



December 2019

Community Chaplain

Chaplain Larry Batchlear is available for Jewish Life-cycle events and can be reached at 352-7191

Business Office

Larry Batchlear (806-355-0023) or Bob Blinderman (806-372-9401)

Temple B'nai Israel newsletter is published monthly. Submissions for the newsletter are due the 21st of the prior month. Send to:

bnaisraelamarillo@gmail.com,
Attn. Mary Blinderman

We welcome your contributions to the newsletter.

Know someone interested in becoming a part of our community? New to town? Or looking to find a way to connect with Temple B'nai Israel? Contact any of our board members and we will be glad to assist you.



Chanukah 2019

*1st candle at sunset on December 22
8th candle at sunset on December 29*

STUDENT RABBI SCHEDULE OF VISITS

VISIT	DATE
Weekend No. 5.....	December 6-8, 2019
Weekend No. 6.....	January 31-February 2, 2020
Weekend No. 7.....	February 28 - March 1

VISIT	DATE
Weekend No. 8.....	April 3-9, 2020 (Seder on Apr. 8)
Weekend No. 9.....	May 1-3, 2020

December Service leaders

December 6

Student Rabbi Paige Lincenberg

December 13

Harry Leventhal

December 14

Archie Hunnicutt

December 20

Mary Blinderman

December 27

Archie Hunnicutt

Paige's Page

Chodesh tov!

December greets us with a beautiful balance of deep darkness and luscious light. As we journey through the next few weeks of the shortest days of the year, we may lean in to that abundance of darkness. Maybe we find ourselves intentionally going to sleep earlier to increase our total amount of slumber, lingering outside a little longer to stargaze, or even choosing a night to not use any artificial light at all after sunset and only light candles for the evening. Then, just as the winter solstice hits and begins to lengthen our days once again, Chanukah arrives! The unique alignment this year of the winter solstice and the first night of Chanukah in the same weekend will beautifully begin to increase our light each day, both environmentally and spiritually. May the power of the Chanukah flames last far longer than eight nights, just like the amount of oil just for one night, providing us warmth throughout the next several moon cycles of winter. May this balance of darkness and light bleed into all the elements of our lives, helping us find harmony in each journey and even in every moment.

Chanukah Sameach,
Student Rabbi Paige Lincenberg

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President's Message

Shalom Chaverim!

My December President's Message is being written in November, one of my favorite months of the year. For me, November is a month that revolves around family, friends, community, and of course, FOOD! Most years...(not this one!)... the weather is perfect, and I am dazzled with beautiful fall colors as I look down streets filled with red, orange, and yellow.

November is the month of Thanksgiving. As this is written, we are planning our Community Thanksgiving celebration. Our theme this year is "Humankind. Be both!" This special idea resonates the choices we make every waking second of our day. Many of our actions are unconscious reactions, which would be different if instead, we consciously, mindfully chose our response. Maybe this reflects the "human" part of that phrase. But what if "human" was instead part of "humane" or "humanity?" To reflect those attributes requires a conscious decision to respond to an action with kindness and gratitude.

In the November newsletter, student rabbi Paige discussed our Jewish practice of daily prayers of gratitude: Modeh Ani and Hoda'ah in the Amidah. What a beautiful way to start your day, being grateful for waking up, the breath you take, and being vertical!

Finding gratitude every day takes effort, and a conscious decision to make the positive blessings in your life a priority over the negatives. This is a link and an excerpt from an article that can help direct you on this path:

<https://www.mindful.org/5-minute-gratitude-practice-focus-good-tapping-senses>
"A 5 Minute Gratitude Practice: Savor the Moment by Tapping into Your Senses," by Elaine Smookler:

Adult Education News

Adult Education classes began in August with Student Rabbi Paige Lincenberg leading the first class of the Fall Semester.

Temple Adult Education Class Progress Schedule for December:

December 1

Chapter 25, pp. 325-340, The Destruction of European Jewry

December 8

Class leader: Student Rabbi Paige Lincenberg

December 15

Chapter 26, pp. 341-360, The Jewish State

December 22

Chapter 27, pp. 361-375, East Meets West

December 29

Chapter 28, pp. 376-391, Benefits and Costs of Military Power

Note: All chapter assignments are from the book: Turning Points in Jewish History, by Marc J. Rosenstein.

President's Message (Cont.)

1. Breathe! Pay attention to your breath.
2. Sight: Pay attention to something you see that you are grateful for, remembering that it may never be like this again, and you are grateful to be able to see it now.
3. Smell: Find a smell that you like and ask yourself why it makes you smile. Maybe it is a smell that brings you comfort, or something new that makes you curious or energized.
4. Sound: What sounds do you hear when you really listen? Maybe you can hear children laughing, or the sound of your heartbeat. Or play a piece of music that gives you joy.
5. Touch: Hug someone; stroke a pet; feel the texture of something that makes you happy.

