



TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM BULLETIN



Number 9, 2019-2020

May 2020, Iyar - Sivan 5780

Rabbi Debbie Stiel



Beineinu- Between Us Rabbi Debbie Stiel

Living with Change and Uncertainty

When the Israelites were following Moses through the desert, life seemed relatively OK until Moses disappeared up a mountain. He was gone...and gone...and gone. How long can one wait?! Boy does that question sound familiar now!

After a while fear overcame the Israelites. Life as they knew it had been interrupted, disrupted, vanished! Egypt was gone. Their leader was gone. What to do? They were grasping for something to follow. They wanted someone to be their conduit to God. The result was the building of the golden calf.

If you are like me, you feel some connections with those Israelites right now. Where is guidance from our national leader? How do we adjust our psyche to the swift changes in our lives? How do we keep our elders safe? Like those Israelites, we have experienced life humming along and then seen it stop in what seemed like almost an instantaneous halt! Who would have guessed in January that by March we would be limiting our time around others and by April we would be wearing masks at the grocery store?! For many of us, this pandemic has been very difficult even if we are not physically ill.

Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman, a professor at HUC, wrote “sociologists define terror not simply as unimaginably bad things happening, but the sense that they happen without rhyme or reason, with no predictability, no way to know what tonight, tomorrow or the very next hour will bring. The problem is, of course, the suffering and dying, the enforced loneliness and idleness, the stock market in free fall, the work we cannot do and the food we cannot get. But it is more: it is the irrationality of it all, the never knowing where the dreaded bacillus lurks: in the smile of a neighbor who passes too close beside us, perhaps; on a park bench that we inadvertently touch during risky mourning walks. It is the terror of it all that never leaves us.”

We Jews have been through numerous major disruptions before. And our tradition actually does speak to this and tries to guide us. I thought I would share two hopefully helpful teachings about spirituality in the midst of dark times.

The Pieczeszner Rabbi (Rabbi Kalonymous Kalman Shapira), who was murdered by the Nazis in the Shoah, gave a lot of thought to the idea of connecting to God in difficult times due to his circumstances. The Chasidic perspective had been that joy opens the heart and soul. I think we have all felt how this can be very true. Thus, the Chasidic masters danced and sang as a way to connect spiritually with God. But the Pieczeszner, who was also a Chasidic master, taught that in our grief, distress or sorrow we can also find access to the divine. Sometimes it is in our most uncertain or difficult states that we find God with us as a co-mourner or a companion/light in our darkness. He taught that when life suddenly changes, when God seems hidden, we may be able to go deep inside ourselves and feel God helping us through. Now I do not at all mean to compare what for most of us is relatively inconsequential social isolation to what the Jews of the Shoah went through, but I do think this is a lesson we all need to be reminded of from time to time (perhaps now).

Continued on Page 2

The other teaching comes from the Torah itself. What did the Israelites do after building the golden calf? They built the mishkan (tabernacle). We learn from this that we need structure, meaning, ritual and prescribed ways to connect with what is invisible and meaningful (ie; God). Otherwise, fear and uncertainty can be too much for us. Today, when we cannot get to our Temple, we can still build prayer, mindfulness meditation, open spacious thinking into our day. We can also connect with our spiritual community on Zoom or through phone calls. None of this will dissolve the virus, but it does give us tools to be able to live better day by day in these uncertain times.

May God, inner wisdom, and a loving community be our support. Please do not hesitate to call or text me if I can be of help to you. Praying for health and well-being for all of us and for our world.

