



August 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:

bnaiisraelamarillo@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!

This month's President's Message will be short and sweet, owing to the fact that Mary Blinderman started a great new addition to the newsletter this month: "Getting to Know You."

She will interview a Temple member each month, asking them 3 questions. I was honored to be the first interview, and in typical fashion, answered 3 questions...in 3 pages! So, I thought maybe that was enough words from me for the month of August!

I do have exciting news to share: Rabbi Michael Lotker has agreed to lead us, IN PERSON, for High Holy Days this year. "Rabbi Mike" has an interesting past, as he spent many years in the corporate world of wind energy prior to becoming a Rabbi at the age of 50! He loves teaching more than anything, and he does everything with a touch of humor. I have enjoyed phone conversations and email communications with Rabbi Mike. Many of us are enjoying his Zoom classes on Wednesday nights. The Temple Board is very excited, and honored, to have him lead us for High Holy Days! Mark your calendars to be at the Temple!

Then we are overjoyed to have Mary and Dan Schneider host Lucy and David's Bar & Bat Mitzvahs, at the Temple, on October 8, with Rabbi Joshua Taub officiating.

Additionally, student Rabbi Paige has offered to return for Passover. And finally, discussions are beginning with Rabbi Holly Cohn, from Dallas, to come to Amarillo to lead some additional Shabbat weekends during the year.

I hope to see you at the Temple soon!!

With love & gratitude,

Candy

Adult Education Classes

We are continuing to study *American Jewish Thought Since 1934: Writings on Identity, Engagement, and Belief*, edited by Michael Marmor and David Ellenson.

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

Shabbat Services

We are transitioning from virtual services to in-person services at the Temple. Also, we plan to offer live streaming for those who are unable to attend in person.

August Schedule

August 6 – Congregation Shaareth Israel – Lubbock

August 13 – Temple B'nai Israel – In Person led by Mary Blinderman (Mostly English service)

August 20 – TBA

August 27 – TBA

Please check your email for Shabbat service announcements and links to the services.



New Feature “Getting To Know You”

To facilitate our re-connecting with each other, each month a Temple member will be featured. We begin with Candy Alpar, President of the Board of Directors.

1. What are your first memories of Temple B'nai Israel?

This is the easy one to answer: the Temple and my Temple friends ARE my first Temple memories. My in-laws were good friends with the previous Rabbis and many of the Temple members: the Dumans, the Cizons...

and so when I moved from Houston to Amarillo in 1988, they suggested I get acquainted with the Temple. It was a great suggestion. The Temple members were so warm, open, and welcoming. I immediately felt at home in Amarillo. I made so many friends here, right from the start: the Pans, Carolyn Blackburn (which then became Carolyn and Stuart Dowlen), the Blindermans, the Cohens, the Cizons (Paul Cizon designed wedding rings for Andrew and me!), the Gens, Edna Ruth.....too many to mention! So many beautiful people and memories...!!

2. What role has the Temple played in your life?

The Temple's role in my life has varied from minimal to monumentous, depending on what life cycle I was in. It was a huge part of my life when I moved here, and I

Temple Contacts

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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

was very active. My kids went to Sunday school, I was Sisterhood president, and we published a cookbook that year! Then life got busier, and I became inactive. I was drafted as a Trustee for the Board about 10 years ago, and I went to Shabbat services for the first time in years. There was only a handful of people at Shabbat services, and I was stunned to see the same scenario for the High Holy Days that year. I remember, in the 1990's, having to take down the partition to add more chairs for the High Holy Days! This was a wake-up call for me. Something HAD to change, or we would not have a Temple for our children. I decided that change had to happen, starting with me. I thank Larry and the Board for having more confidence in me than I had in myself to lead this change. And so here I am.....President of the Board! And now my day revolves around Temple emails, sending out communications to members and friends, answering text messages, attending committee meetings, and blessedly, lately, communicating with a variety of Rabbis! The Temple is now a huge part of my life, and much of my friend-group is composed of Temple members. Positive changes ARE happening now at the Temple, and I credit those changes to these wonderful Temple friends who envelope the Temple, and me, with their love, energy, and time.

3. What's the most meaningful observance/holiday to you and why?

This is a tough one to answer, as every Jewish holiday has fond memories for me. I think the most meaningful, of course, must be Yom Kippur, where I purge myself of all the BAD I have done all year. But Yom Kippur would never rank as my FAVORITE, as it is really a very hard day!

