



## January 2021

### 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

Shalom chaverim!

Welcome 2021!!!! I don't think I can say that enough! We all have the idea that at 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2021, the sun will shine, choirs of angels will sing, COVID will become a distant memory, and life will be good again. Well, it is an idea full of hope, and I, for one, am content to cling to that optimism.

I am not gonna lie: 2020 was HELL! We were isolated, members got sick with COVID or hospitalized with injuries, we cancelled our community Thanksgiving for the first time in decades, and the Temple was empty most of the year.

But, despite all the obstacles, I prefer to remember the positives that the Temple achieved in 2020. The most notable, to me, is the wonderful relationship we have formed with Rabbi Goldmann and Congregation Shaareth Israel (CSI) in Lubbock. This is something we have talked about doing for a long time, and thanks (?) to COVID, this came off the back burner and to fruition!

We learned how to Zoom and Go To Meeting. And we "Zoomed"....A LOT! Temple Board meetings, Shabbats, High Holy Day services, Adult Ed, and special events hosted by CSI. We Zoomed while Rabbi Lexi Erdheim was back in our sanctuary to lead Chanukah Shabbat and officiate a wedding! We Zoom-celebrated the Simchas of the beautiful wedding of Alex Rimmel and Charles Toombs! We formed a videoconferencing committee to discuss the equipment needed to live-stream services remotely, and that is still a work in progress.

We formed a By Laws committee to annually review the Temple By Laws and make recommendations to the Temple Board, and then to the membership at the Temple Annual Meeting.

There were renovations at the Temple: we got a new Memorial board, and protective/bullet-resistant film was applied to the windows. We got a new walkway from the parking lot to the Temple front door, and a lovely reading/meditation/sitting area in the rose garden, complete with a little book library.

Unfortunately, we bid farewell to several members: "Zee", the Goldsteins, and mourned the passing of Henrietta Kohn. But we welcomed Cari and Emily Howell, and DeLana Honaker as new members in 2020. And we welcomed Amelia Harrison born April 1st and Hunter Schaer born October 16th into our Temple family.

We definitely have challenges to face in this new year. Hopefully, the COVID vaccine

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will reduce the chances of infection, and we can begin to return to normalcy. I am optimistic, and hope to resume in-person services at some point this year. We will likely continue Zoom activities with Lubbock for some services, and we plan to implement equipment to livestream services from our Temple sanctuary. Once we can safely meet in person again, rabbinical options will be considered.

As we look forward to 2021, I ask that you add the Temple to your New Year resolutions! We need you! We need you to volunteer your time, make tzedakah donations, and be present (in person and virtually!). Offer to lead services. Volunteer for a committee. Ask any Temple Board member where you can be of service.

I thank you for sticking with us during “2020: Year of the Tsuris!” I love you, appreciate you, and wish you a year of blessings and health.

With love and gratitude

Candy

## Shabbat Services

Because we take Covid-19 seriously, we are still “virtual.” We hope you continue to stay connected and if you haven’t attended a “Go To Meeting” service we encourage you to give it a try. 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 Shabbat services and other Temple activities.**

**To receive an invitation to all services, please send an email to: [bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com](mailto:bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com)**

## Sisterhood News

Thank you to Kim Hooker for donating gravel for the rose garden project. And thank you to Preston Doerfler for spreading the gravel and contributing many hours on the rose garden irrigation system.

We have 22 active members. If you haven’t sent in your renewal for 2020-21, please contact Mary Blinderman for a renewal statement. The Sisterhood is grateful for your continued support.

*Your Sisterhood officers*

## REFUAH SHELEMAH

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

Joan Altman	Bruce Kriegel
The Alpar Family	Mabel Knox
Bob Blinderman	Carolyn Dowlen
Joel Kaplan	David Altman
Larry Katz	Harriette Tallert
Carrie Delaney (Yael bat Sarah Imani)	

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

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all our donors for your continued support!  
(December 25, 2020)

### General Fund

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

*Anonymous*

#### In Honor of Joan Altman – Get Well Prayers

*The Tallert Family*

#### For the many acts of kindness from our Temple friends

*Bob and Mary Blinderman*

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/5 Oliver Zane Harrison  
1/6 Dr. Barry Duman  
1/6 Dr. Nick Goldstein  
1/7 Beth Goldstein  
1/13 Eliezer Pena  
1/19 Ray Martin  
1/30 Lisa Goldstein

## January Anniversaries:

1/1 Carolyn and Stuart Dowlen  
1/4 Kim Hooker and Larry Batchlear  
1/9 Cheri and Alan Harrison  
1/11 Harriette and Harry Tallert

### 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*

# Shabbat Services from URJ

A great resource for connecting to Judaism is the Union for Reform Judaism website. The following article from URJ has several good ideas for observing Shabbat. [ReformJudaism.org](https://www.urj.org) is a leading voice in the discussion of Jewish life. Find information on Jewish rituals, culture, holidays, and more by going to this website.



