



September 2022

Community Chaplain

Chaplain Larry Batchlear is available for Jewish Life-cycle events and can be reached at 806-352-7191

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! Happy New Year!

I hope all of you will join us as we welcome Rabbi David Bloom from Louisville, Kentucky to our bimah to lead us in High Holy Day services this year. I have enjoyed the conversations I have had with Rabbi Bloom, and I am very excited that he will be here for the High Holy Days!! Watch the upcoming emails for the schedule, including some activities on the morning of Erev Rosh Hashanah! Be sure to bring your favorite appetizer or dessert for the Rosh Hashanah oneg, sponsored by the Sisterhood.

As we begin to think about the High Holy Days, I always have questions! Why do we have the High Holy Day traditions we have? Why do we wear white? Why do we fast? Why do we eat certain foods? So many questions.....! When I attend services during the High Holy Days, I often find myself just going through the motions, doing the things I routinely do, without asking why I do this!

As I looked around the sanctuary last Shabbat, it occurred to me how our congregation is changing, and how Judaism in general is changing. Many Jews now are not Jews by birth, but rather Jews by choice. Many families are interfaith, with one person adopting Judaism and the others choosing to practice another religion. As with anything, we must adapt to survive. Judaism, too, must constantly adopt change and adapt. It is also heartwarming to see that Judaism allows us to coexist now, with a non-Jewish partner; many rabbis will now marry interfaith couples, unheard of decades ago. Judaism has adopted a long-overdue mentality of acceptance.

So, back to all of my questions about traditions! I found some links to information about the High Holy Days! These links have great information about all aspects of the High Holy Days, including recipes! The links are intended for interfaith families and are very informative, so check them out!

<https://18doors.org/when-is-rosh-hashanah-this-year>

https://highholidaysathome.com/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw9ZGYBhCEARIsAEUXITWrIQb36NMShuNziD-H9cNLO8-WLeYKJBlbCE8nJBL8uNgpPGSvF1oaAkWxEALw_wcB

I wish you and your family L'shana Tova, a sweet year.

See you at the Temple!

With love and gratitude,

Candy

Adult Education Classes

Adult Education will be returning from the summer break Sunday September 11th. On our first Sunday back we will be viewing the documentary, *The Passengers* (see description below). The group will also decide on the first chapters to read for the new Adult Ed book: *Yiddishkeit: Jewish Vernacular and the New Land*. I encourage anyone who would like to join us to order a hardback copy of the book if they can.

The Passengers follows the amazing journey of two young Ethiopian Jews, Demoz and Gezi, as they represent their abandoned community on a fateful mission in America. The purpose of the trip is to join forces with prominent American Jewish leaders to pressure the Israeli government into completing the Ethiopian aliyah. With intimate access and detailed historical context, we follow the unlikely spokesmen, out of Ethiopia for the first time in their lives, as they deal with the pressure, homesickness and ups and downs of a grassroots campaign, while growing and thriving personally from the emotional journey.

Le' Rummage Sale is Back! This year's sale will be mid-late October. Please note the following guidelines if you are preparing items for donation.

Donation Guidelines

- **Single Items must be priceable for at least \$5**
- **Pricing is done by volunteers only**
- **items must be in clean, good condition**

All items are accepted subject to the discretion of volunteers.

We do not accept the following:

- Toys
- Clothing/Shoes-ALL AGES
- Baby Bedding/Cribs/Car seats/Strollers
- Mattresses/Bunk Beds
- Building Supplies
- Sectional Sofas/Sleeper Sofas/Futons
- Desks
- China Cabinets/TV Entertainment Cabinets
- Coffee Mugs
- Plastic Food Storage Containers
- Electronics (kitchen electronics are ok, i.e. mixers, waffle makers...but must be in clean and working order)
- Exercise Equipment
- Medical/Dental Supplies
- Patterns/Sewing Notions
- Curtain Rods
- Christmas Trees

Please note: pricing of items is at the discretion of our hardworking volunteers. Once you donate an item for sale, it becomes property of Temple B'nai Israel and will be priced to sell by Temple Volunteers. All unsold items will be donated to a local charity.

