



TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM BULLETIN



Number 6, 2020-2021

February 2021, Shevat - Adar 5781

Rabbi Moti Rieber



February 5-6, 2021

Scholar in (Virtual) Residence:
**JUDAISM AND THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE, DEATH
AND THE WORLD BEYOND**
with REB SIMCHA RAPHAEL

Friday, February 5

Shabbat Service at 7:00 pm, Session at 8:00 pm

Jacob's Deathbed Finale: Guidelines from Genesis for Living and Dying

In this evening of study, we shall investigate deathbed tales at the end of the Book of Genesis, which provide profound wisdom for dealing with end-of-life issues in our times. We shall see how we can learn from Jacob and Joseph ways of dealing with the reality of death and mourning in this most challenging pandemic time.

Saturday, February 6

Session at 10:30 am

Exploring Jewish Views of the Afterlife: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

While many often assume Judaism does not have a belief in life after death, in fact there are extensive Jewish teachings on afterlife and postmortem survival. After examining images of afterlife in Biblical and Rabbinic texts, we shall enter the worlds of Kabbalah and Hasidism and discover what the Jewish mystics had to say about the journey of the soul after death. We shall also discover the practical connection between afterlife teachings and our contemporary Jewish death rituals.



The Friday Shabbat service and both sessions will be held at <https://bit.ly/TBS-SIR-020521>. Non-members are welcome to attend, please have them visit <https://bit.ly/TBS-SIR-Eventbrite-2> to register in advance with a donation.

Call the Temple office or the Rabbi with any questions.

Contributions

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support Temple Beth Sholom by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.

General Fund

Einsteins

Warren and Diane Sickel

-In memory of Julia Sickel Hibshman

Harold and Ronda

Youngentob

Jan Abrams

-In memory of Charles Gartner

Hurst Coffman

-Thanks to wonderful music from Rhoda, Stephanie and Warren

Nick Dyer

Simon Joseph

Bob Harms and Liz

Bergmann-Harms

-In memory of Leopold Bergmann

Jack and Rhoda Wisman

-In memory of Irving Facher

-In memory of Karol Targownik

-In memory of Sylvia

Grodberg

-In memory of Charles Einstein

-In memory of Nancy Epoch

Joyce Shapiro and Lia

Shapiro-Felix

-In memory of Idella Barshop

Jack Wisman

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-In memory of Scott Richter

Adult Education Fund

Ron and Frayna

Scrinopskie

-In memory of Les

Scrinopskie

-In memory of Isador

Goodman

-In memory of Barry Epoch

At this tough time for Temple Beth Sholom, 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>

*Please join the Potts family as **Davin Potts** will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah, Saturday morning, April 24, 2021 at 10:30 am via Zoom.*



Calendar of Jewish Holidays for 2020-2021

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

Yahrzeits

February 5 – Myer Gordon, Bertha Gutovitz, Sam Wisman, Fay Ruby, Ida Rudnick, Manuel Pusitz, H. Irvin Goodman, Nathan Einstein

February 12 – Marjorie Elliott, Pauline Frier, Rebecca Cohen, Sandra McKinnon, Frances Rosenberg, Rebecca Allis, Larry Goldstein, Rose Schulman, Raymond Briman, Hilda Gordon, Sarah Gordon, Shirley Richter, Harriette Scrinopskie, Robert Wingard

February 19 – Alexandra Hamilton, Irving Badner, Wilma Edwards, Jacob August, Leon Rudnick, Estelle Kolman, Gina Parker, Myer Gartner, Ethel London

February 26 – Tauba Pressman Gleichenhaus, Hyman Abrams, Phil Becker, Stephan C. Moss, Bella Silk, George Gordon, Lois Facher, Sally Forstein, Nancy Stanberry, Lillian Zlotky, Morton Brounstein, Doris Thayer, Jacob Cohen, Marc Gilmore



Beineinu – Between Us By Rabbi Moti Rieber

African American History Month Should Be a Jewish Observance

February is African American History Month. This was started by a man named Carter G. Woodson who, after attending a large public exhibition fair in Chicago to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in 1915, worked to establish what was initially Negro History and Literature Week. It was intended as a time to highlight the history and achievements of African Americans.

He chose February because it was the birthday of both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln; there was a prior tradition of celebrating these days in the Black community. Still, Woodson wanted to focus on the achievements of African Americans as a whole, rather than focusing what historians now refer to as the “great man” theory.