Contributions **General Fund**

Einstein's

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-In memory of Ann Marshall
Levine

Larry and Patty Pressman

Jack and Rhoda Wisman

-In memory of Raisah
Wisman

-In memory of Elaine Zlotky

-In memory of Chuck Gordon

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-In memory of Judith
Bergmann

Security Fund

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Yahrzeits

May 1 – Henry Rosenholtz,
Mollye Goldstein, Martin
Wisman, Morris Affron, Adela
A. Taussig, Vera Tkatch

May 8 – Lucy Stein, Harry
Friedman, Morris Glassman,
Bradley Schifman, Ralph
Haimowitz, R. Glenn Elliott,
Leo Finkelstein, Bernard
Briman, Jacqueline Schuttera,
Ruth Karol, Rose Shapiro

May 15 – Dorothy Bryan,
Lillian Endlich, Don Feinberg,
Martin Savedow, Michael
Kossov, Dave Briman

May 22 – Minnie Ida Pressman,
Mollie Mandelbaum, Etta
Glazier, Irv Sheffel, Bessie
Fredman, AB Dick III, Leah
Gordon, Joanie Ross, David
Swartzman, Lillian Lewin, Ann
Kauk, Sonny Facher, Arthur
Hallert, Chuck Nowick, Alice
Gartner, David Badner, Merril-
Jae Fernandes, A. Cyrus Cohen,
Zachary Porter, Rebecca
Shapiro

May 29 - Neil Andrew Leff,
Lauren Forstein, Irving
Pressman, Wendy Moore,
Robert Porter, Norman
Weinstein, Sylvia Luftig,
Abraham Gordon, Elizabeth
Tuck, Roy Shapiro, Abraham
Allis, Clara Gordon, Irving
Berger

Calendar of Jewish Holidays for 2020-2021

<https://jcrbajc.org/resources/religious-calendars.html>

Monthly Meditation Practice

Wednesday, May 20,

7:00 pm

Virtual via Zoom

Led by Stephanie Schuttera

**BLINTZ &
BRUNCH**

**Temple Beth Sholom's
55th Annual Jewish Food
and Cultural Fair will be
rescheduled. We are
considering various
options.**

Worship in May

Suggestion: Have your Shabbat candles and Kiddush cup ready so you can light the candles and say the blessings with us as we bring in Shabbat together each Friday evening.

Note: Zoom links will be sent out each week in the congregational e-mail.

Shabbat Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel Independence Day) Service



With Mayor Michele De La Isla

Friday, May 1 at 7:30 pm

via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Mayor Michele De La Isla will be live with us.

She will talk about her trip last year to Israel which was sponsored by the American Jewish Committee. We will also share special prayers and songs for Israel.



Simchat Shabbat Service

Friday, May 8 at 7:30 pm via Zoom and Facebook Live

Rhoda Wisman will lead this service, and Deborah Edelman-Dolan will share a message.

Simchat Shabbat is our monthly family service. Join us for a shorter, peppy Shabbat service. A blessing will be offered for May birthdays, anniversaries and other simchas.

Shabbat Service

Friday, May 15 at 7:30 pm via Zoom and Facebook Live

Rabbi Stiel and Stephanie Schuttera will lead the service. Ezra Ginzburg will read part of the Parshat HaShavua (the weekly Torah portion) in Hebrew and we will discuss the portion.

Shabbat Service

Friday, May 22 at 7:30 pm via Zoom and Facebook Live

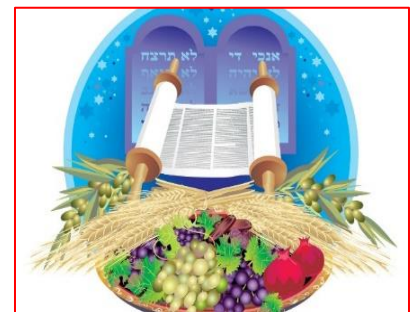
Rabbi Stiel and Warren Sickel will lead the service.

Shabbat Shavuot Service

Friday, May 29 at 7:30 pm via Zoom & FB Live

Z'man matan Torah – the time of the giving of the Torah!

We will stand again at Sinai and hear the 10 Commandments as Stephanie Schuttera reads them. We will also share in a brief text study from the book of Ruth. Rabbi Stiel and Warren Sickel will lead the service.



