



May 2022

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)

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 simchas Passover Seder was! Although we were not able to join together as a Temple family, we had little mini-Temple-family Seders all around Amarillo! I enjoyed hearing stories from many of them, and I hope our Seder kits were helpful to those who hosted a Seder! Sincere thanks to Kim and Mary B. who ordered components, cooked, and put the kits together, and also to those who ordered the kits.

Now we look forward...so many activities in our future! We look forward to Emily Howell's Bat Mitzvah on June 11, with Rabbi Deborah Goldmann officiating the Bat Mitzvah and Erev Shabbat service on June 10, also.

Then, mark your calendar for our Temple Annual meeting: Sunday, June 12, 2022. All members are invited to attend, although only voting members may cast a vote on the issues. We will elect our Temple Board officers. If any voting member has an interest in serving on the Temple Board, please contact me or any other Board member. We also need committee members, and you can notify any Board member of your interest to serve on a committee, also. All members may serve on a committee.

Religious Practices committee needs lay leaders! If you are interested in leading or having a member mentor you to lead, just let us know!

Our new Grant committee is researching grant opportunities for the Temple. Much of the focus will be towards youth activities and community outreach. This is a very exciting new idea, and we hope that we will find some funding for new programming.

The Board's focus in the next term will be on expanding youth activities. I would like to form a Youth activities committee, dedicated to this cause. Stay tuned!

There are teasers coming from the Fundraising committee about an upcoming Bingo night fundraiser! I can't wait to hear more details about this fun event!!

Any women who are not Sisterhood members should consider joining! Sisterhood is a huge asset to our Temple!

And it is time to start planning the High Holy Days!!! We are beginning the search for a rabbi to lead us for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Yes....a lot going on at the Temple! I hope to see you soon!!

With love & gratitude,

Candy

Adult Education Classes

Please join us on SUNDAY, MAY 1st, at 10:30 a.m. virtually via Go to Meeting. We will discuss chapters nine to the end of the book, *Why the Jews?* by Joseph Telushkin and Dennis Prager. We will be selecting a new book for discussion, and we will return to a weekly format after the May 1st meeting. If you haven't been involved in our Adult Education group, now is the time to jump in and suggest book. To attend virtually click the following link: https://www.gotomeet.me/Temple_Administration_Bnai_Israel

See you virtually on May 1st

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	Caleb Bowles
Larry Katz	

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

Shabbat Services

Please join us for services this month.

May 6th	7:00 p.m. -- Congregation Shaareth Israel in Lubbock "Virtually" --by Rabbi Deborah Goldmann
May 13th	7:00 p.m. – To be announced
May 20th	7:00 p.m. -- Congregation Shaareth Israel in Lubbock "Virtually" -- Service led by Rabbi Deborah Goldmann
May 27th	7:00 p.m. – To be announced

Candy will send a weekly reminder via email.

Mazel Tov

To Emilio (Yogi) and Dora Barrera on becoming members of Temple B'nai Israel. Yogi and Dora are regulars at our Shabbat services.

To Chuck and Alex Rimmel Toombs on moving to their new home in Amarillo.

Temple Contacts

Candy Alpar , President	806-341-8741
Janet Meller , Vice President.....	806-340-8425
Kim Hooker , Secretary.....	505-463-8402
Kimmie Noland , Interim Treasurer.....	806-677-9857
Larry Batchlear , Community Chaplain.....	806-355-0023

Sisterhood Contacts

Kim Hooker , Co-President	505-463-8402
Victoria Thompson , Co-President.....	806-670-5866
Lisa Hunnicutt , Vice-President.....	806-670-7137
Karen Schroeder , Secretary.....	806-681-5196
Mary Blinderman , Treasurer.....	806-372-9401

Home Seders were Celebrated



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all our donors for your continued support! (April 25, 2022)

General Fund

Anonymous

Chris and Martha Bailey

In memory of Bob Blinderman

W. H. Brian

In Loving Memory of Gerda Weissman Klein

Harry, Harriette and Jonathan Tallert

Jennifer and Chuck Hathcoat

Hunter Michael Baker

It is a wonderful way to:

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

May Birthdays

5/1 Matthew Seliger

5/5 Dr. Bruce Weinberger

5/17 Glenna Raffkind

5/20 Preston Doerfler

5/21 Daniel Rappaport

5/27 Ellen Rothkrug

5/28 Pat Reily

May Anniversaries

5/4 Michelle Shebowich
and Matt Emmett

Note:

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

News of Interest

The following is an article from the Arizona Republic. Gerda Weissmann Klein was Harry Tallert's aunt. We send condolences to the Tallert family. Aunt Gerda was an incredible woman who is an example of a life well lived. May her memory be a blessing.

'I think we should always have hope': Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein dies at 97 in Phoenix

by Jessica Boehm
Arizona Republic



Gerda Weissmann Klein, a Holocaust survivor who spent her life writing and speaking about hope and humanity, died in Phoenix on Sunday. She was 97.

Klein, a Jew from Poland, survived three years of concentration camps and slave labor, starting when she was 15 years old. Her entire family died during the Holocaust.

Klein was one of fewer than 120 of 2,000 Jewish women who survived a 350-mile

Nazi "death march" through Europe in 1945.

Then she spent the rest of her life sharing her story in hopes of preventing such tragedy from occurring again.

She authored 10 books, accepted an Emmy and an Oscar for a documentary based on her life story and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In 2008, she started Citizenship Counts, a national nonprofit organization that aims to educate young people on the tenets of citizenship and encourage them to appreciate their rights and responsibilities as Americans.