Over the years the week-long commemoration spread throughout the country. It became African American History Month in 1976, and presidents of both parties have issued declarations to that effect, and of course now it has become a month-long celebration of the contributions of Black people to American society.

The history of Jews in America is deeply intertwined with the history of African Americans – especially since the turn of the 20th century. Names that should be remembered include Henry Moskowitz, a New York theater producer who was one of the founders of the NAACP; Louis Isaac Jaffe, editorial writer for the Norfolk Virginia-Pilot who in 1957 won the Pulitzer Prize for his denunciation of lynching; and Julius Rosenwald, chairman of Sears Roebuck, who along with his daughter Edith Stern contributed vast sums to “Negro” educational activities and later, civil rights activities in the South. And of course there are names that are more familiar to us, including Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who marched with Dr. King in Selma, and Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, who along with James Cheney were martyred in Mississippi in 1964 for registering Black people to vote.

Of course this history is not all positive. Jews in the south in particular were wont to keep their heads down and not “rock the boat” on race relations. Jewish-owned stores were as segregated as other stores, and a rabbi was one of the signatories of the letter questioning Dr. King’s tactics that motivated him to write the “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” In northern cities Jews were full participants in “white flight”, when the 2nd and 3rd generations of immigrant families moved out of inner cities to predominantly white suburbs, leaving African Americans behind in segregated and under-resourced inner cities – as the geography of the Jewish community in Kansas City well attests.

The question, then as now, is whether the benefits that white American Jews get from our proximity to whiteness, and the benefits that has in a racially organized society, outweigh our values and the ethical teachings of our tradition. Or perhaps we should say it the other way – whether our better natures will be able to overcome our self-interest. That was the question in Birmingham in 1953, and it’s the question today.

It needs to be said that African Americans basically invented American democracy. For all the

high language of the founders and of Lincoln, suffrage wasn't universal until after the Civil Rights Act of 1965, and when we see attempts to frustrate democracy today, they're based on suppression of those very voting rights.

When we celebrate Black History Month, we are celebrating the best of America – and the best of us as Jews. The fact that this history continues to be made today – needs to continue to be made today – reminds us that the choice that I described, between our selfish interest and our higher values, needs to be made, by us, today and every day.

Material on the history of African American History Month: <https://asah.org/about-us/origins-of-black-history-month/>

Brief history of Jews and civil rights: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jews-in-the-civil-rights-movement>

FEBRUARY SHABBAT SERVICES

Religious Services for February via Zoom

(Zoom Links are in Weekly emails or reminder service emails)

Friday, February 5, Shabbat Service – 7:00 pm

Rabbi Moti Rieber will lead the service at 7:00 pm. Scholar-In-Residence, Rabbi Simcha Raphael session begins at 8:00 pm. More details on front page.

Friday, February 12, Shabbat Service - 7:30 pm

Deborah Edelman-Dolan and Rhoda Wisman will lead the service. Birthday and Anniversary blessings will be given.

Friday, February 19, Shabbat Service – 7:30 pm

Rhoda Wisman, Warren Sickel and Stephanie Schuttera will lead the service. Susan Zuber-Chall will give D'var Torah.

Friday, February 26, Purim Shabbat Service - 7:00 pm

Rabbi Moti Rieber will lead the service.



Information about Zoom:

Here are some helpful videos from Zoom.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting>

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362283-How-Do-I-Join-or-Test-My-Computer-Audio>

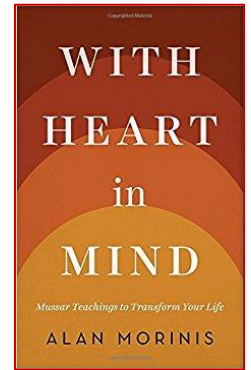
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362313-How-Do-I-Test-My-Video>

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<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362603-What-Are-the-Host-Controls>

Middot Va'ad: Gaining Jewish Wisdom and Understanding
Next Meeting: Date to be determined at noon via Zoom

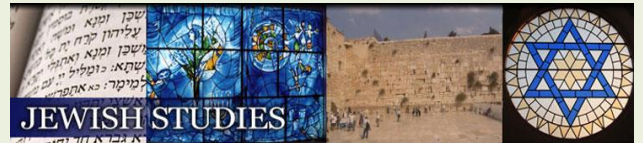
We read Alan Morinis' *With Heart in Mind ~ Mussar Teachings to Transform Your Life*. We study the character traits (*middot*) and work on bringing them into our lives in the right amount. Please have the book for the *Va'ad* meetings. We will review Chapter 36 and read Chapter 37. Newcomers are always welcome. The Zoom link will be in the Temple Beth Sholom weekly e-mail.