My favorite holidays:

--Passover: I have the best memories of Seders at home, first as a child at my grandmother's house, then as a mother, with my young children and many friends (as many as 20 people some years), and finally as a grandmother. It took years to master the perfect matzah ball and chopped liver! I also love the Temple seders, with tables filled with my family, Temple friends, and new faces.

--Sukkot: I loved Sukkot as a child. Then I kinda forgot about it until we had a big Sukkot-fest in 2019, traveling to different people's houses every night and ending with a Temple celebration. Kim said it best: "how have we forgotten this wonderful holiday?"

--Hanukkah: I love celebrating Hanukkah with my family. I love watching my children, and now my grandchildren light the candles, and eat latkes. Every year we pull out the dreidels and have to look up which symbol means what! It is a fun family time. The Temple grand menorah-lighting is always fun too!

--Rosh Hashanah: the anticipation of the new year! The Rosh Hashanah reception is the best one of the whole year, thanks to Mary's always-perfect honey cake! (She says it is Edna Ruth Ellis's recipe, from the Sisterhood cookbook)

--Purim: hamentaschen. That says it all!

--Havdalah: it's not really a holiday, but I recently re-discovered this beautiful tradition. I love the music, and it is such a nice way to end the week, hoping that you will hear a long sizzle to expect a very sweet week to come!

Would you like to share your voice? For more information, contact Mary Blinderman at bnaiisraelamarillo@gmail.com to answer a few questions, and we will get to know you better.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

General Fund

In Support of Temple B'nai Israel

Anonymous

Anonymous

Dorrie Carskadon

In Honor of Preston Doerfler's Conversion to Judaism

Candy Alpar

Chaplain Fund

Larry Batchlear

For equipment expenses for Remote Services and Meetings

Alex Remmel Toombs

In Memory of Dr. John Alpar

Bob and Mary Blinderman

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

August Birthdays

8/3 Aiden Julius Kohn

8/3 Seth Lawrence Kohn

8/9 Stuart Dowlen

8/10 Adam Pan

8/11 Joshua Isak Kohn

8/12 Carol Bakwin

8/15 Kimberly Noland

8/26 Alan Harrison

8/28 Devorah Noland

8/30 Jo Ann Holt

August Anniversaries:

8/14 Gayle and Pat Reily

8/27 Louise and Stan Adelman

8/31 Laura and Jeff Yarvis

Note:

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

From the Sisterhood

We are looking forward to re-connecting and holding our first meeting of the year in person. We had hoped to meet in August, but with the up-tick of Covid cases we will hold off on setting a date at this time. The dues form for the year 2021-22 is included for your convenience. The Sisterhood has great plans for the coming year, and we need your support to make the plans come true. Thank you for your dedication over the years and let's see each other soon.

Your Sisterhood Officers

The act of giving or donating \$18 or a multiple is commonly referred to as "giving chai." Our due's structure is based on this Jewish tradition. We have three levels of dues:

1. Chai membership at \$18 per year;
2. Double Chai membership at \$36 per year; and,
3. Royal "Chai"ness at \$72 per year.

Membership is open to any woman who is committed to the goals and objectives of the Sisterhood, its congregation, B'nai Israel, and the Jewish community.

Temple B'nai Israel Sisterhood - Sisterhood Dues - 2021-2022

_____ I would like to join the Temple Sisterhood at the Royal "Chai"ness level and I am enclosing a check for \$72.00.

_____ I would like to join the Temple Sisterhood at the Double Chai level and I am enclosing a check for \$36.00.

_____ I would like to join the Temple Sisterhood at the Chai level and I am enclosing a check for \$18.00.

Please make your check payable to: Temple B'nai Israel Sisterhood
and send it to: Temple B'nai Israel, 4316 Albert, Amarillo, Texas 79106, Attention: Mary Blinderman.

For IRS tax purposes, the Sisterhood is a 501(c)(3): subdivision of Temple B'nai Israel.

ASK YOUR TAX ADVISOR ABOUT THE AMAZING WAY TO MAKE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

FROM YOUR TRADITIONAL IRA AND REDUCE YOUR TAXES WITHOUT ITEMIZING

Do you want to reduce your taxes and donate to the Temple without itemizing?

If you do not itemize, you are 72 or older, and you have a traditional IRA from which you must make a required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year, then ask your tax advisor if you can make your qualified charitable distributions (QCD) to the Temple and legally avoid paying taxes on the amount of the donations without itemizing.