As the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) continues, we're all on high alert and getting used to life spent mostly at home, even on Shabbat.

So long as you're feeling well, why not take some time to plan a meaningful at-home Shabbat experience? Here are just a few ways you can make the most of Shabbat and feel like part of a larger Jewish community – even when you can't leave the house.

## 1. MAKE SHABBAT YOUR OWN.

When synagogue isn't an option, there's nothing quite like a cozy Shabbat at home.

Try to see this time as an opportunity for personal observance, whether alone or with your loved ones. Even if you've never lit Shabbat candles or recited blessings over your wine and bread, now is the perfect time to begin.

## 2. WATCH SERVICES ONLINE.

If you can't leave home but don't want to miss the joy of Shabbat services, you're in luck.

For those who are comfortable using technology on Shabbat, "attending" services online is a great alternative to being there in person (and you don't even have to change out of your pajamas!)

## 3. SPEND TIME TALKING TORAH.

Observing Shabbat from the comfort of home provides an opportunity to have thought-provoking and enriching discussions with your family about Torah.

Brush up on this week's Torah portion, then choose one of our many modern commentaries to read and discuss; this week's episode of our podcast **On the Other Hand** is about the

Torah portion, as well. Talking Torah with kids? Try **Torah for Tots, Torah for Tweens, and Torah for Teens**.

You can facilitate a meaningful, productive Shabbat conversation with your family by fostering participation, encouraging questions, and engaging with Jewish text and learning in unique ways. For guidance in doing so, check out "**Tips for Leading a Weekly Family Discussions.**"

## 4. COOK A SPECIAL MEAL.

With nowhere to go, why not take the time to cook a memorable Shabbat meal? Browse our many Jewish recipes to find a dish that will make this evening special for you and your family, from Ashkenazi staples like kugel and brisket to entrees, sides, and desserts inspired by global Jewish cuisine.

To try your hand at baking challah, choose from our plethora of unique **challah recipes** – and don't forget to say *HaMotzi* before you enjoy the delicious fruits of your labor!

## 5. TRY A FUN FAMILY ACTIVITY.

During Shabbat, a time when we set aside time for meaningful engagement, doing a Jewishly themed arts-and-crafts projects can inspire kids' creativity while helping them engage more deeply with their Judaism.

**BimBam's** animated videos will guide you in making a paper hamsa, learning the art of Jewishly inspired papercutting, and even creating "Jewish slime." Don't forget to turn on our favorite **Shabbat playlist** for some family-friendly background music!

No matter how you decide to observe Shabbat, take a moment to say the *Mi Shebeirach* prayer, which wishes a *r'fuah sh'leimah* (complete healing) to all those suffering from coronavirus. You may also wish to say a prayer for the wisdom and skills of medical scientists, researchers, and public health officials around the world as they fight the spread of virus.

May we soon see an end to these uncertain times.

### Temple Contacts

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<b>Bob Blinderman</b> , Treasurer .....	372-9401
<b>Carol Bakwin</b> , Choir .....	352-7191
<b>Larry Batchlear</b> , Community Chaplain.....	355-0023

### Sisterhood Contacts

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<b>Lisa Hunnicutt</b> , Vice-President .....	670-7137
<b>Karen Schroeder</b> , Secretary .....	681-5196
<b>Mary Blinderman</b> , Treasurer.....	372-9401



### **Gerda Weissmann Klein Honored by The Anti-Defamation League**

Gerda Weissmann Klein, aunt of Harry Tallert, received the prestigious Kay Family Award at the Anti-Defamation League's 26th Annual Concert Against Hate on December 6th.

The Kay Family Award recognizes individuals for extraordinary acts of heroism in confronting intolerance and injustice, extremism and terrorism. Gerda Weissmann Klein was recognized for her lifelong commitment to humanity and the healing power of optimism through sharing her story of surviving the Holocaust. She also was honored for her dedication to empowering today's youth to appreciate the privilege and responsibility of American citizenship through the establishment of Citizenship Counts.

ADL is one of the nation's leading civil rights organizations, founded over a century ago to relentlessly fight all forms of hate in every community, and to secure justice and fair treatment for all. A global leader in exposing extremism, delivering anti-bias education and fighting hate online, ADL's ultimate goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias or discrimination.

Gerda Weissmann Klein is a Polish American writer and human rights activist. Her autobiographical account of the Holocaust, *All but My Life*, was adapted for the 1995 short film, *One Survivor Remembers*, which received an Academy Award and an Emmy Award, and was selected for the National Film Registry.

Note: Our Temple library has a copy of the book and it may be checked-out to congregants.

### **Rommel-Toombs Wedding**

Alexandra Rommel and Charles Toombs were married on December 12th at Temple B'nai Israel. Their dream came

true, despite the pandemic. And with the technology of Zoom, Temple members and guests from around the country were able to attend virtually. Rabbi Alexis Erdheim officiated. Rabbi Alexis served the Temple as student rabbi for two years. For the safety of all, the in-person ceremony was limited to immediate family and close friends.