6. Look around you and appreciate the things you have. Recognize what went into making those objects, delivering them to you, and all the people and talent that it took so that your life would be a little easier.
7. Take this attitude of gratitude with you all day. Say thank you to anyone who helps you today, even if it is their job to do that. Notice how opening up your heart and having appreciation makes you feel. SMILE!

I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. I am grateful for your friendship, your guidance, your kind words, your hugs, your prayers, and your delicious FOOD! I hope to see you at the Temple soon!

With love and gratitude,
Candy

NEWS AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Mark Your Calendars for the following special events:

Saturday, December 6 at 5 p.m.

Yoga lead by Student Rabbi Paige (includes chair Yoga) Please bring a yoga mat. Extras available.

Havdalah, December 6 at 6 p.m.

Potluck supper to follow—bring your favorite food to share.

Friday, December 27 at 7 p.m.

Shabbat services lead by Archie Hunnicutt. We will celebrate Chanukah with communal candle lighting. Bring your menorahs and candles.

Membership News

We are pleased to welcome Harry Leventhal to our congregational family. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

Harry has already accepted a lay-leadership role and will lead Shabbat services on December 13th.

Kids Play Group



November Kids Play Group making banner for Thanksgiving Gathering

Join us on **Sunday, December 8th, at 10:30 am**, for the next meet-up. Student Rabbi Paige Lincenberg will visit the group at the beginning of the meet-up, so please be sure to arrive at 10:30.



Temple Contacts

Candy Alpar , President	341-8741
Janet Meller , Vice President.....	340-8425
Kim Hooker , Secretary	505-463-8402
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Carol Bakwin , Choir	352-7191
Larry Batchlear , Community Chaplain.....	355-0023

Sisterhood Contacts

Joan Altman , Co-President	355-4817
Victoria Thompson , Co-President.....	670-5866
Alex Rimmel , Vice-President	316-8280
Kim Hooker , Secretary	505-463-8402
Mary Blinderman , Treasurer	372-9401



Thanksgiving Gathering

Israeli Folk Dancing at Thanksgiving Gathering

It was with great pleasure that in November Temple B'nai Israel presented our 23rd Thanksgiving Gathering along with our fellow sponsoring organizations: Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Metropolitan Community Church Amarillo, Amarillo Baha'i Community, and St. Luke Presbyterian Church.

Once again we brought together the residents of the Amarillo area in the spirit of friendship for the enrichment of our diverse cultures and religions.

This year we had 130 people attend the Gathering. We gave (1) two large barrels full of food to High Plains Food Bank for feeding local hungry people, (2) in excess of \$1,200 that we collected for High Plains Food Bank to wisely spend for feeding local hungry people, and (3) our sincere thanks to High Plains Food Bank for feeding local hungry people.

Comment from an attendee: *"Yesterday's community celebration was just great! Wouldn't it be wonderful if the feeling in that room could be achieved globally as the world continues to evolve?! I loved every moment, including the folk dancing. What fun!"*

Lost and Found

The following items have been left at the Temple:

blue blazer left in the Temple library

food containers

Please contact the Temple to recover your missing items.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all our donors for your continued support! (as of Nov. 21, 2019)

**General Fund
In Support of Temple B'nai Israel
Anonymous**

For the New Memorial Board
Kim Hooker and Larry Batchlear

Memorial Board Plaques
In Memory of Denby Israel Batchlear
father of Larry Batchlear
Larry Batchlear

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/4 Daniel Kohn
12/5 Louise Adelman
12/8 Neal Scott
12/8 Dr. Sarah Shields
12/9 Paul Pan
12/14 Lily Roberts
12/14 Harry Tallert
12/14 Kim Hooker
12/18 Nathaniel Lapp
12/20 Cleon Roberts
12/21 Lillian Schaar
12/22 Dan Schneider
12/26 Jacob Aron Kohn
12/27 Sarah Schachter
12/27 Bess Schachter
12/31 Dyana Duman

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/19 Eliezar and Eva Pena
12/24 Lily and Cleon Roberts

Yahrzeits for December and early January

November 29

*David Spector 12/1
*Nathan Spector 12/1
*Sarah Jeanne Harris 12/2
Deanna Brown 12/3
Sadie Blank 12/3
*Dr. Daniel J. Schwartz 12/ 3
Mannie Rubin 12/4
Anne Block 12/5
*Albert Kligman 12/4
*Sol Levine 12/6
*Abe Latman 12/6
George Skora 12/6

December 6

*Audrey Ball-Kaufman 12/7
*Jayne Cowen Seliger 12/7
Dorothy Gimp Brand 12/7
Sara Munic 12/7
*Raye Blinderman 12/8
*Ben Hirschland 12/9
Elaine Gaynor 12/9
Nathan Goldstein II 12/10
Frieda Genzer 12/11
*Sam A. Fenberg 12/11
Robert Blank 12/12
*Dan Berg 12/13
*Minnie Cohen 12/13
Janet Ziffer Wells 12/13

