



## September 2020

### 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)

### Looking for articles.

Have you read a good book lately? Or perhaps an inspirational reading or poem? Do you have a recipe you would like to share?

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](mailto: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.

### President's Message

Dearest chaverim:

How I wish I could deliver this message to you in person. When we shuttered the Temple in March, none of us thought even for a second that we would not have High Holy Day services in our sanctuary this year.

Being a Temple President during a pandemic is a whole new adventure.... talk about captaining a boat in uncharted waters! 2020/5780 will be memorable,

and as much as I try, unforgettable. I was just remarking to a friend that the Temple Board seems even busier this year than it ever was.

Initially, the Board's priority was to keep the Temple secure and running, pay the bills, let workers in, answer emails. Thanks to several Board volunteers, that has occurred without interruption. The next item was Board communication: how do we have meetings? Thankfully, several years ago, the Board had the foresight to pass a bylaw for remote meetings, and that has allowed us to carry on, business as usual, via Go To Meeting. Unfortunately, there was no system in place for an alternative method to our in-person Temple Annual Meeting, and thus, this has not taken place yet. (The timing of this will be discussed following the High Holy Days.)

You may have noticed that we have not had a Rabbi lately! Unfortunately, student Rabbi Paige Lincenberg's visits were abruptly halted due to travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19. We did not even get to host the annual Temple Seder with Paige or give her the goodbye party we had planned. The same uncertainties resulting from the pandemic influenced the Board's decision to cancel our student rabbi contract for the upcoming year. So the next decision of the Board was how to hold religious services....literally...Who? What? When? Where? How?

About this same time, I was contacted by Rabbi Goldmann, who lives in California, but had been commuting to Lubbock for several years to lead services twice a month. She was hoping our Rabbi or student Rabbi would assist her with leading remote services, as she was now unable to travel to Lubbock due to the pandemic. This has been a bright spot in the darkness of this year! One of my goals for this year was



(cont next page)

*(President's Message Cont.)*

to develop better relationships with the Jewish communities close to Amarillo. As a result of coronavirus, we now have a very nice relationship with Congregation Shaareth Israel (CSI) in Lubbock, and I communicate regularly (or maybe commiserate is the more appropriate word!) with their Temple President, Jonathan Marks. Members of our Religious Services committee lead Shabbat services on Go To Meeting every other week, and Jonathan and Rabbi Goldmann graciously invite us to “Zoom” with CSI on the other weeks. We also now have a “cookbook” service which can be used as an outline for anyone new who wants to try their hand at being a lay-leader, now on Go To Meeting, or later in-person. Remote services has allowed members and Temple friends to participate in Shabbat services, that logistics prevented in the past. We even gained another member who lives in New Mexico! Remote services has greatly extended our reach to those who previously could not attend. We have also used remote access to continue Adult Ed on Sundays, and that is well attended. Adult Ed has been so enjoyed this year, the class did not want to take the summer off but instead chose a new book for summer! Rabbi Goldmann has also invited our Congregation to join CSI for their book club, as well as many other activities.

This led to the next Board business: how do we continue to offer remote services, livestream and recorded, in the future? How can we make this better? A committee has been formed to implement this idea. At the time I am writing this message, this is an ongoing discussion, so stay tuned for exciting details soon! The hope is to allow more accessibility for those who live too far away to attend services or are homebound.

We have been approved for the FEMA security grant that we applied for but are dealing with governmental details. Unfortunately, we were selected for a “Survey,” which seems curiously like an audit! But the Temple FEMA grant committee is diligently working to jump through all the requested hoops, and hopefully we can soon begin implementing the funds for security upgrades at the Temple.

The Board will meet this week to finalize plans for High Holy Days. I expect we will heavily rely on the services offered by

Rabbi Goldmann, and I hope you will accept CSI's hospitality and join us for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

I know all of us are growing weary of face masks, hand sanitizer, isolation, empty grocery store shelves. As 5780 blessedly ends, I ask each of you to say a prayer for each other for good health in 5781. Dip an apple in some honey. Eat a lot of honey cake... because we ALL need a good year, a sweet year!

L'shanah tovah tikateivu v'teichateimu: May you have a good year, a sweet year, and may you be inscribed and sealed for blessing in the Book of Life.

Stay well. Smile. I hope to see you in person. in 5781!

With love and gratitude,

Candy

## Adult Education

Temple Adult Education class in August started reading and discussing the book *Not in God's Name* by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. Although our class discussions are robust, everyone is treated with dignity. You might enjoy attending the class. It is a pleasure to observe our class members become familiar with remote learning. As a bonus to the learning, if you attend our class you will have the opportunity to visit with your co-religionists and friends who, just as you, miss the interaction with good acquaintances who we all took for granted before the Covid pandemic. We meet every Sunday morning at 10:30 CDT in our virtual classroom. If you wish to become a member of the class, please call Bob at 372.9401 for an invitation to join the class.