Monthly Shabbat Morning Study Opportunity

Kabbalah Study - 9:00 - 10:30 am, Saturday, February 13 and 27, 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 the Temple Office know if you want to attend via Zoom.



February

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10:30 am VIA ZOOM

- Sunday, February 7, All Classes meet
- Sunday, February 14, All Classes meet
- Sunday, February 21, All Classes meet
- Sunday, February 28, Purim, All Classes meet



Purim Joy! Purim Joy! Purim Joy!

Parents and children from the Lawrence Jewish Community Congregation and Temple Beth Sholom will join together for Purim day learning and activities.

BLINTZE BRUNCH

**Temple Beth Sholom
56th Annual Jewish Food
and Cultural Fair
COOKING DATES AND TIMES**

Cooking Dates:	Sunday, February 14	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Blintzes
	Sunday, February 28	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Blintzes
	Sunday, March 7	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Cabbage Rolls
	Sunday, March 21	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Knishes

While cooking, we will practice social distancing, and everyone will be wearing a mask.

If you can help with the cooking or have questions, please call Jack Wisman at 357-4104. Jack would like some volunteers to prepare the day before (Saturdays) for each cooking date.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS ARE NEEDED! We need items that will be popular and bring in the money! Please bring items to the Temple during office hours or Einstein’s store.

Blintze Brunch for 2021 Re-Scheduled

The 2021 Blintze Brunch will be Sunday, May 2. The plan is to have an online purchase and curbside pick-up Brunch again. The Silent Auction and variety of bake goods will be available, too. Watch for more details.



How Can you help Temple Beth Sholom Financially? By Jack Wisman

Why not do what I did and give all or part of your government stimulus money to the Temple! They are talking about an additional check so if you have already used the first check, you can use all or part of the second stimulus check! Whatever you do, you are performing a wonderful mitzvah for the Jewish community. We hope to hear from you soon! If you have questions about this, give me a call at 785-357-4104.

A new feature in the Bulletin will be a list of birthdays and anniversaries of members for the month. The office did not have a birth date or anniversary for everyone. If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or if you do not want your birthday or anniversary listed, please inform the Temple office. We hope you enjoy seeing who else has a birthday the same as you.

February Birthdays

Ron Scrinopskie – 1st
Tara Gordon – 2nd
Melissa Hungerford – 8th
Kim Gordon – 11th
Sean Magee – 11th
Jerry Frieman – 14th
Allen Kossoy – 16th
Mary Beth Mudrick – 16th
Rhoda Wisman – 17th
Xadrian Giancana – 18th
Jack Wisman – 18th
Hal McBee – 18th
Beth Wittig – 20th
Lorne Ruby – 22nd
John Kauk – 23rd
Leora Forstein – 24th

February Anniversaries

Leif Dolan and Deborah Edelman-Dolan – 1st



Committee meetings:

Tuesday, February 2
Holocaust
Commission via Zoom
at 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 11
Religious Services
Committee meeting at
7:00 pm

Highlights from Temple Beth Sholom Board meeting, January 6, 2021

- We are looking forward to a special online Scholar-in-Residence program by Rabbi Simcha Rafael on February 5 and 6. The Zoom event will be open to the public.
- The broken sanctuary HVAC unit has been replaced to keep us comfortable when we return to the building.
- Planning is starting for Purim and Passover.
- The date for our Annual Meeting has been set for Sunday, June 13, 2021. Please mark your calendars.

**DOORSTEP'S
"SOUPERBOWL
SUNDAY" IS
FEBRUARY 7th**



**BRING
SOUP**

**AND
CRACKERS**



Our Goal this year is 2.5 ton... 5,000 pounds!

**TO YOUR CONGREGATION TO HELP
STOCK DOORSTEP'S FOOD PANTRY!**

We will still proceed with Souper Bowl Sunday, February 7 with the collection of soup and crackers to help stock our pantry! Please collect these items to bring to your congregation, or to Doorstep.

We cannot stress enough how thankful and blessed we feel to be so supported during this difficult time as we continue to help our neighbors in need the best way possible.

