



TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM BULLETIN



Number 8, 2019-2020

April 2020, Nisan - Iyar 5780

Rabbi Debbie Stiel



Beineinu- Between Us

Rabbi Debbie Stiel

Dear cherished Temple Beth Sholom community,

I am going to miss you all so much when Steve and I leave Topeka. I had envisioned that my last three months at Temple Beth Sholom would be filled with time for us to study, pray, talk, reflect, plan for Temple's future, and hug each other goodbye in person. Unfortunately, it looks like that might not come to be. There is a famous Yiddish saying, "humanity plans and God laughs." I don't think that God planned the Coronavirus, but this current pandemic is certainly a reminder of the limits to our control in life.

We still will have time together, but for now it will take place via Zoom, Facebook and phone calls. While our Jewish life in Topeka looks different right now, we can and should still remain an engaged, active, connected community. We need each other and our faith as much or more now, in these uncertain times.

Thankfully, with technology we can continue to connect, learn, pray, plan together. In fact, we saw last week that our Facebook Live Shabbat Services allowed us to expand our virtual Temple tent to include 3-4 times as many people as we had been reaching during a typical Shabbat service. In addition to our usual participants, we were joined online by Temple members who are unable to easily leave their homes, by past members who live out of state, and by folks whose previously busy schedule used to prevent their attendance. It may be that from this experience the congregation will decide to continue streaming its Shabbat services after this is all over. If you would like to see that happen, please let us know.

Temple is not disappearing during the Coronavirus. It just looks different, as does so much in our lives right now. We will have a weekly religious school community time on Sundays via Zoom. I am still available via phone to talk and help, as is our amazing office staff. We will also be offering some of our classes through Zoom. If you have not tried the Kabbalah study group, middot va'ad, or monthly meditation, now is the perfect time to give them a try.

In mindfulness work we say that we practice for challenging times. And boy do we have those now! Meditation, middot, Kabbalah, prayer all help us to notice the concerns that arise in our minds and to reflect on how to best respond. We work on opening our hearts, calming our fears, remembering the holy in our world, and making wise decisions. In the last few weeks, I have been reminded how life enhancing these practices are. I hope you will join us for these online opportunities. We will e-mail the Zoom links to these events.

Rabbi Sheldon Blank, a Bible professor at HUC, used to say that the prophets tell us that despair is a sin; hope is a duty. Like those who came before us, we sometimes find it hard to live according to this faithful perspective. Let us practice keeping those words at the forefront of our minds and in our hearts at this time. We Jews have hope because we believe in God's desire for goodness for humanity (and our world) and because we believe that humans have the ability to affect positive change.

We face a modern plague - not something American modern Jews have done very often. We are in our own Egypt trying to cross through the sea and reach the side with freedom on it. In this month of Pesach, I know we will all have the modern parallels to this ancient story in our minds as we sit down to the seder. As Jews have done throughout the centuries, let us remember that the hardship will pass. And let us remain grateful for a world, that despite its pain, unpredictability, and tragedy, also has in its DNA the ability for redemption, joy, and freedom.

Keep an eye out in your e-mail for more online Passover resources and virtual seder opportunities from us. Hag Sameach dear friends!

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TEMPLE'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS

Dear Beloved Temple Beth Sholom Community,

We hope that everyone is staying well, washing hands, distancing socially, and remaining calm. Jewish tradition teaches us we need to protect our health and care about the health of others. With this in mind, we held a meeting of the Temple board and other leaders to respond to the Coronavirus outbreak. Together we made decisions that we believe will keep Temple members and guests safe. We know that these may need to be revised (or the date extended) as more information is received.

Our current plan is to do the following through April 30:

Shabbat services: Friday night Shabbat services will NOT be in-person. Instead, Rabbi Stiel and one of our cantorial soloists will stream a shorter Shabbat service at 7:30 pm each Friday evening (no 7:00 pm service). You will be able to watch this on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. We do not yet know what platform we will be using weekly, but we will send everyone a message on how to view the service before the end of each week.

The Shabbat morning service will not take place in April.

In-person meetings and events are cancelled, postponed or will happen online or by phone.

Here is the plan for specific classes and events:

Kabbalah: Will meet via Zoom.

Monthly Board Meeting: Will meet via Zoom.

World Myths class, TaNaKh and Talmud Study Groups: Cancelled.

Meditation: Will meet via Zoom.

Jewish Intellectual History class: Cancelled.

Community Passover Seder: Cancelled. Passover food is in the grocery stores, fyi. We also want to discourage people from having guests for seder this year.

