

Temple Beth-El Bulletin

Vol. 23, No. 9

December 1, 2020 – 15 Kislev 5781

211 Belknap Place | San Antonio, Texas 78212 | 210-733-9135 | temple@beth-elsa.org



Hanukkah Concert Series

8 INCREDIBLE ARTISTS
8 AMAZING NIGHTS

Michelle Citrin • Joe Buchanan • Dan Nichols • Julie Silver
Jason Mesches • Shimon Smith • Jacob Spike Kraus • Elana Arian

December 10-17 • 5:00 PM every night • on all our streaming platforms

Sponsored by Temple Beth-El's Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and Youth Fund

The Cantor's Notes



Temple members have different entry points to congregational life. For some it's worship services, for others it may be social action projects, Religious School and family programming, cooking projects, or social programming. For one group of Temple members it's singing. During the year, about thirty members gather most Tuesday evenings to sing, learn, and be together with

friends. At the beginning of the pandemic we continued to gather every other week on Zoom to check in with each other. We shared movie suggestions and other safe ideas on how to occupy our time. As the pandemic stretches on and singing in person remains unsafe, it has become even more important to maintain our connections with each other.

At the beginning of October, we gathered at Hardberger Park for a masked, socially distant picnic. About fifteen people felt comfortable joining us, including one new choir member. We spent time catching up and maybe getting to know someone we hadn't yet had the chance to speak with. *Kol Simchah* continues to meet twice each month on Zoom where Erin McAdams, our wonderful accompanist, and I teach the choir about a different prayer or music concept each session. We are able to share music videos that help illustrate different interpretations of the text or demonstrate a musical technique or concept. As worship leaders, it is helpful for the choir members to know about the prayers they lead so they can bring more depth of knowledge and meaning to their singing.

The pandemic has highlighted something the choir members have known: choir is about more than just singing. Of course, we come together because of our common love of singing Jewish music but it's the *chavurah*, or friendship, that makes it feel like home.

Luckily, Temple Beth-El has many *chavurot* (plural) where you, too, can meet people with similar interests. Many of these groups continue to have programming, too. So, whether your interest lies in books, movies, or any of the many other temple *chavurot*, you can find a group with shared interests. It's a great way to meet people and can be a great way to spend time, safely, as the pandemic continues.


Cantor Julie Berlin

Shalom Y'all

A Warm Welcome to our New Members

Debra Schultz

Micah & Megan Culpepper

New Temple Fund



Thanks to a generous bequest from Carl Wulfe, of blessed memory, we are grateful to announce the establishment of the **Carl E. and Sandra S. Wulfe Educational Fund**. Per Carl's instructions, the fund will be used to further the Jewish education of congregants and families of Temple Beth-El.

A San Antonio native, Carl was a lifelong member of our Temple and was active in a wide variety of roles throughout the years, including serving as president from 1976 to 1977. Carl met Sandra at a Temple social event when he was in his mid-twenties and they married at the Temple later that year. Raising their three children in the Temple, they established deep roots within our community.

With this generous gift, Carl and Sandra are helping to ensure that our educational opportunities remain strong and vibrant for generations to come.

If you would like to learn how you can be remembered forever by Temple Beth-El with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy, please contact Rabbi Alan Berlin, Executive Director, at 210-899-1690 or aberlin@beth-elsa.org.



Recent Jews-by-Choice

We congratulate nine individuals who converted to Judaism in a ritual conducted by our Rabbis and Cantor in the Wulfe Sanctuary on October 28:

Micah June Culpepper (*Aviva Keshet*)

Terry Glaser (*Binyamin Yaakov*)

Andy Greenfield (*Nadav Avraham*)

Avery Alex Greenfield (*Asher Roy*)

Eleanor Sophia Greenfield (*Aviva Rut*)

Ashley Ross (*Shifra Keshet*)

Stephanie Swedlove (*Arella*)

Amy Toms (*Ahuva*)

Vania Vasquez (*Eliana*)

Shabbat Services During Social Distancing

Until we can once again be together for *Shabbat* and holiday services in our Wulfe Sanctuary, we will continue to offer the following online opportunities for worship.