**Reform Jewish Calendar of Major
Jewish Holidays 2020-2021 (5781)**

Purim

February 25-26, 2021 (sunset
Thursday-sunset Friday)

Passover

March 27- April 3, 2021 (sunset
Saturday-sunset Saturday)

Shavuot

May 16-17, 2021 (sunset Sunday-
sunset Monday)

Church Using Temple

The Apostolic Assembly Church is using the Social Hall at the Temple. They are in the building on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm and on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:30 pm. Please greet them when you see them. They will be adhering to strict cleaning and social distancing guidelines.

Article by Deborah Edelman-Dolan, Member of Board of Directors



Purim starts at sundown on the 14th of Adar (Thursday, February 25, 2021) and ends the next day at sundown.

There are several common practices on Purim, to include the **Mitzvah of reading the Megillah** (the Book of Esther, also known as Megilat Esther), giving gifts to poor people, eating a festive meal, giving food gifts called Mishloach Manot, and eating hamantaschen (triangular cookies named *mahn* (poppy) *taschen* (pocket) and later changed to be for the villain of the story – Haman). Normally, our Religious School kids and I make the hamantaschen at least a week earlier and then we freeze them until the day of our Purim carnival.

Many people dress up in costume, following the theme of Purim as a holiday of disguise where *nothing is quite as it seems*. Traditionally, a noisemaker or gragger is sounded when Haman's name is said aloud during the megillah reading. I recently learned that nowadays, some people have instituted a new practice of waving a celebratory flag when Esther's name is recited.

A Purim shpiel (a rowdy play based on the story of Esther) is also traditionally performed on Purim. Growing up, my father created and produced a number of Purim shpiels, using old songs as a base and then changing the words. I recall that it was also part of the fun for the men in the temple to wear women's clothing and take on the female parts, and the women to wear men's clothes and do the men's parts. I can't remember how many times I have seen a man in a beard performing as either Esther or Vashti. There also was a tradition of adults getting so drunk that they could not distinguish between 'Cursed is Haman' and 'Blessed is Mordecai,' which apparently was based on a dictum by Rava in the Babylonian Talmud. I do not think that most people follow this tradition any longer, which is probably a good thing for safety reasons.

Here are some other interesting things I found (source: My Jewish Learning website).

-According to midrash, while Queen Esther lived in the court of King Ahasuerus, she followed a vegetarian diet consisting largely of legumes so that she would not break the laws of kashrut (dietary laws). For this reason, there is a tradition of eating beans and peas on Purim.

-Purim is the plural of the word Pur, which means lots, as Haman drew lots to determine which day to destroy the Jewish people.

-You are supposed to send your Mishloach Manot, not deliver them directly, so that will be helpful this year when we are supposed to be isolating.

-The Book of Esther and the Song of Songs are the only two Biblical books that do not mention God's name.

- Purim is celebrated for two days inside walled cities, rather than the one day everywhere else. The Book of Esther differentiates between Jews who lived and fought their enemies for **two** days

within the walled, capital city of Shushan and those who lived in unwalled towns, where only **one** day was needed to subdue the enemy. The Rabbis determined we should make that same distinction when memorializing the event. Accordingly, if a person lives in a city that has been walled since the days of Joshua (circa 1250 B.C.E.), as Shushan was, Purim is celebrated on the fifteenth of the month of Adar, a day referred to as “Shushan Purim.”

For those of you who would like a more Female-oriented perspective on the cookie, see <https://www.heyalma.com/yes-theres-a-reason-hamantaschen-look-like-vaginas/>



Back by popular demand is the Hamantaschen dough recipe I received from my maternal grandmother, Minah “Minnie” Finklestein.

3 eggs (plus another beaten egg or egg whites, if you want to have shiny cookies)
1 cup sugar
¾ cup orange juice (add 1 T orange zest/rind for more intense orange flavor)
½ cup oil
1 T baking powder
5 cups flour

Filling: whatever canned pie filling or other filling of your choice, the traditional ones are made with poppyseed filling, “mahn” in Yiddish.

Combine all ingredients and then refrigerate (preferably overnight) in an air-tight container.

Roll out dough to ¼” thick on floured surface, cut into 3” circles. Make sure that the circles can move (i.e. aren’t stuck to the surface) before you fill them, but you also do *not* want them coated in flour.