Blintze Brunch: Will be rescheduled. It will not be held in April.

Cantor Ellen Dreskin Scholar-In-Residence Weekend: Postponed or cancelled.

Kansas Holocaust Commemoration: Will not be taking place at the Ramada. We are exploring ways to symbolically commemorate the Holocaust and keep folks safe.

Religious School classes: We will not meet in person through April. There is a short 10:00 am Religious School gathering each Sunday morning via Zoom.

Religious School Hebrew classes and Hebrew Tutoring: Tutoring continues via phone or computer.

Adult Hebrew classes: Cancelled.

Women's and Men's Night Out: Cancelled

If you are interested in attending any of the classes that will be happening virtually (but are not a regular attendee of that group), please let Rabbi Stiel know.

Temple Office: The office will be closed. Our staff will be monitor emails, phone messages and the mail.

Pastoral Care/Life Cycle Events/Meetings with the Rabbi: As always, if you need pastoral care, please contact Rabbi Stiel at the Temple. Rabbi will be doing her meetings and visits via the phone, Skype or Zoom as much as possible.

Your Needs: This health event is stressful for all of us. We hope Temple members will reach out to one another via phone to check in with each other and to spend some virtual time together. We don't want this time of distancing to be a time of isolation. Rabbi Stiel is also available. Also, for some people this will be a very difficult time financially. If you are a Temple member, and you need help with grocery or utility money, please contact Rabbi Stiel. Temple's Rabbinic Discretionary Fund can assist with small bills.

We hope these changes will help to keep all of us healthy. Shavua tov - may it be a healthy, good week.

Rabbi Debbie Stiel

Alan Parker, Temple President

Contributions

General Fund

Einstein's

Jan Abrams

-In memory of Myer Gartner

Robert Stein

-In memory of Carroll Stein

-In memory of Phyllis Stein

-In memory of Herbert Stein

-In memory of Jennifer Stein

-In memory of Alice Carroll

Shaol and Evie Pozez

Endowment

Holocaust Commemoration

Kelly Perkins

Jewish Community

Relations Bureau

Mark and Mary Greenberg

Rabbi's Discretionary

Sam Bradshaw

Sophie Thayer

-In honor of Rabbi Stiel

Campership Fund

Shaol and Evie Pozez

Endowment

Security Fund

Steve and Debbie Stiel

Ezra and Barbara

Ginsburg

Carolyn Litwin

Steve and Derie Briman

Ron and Frayna

Scrinopskie

Len and Terry Richter

Beth Wittig

Diana Siegal

Kelly Perkins

Howard and Elaine

Schwartz

Sophie Thayer

-In memory of Doris Thayer

Statue Repair Fund

Jack and Rhoda Wisman

-In memory of Nathan
Einstein

-In memory of Lois Facher

-In memory of Frances
Rosenberg

-In memory of Louis Pozez

-In memory of David Iselin

-In memory of Ann Marshall-
Levine

-In memory of Danny
Goodman

-In memory of Jerry Katz

-In memory of Harriette
Scrinopskie

Monthly Meditation

Practice

Wednesday, April 15,

7:00 pm

Virtual via Zoom

Led by Hadi Green

- - - - -
Next Meditation Practice:

May 20



**Temple Beth Sholom
55th Annual Jewish Food
and Cultural Fair will be
rescheduled hopefully
for June.**

Yahrzeits

April 3 – Ione Balderson,
David Feldman, Al Gartner,
Anna Heitzman, Edna Leitz,
William Leitz, Paul Schuttera,
Esther Spector, Rebecca Kemp
Tigerman

April 10 – Raisih Wisman,
Susan Alyn Cohen, Margaret
Gruenthaler, Elaine Zlotky,
Rabbi Samuel Fredman,
Raphael Levy Family, Eli
Ulamperl

April 17 – Rose Israel, Sue
Dick, Louis Haas, Benjamin
Litwin, Irv Kolman, Chuck
Gordon, Barney Allis, Alma
Katz

April 24 – Harriette
Goodman, Toby Anne
Levinson, Larry Rosen,
Marvin Facher, Louis Endlich,
Isidor Dauer, Fred Hunter,
David August, Blanche
Feldman, Avishai Gore,
Charlie Kessler, Ben
Whitebook

Do You Like to Write?

We would love to start
including in the bulletin a
monthly "Spotlight on a
Congregant or Family."
This would be a nice way to
get to know each other
better. So we are looking for
a volunteer to oversee this
short monthly bulletin
article. If you are interested,
please contact Rabbi Stiel at
rabbi@tbstopeka.org

**STATE OF KANSAS HOLOCAUST
COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

Monday, April 20, 2020 has been cancelled.

