



July 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

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! What a loaded month we had in June!

This past weekend we had our first in-person Shabbat service in over a year! This was also our first test of our new audio-visual equipment. We had some technical difficulties...who knew "new" batteries don't last a year? Hopefully buying new batteries for the microphone and increasing the internet speed will make the next livestream work perfectly!

Yesterday, we were blessed to have a picnic with our dear friends at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. We thank them for their hospitality and sharing their grill Meister with us. A great time was had by all who attended.

But...there's even more to come, later this month. Student Rabbi Paige will be here leading services and officiating Preston's conversion. Then we will have our Temple Annual Meeting, which we have not had for 2 years! So much activity this month!!!

At the Shabbat service this weekend, Bob read a D'var Torah by Rabbi Alex Kress. Rabbi Kress says that the one thing he took for granted before the pandemic was his need for his Jewish community and Jewish life. From Parashat Korach, he relates that "every individual is holy, and God is found when we gather in community." Rabbi Soloveitchik reflects that "the community and the individual are placed in balance with each other and are interdependent."

We need each other. We need our Jewish life. Several people told me after the service how GOOD it felt to be back, in person, talking to each other. We need to share our voices and pray together. We need to gather at the oneg. We laugh together. We plan together.

Our virtual services were a great substitute when it was necessary. Personally, although I did enjoy Shabbat in flip flops with cheese and a glass of wine, I found it difficult to stay engaged on our Go To Meeting link. My mind wandered, there were background distractions. Although I could sing off-tune as loud as I wanted, no one was singing with me.

I am happy we have a livestream option for those who are not able to attend in person. If you can attend in person, please do. As those who attended this weekend will attest: It just feels GOOD! I look forward to seeing you soon!

With love & gratitude,

Candy

Adult Education Classes

Our class welcomed back Student Rabbi Paige Lincenberg to lead class in June. She will lead class again this autumn.

On Sunday, July 4th, we will NOT have class. Happy Birthday Uncle Sam!

On July 11th, we will discuss the following assignment from *American Jewish Thought Since 1934: Writings on Identity, Engagement, and Belief*, edited by Michael Marmor and David Ellenson:

Chapter 9, pages 33-35, "Reconstructing Divine Power" by Sandra B. Lubarsky, and

Chapter 10, pages 36-38, "Location, Location, Location: Toward a Theology of Prepositions" by Rebecca Alpert.

We have sufficient background in our readings thus far in the book to grapple with Jewish process theology. For a general background, you might enjoy reading

https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/sites/default/files/resources/document/tspitzer_why_we_need_process_theology.pdf

May the process be with you!

We are moving forward with presenting the class as a hybrid of in-person and remote electronic communication, but for now we have yet to overcome a few remaining technological issues. So for now, we will continue to meet in cyberspace. If you would like to join the class, let Bob know at bobbli@arn.net and he will send you a link.

Shabbat Services

We are transitioning from virtual services to in-person services at the Temple. We will offer live streaming for those who are unable to attend in person. Please check your email for the dates.

From the Sisterhood

Covid-19 did not stop the Sisterhood from accomplishing great things this year.

In September 2020, we held a virtual Sisterhood meeting and elected officers for a 2-year term. Your officers are Kim Hooker and Victoria Thompson, Co-Presidents; Lisa Hunnicutt, Vice President; Karen Schroeder, Secretary; and, Mary Blinderman, Treasurer. Membership consists of 20 members.

Our projects this year included purchasing kitchen supplies; sending birthday cards to congregants (thank you Karen Schroeder for designing the cards and to Lily Roberts for sending the cards); sending mitzvah gifts to Temple members recovering from illness and surgery; sponsoring baby showers for the Alan and Cheri Harrison and Adam and Christine Schaer; and sponsoring good-by parties for Carol Bakwin and Harry Leventhal. We honored the Goldsteins, Carol Bakwin and Harry Leventhal with leaves on the Tree of Life. And our big project was replacing the concrete sidewalk from the parking lot to the Temple entrance. You can safely enter the building on smooth concrete. In addition we put a sidewalk in the rose garden which leads to the "Little Free Library" and a beautiful granite bench (donated by Kim Hooker). We have added river rock to the rose garden area to complete the renovation. We want to thank Bob Blinderman and Preston Doerfler for installing an irrigation system to the roses.