December 13

Ada Brenner 12/15
Milton H. Dresner 12/16
*Julia Ecker Berger 12/20
Leopold Kischinovsky 12/20
Annie Sisson 12/20
Isadore Goodman
Minnie Samuels
Charles Robinson

December 20

Johanna Ellen Kramer 12/22
Mike Bruton 12/22
*Julius S. Grodjeski 12/23
*Neita Axelrod Benjamin 12/23
Carolyn Lipsky 12/23
*Lucy Bessie Weinberger 12/24
*Bella Lotman 12/24
*Meyer Darryl 12/27
Sol Alpert
D.M. Spector

December 27

*Max Silverman 12/29
*Eli Raffkind 12/30
*Julian Levy 12/31
Gloria Altman 12/31
Anne Moskowitz 1/1
*Leopoldine Stern 1/1
Charles Wolpert 1/1
Hyman Savlov
Joseph Ruback
Ethel Feiner

The “” indicates individuals whose names are on the Yahrzeit boards in the sanctuary.*

If any member would like to add a name to the monthly yahrzeit list, please send the name, date of yahrzeit and your relationship to BnailsraelAmarillo.org, Attn: Mary Blinderman. Thank you.

Jewish Inspiration

Gluckel of Hameln (1646 – 1724)

Gluckel, whose husband “took advice from no one else, and did nothing without our talking over together,” began her memoirs as a sort of therapy after his death in 1689.

The following is from *The Memoirs of Gluckel of Hameln*:

Thank God for the Tender Mercies

I know that this complaining and mourning is a weakness of mine and a grievous fault. Far better it would be if every day I fell upon my knees and thanked the Lord for the tender mercies He has bestowed on my unworthy self. I sit to this day and date at my own table, eat what I relish, stretch myself at night in my own bed, and have even a shilling to waste, so long as the good God pleases. I have my beloved children . . . How many people there are in this world, finer, better, juster and truer than I, such as I know myself for patterns of piety, who have not bread to put into their mouths! How, then, can I thank and praise my Creator enough for all the goodness He has lavished on us without requital?

Have You Met . . . ?

Fanny Brice (born October 29, 1891 in New York, N.Y. – died May 29, 1951) American comedienne and singer. Her career began in 1916 when she performed the song that made her famous, “My Man,” in the Ziegfield Follies. In 1936 she introduced a character she created, Baby Snooks, on the radio show “Ziegfield Follies Show of the Air.” Fanny performed this naughty, smart-alecky child comedy act right up to the time she died in 1951.

The Word is Yiddish!

maven – an expert, often used sarcastically

schmaltzy – corny, sentimental

meshugah – crazy—completely nuts all of the time

shmata -- ugly, old rag. Usually it’s used to downplay someone’s outfit.

Can you make a sentence out of these words (or as they say in Yiddish, this mishmash)? We’ll publish your answer(s) in January’s newsletter.



Sweet and Sour Brisket

Serve with latkes for Chanukah

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Have ready: 3 ½ pounds trimmed first cut or thin-cut brisket

Spread with:

3 cloves garlic, minced

Ground black pepper to taste

Heat in roasting pan over medium-high heat

1 tablespoon oil

Brown the brisket about 3 minutes each side. While it is searing, add to the pan:

2 large onions, sliced

When browned on both sides, remove the brisket.

Reduce the heat to medium and cook the onions until very brown,

about 4 minutes more.

Add:

½ cup red wine

½ cup beef stock

Cook for 1 minute, scraping up the browned bits. Stir In:

1 cup chili sauce

½ cup apple cider vinegar

½ cup packed dark brown sugar

1 bay leaf

Taste the sauce and adjust the seasoning. Return the meat to the pan

and spoon the sauce over it. Cover the pan tightly with aluminum foil.

Roast until the brisket is fork-tender, 2 to 3 hours. Remove the pan

from the oven, uncover, and let cool in the pan. Refrigerate overnight.

Slice the meat and return it to the sauce.

Reheat in a 350-degree oven for 25 to 30 minutes.

December Calendar

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:00 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICES
Student Rabbi Paige leads service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

10:00 a.m. -- Morning service
Student Rabbi Paige leads service
11:00 Torah study
5:00 p.m. Yoga
6:00 p.m. Havdalah
Potluck Supper to follow

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

10:30 a.m. Adult Education
Student Rabbi Paige leads class

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

10:30 a.m. Kids Play Group meet-up

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:00 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICES
Harry Leventhal leads services

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

5:30 p.m. MINCHA SERVICE
Archie Hunnicutt leads service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

10:30 a.m. Adult Education
Bob Blinderman leads class

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:00 p.m.
Board of Directors meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICES
Mary Blinderman leads services

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

10:30 a.m. Adult Education
Bob Blinderman leads class

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Chanukah begins at sundown


MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Chanukah
 

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Chanukah
  

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Chanukah
   

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Chanukah
    

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICES
Archie Hunnicutt leads services
Community candle lighting

Chanukah
     

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Chanukah
      

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

10:30 a.m. Adult Education
Bob Blinderman leads class

Chanukah
       