



TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM BULLETIN



Number 11, 2020-2021

July 2021, Tammuz – Av 5781

Rabbi Samuel Stern



Beineinu – Between Us By Rabbi Samuel Stern

New Beginnings

When I was a teenager, I decided that, besides becoming a rabbi, what I wanted most in the world was to live in and visit many different places. I believed then that only through experience would I gain a greater understanding of humanity, the first step to understanding the nature of God.

Much has changed about me since those days, and yet this is still true. I have been privileged to live in beautifully diverse Jewish communities and learn from many cultures I have visited. From Washington, D.C. to Mumbai, San Antonio to Vilna, Los Angeles to Tokyo, and even our holy city Jerusalem. What I learned surprised me. There may have been great superficial differences, but in the end, much was the same. This was true in Jewish communities as well, whether leading prayers in an ancient synagogue in India, or a destroyed one in Lithuania, or on the shore of the Kinneret in the Galilee, or an American synagogue.

I write all of that to express how blessed I feel that my wife and I can be a part of the tradition of the Jews of Topeka and northeast Kansas. This community is a new experience for me, and for that alone, Dayeini! It would have been enough for me. Searching for God, I have always found that (to paraphrase the great 20th century Jewish philosopher Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel) it was God searching for us. Giving us opportunities to live the good life God wishes for us to have through many mediums, including our relationships with each other. It is my blessing and honor to encounter God with all of you.

May we be blessed in this new relationship, my family and all your families, together.

Ken Y'hi Ratzon, may it be so with the aid of God.

Rabbi Samuel A. Stern

Three of My Favorite Jewish Books, Plus a Podcast

by Reb Moti

In the spirit of the summer reading list, this month I would like to share with you some Jewish resources that I have really come to value. I will start off with a couple of books. They are not necessarily new, but they have meant a lot to me over the years, and I return to them again and again.



Radical Judaism by Arthur Green

Art Green is a leading Jewish teacher and thinker of this generation, dean of the rabbinical school at Hebrew College in Boston and a leading exponent of “neo-Hasidism,” which takes the spiritual accessibility of Hasidic teaching while leaving behind some of its troublesome cultural trappings. He is the author of numerous books, including *Seek My Face* and *Ehyeh*, also worth reading. He addresses many of the same questions that were raised in my introduction to Reconstructionism class: How do we live as Jews (in the religious sense) while acknowledging science and evolution, that people wrote the Torah, or that God does not intervene in human affairs? To Green as a religious humanist, where religious truth is found is inside the human heart. He uses the mystical tradition of kabbalah to help lead us to develop within ourselves a sense of the holy and bonus, he is very readable.

Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic, edited by Rabbi Mary L. Zamore

This book was a finalist for a National Jewish Book Award in 2011, so it has been around for a while. When we were talking about Omer this year, I mentioned that there is a growing corpus of thought and practice within Reform Judaism that wrestles with and adapts traditional Jewish practices for the thoughtful modern practitioner. This book does that with kashrut (Jewish food practice). Those of us who grew up with kashrut practice may have found it rules-obsessed and spiritually stultifying. But once we clear away its framing as halakhah (Jewish law), we can find within kashrut practice the kernel that can help us develop an ethical, spiritual, and mindful food practice.

The Dairy Restaurant by Ben Katchor

Speaking of Jewish food practice, Ben Katchor is one of the most accomplished of the modern class of Jewish graphic novelists. This book is an illustrated history of that quintessential New York/Jewish institution, the dairy restaurant, which developed to accommodate immigrants and first-generation Jews without having to deal with the complications of kashrut. Katchor traces the history of this institution, including reproducing ads and menus. When I was growing up this kind of place still existed (I remember fondly eating at Ratners on Delancey Street), and IB Singer has a couple of stories set in places like this, so this hit both my interests in American Jewish history and my nostalgia.

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I also want to recommend a podcast that I find valuable and interesting, **Judaism Unbound**, hosted by **Lex Rofeberg and Daniel Libenson**. This podcast describes itself as “a project that catalyzes and supports grassroots efforts by ‘disaffected but hopeful’ American Jews to re-imagine and re-design Jewish life in America for the 21st Century.” The hosts talk to a variety of amazing, mainly young, Jewish leaders and thinkers. They have weeks-long, topic-focused series, such as on Jews and race, different ways of thinking about Israel, or LGBT Jews. (Go to their website and you can listen to all the old episodes). I particularly value the miniseries preparing for the High Holy Days that they run every Elul.

