RESOURCES:
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