Temple Beth Sholom's Plans for May

The board met recently to make some decisions about May plans. It was decided that for right now we will not plan to re-open the building or have any in-person gatherings in May.

We believe that even if the stay at home order ends on May 4, people will be slow to want to return to public gatherings. The board also feels it would be wise to wait out May to make sure that there is not an uptick in people getting the virus. We are very aware of having an older population, and we want to keep people safe.

Therefore, groups and classes that did not meet in April will also not plan to meet in May at this time. We are very disappointed to not be able to see our community in person, but we want to be prudent and safe.

If we find that in person gatherings are going well without an uptick in illnesses, we may revise this plan before the end of the month.

Rabbinic Search Committee Report

I am sure, if you are like me, it was a total shock to hear that Rabbi Debbie Stiel was leaving. On one hand, I felt sad and lost as we were losing OUR Rabbi. On the other hand, I could only wish the very best for Debbie as she continues her rabbinic journey. After the initial shock wore off, I realized this was also a chance to truly reflect on the needs Temple Beth Sholom has as we move towards starting our second century as a congregation. The Board moved quickly to form a Rabbinic Search Committee. The members of the committee are Dennis Dobson, Deborah Edelman-Dolan, Tara Gordon, Jane Greene, Hayley Magee, Julie Petrucci-Treen, Stephanie Schuttera, and Alan Wisman. I am serving as the chair. I would hope that you will pray for wisdom and guidance for us as we work to find that perfect fit for our congregation.

We will be seeking your input on many issues, so that we know what you really want and need, the strengths and weaknesses of our congregation, our priorities as a Temple, and what we can truly accomplish with the resources we have.

As the early Jews brought their gifts and talents to construct the sanctuary (Exodus 25:1-9), we can bring our talents and gifts to help build Temple Beth Sholom's congregation for now and the future.

I will work hard to keep you informed, making the Committee's process transparent, and that the Committee will take all concerns and comments seriously. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me at DDobson1@cox.net or call me at 785-235-0203. – Dennis Dobson

NEW LAY WORSHIP LEADERS' TRAINING

Tuesday, May 19 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Rabbi Stiel will be doing a training for lay leaders who want to learn how to lead Shabbat worship services. From time to time we need Temple members to lead our service. Would you like to become one of our cadre of worship leaders?

If you are Jewish, a member of the congregation, and can read Hebrew, we invite you to this training and to be a future service leader.

Topics covered in the training will include order of the service, tips for leading, giving a D'var Torah or sermon, required and optional prayers, working with the cantorial soloist, and more.

Rabbi Stiel will be sending a Zoom link to all who are interested. To get on her list, e-mail her at rabbi@tbstopeka.org.

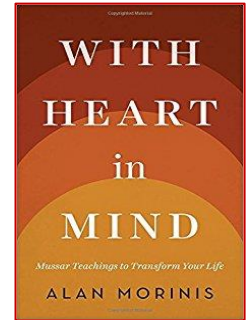
At this tough time for the Temple when we are not able to have the Blintze Brunch, we would appreciate any extra donations. Make donations and contributions to Temple at this secure link (in the message box on the checkout page, put what the donation is for):

<https://tbs.convertri.com/donate>

Middot Va'ad: Gaining Jewish Wisdom and Understanding

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, via Zoom at Noon

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 27 and read Chapter 28. Newcomers are always welcome. The Zoom link will be in the TBS weekly e-mail.



Monthly Shabbat Morning Study Opportunity

Kabbalah Study - 9:00 - 10:30 am, Saturday, May 9 and 23, 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 Meeting will be Rescheduled

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 online for under \$5.00 and no shipping charge.