Temple Contacts

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Kim Hooker, Secretary 1-505-463-8402
Kimmie Noland, Treasurer 806-677-9857
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Sisterhood Contacts

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Karen Schroeder, Secretary 806-681-5196
Mary Blinderman, Treasurer 806-681-7388

MESSAGE FROM RABBI DAVID BLOOM

Dear Friends:

This past Shabbat, we entered *Ellul*, the final month before the Days of Awe. According to *Pirque Rabbi Eliezer* 46, “On the New Moon of *Ellul*,” shortly after the shattering of the Ten Commandments due to the Israelites’ worship of a golden calf, God instructed Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain [Exodus 24:12], and let them sound the Shofar throughout the [Israelite] camp, for, behold, Moses has ascended the mount, so that they do not go astray again after the worship of idols.’ ... Therefore, the Sages instituted that the Shofar should be sounded”¹ each morning (except on Shabbat) throughout *Ellul*.²

We still practice this custom today, for although we did not worship the golden calf:

In truth, we have stumbled and strayed.
We have done wrong.³

And so a great shofar will cry—*t’kiah*.
A still small voice will be heard.
Angels, in a whirl of fear and trembling,
will say:
“Behold the day of judgement”—
For they too are judged;
In Your eyes even they are not blameless.

...
On Rosh HaShanah this is written;
On the Fast of Yom Kippur this is sealed:

How many will pass away from this world,
how many will be born into it...⁴

Yet, the blast of the shofar on Rosh HaShanah does not sound our death knell; rather, it calls us to repent,⁵ for:

through return to the right path,
through prayer and righteous giving,
we can transcend the harshness of the
decree.⁶

By reminding us that we, charged with repairing the world, too often encourage its disarray, the shofar’s ancient cry throughout *Ellul* encourages us to begin examining our behavior now one month before the High Holy Days and to strive for a better future. I look forward to continuing that work of repentance with each of you.

Shavua Tov,
Rabbi David Bloom

¹ This adapted translation of *Pirque Rabbi Eliezer* follows *Pirkê de Rabbi Eliezer: (The Chapters of Rabbi Eliezer the Great) According to the Text of the Manuscript Belonging to Abraham Epstein of Vienna*, trans. Gerald Friedlander (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, 1916). The translation of Exodus 24:12 follows *Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures: The New JPS Translation according to the Traditional Hebrew Text*, 2nd ed. (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1999).

² See *Pirque Rabbi Eliezer* 46 and Jacob ben Asher, *Arba’ah Turim*, ‘Orakh Khayim, siman 581.

³ *Makhzor, vidui zuta*. The translation follows *Mishkan HaNefesh: Machzor for the Days of Awe*, ed. Edwin Goldberg et al., vol. 2, *Yom Kippur* (New York: CCA Press, 2015), 296.

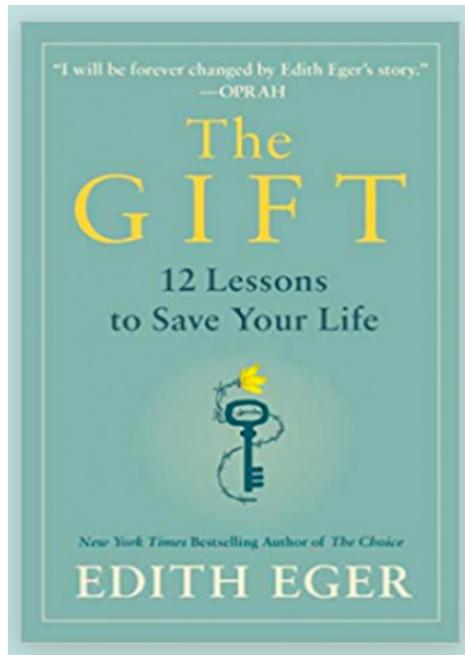
⁴ *Makhzor, untaneh toqef*. The translation follows *ibid.*, 210-211. Although I use this liturgy, I do not believe in the theology that it propounds—that is, that God decides who shall live and who shall

die. Readers should feel free both to agree and disagree with this theology.