Shabbat Services

6:30 PM Fridays and 10:30 AM on Saturdays

Simulcast on:

- Zoom (see weekly emails for links)
- Live Stream (www.beth-elsa.org/live-streaming)
- Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/TempleBethElsa)
- Roku Channel (Temple Beth-El, SATX)
- Amazon Channel (Temple Beth-El, San Antonio)
- YouTube Live (www.youtube.com/user/TempleBethElsa)

Online version of *Mishkan T'filah* for *Shabbat* at <https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/resources-repagnated>

If possible, please consider using two devices; one for your prayer book and one for streaming services. You may want to download the kindle version of *Mishkan T'filah* as well.

Friday, December 4

6:30 PM—Shabbat Worship Service

Dan Klein will offer the *D'var Torah*

Saturday, December 5

10:30 AM—Shabbat Morning Service

Torah Portion: *Vayishlach*

Friday, December 11

6:30 PM—Shabbat Hanukkah with Consecration

Saturday, December 12

10:30 AM—Shabbat Morning Service

Torah Portion: *Vayeishev*

Friday, December 18

6:30 PM—Shabbat Worship Service

Saturday, December 19

10:30 AM—Shabbat Morning Service

Elaine Kovner will Chant *Torah*

Torah Portion: *Mikeitz*

Friday, December 25

6:30 PM—Shabbat Worship Service

Cory Palmer will offer the *D'var Torah*

Saturday, December 26

10:30 AM—Shabbat Morning Service

Hank Lipsitt will be Chanting *Torah*

Torah Portion: *Vayigash*

Friday, January 1

6:30 PM—Shabbat Worship Service

Rabbi Alan Berlin will offer the *D'var Torah*

Saturday, January 2

10:30 AM—Shabbat Morning Service

Torah Portion: *Va-y'chi*

Friday, January 8

6:30 PM—Shabbat Worship Service

Richard Seline will offer the *D'var Torah*

Saturday, January 9

10:30 AM—Shabbat Morning Service

Debra Morrow will Chant *Torah*

Torah Portion: *Sh'mot*

Friday, January 15

6:30 PM—Shabbat Worship Services

Guest Speaker, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Kemp,
Antioch Baptist Church

Saturday, January 16

10:30 AM—Shabbat Morning Service

Torah Portion: *Va'eira*

January 22 & 23

Bat Mitzvah of Jocelyn Sydney Bezner, daughter of Amanda and Robert Bezner, granddaughter of Susan and James Loyd, Virginia and Michael Himoff, and Reba and Michael Bezner



Friday, January 22

6:30 PM—Shabbat Worship Services

Saturday, January 23

10:30 AM—Shabbat Morning Service

Torah Portion: *Bo*

Friday, January 29

6:30 PM—Shabbat Worship Service Celebrating Shabbat Shirah

Saturday, January 30

10:30 AM—Shabbat Morning Service

Torah Portion: *B'shalach*

Yom Kippur Hunger Drive Update

Early in November, Temple Beth-El presented the final donations from the Yom Kippur Hunger Drive to the San Antonio Food Bank. As a community, we raised \$7,906, which equates to 62,531 meals or 80,040 pounds of food. Additionally, at our High Holy Day Caravan, we collected 980 pounds of food. In comparison, in 2019 we raised \$3,194 and collected 2,279 pounds of food so we were extremely successful this year compared to last year! Thank you to all who participated!





Temple Beth-El is excited to provide volunteer opportunities throughout the month of December.

Adopt-A-Family

Volunteers buy individual gifts for families in need who are clients of Family Service Association. Bring your purchased gifts, already wrapped, to Temple Beth-El for drop-off on Sunday, December 6 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. Sign up to purchase gifts at tinyurl.com/tbeadoptfamily.