Several out-of-town Temple members attended the wedding via Zoom. "Virtual" reception tables allowed guests to visit with each other as the bride and groom made their way to each "virtual" table. Guests viewed Alex and Chuck cutting the wedding cake and enjoyed listening to toasts to the couple.

Hannukah Shabbat service lead by Rabbi Alexis Erdherm on December 11, 2020.



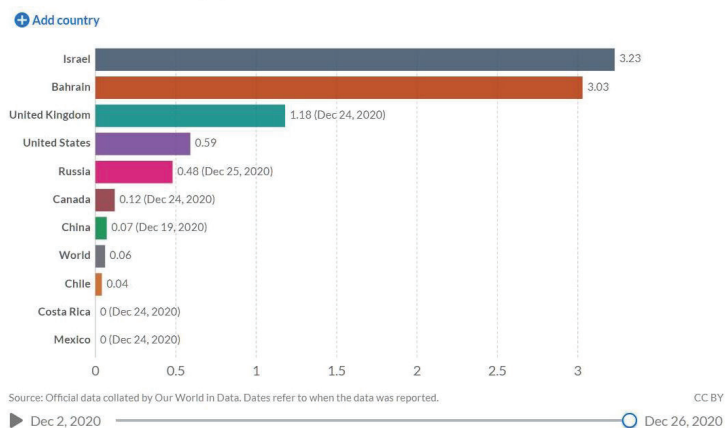
### **Tribe-Pride Kvelling**

Mikael Dolsten, Chief Scientific Officer at Pfizer, is Jewish. He grew up in Halmstad, Sweden, the son of a Jewish father with prewar roots in Sweden and a Jewish mother who escaped Austria in the early days of WWII. He visited Israel several times as a youngster and did a year of his doctoral work at the Weizmann Institute. There he learned cutting edge immunology which led him to pharmaceutical science.

Pfizer CEO Albert Borla is a Sephardic Jew from Thessalonika, Greece, a city whose Jewish population was almost completely wiped-out during WWII. The Borla family's history in Thessalonika goes back 5 centuries, and Borla visits his remaining family members there yearly. He now lives in New York City.

The Chief Medical Officer for Moderna, a Cambridge, Mass.- based company, is an Israeli immigrant named Tal Zaks. Previously, he served as head of Global Oncology at Sanofi Pharmaceuticals. Zaks received his M.D. and Ph.D.

COVID-19 vaccination doses administered per 100 people, Dec 26, 2020  
 Total number of vaccination doses administered per 100 people in the total population. This is counted as a single dose, and does not measure the number of people vaccinated (which usually requires two doses).



## Yahrzeits for January

- \*Leopoldine Stern 1/1
- Charles Wolpert 1/1
- \*Nehema Spector 1/5
- Herb Kalman 1/6
- Deborah Schiffman 1/6
- Ben Wartell 1/7
- \*Dora Weitzman 1/8
- \*Bessie Rubin 1/10
- Horace Wolf 1/10
- Pearl Fair 1/10
- J. Lee Griffith 1/10
- Helen Goldberg 1/10
- \*Alfred London 1/11
- \*Fannie Wolfson 1/13
- \*Blossom Feingold Levy 1/13
- Bessie Kain Aleskin 1/13
- \*Sarah Raffkind 1/14
- William Gens 1/15
- Michael Wenger 1/15
- Harry Ashley 1/16
- Ruth Gens 1/17
- Celia Held Springer 1/18
- \*Morris Mendel 1/19
- Hilda Husar 1/20
- Dr. S.J. Klapman 1/20
- Virginia Metz 1/20
- \*Harriet Alexander 1/21

degrees at Ben Gurion University and conducted post-doc research at the NIH.

The scientist responsible, with a colleague, for the pioneering breakthroughs that allowed the development of an mRNA vaccine (the novel approach used by Moderna and Pfizer for dealing with COVID-19) is University of Pennsylvania's Drew Weissman.

- Vera Griffith 1/22
- Samuel Lachman 1/22
- Ansel Shupack 1/23
- Sidney Cohen 1/24
- Gene Braunig 1/25
- \*Morris Raffkind 1/25
- \*Morris Blinderman 1/26
- \*Ruth Levi Wolf 1/26
- Ben Altman 1/27
- Shirley Stern 1/28
- \*Leo J. Goodman 1/29
- Ann Lessing 1/29
- \*Anna Grace Raffkind 1/29
- Miriam Amanda Witt Yarbrough 1/29
- \*Rose Jacobson 1/31
- Joe Mandel 1/31
- \*Myrna Raffkind 1/31
- Hyman Savlov
- Joseph Ruback
- Fannie Ruback
- Ethel Feiner
- Frida Reach
- Abraham Cizon
- Louis Goldberg
- Bessie Bergelofsky

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