Ask your tax advisor if the charitable contributions must be made directly from the IRA custodian or trustee to the charity, and if you'll

- report the full amount of the gross distributions on line 4a of your Form 1040,
- subtract the QCDs and report the amount of the taxable distributions on line 4b, and
- enter "QCD" next to line 4b, to let the IRS know you excluded part of the distributions as QCDs.

The forgoing is not tax advice. It is advice that you should consult your tax advisor about the above matters.

Condolences

We mourn the passing of Dr. John Alpar, father of Andrew Alpar and father-in-law of Candy Alpar.

May his memory be a blessing.

REFUAH SHELEMAH

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

Joan Altman	Bruce Kriegel
Andrew Alpar	Mabel Knox
Alan Alpar	David Altman
Mike Hibbs	Neal Scott
Joel Kaplan	Stuart Dowlen
Larry Katz	Rev. Nell Newton
Carrie Delaney (Yael bat Avraham Avinu)	Devra Weisbart

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

TEMPLE IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE WITH SHED PAINTING



After ▲

Before ▶



SAVE THE DATE

SOS: STAMP OUT STIGMA
An event focusing on community connection & mental wellness

Survivors of Suicide Loss Conference
@ Southwest Branch of Amarillo Public Library
8:30-10:30 am

SOS walk around John Stiff Park (\$20 fee)
11-12pm

Community Fair
Resources, activities, shopping, food trucks, & live music!
12-3pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

Hosted by the Texas Panhandle Suicide Prevention Coalition

Come see us at our booth at Stamp Out Stigma. Join our Temple community as we participate in this worthy cause. Details to follow.

The Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center Interfaith Day of Prayer and Remembrance



Larry Dov'Batchlear, with the Jewish faith, Mark White, Deacon with the Catholic Church and Had'rachah, Mazin Saadaldin with the Islamic faith

Deacon Mark White of the St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church was among the religious leaders present and was joined by Larry Dov'Batchlear and Mazin Saadaldin for a closing blessing. Dov'Batchlear chanted in Hebrew, White in English and Saadaldin in Arabic for the community.

Deacon White remarked, "I've learned about the beauty of their prayers. We heard Jewish chanting and heard these prayers in Arabic, and they're absolutely beautiful."

White said religious meetings like this don't happen enough and hopes this can inspire other members of the community and of different religious backgrounds to join and be a part of the unique coming together.

"So we're all three praying to the same God in our own separate ways," Dov'Batchlear said. "Doing this is bringing us all together. God's children are coming together in one voice, you might say."

Jewish History

Passing of Maharal (1609)

Elul 18 is the *yahrzeit* of Rabbi Yehudah Loewe, the "Maharal" of Prague (1525-1609), outstanding Torah scholar, philosopher, Kabbalist and Jewish leader. Popularly known for creating a "golem" (clay man) to protect the Jewish community of Prague from the frequent threat of blood libels.

Baal Shem Tov (born 1698)

Elul 18 is the birthday of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Chassidism.

Elul begins at sundown on Saturday, August 7, 2021.

Elul, the last month of the Jewish year, is a month devoted to stocktaking and introspection. A Chassidic tradition holds that the last twelve days of the year -- Elul 18 to 29 -- are specifically devoted to the twelve months of the closing year: on each of these twelve days, one should review the deeds and achievements of its corresponding month.

Elul Observances

As the last month of the Jewish year, Elul is traditionally a time of introspection and stocktaking -- a time to review one's deeds and spiritual progress over the past year and prepare for the upcoming "Days of Awe" of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