### Temple Contacts

<b>Candy Alpar</b> , President .....	341-8741
<b>Janet Meller</b> , Vice President.....	340-8425
<b>Kim Hooker</b> , Secretary.....	505-463-8402
<b>Bob Blinderman</b> , Treasurer .....	372-9401
<b>Carol Bakwin</b> , Choir .....	352-7191
<b>Larry Batchlear</b> , Community Chaplain.....	355-0023

### Sisterhood Contacts

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

## NEWS AROUND THE CONGREGATION

### Shabbat Services

While we are all practicing social distancing and we are unable to meet at Temple B'nai Israel for traditional Shabbat services, we are using modern technology to stay connected. Volunteers lead services via "Go To Meeting." The services begin at 7 p.m. After services, we visit and catch up with our Temple family. In addition, we are invited to attend "Zoom" Shabbat services at CSI in Lubbock Texas. **Please watch for communications regarding the September Shabbat service schedule.**

### High Holy Days Services

Our Board of Trustees has made the exceptionally difficult determination that we will be unable to safely welcome worshipers into the temple for the High Holy Days this year.

The public health crisis of COVID-19 has taken so much from us already, and we share in your sadness that we will be unable to experience the High Holy Days as we have in years past. Nonetheless, we know that the season of repentance and renewal will still do its holy work: returning us to wholeness and hope, to our loved ones and to God.

We have been graciously invited to join CSI in Lubbock for High Holy Days remote services. **Please watch for communications regarding this year's High Holy Days service schedule.**

**To receive an invitation to all services, please send an email to:**

[bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com](mailto:bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com)

### Sisterhood News

We are planning a time for all of us to gather on our computer screens or by phone and "touch base" as we move into our most sacred time of year as Jews. We will have a little business to discuss and when that has been completed, we hopefully will hear a little about what each of us has been doing over these long Covid months. **Mark your calendars for Wednesday, Sept 2nd at 7 p.m. via Go To Meeting." Look for your invitation which will be sent soon either by email or regular mail. It will have instructions on attending "Go To Meeting." We hope you can all join us for our first meeting of the new year.** Annual dues statements will be sent out in September. This will be our only planned income this year, so please renew or consider joining our Sisterhood. We will discuss projects to improve the Temple's rose garden. It takes money, so please consider a generous level of dues. We are a small group, but we can achieve memorable goals for the enrichment of the Temple



Your Sisterhood officers

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all our donors for your continued support! (as of August 21, 2020)

A special thank you to Preston Doerfler for installing a new toilet in the women's accessible bathroom stall and to Victoria Thomson for making a monetary donation for the toilet.

### General Fund

#### In Support of Temple B'nai Israel

*Anonymous*

*Kim and Larry Batchlear*

#### For Live Streaming Equipment Costs

*Dan and Mary Schneider*

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/7 Ian Marion Shields

9/7 Tere Ashley Baum

9/9 Carla Wilkenfeld

9/9 Michael Rappaport

9/14 Jacob Wollschlager

9/26 Aliyah Pena

9/29 Vivian Joan Weir

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/27 Bob and Mary Blinderman

Note:

If you would like to be included in the birthdays and anniversaries, please send an email to [bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com](mailto:bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com) Attn: Newsletter Editor

## Tishrei Events

### Rosh Hashanah History

The origins of Rosh HaShanah are found in the Bible. The Book of Leviticus (23:24-25) declares: “In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of rest, a memorial proclaimed with the blowing of the shofar, a holy convocation.” Although this day eventually became Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year, it was not originally known as such.

In ancient times, there were four different New Years on the Jewish calendar. Each had a distinct significance:

The first of the Hebrew month of Nisan, the New Year of Kings, was the date used to calculate the number of years a given king had reigned.

The first of the Hebrew month of Elul was the new year for tithing of cattle, a time when one of every 10 cattle was marked and offered as a sacrifice to God.

The first of the Hebrew month of Tishrei was the agricultural new year, or the New Year of the Years.

The 15th of the Hebrew month of Sh’vat, known as Tu B’Svat, was the New Year of the Trees.

Although the Torah refers to Nisan as the first month of the Jewish year, the first day of the month of Tishrei emerged as what we now know as Rosh HaShanah.

The Babylonians, among whom the Jews lived, marked a “Day of Judgment” each year. They believed that on that day, a convocation of their deities assembled in the temple of the god Marduk. These gods, they held, renewed the world and judged each human being, inscribing the fate of every individual on the tablet of destiny. The legend was a powerful one, and Jews most likely borrowed elements from it in shaping Rosh HaShanah. The meeting of many deities evolved into a belief that the one God judged every Jew on that day, immediately inscribing the completely righteous in the Book of Life and consigning the completely wicked to a sad fate. Those “in between,” however, had 10 days, concluding on Yom Kippur, in which to repent before the Book of Life was sealed for the New Year.

In addition to the biblical “holy convocation” and the transformed Babylonian “Day of Judgment,” the first of Tishrei also was associated with the anniversary of the creation of the world, Yom Harat Olam. For these three compelling reasons, the first day of the seventh month ultimately became the “official” Jewish New Year.