Recent Recipients of Temple Awards:

2015

Terry Richter
Jane Greene
Laura Silverberg
Wendy Moore
Eric Zelkovitz
Gary Fussenegger

2016

Irv Rosen
Len Richter
Barb Schwartz

2017

Robin Gordon
Elaine Zlotky
Irv Cohen

2018 Miriam Award

Barbara Ginzburg
Leora Forstein
Barbara Shapiro
Deborah Edelman-Dolan

2019 Miriam Award

Susan Zuber-Chall
Frayna Scrinopskie

Lawrence Litwin Social Action Award

2008 Jack and Rhoda Wisman
Alan and Molly Wisman

2013 Geri Goldstein

2015 Carolyn Litwin

Jane Cohen Greene Leadership Award

2008 Warren Sickel and Rhoda Wisman

2015 Lauren Cohen and Liz Bergmann-Harms

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 the Miriam award. This award is 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 (who can be male or female) will be selected from submissions from the congregation. This award is for a person 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. In the above box is a list of award recipients from the last few years. Who else should be recognized? Please fill out the form below and mail it in (or e-mail it) to the Temple office by [April 15](#).



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?"

Submitted by: _____

Dillion's on Urish and 29th Street and HyVee will have Passover foods.

A Guide to Eating on Passover from www.ReformJudaism.com

You know how the food you eat can sometimes trigger memories? Jewish tradition knows this too, and a kosher for Passover diet is a yearly reminder of the Jewish people's distant past as slaves in Egypt. During Passover we eat matzah, or unleavened bread, and avoid eating **chametz**, to remember our past and celebrate our freedom. Many of us also avoid eating **kitniyot**.

What is chametz?

Chametz refers to food containing any amount of wheat, barley, rye, oats, and spelt, that has leavened.

Isn't matzah often made from wheat?

That's true, matzah is made from wheat. But, when matzah is made, the wheat flour is kept absolutely dry until it's mixed with water and immediately baked. Technically, it takes 18 minutes for flour to ferment and rise, so matzah must be baked for fewer than 18 minutes.

Ok. Now, what's kitniyot?

Kitniyot includes legumes, beans, peas, rice, millet, corn, and seeds. Many Ashkenazi Jews choose not to eat **kitniyot** on Passover.

Why don't people eat kitniyot on Passover?

There have been many reasons that Ashkenazic communities have refrained from eating **kitniyot** on Passover. For example, there was a concern that because **kitniyot** can be ground to make flour and then baked, one could mistakenly assume that their neighbor was eating **chametz**. There was also concern that **chametz** grain might get mixed up with **kitniyot** if they were stored in close proximity. This **kitniyot** prohibition was not accepted by most Sephardic Jews.

Didn't I read somewhere that Reform Jews can eat kitniyot on Passover?

You likely did read that somewhere! Actually, three groups of Rabbis in the recent past have met and, independent of each other, ruled that both Ashkenazim and Sephardim should be permitted to eat rice, corn, and **kitniyot** during Passover. These groups were the Responsa Committee of the Reform Jewish Movement (a responsa is a rabbinic decision), the Responsa Committee of the Israeli Conservative Movement, and the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards.

These rabbinical committees determined that the prohibition of eating rice, beans, and *kitniyot* is in direct contradiction to the opinion of all the sages of the Mishnah and Talmud (except one), and also contradicts the theory as well as the practice of more than fifty post-Talmudic Sages. Opposition to the ban on eating **kitniyot** dates back to 13th century France, where one rabbi called it "a mistaken company," and another calling it a "foolish custom."

Still, it's a personal decision, and many Reform Jews choose to abstain from eating **kitniyot** on Passover.

Visit the ReformJudaism.org [Passover Recipes](http://www.ReformJudaism.org/PassoverRecipes) page for some kosher for Passover meal inspiration. **Chag sameach!**

Passover – Online Resources

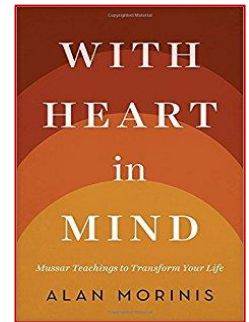
<https://www.haggadot.com/> - make your own haggada

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajxO1gu2JW0> – "The Art of Virtual Gathering for Passover" video

We will be e-mailing more options too!