⁵ Moshe ben Maimon, *Mishneh Torah, Hilchot T’shuvah* 3:4. The translation follows Moshe ben Maimon, *Mishneh Torah*, trans. Eiyahu Touger, vol. 4, *Hilchot Teshuvah* (New York: Moznaim, 1990).

⁶ *Makhzor, untaneh toqef*. The translation follows *Mishkan HaNefesh*, 214.

BOOK CORNER



The Gift: 12 Lessons to Save Your Life by Dr. Edith Eva Eger

Review by [Sonia Taitz](#)

– December 30, 2020

Not many self-help books are written by writers in their nineties, but for those familiar with the work of Dr. Edith Eger, the publication of her most recent book, *The Gift*, will come as no surprise.

[...] Dr. Eger's new work, *The Gift*, repeats many of the salient point of *The Choice*, centering around the idea that no matter how harsh our circumstances, we retain the choice to reinterpret them and give them new meaning and purpose to our lives. But what it adds is the cogent set of rules to live by. She stresses our ability to rise above the worst aspects of our lives, whatever they may be, and to choose not to define ourselves by them. [...] Her book does not merely teach the steps to a more perfect life; instead, she shows us how to face our setbacks, however cruel, by means of transcendence.

Note: If you have book suggestions that you think we should showcase please contact Alex Toombs at alexandra.bnai@gmail.com

LOCAL EVENTS

AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST

Americans and the Holocaust will be on display at the Amarillo Public Library's Downtown location, 413 SE 4th Avenue in Amarillo, Texas from **Saturday, September 17 to Sunday, October 23, 2022**, during library hours. The exhibit is self-guided, and admission is free.

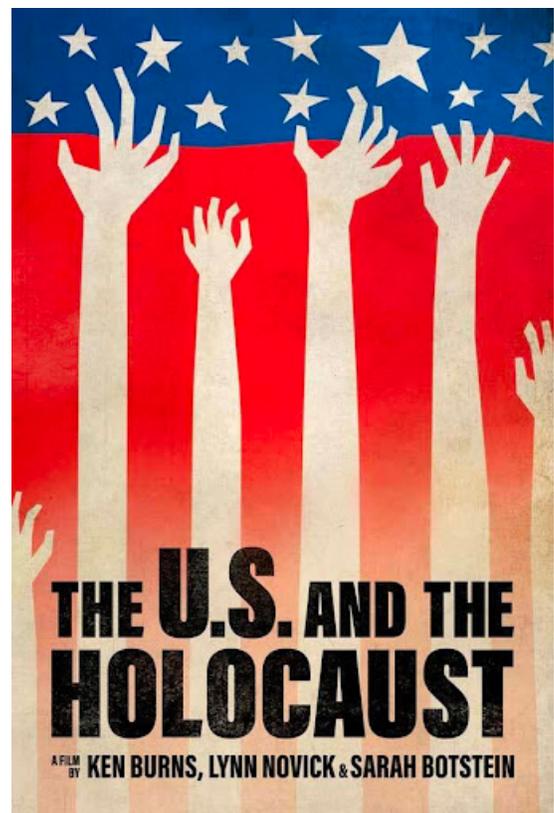
The U.S. and the Holocaust

A new documentary by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein

Premieres September 18 at 7 p. m. on Panhandle PBS

The U.S. and the Holocaust is a three-part, six-hour series that examines America's response to one of the greatest humanitarian crises of the twentieth century. Americans consider themselves a "nation of immigrants," but as the catastrophe of the Holocaust unfolded in Europe, the United States proved unwilling to open its doors to more than a fraction of the hundreds of thousands of desperate people seeking refuge. Through riveting firsthand testimony of witnesses and survivors who as children endured persecution, violence and flight as their families tried to escape Hitler, this series delves deeply into the tragic human consequences of public indifference, bureaucratic red tape, and restrictive quota laws in America. Did the nation fail to live up to its ideals? This is a history to be reckoned with.