It was not until about the second century C.E. that the holiday acquired the name Rosh HaShanah, which first appeared in the Mishnah. Before then, however, the day had many other designations. The oldest name found in the Torah (Numbers 29:1) is Yom T’ruah (“Day of Sounding

the Shofar”). Two other names, undoubtedly reflecting Babylonian influence, were Yom HaZikaron (“Day of Remembrance”) and Yom HaDin (“Day of Judgment”). While those terms are still preserved in the liturgy and rabbinic literature, Jews all over the world today usually refer to Rosh HaShanah as the Jewish New Year.

**Shabbat Shuvah** (“Sabbath [of] Return” שבת שובה) refers to the Shabbat that occurs during the Ten Days of Repentance between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Only one Shabbat can occur between these dates. This Shabbat is named after the first word of the Haftarah (Hosea 14:2-10) and literally means “Return!”

### Yom Kippur Customs

On Yom Kippur, we put aside our physical needs to concentrate on our spiritual needs through prayer, repentance, and self-improvement.

Beginning at sundown prior to Kol Nidre, it is customary to begin some of the ritual practices of Yom Kippur. Therefore, a family meal, known as se’udah mafseket (the concluding meal before the fast) customarily is eaten before sundown, with the candle lighting happening at the end of the meal. This process is a way to mark the entrance of Yom Kippur into the home and, with that blessing, the fast begins.

Tradition holds that acts of tzedakah are key to our observance of Yom Kippur. In many synagogues, a fundraising appeal coincides with the High Holidays. Many Jews make tzedakah a part of their Shabbat ritual, depositing a few dollars in a tzedakah box prior to the beginning of Shabbat. This practice can also be done as part of the ritual prior to the meal eaten before Kol Nidre. To make this custom even more special, the Days of Awe can be a time to tally the funds set aside each week during the prior year and determine to which causes they will be donated.

By reciting prayers in a synagogue on Yom Kippur, we atone for transgressions against God. For wrongs committed against other people, however, it has become customary to seek out friends and relatives whom we have wronged during the year and to ask their forgiveness before Yom Kippur begins. The holiday is a time when families should be at peace and gives us a yearly opportunity to put aside past hurts and create a new beginning.

It also is customary on Yom Kippur to perpetuate the memory of loved ones. To do so, many Jews visit the cemetery the day before Yom Kippur and kindle 24-hour Yahrzeit candles in memory of loved ones who have died. Yahrzeit candles are lit prior to the lighting of the holiday candles. During the Middle Ages, this custom was seen as a means of atonement for the dead. Today, however, it is a beautiful expression of tribute and remembrance.

## Yahrzeits for SEPTEMBER

### **September**

\*Wolf Herring 8/2  
Corinne Solomon 8/2  
\*Daniel Raffkind 8/2  
Hanna E. Hellman 8/2  
\*Pauline Weinberger 8/3  
Dr. Jack Ziffer 8/3  
Elizabeth Gardner 8/4  
Elizabeth Cambell Jacobi 8/4  
\*Ben Solnick 8/5  
Sarah Klapman 8/5  
Hyman Shebowich 8/5  
Henry Kranz 8/6  
\*Hugo H. Loewenstern, Sr. 8/6  
\*Heinz Reach 8/6  
\*Abe Mogelson 8/7  
Sheila Pearce 8/7  
Kenneth M. Axelrod 8/8  
Abe Brand 8/8  
\*B.M. (Bunny) Behrman 8/9  
Carlton Womack 8/10  
Ida Kischinovsky 8/11  
\*Pauline Baer 8/13  
Eleanor West 8/14  
\*David M. Schwartz 8/14  
Irving Rothstein 8/16  
Louise Auslander 8/16

Helen Seidel 8/18  
Helen Feinblatt 8/19  
Yudes Skora 8/20  
Walter Tallert 8/20  
Ann Loewenstern 8/22  
Macaria Pena 8/22  
Lillian Ogilvie 8/24  
Beatrice Adelman 8/24  
\*Kate Shapiro 8/25  
Molly Heyman 8/25  
Charles B. Alexander 8/26  
Arthur Auslander 8/26  
Paula Batchlear 8/26  
\*Morris Spicer 8/26  
\*Dr. Julius Levick 8/26  
Naomi Berkman Dennison 8/27  
\*Rose K. Goldstein 8/29  
\*Blima Pelz 8/30  
Esther Cohen  
David Cohen  
Philip Raub  
Yetta Gilbert  
Evelyn Mendel  
Albert Kempf

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

## REFUAH SHELEMAH

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*The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:*

Joel Kaplan  
Larry Katz  
Kel Seliger  
Carrie Delaney (Yael bat Sarah Imani)  
DeLana Honaker  
Bruce Kriegel  
Mabel Knox  
Carolyn Dowlen  
David Altman  
Henrietta Kohn  
Harriette Tallert

*Please offer prayers that they all have a full and speedy recovery.*

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](http://BnailsraelAmarillo.org), Attn: Mary Blinderman. Thank you.