Fill each circle with a **SMALL** amount of filling – the kids love to combine flavors, but I usually restrict that to no more than 3 flavors in one cookie. Pinch the sides of the circle together to make a triangle. There should **NOT** be any filling showing at this point. If you cannot get the sides to stick together, make them damp with a bit of water or orange juice.

If you wish, brush the tops with a beaten egg or egg whites.

Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet at 350 degrees F until lightly browned.

Let them cool and then enjoy!

RJ on The Go

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<http://cloud.email.rj.org/RJonTheGo->

[Info?utm_source=InsideLeadership&utm_campaign=Resources&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2020_10_20](http://cloud.email.rj.org/RJonTheGo-Info?utm_source=InsideLeadership&utm_campaign=Resources&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2020_10_20)

State of Kansas Holocaust Commemoration Service

Monday, April 26, 2021

1:00 pm *Virtual*

76 Years After Auschwitz: Stand Together

Keynote Address:

Megan Felt, *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project*
Norm Conard, Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes

“The Steadfast Courage of Irena Sendler, Fearless Rescuer”

By Norm Conard and Megan Felt of the *Life in a Jar: the Irena Sendler Project* and the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes

The State of Kansas, led by Governor Laura Kelly, memorializes the victims of the Holocaust. Founders of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors and Their Descendants recognized that the lives of citizens are vulnerable to the power of elected officials. Their years of many efforts resulted in the government supported Yom HaShoah observance.

Governor Laura Kelly will present the Kansas Proclamation for the Days of Remembrance, which includes the following: “...the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators...the people of the State of Kansas should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution and tyranny; and the Days of Remembrance have been set aside for the people of Kansas to remember the victims of the Holocaust, as well as to reflect on the need for respect for all peoples...”

Megan Felt was a high school student in Norm Conard’s class when her life was changed by Irena Sendler. Irena Sendler was a Polish social worker who acted fearlessly during the destructive and brutal years of the Holocaust. In 1999, Megan Felt and her classmates wrote the play “Life in a Jar” for a National History Day project. “Life in a Jar” is the story of Irena Sendler, who risked her life repeatedly to rescue Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto by placing them in hiding. Those she saved would have been deported to Treblinka, a death camp.

Life stories of brave persons can transcend time and remind us of the persistent need to defend human rights and freedom. Megan Felt said of Irena Sendler, “She challenged us to continue her story and inspire others. This is a tremendous but rewarding task we will all try to achieve for the rest of our lives.” By making it their life’s work to share the story of Irena Sendler, Norm Conard and Megan Felt have found their way to make the world a better place. Norm Conard is now the Executive Director of the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes in downtown Fort Scott, KS. Megan Felt is the Program Director. Norm and Megan work with educators around the world to help students conduct in-depth primary research while creating inspiring projects that share the stories of unsung heroes.

Kansas’ clergy, lawmakers, and students will be participating in the service. Holocaust survivors, World War II veterans, and second-generation sons and daughters will be recognized. Registration and login information will follow.

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Holocaust Commission meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm	3 Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm	4	5 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:00 pm Rabbi Rieber Scholar-In-Residence Session via Zoom 8:00 pm	6 Scholar-In-Residence Session via Zoom 10:30 am
7 Religious School via Zoom 10:30 am	8	9	10	11 Religious Services Committee meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm	12 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Deborah Edelman-Dolan/ Rhoda Wisman	13 Kabbalah Study Group 9:00 am via Zoom
14 Blintze Cooking 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Religious School via Zoom 10:30 am	15	16	17	18	19 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Rhoda Wisman/ Susan Zuber-Chall/ Warren Sickel/ Stephanie Schuttera	20
21 Religious School via Zoom 10:30 am	22	23	24 KNI Blood Drive in Social Hall 8:30 am to 4:00 pm	25	26 Purim Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:00 pm Rabbi Rieber	27 Kabbalah Study Group 9:00 am via Zoom
28 Blintze Cooking 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Religious School via Zoom 10:30 am			<p>Want to keep up with Temple EVENTS?! Access Temple's Calendar:</p> <p>https://templebethsholomtopeka.view-events.com/calendar/73982531/</p>			

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.

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UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION:

We are updating our directory and email list. Please send any updates to your mailing address, phone numbers and email addresses to the Temple office at office@tbstopeka.org.

MONTHLY E-BULLETIN

If you know anyone who is not receiving the monthly email bulletin but would like to receive one, please inform the Temple Office.

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

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