And we recently purchased window coverings for all of the rooms in the Temple. We plan to have a Sisterhood meeting in August at the Temple to kick off our annual membership renewal and to meet in person once again. Check your email or USPS mail for the meeting announcement. Thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Your Sisterhood Officers

Temple Contacts

Candy Alpar , President	341-8741
Janet Meller , Vice President	340-8425
Kim Hooker , Secretary	505-463-8402
Bob Blinderman , Treasurer	372-9401
Larry Batchlear , Community Chaplain	355-0023

Sisterhood Contacts

Kim Hooker , Co-President	505-463-8402
Victoria Thompson , Co-President	670-5866
Lisa Hunnicutt , Vice-President	670-7137
Karen Schroeder , Secretary	681-5196
Mary Blinderman , Treasurer	372-9401

JUNE RE-OPENING EVENTS

On June 11th, Bob and Mary Blinderman led Shabbat services at the Temple. The service was also live-streamed.

On June 25th Student Rabbi Paige Lincenberg returned to Amarillo to lead us in prayer and celebration. Thirty congregants and guests attended Friday Shabbat services and Preston Doerfler's conversation ceremony.

On Saturday morning Student Rabbi Paige led morning services followed by Torah sturdy.

On Saturday evening we held a ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating the "Little Free Library" in the Rose Garden. We continued celebrating with Havdalah on the Temple lawn. A big "thank you" to everyone who donated books to the library. It is now full of books.

On Sunday morning Student Rabbi Paige led a virtual Adult Education class at the airport while waiting for her flight to arrive.

On Sunday at 12:30 p.m., the Annual Meeting was held in person in the Temple social hall. Members enjoyed a Bagel Brunch that Kim Hooker prepared. The membership approved the following items:

1. Election of Trustees for the two-year term beginning on July 1, 2021: Cheri Harrison, Adam Schaer, Dan Schneider, Preston Doerfler, Kimberly Selinger Noland, and Alex Rimmel Toombs;
2. Budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year; and,
3. 2021 Amended and Restated Bylaws.

Our Temple is ready for you to return to our beautiful and sacred space where we can join together in prayer and fellowship.



Little Free Library Dedication



Donating a book to the Little Free Library

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all our donors for your continued support! (as of June 25, 2021)

General Fund

In Support of Temple B'nai Israel

Anonymous

Dorrie Carskadon

In Honor of Kim Hooker and Larry Batchlear for their dedicated service to the Temple

Harry and Harriette Tallert

For equipment expenses for Remote Services and Meetings

Alex Rimmel Toombs

Please consider donating to the Temple

It is a wonderful way to:

- Mark a simchah
- Honor someone's memory
- Wish someone a speedy recovery
- Express Gratitude

July Birthdays

7/8 Karen Schroeder

7/9 Andrew Alpar

7/9 Harriette Tallert

7/10 Mary Schneider

7/12 Eileen Pan

7/13 Linda Goldstein

7/14 Laura Duman Yarvis

7/15 George Raffkind

7/17 Katie Campbell Wilkenfeld

7/18 Adam Schaer

7/20 Jonathan Tallert

7/22 Lisa Hunnicutt

7/29 Simone Laura Kohn

July Anniversaries:

7/3 Dyana and Barry Duman

Note:

If you would like to be included in the birthdays and anniversaries,

please send an email to

bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com Attn:

Newsletter Editor



Havdalah Service in the Rose Garden



Oneg Shabbat following Shabbat Services



Annual Meeting Bagel Brunch

Mazel Tov

It is with great pleasure that our Temple family welcomes Preston Doerfler as our newest member of the tribe. Preston's faith in us is matched only by our faith in him.