I will also recommend the websites Jewish Currents and 972.org, both of which are politically progressive, as well as Sefaria.org, an amazing on-line collection of Jewish sacred texts. There is a lot of creativity in the Jewish world now, if you look for it, and it is accessible to us here in Kansas. Have a wonderful summer and keep learning!

JULY SHABBAT SERVICES

Religious Services for July

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

Friday, July 2, Shabbat Service via Zoom – 7:30 pm

Rabbi Samuel Stern will lead the service. Rhoda Wisman will lead the music.

Friday, July 9, Shabbat Service via Zoom - 7:30 pm

Rabbi Samuel Stern will lead the service. Stephanie Schuttera will lead the music. July birthday and anniversary blessings will be given.

Friday, July 16, Shabbat Service via Zoom – 7:30 pm

Rabbi Samuel Stern will lead the service. Rhoda Wisman will lead the music.

Friday, July 23, Outdoor Shabbat Service - 7:00 pm

Rabbi Samuel Stern will lead the service. Stephanie Schuttera will lead the music. For the outdoor services, we ask that everyone bring their own chair. We will make a few available for those who cannot bring one. If the weather is inclement, we will move into the Social Hall.

Friday, July 30, In-Person Shabbat Service at Temple Building – 7:30 pm

Rabbi Samuel Stern will lead the service. Rhoda Wisman will lead the music.

For both in-person services on July 23 and 30, we are adhering to the CDC guidelines. Masks will be required, and hand sanitizer will be available. Social distancing will be observed and there will be no food served.

Hello Temple Beth Sholom friends and family!

It is summer break and time for vacations. As life begins to look more like “normal”, some of you might be ready to travel near and far and have planned wonderful summer trips. Many people might be feeling more of the middle ground, planning easy and quick staycations and getaways. And some may not be ready to travel much farther than their own backyards. No matter how you feel about things, I implore you to take a trip to Israel this summer. One thing that the pandemic has taught me is that there is no location that you cannot visit virtually. So put away your passport and suitcase and pull out your smart phone, tablet, or computer and let us visit Israel!

There are a plethora of YouTube videos and websites that will let you explore Israel up close and personal. If you have visited Israel in the distant past, maybe you will be able to see some new things. If you have been to Israel more recently, wouldn't it be nice to reminisce about it? And if you have never been there, this is a great way to start! And there is no need to stop at just Israel, maybe take a whole trip around the world! Even go to outer space! There is no limit, but I will share some resources to help you get started on your virtual journey to Israel. Some are free and some do charge, so check them all out!

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-idease/israel-virtual-tours>

<https://www.amazingjerusalem.com/virtual-tours-in-jerusalem-and-israel/>

<https://www.israel21c.org/cant-visit-israel-come-on-a-gorgeous-virtual-tour-instead/>

<https://www.israel21c.org/9-corona-proof-ways-to-tour-israel-with-a-guide-from-home/>

<https://www.10best.com/interests/explore/Israel-beautiful-photos-virtual-tour/>

<https://www.jnf.org/visit-israel/jnf-virtual-tours-to-israel>

Wishing you all the best,

Hayley Magee

Temple Beth Sholom Board member



Welcome Basket presented to Rabbi Stern and Dr. Caryn Stern by Temple Beth Sholom Board Congregation!