Middot Va'ad: Gaining Jewish Wisdom and Understanding
Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, will meet via Zoom at Noon

When we read 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 have the book to the *Va'ad* meetings. We will review Chapter 26 and read Chapter 27. Newcomers are always welcome. *Let Rabbi Stiel know if you want to be sent the Zoom link.*



Monthly Shabbat Morning Study Opportunity

Kabbalah Study - 9:00 - 10:30 am, Saturday, April 11 and 25, will via Zoom.
Introduction to the Zohar, by Arthur Green.

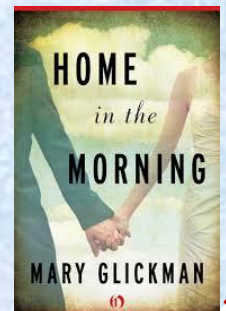
Our group is reading Art Green's excellent and thorough introduction to the Pritzker edition of the *Zohar*. If you want to get an inside look at the *Zohar*, please join us for this fascinating read! Let Rabbi Stiel know if you want to attend via Zoom.



Temple Beth Sholom Book Group, May 3, 2:00 pm in Temple Library

The Sassaports of Gullford, Mississippi are an established Southern Jewish family.

Home in the Morning by Mary Glickman follows Jackson Sassaport's journey from his childhood as a coddled son of the Old South to his struggle as a young man eager to find his place in the civil rights movement of the 1960s while protecting his prominent family's imperative not to stand out in the segregated South. Flashbacks between his adult life and his youth trace the ways that race and prejudice, family and love intertwine to shape our lives. Available on line for under \$5.00 and no shipping charge.



FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

During our last fiscal year, which was 2018-2019, we spent as a congregation approximately \$233,000. Currently we have 171 men, women and children in our congregation. If we do the math of simple division, that breaks down to \$1,300 of expense per individual. How does your family measure up to this number? There are some members that give much more than this and some members give less based on their current situation. If we want to maintain a full-time rabbi, you can see that we all have to do our part to meet that goal of \$1,300 per individual. Some of us give sizable donations which are very important. Some of us give large dues' pledges which are important. It all adds up. Another source of support for a rabbi is the Maimonides Fund, which we all get a statement for in the amount of \$60 a year. Our future depends on each family supporting our goal of maintaining a full-time rabbi and many important programs.

Thank you for supporting Temple Beth Sholom,

-Alan Wisman



Save the Date: Temple Beth Sholom's
2020 Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 28, at 10:00 am



- Election of Officers and Board members
- Slide show of past year's happenings
- Approval of the budget, discussion of other Temple matters

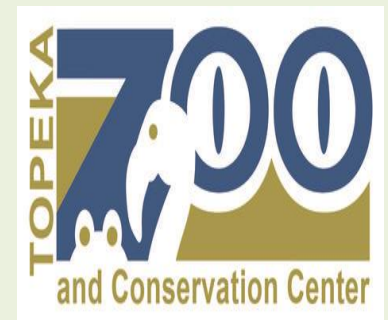
March 4, 2020 Board Meeting Highlights

- Our exciting August 8 fundraiser is named "Broadway Duets" and Stephanie Schuttera is coordinating the amazing talent for the evening.
- A search committee has been formed to find a new rabbi for Temple Beth Sholom.
- The nominating committee was reorganized and is now meeting.

April and May Tzedakah - Topeka Zoo

The K-3rd grade class has chosen the Topeka Zoo for April and May Tzedakah. They would like to sponsor an animal. To contribute to their effort send a check to Temple Beth Sholom and put "Tzedakah" in the memo line.

Topeka Zoo's number one priority is animal care. From the moment animals are born to the specialized geriatric care, they seek to provide the best life possible for the animals that we care for.



Topeka JUMP's Nehemiah Assembly
**"Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness
like an ever-flowing stream." - Amos 5:24**

The crucial annual Nehemiah Assembly will still take place this year, and we are hoping that everyone at Temple will participate. On April 27 at 7:00 pm JUMP will use virtual technology to stream the Nehemiah Assembly. This virtual Nehemiah will take place at Countryside Methodist Church with only officials and key leaders present in-person.

It is vital that Temple members be present even though we will not be in the room. Your virtual attendance shows that we are concerned about the issues that JUMP is working to improve: low-income housing, exorbitant pay day lending fees/rates, violence in our city, and public transportation. JUMP staff will be able to tell the key leaders how many people are watching.

Please contact Rabbi Stiel or Dennis Dobson if you want more information about these topics or this process. Watch your e-mails for further instructions on how to connect.