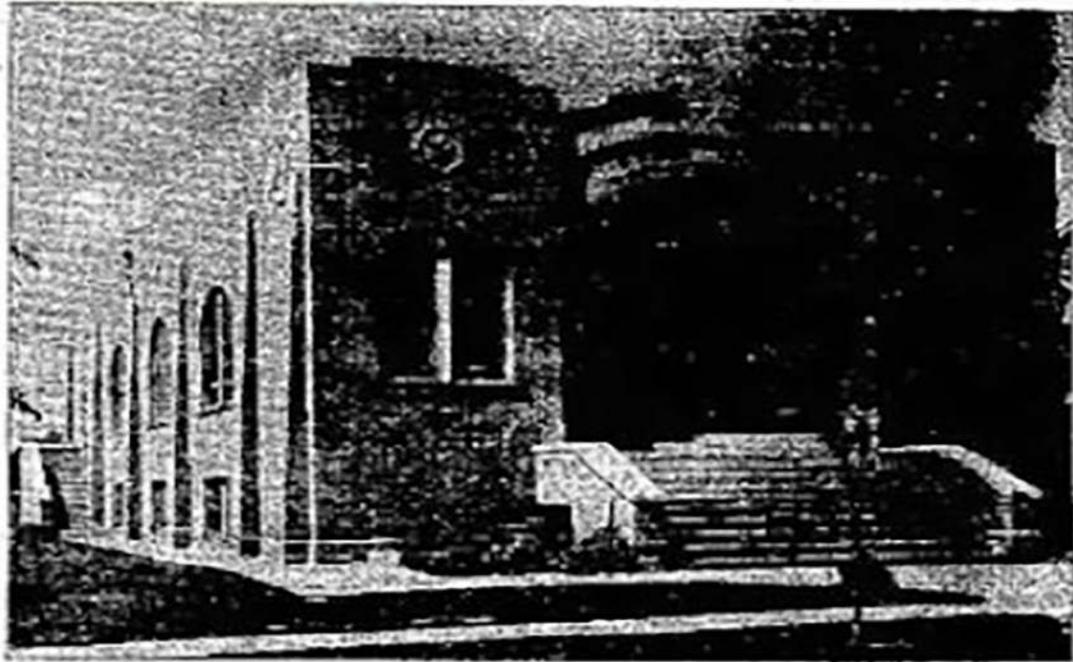
As the month of Divine Mercy and Forgiveness it is a most opportune time for *teshuvah* ("return" to G-d), prayer, charity, and increased Ahavat Yisrael (love for a fellow Jew) in the quest for self-improvement and coming closer to G-d.

Specific Elul customs include the daily sounding of the shofar (ram's horn) as a call to repentance. The Baal Shem Tov instituted the custom of reciting three additional chapters of Psalms each day, from the 1st of Elul until Yom Kippur (on Yom Kippur the remaining 36 chapters are recited, thereby completing the entire book of Psalms).

A LOOK AT THE PAST

SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 11, 1941 -- THE AMARILLO DAILY NEWS, AMARILLO, TEXAS

Temple **B'nai Israel** Invites You To Attend Its Services



Sunday school is held each Sunday morning at 10:10 o'clock. Hebrew classes are conducted every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon between 4 and 6, and regular Sabbath services are held each Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Rabbi Harold L. Gelfman conducts "The Synagogue of the Air" over Radio Station **KGINC** from 9:45 to 10 o'clock Sunday mornings.

The public is always welcome to all of these services.

Yahrzeits for August

*Wolf Herring 8/2	Helen Seidel 8/18
Corinne Solomon 8/2	Helen Feinblatt 8/19
*Daniel Raffkind 8/2	Yudes Skora 8/20
Hanna E. Hellman 8/2	Walter Tallert 8/20
*Pauline Weinberger 8/3	Ann Loewenstern 8/22
Dr. Jack Ziffer 8/3	Macaria Pena 8/22
Elizabeth Gardner 8/4	Lillian Ogilvie 8/24
Elizabeth Cambell Jacobi 8/4	Beatrice Adelman 8/24
*Ben Solnick 8/5	Louie Rimmel 8/24
Sarah Klapman 8/5	*Kate Shapiro 8/25
Hyman Shebowich 8/5	Molly Heyman 8/25
Henry Kranz 8/6	Charles B. Alexander 8/26
*Hugo H. Loewenstern, Sr. 8/6	Arthur Auslander 8/26
*Heinz Reach 8/6	Paula Batchlear 8/26
*Abe Mogelson 8/7	*Morris Spicer 8/26
Sheila Pearce 8/7	*Dr. Julius Levick 8/26
Kenneth M. Axelrod 8/8	Naomi Berkman Dennison 8/27
Abe Brand 8/8	*Rose K. Goldstein 8/29
*B.M. (Bunny) Behrman 8/9	*Blima Pelz 8/30
Carlton Womack 8/10	Esther Cohen
Ida Kischinovsky 8/11	David Cohen
*Pauline Baer 8/13	Philip Raub
Eleanor West 8/14	Yetta Gilbert
*David M. Schwartz 8/14	Evelyn Mendel
Irving Rothstein 8/16	Albert Kempf
Louise Auslander 8/16	

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.