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

Paul and Melissa

Hungerford

-In memory of Nell Levy

Warren and Diane Sickel

-Thank you to Temple Beth Sholom

-In memory of Martha Cohen

Russ and Jane Greene

-Happy birthday to Howard and Elaine Schwartz

-Mazel Tov Esther Potts, great job in leading our Friday night service

Jan Abrams

-In memory of Roy Shapiro

Nick Dyer

Simon Joseph

Jack and Rhoda Wisman

-In memory of Abe Einstein

-In memory of Barbara Brown

-In memory of Bernie Leff

-In memory of Janet Facher

-Happy birthday to Howard and Elaine Schwartz

Religious School Fund

Todd and Tara Gordon

Leora Forstein

Esther Potts

Deborah Edelman-Dolan

Laurie McKinnon

Lawrence Jewish

Community Center

-Thank you for including our kids in Religious School this past year

Security Fund

Todd and Tara Gordon

Maimonides Fund

Todd and Tara Gordon

Religious Services

Todd and Tara Gordon

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Bruce Levine

-In memory of Ann Marshall-Levine

Tree of Life

Russ and Jane Greene

-In honor of the birth of Clyde Benjamin Hauser

Yahrzeits

July 2 – David Cohen, Phyllis Levine, Hannah Black, Belle Nathanson Check

July 9 – Sarah Galitzki, Dorothy Hoffman, Odes Haas Stein, Harold Sachs, Kenneth Kahn, David Mudrick, Toba Silver

July 16 – Harry Isaacs, Clyde Marshall, Abe Samuels, Michael Richter, Darlene Higgins, Karl Leberman, Irene Richter, Luba Levin

July 23 – Rae Baum, Rose Facher, Joseph Facher, Harold Grodberg, Ann Manson, Natalie Dworsky, Sylvia Schwartz, Joseph Sessel, Joe Stein

July 30 - Melvyn Beiman, Charlotte Edelman, Min Verbin, Betty Gartner, Mamie Baum, Bill Leeds

MAZEL TOV!

- To Nickolas Dyer on his conversion to Judaism.

- To Todd and Tara Gordon on Declan's baby naming ceremony.

SAVE THE DATE: TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM'S AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Sunday, July 18, 9:00 am
to 1:00 pm in the Temple
Social Hall**

Email [Doug Meyers](mailto:DougMeyers@templebethsholom.org) to schedule your life saving appointment or for any questions. Visit redcrossblood.org for additional information about eligibility or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.



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.

Online Jewish Education and Worship Opportunities For Adults and Kids

What Jewish learning will you/your kids do this summer? Here are some excellent online opportunities! IF you know more, send the link to the Temple office.

Union for Reform Judaism: <https://urj.org/>

Lookstein Virtual Jewish Academy: <https://www.looksteinvirtual.org/>

Children's crafts, stories and more: <https://pjlibrary.org/home>

Ideas and Opportunities for good deeds: <https://www.areyvut.org/>

Jewish learning for kids: <https://bytes.jikids.org/>

Educational games: <https://gamedev.msu.edu/sparks-of-eternity/>

Educational videos for kids: https://www.facebook.com/torahtron/?hc_location=ufi

Reform Jewish Calendar of Major Jewish Holidays 2021-2022 (5782)

Rosh Hashanah	September 6-8, 2021 (sunset Monday-sunset Wednesday)
Yom Kippur	September 15-16, 2021 (sunset Wednesday-Thursday evening)
Sukkot	September 20-22, 2021 (sunset Monday-sunset Wednesday)
Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah	September 27-29, 2021 (sunset Monday-sunset Wednesday)
Chanukah Monday)	November 28-December 6, 2021 (sunset Sunday-sunset Monday)
Purim	March 16-17, 2022 (sunset Wednesday-sunset Thursday)
Passover	April 15-23, 2022 (sunset Friday-sunset Saturday)
Shavuot	June 4-6, 2022 (sunset Saturday-sunset Monday)

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.

July Birthdays

Susan Zuber-Chall – 9th

Allen Gutovitz – 22nd

Tina Allen – 23rd

Patty Kahn – 25th

Ana Boster – 26th



July Anniversaries

Alan and Marilyn Parker – 5th

Ben Lange and Laurie McKinnon – 6th

Howard and Elaine Schwartz – 10th

Ezra and Barbara Ginzburg – 22nd

Paul and Melissa Hungerford – 24th

Warren and Diane Sickel – 24th

Hy-Vee Gift Cards & Dillons Rewards Program

Do not forget we have Hy-Vee gift cards in the Temple office, and we get 5% from Hy-Vee. You can purchase other gift cards at Hy-Vee with your Temple Hy-Vee gift card, purchased at Temple Beth Sholom. And as a reminder, if you are signed up for the Dillons Community Reward program through your Dillon's card, Temple Beth Sholom receives a percentage of your grocery purchases.



Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City Community-wide Course: “Judaism for Conversion Candidates” Begins in August

Do you know someone considering conversion to Judaism and seeking a comfortable forum to learn more about the fundamentals of Jewish thought and practice? Interested candidates are asked to contact the Rabbinical Association to learn how they can register to participate in this year's community-wide course, “Judaism for Conversion Candidates” which begins August 19.

The comprehensive year-long course is designed for adult individuals and taught on a rotating basis by rabbis from the Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and non-denominational movements. Classes are intended to acquaint those considering conversion to Judaism with what it means to live Jewishly. This program allows future Jews-by-choice the opportunity to meet one another and to learn not only about Judaism but also about the Kansas City Jewish community. Each student is required to secure a congregational rabbinic sponsor by February 1 and meet the conversion requirements developed by their rabbinic sponsor.

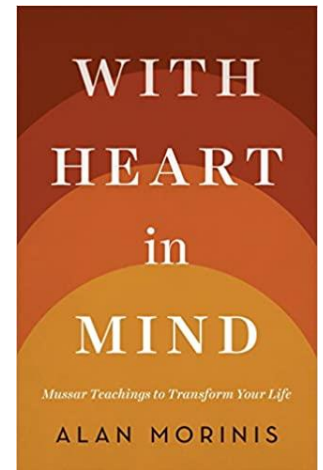
Classes will take place virtually via zoom on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and some sessions will be held in person and may rotate among the synagogues and Jewish Community Campus.

An orientation session is scheduled for August 12, 7:00-9:00 pm. Visit kcrabbi.org for information. To register, contact Annette Fish, Rabbinical Association Administrator/Program Director, by email at afprogram@aol.com or 913-327-8226.

Funding for this Rabbinical Association program is generously provided by the Menorah Heritage Foundation and the National Center to Encourage Judaism. This course is taught through a collaborative educational partnership with the Miller Introduction to Judaism Program of American Jewish University

Middot Va'ad: Gaining Jewish Wisdom and Understanding
Next Meeting: July 21 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 41 and read Chapter 42. Newcomers are always welcome. The Zoom link is in the Temple Beth Sholom weekly e-mail.



Monthly Shabbat Morning Study Opportunity

Kabbalah Study - 9:00 - 10:30 am, Saturday, July 10 and 24, via Zoom.

We are currently reading and discussing 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.



COMING in JulyYour letter about the annual Memorial Book!

**Memorial Book
Yom Kippur
5782-2021**



**Temple Beth Sholom
Topeka, Kansas**

This is your opportunity to memorialize deceased relatives or friends in the booklet published by our congregation and distributed at the Yom Kippur Memorial Service.

Highlights from Temple Beth Sholom Virtual Annual meeting, June 13, 2021

- We reviewed, acknowledged, and celebrated how far we have come in the last year and since Covid-19 began. The entire congregation was thanked for adjusting and continuing to participate in so many ways.
- We thanked Alan Parker for his leadership as Temple President for the past three years. We thanked Ezra Ginzburg for his wonderful service as a board member.
- We welcomed our new Temple Members, Emily Tummons, Zahavah Angus, and Sarah Roth.
- The Miriam Award for Unsung Heroes was presented to Mary Ann Bryan, Kim Gordon, Todd & Tara Gordon, and Will & Esther Potts.
- The slate of Board Members and Officers were elected and installed.
- Our new Rabbi Samuel Stern and his wife Caryn Stern was introduced and spoke to their new congregants.



Todd and Tara Gordon with
Rabbi Rieber at Declan's baby
naming ceremony.
Congratulations!

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this Congregation shall be to worship God in accordance with the faith of Judaism; to cultivate a love and understanding of the Jewish heritage through study; to stimulate fellowship in the Jewish community and the community at large; to strengthen the bond of loyalty with the Jewish people everywhere; and to promote the principles of righteousness in the world. To further those purposes the Congregation will be a member of the Union for Reform Judaism.

CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS

2021-2022 5782

DESCRIPTION OF OBSERVANCE

There are three major branches within Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. All three consider the holy days to be special religious events. Each has its own practice of observance regarding work and school on holy days. As a result, the number of days which a holy day may be observed varies from person to person.

The Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) begins each week before sunset on Friday and ends after sunset on Saturday.