Tips, Treats, and Torah for these Tough Times:

Weekly Torah Meditations: <https://www.jewishspirituality.org/weekly-meditations/>

Tips on Isolation from former astronaut, Scott Kelly:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/21/opinion/scott-kelly-coronavirus-isolation.html>

Van Gogh Coloring Pages you can download, print and color:

<https://vangoghmuseum.nl/en/whats-on/children-and-families/van-gogh-colouring-pages>

Resources for Jewish Learning and Living in this Time of Isolation:

<https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-life/covid-19-judaism-under-quarantine>



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

In accordance with ARTICLE XI, COMMITTEES of the Bylaws of Temple Beth Sholom, "It shall be the duty of this committee to submit names of nominees for the seats on the Board of Directors and all officers to the congregation for election." The Nominating Committee submits the following slate for election at the annual meeting on Sunday, June 28, at 10:00 am."

Officers

- President – Alan Parker
- Vice President – Julie Petruccelli-Treen
- Financial Secretary – Margot Brown
- Secretary – Deborah Edelman-Dolan
- Treasurer – Alan Wisman

Nominated for a first term on the Board of Directors for 3 years:

- Allen Kossoy
- Elaine Schwartz
- Jane Greene

**Nominated for a two-year term on the Board of Directors
to complete Deborah Edelman-Dolan's vacated seat: Melissa Householder**

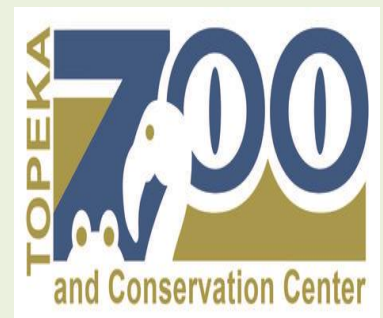
**Nominated for a one-year term on the Board of Directors
to complete Julie Petruccelli-Treens's vacated seat: Danelle Harsin**

The Bylaws also state, "The names of the nominees shall be announced in the Temple Bulletin six weeks prior to the annual meeting. The Nomination committee shall accept nominations by the congregation at large submitted in writing up to three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations after this deadline are not allowed."

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.

The 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.



Yom HaShoah Observed

Over 100 people from TBS and the LJCC and elsewhere joined Rabbi Stiel and Rachel Black to commemorate the Holocaust and celebrate Shabbat via Zoom on April 24.



Please join the Potts family as

Davin Potts

will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah, Saturday morning,

October 24, 2020 at 10:30 am at Temple Beth Shalom.

Luncheon to follow.

RSVP information will be in a future bulletin.



April 1, 2020 Board Meeting Highlights

- For the first time, Temple Beth Shalom has gone live online. Friday Shabbat services online began March 20, and the Board of Directors met on Zoom April 1 (no fooling!). Many other Temple functions are also being held online. Be sure to keep looking for notifications. If you have any questions, post them in our Facebook group or contact the office by phone or email.

- The Rabbinic Search Committee is actively pursuing several goals. Besides searching for a permanent rabbi, they are also making sure we will have rabbinic representation for the High Holy Days and interim coverage as needed.

- This is a challenging and stressful time for all of us. Please do not let yourself feel alone. Join your Temple family in our Facebook group. And please do not let others feel alone. Reach out to your fellow Temple members, friends and family, even if just to say hello.

Dear Temple Beth Sholom Members,

I had been waiting for the right time to announce this, but I have now determined that there is no right time. It is with regret that I inform you that after the 2020 High Holy Days, I will be stepping down as co-director of music and cantorial soloist at Temple.

The main reasons for this decision are the traveling from Olathe and the required behind-the-scenes organization. This June will mark eight years that I have been making the commute from Olathe.

I am grateful to Rabbi Stiel for having afforded me this opportunity to grow and to Rhoda Wisman for her work and dedication having teamed as co-directors.

In addition, I am grateful to the choir and musicians for lending their talents to Temple Beth Sholom along with accompanists Paul Evans, Linda Smith, and Hurst Coffman. All were wonderful to work with as we endeavored to support Rabbi Stiel's efforts to enhance the worship experience whether during High Holy Days or Shiray Shabbats.