Antisemitism: 10 Ways You can Respond

Courtesy of Linda Goldstein

The Birmingham Jewish Community recently offered a presentation about dealing with antisemitism. The message was that we each have the responsibility to speak up. The following is a list of suggestions:

1. Educate yourself about antisemitism, particularly the "new antisemitism" (antisemitism comingled with the demonization of Israel).
2. Engage Jewish friends and friends of different faiths in conversations about their experiences and thinking regarding antisemitism.
3. Avoid using anti-Jewish language or making references to Jewish stereotypes – even in jest. Diplomatically bring such stereotypes to the attention of others when they engage in such behavior.
4. Speak out against antisemitic jokes and slurs. Silence can send a message that such slurs and derogatory remarks are acceptable.
5. Learn more about antisemitic myths and stereotypes and share what you learn with others.
6. Read news accounts and opinion pieces about both the history of antisemitism and its current manifestations.
7. Create a discussion, study or book group to learn more about antisemitism.
8. Regularly review a variety of news sources for information and examples of antisemitism. When newspaper, magazines, or television reporting seems antisemitic, respectfully communicate your dissatisfaction.
9. If you encounter an antisemitic website, contact ADL and/or the site's host carrier to complain and request that the site be taken down.
10. Donate money to organizations that fight antisemitism.

Community Events

Interfaith Day of Prayer and Remembrance

The Bishop Defalco Retreat Center invites you to an Interfaith Day of Prayer and Remembrance on Saturday, July 24 from 11:00am - 4:00pm at the retreat center, 2100 N. Spring St. There will be prayer services every hour, on the hour, from 11:00am and ending at 4:00pm. This prayer service is to honor the multitude of griefs that we have suffered during the past 15 months of the pandemic. Not only loss of life to the virus, but the other losses as well: loss of life due to any cause, loss of jobs and income, loss of safety and normalcy, loss of routines, loss of celebrations such as weddings, graduations, and other life events. We invite all people of all faith traditions to come together as one to pray. The prayer services will be led by local pastors, churches included are the Catholic Diocese of Amarillo, Pinnacle Community Church, Trinity Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Polk Street Methodist and others.

In addition to the prayer services, people are invited to participate in the other activities offered by the retreat center that focus on healing. An art therapist will be facilitating a project that each person can take home as a remembrance of the day. There will be a tree of hope and participants will cover the tree with leaves made of personal prayers and messages to loved ones lost. Other activities are planned as well. Refreshments will be available.

REFUAH SHELEMAH

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

Joan Altman	Bruce Kriegel
Andrew Alpar	Mabel Knox
John Alpar	David Altman
Alan Alpar	Harriette Tallert
Mike Hibbs	Neal Scott
Joel Kaplan	Stuart Dowlen
Larry Katz	Rev. Nell Newton
Carrie Delaney (Yael bat Avraham Avinu)	Please offer prayers that they all have a full and speedy recovery.

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

Yahrzeits for July

Hymie Shiller 7/1	Eva S. Reese 7/20
*Rebecca Steinberg 7/2	Vera Louise Wilson 7/20
*Sophia Heend 7/2	*Louis Feferman 7/22
*Gladys Guggenheim 7/2	Tommy Assiter 7/22
Edythe Lipman Schwartz 7/2	Anne Klein 7/22
Jack I. Bakwin 7/3	*Charles Wolfson 7/23
*Grace Anisman 7/5	Ethel Solomon 7/24
Norman Levick 7/6	Leon Schiffman 7/25
*Rachel Wartell (26 Tamuz) July 6, 2021	Sadie Blank 7/25
*Nettie Unger 7/7	*Minnie Leder 7/26
*Sam Goldstein 7	Dr. Harold Jacob Reese 7/27
Joseph Sisson 7/8	*Hilda Mayer Seliger 7/30
Albert Sidney Chism 7/9	Marion Feldinger 7/30
Maurice B. Brown 7/10	Stephen Gens 7/31
*Lena Silverman Glass 7/11	Louis J. Alexander
Evelyn Berg 7/11	Bobby Rasor
Fannie Ellis 7/12	Vera Wolinski
Stanley Hammer 7/12	Herman Gold
Milton Schneider 7/14	Nancy L. Faris
Anna Metz 7/15	Israel Taylor
*Rebecca Kurtzman 7/16	Abraham Mogelson
Elaine Gelbart (7 Av) July 16, 2021	Sid Raub
Dr. George Lipshy 7/17	Isabelle Strumsky
* Nathan Jacobson 7/18	Rosina Kinzit
*Dr. Arthur Blum, Rabbi 7/18	Morris Ruback
Dr. Herbert Wiseblood 7/19	Jake Bagelman
Lillian Saxe 7/19	

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 bnailsrael@amarillo.org, Attn: Mary Blinderman. Thank you.