All Jewish holidays begin before sunset of the previous evening. It is important that schools avoid conflicts on the eve and the day of the holiday.

STUDENTS AND STAFF WILL PROBABLY BE ABSENT FOR THESE HOLY DAYS, AND SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PREPARE ASSIGNMENTS OR FOR EXAMS.

ROSH HASHANAH – Jewish New Year

Sunset Monday evening – September 6, 2021 through sunset Wednesday – September 8, 2021

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Jewish year. It is the first of the High Holy Days and marks the start of the ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

YOM KIPPUR – Day of Atonement

Sunset Wednesday evening – September 15, 2021 through Thursday evening – September 16, 2021

This is the most holy day in the Jewish year. It is devoted to fasting and prayer, as people ask G-d and each other for forgiveness.

PASSOVER (Seders – first two evenings) – Festival of Freedom

Sunset Friday evening, April 15, 2022 (First Seder) and sunset Saturday evening, April 16, 2022 (Second Seder). (First two days: sunset April 15 through sunset April 17. Full Passover holiday sunset April 15 through sunset April 23, 2022).

The Seder is a family ritual service that occurs on the first two evenings of Passover. Students should not be expected to prepare assignments or for exams on these nights. The first two and last two days of Passover are holy days, when students and staff may be absent. Passover celebrates the liberation of the Jews from Egyptian bondage. During this eight-day holiday, many Jews refrain from eating bread products and eat matzah (unleavened bread) instead.

STUDENTS AND STAFF MAY BE ABSENT FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

SUKKOT – First two days

Sunset Monday evening – September 20, 2021 through sunset Wednesday – September 22, 2021

Sukkot is the Jewish festival of thanksgiving and harvest.

SHEMINI ATZERET

Sunset Monday evening – September 27, 2021 through sunset Tuesday – September 28, 2021

Shemini Atzeret is the eighth day of Sukkot, on which special memorial prayers are said.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Sunset Tuesday evening – September 28, 2021 through sunset Wednesday – September 29, 2021

Simchat Torah celebrates the conclusion of the yearly cycle of reading the Five Books of Moses and its beginning anew, thus demonstrating that study is a never-ending process.

PASSOVER – Last two days

Sunset Thursday evening – April 21, 2022 through sunset Saturday – April 23, 2022

(full Passover holiday sunset April 15-April 23, 2022- see above)

The last two days of Passover conclude the celebration of Passover.

SHAVUOT

Sunset Saturday evening – June 4, 2022 through sunset Monday – June 6, 2022

Shavuot celebrates the covenant established at Mount Sinai between G-d and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.

SERVING KANSAS AND WESTERN MISSOURI

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JCRBAJC@JEWISHKC.ORG

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Side 1

JULY 2021

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1	2 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Rabbi Stern/ Rhoda Wisman	3
4 4 th of July	5	6	7 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	8	9 Shabbat Service at via Zoom 7:30 pm Rabbi Stern/ Stephanie Schuttera	10 Kabbalah Study Group via Zoom 9:00 am
11	12	13	14 Religious Services Committee Via Zoom 7:00 pm	15	16 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Rabbi Stern/ Rhoda Wisman	17
18 Temple Beth Sholom Blood Drive 9:00 am	19	20	21 Middot Va'ad via Zoom 12:00 pm	22	23 Outdoor Shabbat Service 7:00 pm Rabbi Stern/ Stephanie Schuttera	24 Kabbalah Study Group via Zoom 9:00 am
25	26	27	28	29	30 Shabbat Service at Temple 7:30 pm Rabbi Stern/ Rhoda Wisman	31

Want to keep up with Temple EVENTS?!
Access Temple's Calendar:
<https://templebethsholomtopeka.view-events.com/calendar/73982531/>

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>

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 12th of the month prior to publication.

Website – templebethsholomtopeka.org

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Kossoy, Hayley Magee, Stephanie

Schuttera, Elaine Schwartz, Ron

Scrinopskie



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 Sam Stern Office Hours
by appointment**

COMMUNICATION RESOURCES:

www.templebethsholomtopeka.org

Facebook: Templebethsholom-topeka

Office@tbstopeka.org

Rabbi@tbstopeka.org



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REFORM JUDAISM

האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית

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