Klein was preceded in death by her husband, Kurt Klein, whom she met on May 7, 1945, the day she was liberated. Klein was a refugee from Germany who had become a U. S. Army intelligence officer.

The Kleins moved to Phoenix in 1985.

Klein is survived by her three children, eight grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

"It's very comforting for us to know she has inspired and helped so many people," her daughter Vivian Ullman said.

'What if we have incredible strength?'

During the 1945 "death march," Klein and others were exposed to harsh winter elements and suffered starvation, and many met their fate at the hands of arbitrary execution.

The march came after Klein spent nearly three years of similar conditions at Nazi work camps and three years before that living in her childhood basement in Poland hiding from the Nazis.

She survived.

Not because of superior physical strength or health, she told *The Arizona Republic* in 2020, but because of the optimism she never lost, which translated to hope that the suffering would end, which led to strength beyond what she knew she possessed.

"If we have hope even in the darkest moments, I think it's the most important weapon," Klein said. "We all have an incredible amount of strength that we are not familiar with until we are really tested."

She said it's important not to let one's mind wander into the dark doubting corners of fear.

"I think we should always have hope and never give into the frightening thoughts," Klein said. "We always have the 'what ifs.' Well, what if we have incredible strength?"



A blue dress

Klein became a beacon of hope once more when the COVID-19 pandemic began.

People from all over the world reached out to Klein for advice to manage the fear and uncertainty that ran rampant in the early days of the pandemic.

Instead of finding the outreach overwhelming, she was touched. And instead of dismissing the concerns as incomparable to what she went through, she embraced them with empathy and offered advice without judgment.

“Even in the most difficult times, you have to have hope. Hope is the light to the future, to everything,” Klein told *The Republic* in 2020.

She talked about the power of optimism and imagination.

Klein said the bitterness of the cold and the bitterness of her hunger would become unbearable during the years of intense labor at Nazi camps. She’d nearly lost the hope she worked so hard to maintain.

It was then that she allowed her mind to wander into fantasy. She’d think about the parties she’d attend when she was free to go home and would contemplate the color of dress she’d wear. She’d always settle on blue.

“You can take such a stupid thing, such nonsense and occupy your mind with it,” Klein said. “It’s an escape. Any escape to fantasy at a difficult time is a good thing.”

On her birthday in 2020, her family threw a blue-dress party over Zoom.

“It really tickled her,” Ullman said. “She had such a vivid imagination, and that’s one of the things that helped her survive.”

The family will hold a private service but plans to host a public Zoom memorial in the coming weeks.

Distress Hand Signal

A distress hand signal is a hand signal to indicate distress and need of rescue.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there were extensive lockdowns which kept people at home. As people then mainly communicated by social media, the Canadian Women’s Foundation (CWF) devised a hand signal called the Signal for Help which women could use to secretly indicate that they were at risk of domestic violence and so needed assistance. Knowledge of this signal then spread through social media such as TikTok. In 2021, a girl in Kentucky then used the signal when she had been kidnapped and people who saw it alerted the local police who rescued her.



Distress hand signal:

1. Hold hand up with palm facing other person.
2. Tuck thumb into palm.
3. Fold fingers down over thumb.

Canadian Women’s Foundation

Contributed by Victoria Thompson

Yahrzeits for May

Joseph Brenner 5/2	*Mary Mayer 5/13	*Max Cohen 5/27
Marty Steiman (1 Iyar) May 2, 2022	Ruth G. Bakwin 5/12	Tzvi Hirsch ben Shmuel HaCohen Duman 5/28
*Dr. J.W. Klapman 5/4	*Lorraine Cohen 5/15	*Benjamin Goldberg 5/29
*Jack Weinberger 5/4	Frederick Thompson 5/15	*Gaston Emil Baer 5/30
*Louis Seliger 5/5	*Hedwig Wormser 5/16	Walter Rasor 5/30
Marie Hernandez 5/5	William D. Sorenson 5/15	Robert Kaplan 5/31
Samuel Kaplan 5/5	Pauline Gordon 5/18	Albert Miller 5/31
Israel "Buck" Altman 5/5	*Gussie Gold 5/18	Kate G. Alexander
*Dr. Sam J. Aronson 5/6	*Barbara Hickman 5/18	Dina Bassman
*Dr. Lee Harris 5/6	Ailene Glatter 5/19	Arthur Teutsch
Beatrice Wilkenfeld 5/7	Mary Francis Weir 5/21	Clara Teutsch
Charles Doughten 5/7	*Edna Ruth Fair Ellis 5/23	Martha Wexall
*Bruce Allen Leder 5/8	*Marie Sherman 5/23	Katherine Berman
Irene Steiman (26 Iyar) May 27, 2022	Dr. Manley Cohen 5/23	Faye Taylor
Lena Tallert 5/9	Beverly Wolpert 5/23	Irma Wyant
*Johanna Arnold 5/10	Minnie H. Stern 5/23	Michael Wyant II
*Pearl Herring Gilbert 5/11	*Jack C. Lerner 5/24	David Harelik
*Teddy Spector 5/11	Sylvia Rothstein 5/25	Barry Berchenko
William Heyman 5/11	*Samuel Pelz 5/26	Sid Raub
*Moe Gimp 5/12	Sidney Berk 5/26	
*Dena Levick 5/13	*Mayna Silverman 5/26	

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.