I also want to thank the congregation for your ongoing support of music at Temple. I was allowed to marry my Judaism to my music. I will always be grateful for the opportunities afforded me that I would not have experienced in other congregations.

Over the next months, we will be looking at how music continues at Temple Beth Sholom. We are a small congregation with lots of talent that adds beauty to our service and spiritual experience.

Respectfully,
Warren Sickel

Member News:

Moving On...

We send our best wishes to the Wolfe family. Alysa, Jeff and Maddy are moving to Atlanta, Georgia, where Jeff has a new job. Maddy will be starting college in Florida in the fall. We will miss you!

Mazal Tov!

Congratulations to Dr. Victoriya Volkova who recently received tenure at Kansas State University! *If you have member news to share, please send it marked "bulletin news" to the office. We want to keep up with one another.*

Zichrono Livracha- May his Memory Be For a Blessing

We received word that our former member, Ron Persing, z'l, passed away in January. Ron had moved to Mississippi and died there. May his memory be for a blessing.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2020



At the Jayhawk Theatre

Hosted by Temple Beth Sholom

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.

MAY 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>Want to keep up with Temple EVENTS?! Access Temple's Calendar with the following link: http://templebethsholomtopeka.viewevents.com</p>					<p>1 Yom HaAtzmaut/ Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Rabbi Stiel/ Rhoda Wisman</p>	2
<p>3 Last Day of Religious School via Zoom 10:00 am Blintze Brunch Committee Meeting via Zoom 1:00 pm</p>	4	5	<p>6 Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm</p>	7	<p>8 Simchat Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Rhoda Wisman/ Deborah Edelman-Dolan</p>	<p>9 Kabbalah Group 9:00 am via Zoom</p>
10	11	12	13	14	<p>15 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Rabbi Stiel/ Stephanie Schuttera</p>	16
17	18	<p>19 Lay Leadership Training via Zoom 7:00 pm</p>	<p>20 Middot Va'ad 12:00 pm via Zoom Meditation 7:00 pm via Zoom</p>	21	<p>22 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Rabbi Stiel/Warren Sickel</p>	<p>23 Kabbalah Group 9:00 am via Zoom</p>
24	<p>25 Memorial Day</p>	26	27	<p>28 Erev Shavuot</p>	<p>29 Shavuot/ Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Rabbi Stiel/ Warren Sickel/ Stephanie Schuttera</p>	30
31	<p><u>Update on Rabbi Stiel's Plans</u> Rabbi Stiel will be out of town from May 8-11. Rabbi and Steve will be in Topeka through June 14. Rabbi will be working here till then. They will move mid-June to Phoenix. Rabbi Stiel will begin her position as associate rabbi at Temple Solel in Paradise Valley, AZ the beginning of July.</p>					

Temple Beth Sholom

4200 SW Munson Ave, Topeka, KS 66604-1879

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Website – templebethsholomtopeka.org

Rabbi – Debbie Stiel

President – Alan Parker

Vice-President – Julie Petrucci-Treen

Secretary – Tara Gordon

Financial Secretary – Margot Brown

Treasurer – Alan Wisman

Past President - Laurie McKinnon

Board members:

Dennis Dobson, Deborah Edelman-

Dolan, Ezra Ginzburg, Jane Greene,

Hayley Magee, Stephanie Schuttera,

Aaron Schifman, Elaine Schwartz, Ron

Scrinopskie



NEWS

Rhoda Wisman has a friend that is sewing face masks and donating them. Please contact Rhoda if you would like some face masks.

April 17, 2020

Letter received from Jeff and Lea Levin.

To Temple Beth Sholom

What a special blessing it has been to reconnect with the Temple and participate in Shabbat services (virtually) these past few weeks. Lea and I still miss everyone very much.

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

COMMUNICATION RESOURCES:

www.templebethsholomtopeka.org

Facebook: Templebethsholom-topeka

Office@tbstopeka.org

Rabbi@tbstopeka.org



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