Blintze Brunch Silent Auction Update

We will be instituting a new way to bid on Silent Auction Items with an online bidding platform. We hope to have this posted on our website by the end of April. If you are interested in helping with this online platform, please contact elainelschwartz@gmail.com.

Please help us secure some great items for people to bid on. Since the Silent Auction items are donations, anything we make off the Silent Auction is “gravy” as our “wise Wisman” Jack says! Look through your house while we are sheltering in place for things that will have Silent Auction value that you would donate to our worthy cause. Get your neighbors and friends to do this, too.

During the month of April and May, we will be diligently working in preparation. Let Elaine know if you have any items and she will pick them up or when the Temple opens back up you can bring them to the Rhonda Karol classroom. If you have large items, just take a picture and send them to her. In the past few years, we have acquired lots of items and gift certificates from businesses. YOU can help us with that, too. Just contact a business you frequent by phone or email and ask them to donate. Thank you to Marj Murray and Anna Spero, who helped sort everything before Covid 19 stopped everything. We will sure need lots of volunteers—please consider helping!

NEW LAY LEADERS

Rabbi Stiel will be doing a training of new lay leaders. Would you like to be a lay leader? If so, please contact her at rabbi@tbstopeka.org and she will let you know when the training is scheduled.

Tentative May Dates – Mark Your Calendar

May 1 – Yom Ha’Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) Shabbat Service. Mayor Michele De La Isla will talk about her trip last year to Israel which was sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Bureau.
May 29 – Shavuot – We will hear the 10 Commandments read from the Torah.



SEDER FOR THIS YEAR...

We are researching options for a virtual Passover seder led by Rabbi Stiel for either the first or second night of Passover. Stay tuned! We will send an e-mail with more details as the plan develops! So decide on your Passover dinner menu, and we will help with the seder leading and hagadah! We hope to all be together for Pesach....well, virtually together!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2020



**7:00 PM AT THE JAYHAWK THEATRE
TICKETS: \$20 PER PERSON**

**SPONSORS: RON AND FRAYNA SCRINOPSKIE
LEAD ORGANIZER: STEPHANIE SCHUTTERA
DESSERTS: HOWARD AND ELAINE SCHWARTZ**

**We Need MANY volunteers to help!
PLEASE Contact Stephanie Schuttera at (785) 554-7558.
This is a Temple Beth Sholom Fundraiser.**

APRIL 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 Board Meeting virtual 7:00 pm	2	3 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Rabbi Stiel/ Rhoda Wisman	4 Torah Portion Tzav: Lev 6:1-8:36
5 Religious School 10:00 am via Zoom RS Hebrew & Adult Hebrew classes are cancelled. Jewish History Intellectual class are cancelled.	6	7	8 Erev Passover 1 st Seder	9 Passover 2 nd Seder No Temple Seder	10 Passover Passover/ Simchat Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Rabbi Stiel/ Warren Sickel	11 Passover Kabbalah Group 9:00 am via Zoom Torah Portion Pesach: Ex 34
12 Passover Religious School 10:00 am via Zoom RS Hebrew & Adult Hebrew classes are cancelled.	13 Passover	14 Passover	15 Passover Middot Va'ad 12:00 pm via Zoom Meditation 7:00 pm via Zoom	16	17 Shabbat Service 7:30pm Rabbi Stiel/ Rhoda Wisman/	18 Torah Portion Shmini: Lev 9:1-11:47
19 Religious School 10:00 am via Zoom RS Hebrew & Adult Hebrew classes are cancelled.	20	21 Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remem- brance Day	22	23	24 Yom HaShoah/ Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Rabbi Stiel/ Warren Sickel	25 Kabbalah Group 9:00 am via Zoom Torah Portion Tazria- Metzora Lev 12:1- 15:33
26 Religious School 10:00 am via Zoom RS Hebrew & Adult Hebrew classes are cancelled. BLINTZE BRUNCH has been postponed	27 JUMP Nehemiah Action Assembly 7:00 pm via Zoom	28 Yom HaZikaron Israel's Memorial Day	29 Yom HaAtzmaut Israel's Independence Day	30		Want to keep up with Temple EVENTS?! Access Temple's Calendar with the following link: http://templebet.hsholomtopeka.viewevents.com

Temple Beth Sholom

4200 SW Munson Ave, Topeka, KS 66604-1879

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Ezra Ginzburg, Jane Greene, Hayley

Magee, Stephanie Schuttera, Aaron

Schifman, Elaine Schwartz, Ron

Scrinopskie



**Office Hours – Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm or by appointment**

COMMUNICATION RESOURCES:

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