Note: The library has scheduled the screening of Ken Burns' new documentary for Thursday, September 8 at 6:30 pm (doors open at 6 pm), and both Panhandle PBS and Amarillo Public Library would like to invite the members of B'nai Israel to attend. It will be held in the Meeting Room at the Downtown Library, and refreshments will be served.



NEWS AROUND THE CONGREGATION



Shabbat Services

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

ROSH HASHANA

Sunday, September 25	8:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashana Oneg to follow
Monday, September 26	10:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashana morning service
	5:00 p.m.	Tashlich Service – Medi Park

YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, October 4	8:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre
Wednesday, October 5	10:00 a.m.	Yom Kippur Morning Service
	3:00 p.m.	Yom Kippur Afternoon Service
	4:30 p.m.	Yizkor Service
	5:00 p.m.	Concluding Service Break-the-Fast to follow

Note: Sisterhood will sponsor the Rosh Hashana reception and will need folks to bake and make desserts and appetizers for the event. Please contact Mary Blinderman at marybli@outlook.com for details.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Mah Jongg at the Temple

Back by popular demand is mahjong night! Join us on the 2nd Thursday of the month (September 8th) at 6:00 PM for a fun and exhilarating evening, first time players are welcome!! Please RSVP to Alex Toombs at alexandra.bnai@gmail.com

Sisterhood Reconnect Meeting

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 10th for our kickoff Sisterhood membership meeting. Location: Temple. Time: noon

Be sure to check your emails for exciting details.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

General Fund

In Support of Temple B'nai Israel

Anonymous

Chaplain's Fund

Larry Batchlear

It is a wonderful way to:

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

September Birthdays

9/29 Vivian Joan Weir

REFUAH SHELEMAH

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers:

Joan Altman
Andrew Alpar
Alan Alpar
Mike Hibbs
Joel Kaplan
Larry Katz
Bruce Kriegel
Mabel Knox
David Altman
Neal Scott
Caleb Bowles

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

Note:

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

Yahrzeits for September

Sedwin Schachter 9/2	*Henry Lieberman 9/12	*Ettya Bella Silverman 9/27
Anna Cohen 9/4	Ida Rabinowitz 9/13	Kenneth F. Neeser 9/27
Melvin Block 9/4	Charles Blank 9/15	*Denby Batchlear 9/27
Rosemary Kumpan 9/4	Madge Caplis 9/15	Irving Feinblatt 9/28
Sam Aleskin 9/5	*Ester Goldberg 9/17	*Dr. Ralph Citron 9/29
Oliver Schaer 9/5	Louis Steinberg 9/17	Elenor Kamen 9/29
*Herman Axelrod 9/5	*Morris Bagelman 9/18	Moses Block
*Dora Blinderman 9/5	Kane O'Laughlin 9/20	Alfred Lampert
*Rae Willer Braunig 9/5	*Louise Sepkowitz 9/20	Frieda Ruback
*George Pomeroy 9/6	*Zelda Duman 9/21	Rudolph Israel
Marie Bach 9/6	*Dorothy Jean Groner 9/21	Jennie Raub
*Baruch Pelz 9/8	*Charles Shapiro 9/23	Sadie Schiff
*Hyman Fair 9/8	*David Hickman 9/25	Samuel Moskowitz
Philip Ellis 9/9	*Jeanette Solomon 9/25	
*Saul Shapiro 9/11	Anne Novick 9/25	

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.