Adante Hanukkah Party

Volunteers are needed for Temple's annual Hanukkah Party at Adante Senior Living. Due to COVID-19, we will not be going into Adante, but will be dropping off Hanukkah decorations, supplies, and donuts for the residents on Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 AM. It is also encouraged for your family to make Hanukkah cards for the residents. If you would like to take part in this project, contact Ross Halfant at ross@beth-elsa.org or 210-733-9135 ext. 110.

San Antonio Food Bank

Come volunteer at the San Antonio Food Bank (5200 Enrique M. Barrera Pkwy, San Antonio, TX 78227) on Sunday, December 20 from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. We will be working in their garden, socially distanced, with masks required. There is a 30 person limit for this project. To register, contact Ross Halfant at ross@beth-elsa.org or 210-733-9135 ext. 110.

Church Under the Bridge

On Christmas Day, December 25 from 2:00 to 6:30 PM, Temple Beth-El will be working with Church Under the Bridge (724 Chestnut St, San Antonio, TX 78202) to cook and serve a meal for the homeless. Masks are required and temperatures will be checked before the shift. This project is limited to 8 people. To register, contact Ross Halfant at ross@beth-elsa.org or 210-733-9135 ext. 110.

You can view a variety of other community service projects to do during Mitzvah Month on Temple Beth-El's website under Social Action.

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TBE Book Chavurah

Tuesday, December 22 | 7:00 PM | Zoom

This book group, for adults of all ages, meets every other month on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM and generally elicits a lively discussion from participants. All are welcome to join at any time. Make plans and mark your calendar for the following discussions:



December 22, 2020: The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay by Michael Chabon.

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE • NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLER • The epic, beloved novel of two boy geniuses dreaming up superheroes in New York's Golden Age of comics, now with special bonus material by the author—soon to be a Showtime limited series

"It's absolutely gosh-wow, super-colossal—smart, funny, and a continual pleasure to read."—*The Washington Post Book World*

Here are the group's selections for discussions through June 2021:

February 23: The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides

April 20: The Bridal Chair by Gloria Goldreich

June 22: The Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka

RSVP or ask to be added to the notification list for this group and to receive the Zoom invitation prior to each session by contacting Warren Lieberman at wglieb60@gmail.com.

Travis Early College High School Turkey Project

Thank you to all in the Temple Beth-El community who donated to Travis Early College High School's Thanksgiving food drive. Travis Early College is Temple's adopted school through the Neighborhood Faith Convening.



@TBE20s30s

Havdalah and Hanukkah with Paper Midrash Saturday, December 12 | 6:45PM | Zoom

To receive supplies to build-your-own *hanukkiah* and *havdalah* set the cost is \$10.00 per attendee. Register and pay at <https://tinyurl.com/tbe2030>.

We are extremely excited and fortunate to be able to welcome back the Brynjegard-Bialik duo that make up Paper Midrash! Some of you may have attended when they joined us as scholars-in-residence, Rabbi Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik and her husband, Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik, form the Paper Midrash. After our clergy lead us in *havdalah*, the Paper Midrash duo will offer an artistically inspired conversation about *Hanukkah*. The cherry on top, you ask? We as 20s30s, will be joining together before to build our own *havdalah* sets and our own *hanukkiot*. We'll arrange for a contact-free delivery of the required supplies to your home address. As attendees RSVP we will reach out for addresses we may be missing to coordinate supply deliveries.

Digital After Hours | Friday, December 18 Zoom | Directly Following Erev Shabbat Service

The ebb-and-flow of the pandemic still has us caught in its wake. Out of concern for rising numbers and at the advice of Temple's COVID-19 taskforce, we will keep our staple event for the foreseeable future as a digital event through Zoom. You know it, you love it, it's After Hours! Join us and we can *kibbitz*, nosh and generally celebrate one of our favorite weekly, recurring holidays. Wait, it's our only favorite weekly, recurring holiday!

Shabbat Hike | Saturday, January 2 | 10:00AM Eisenhower Park

19399 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78257

Ring in the secular new year with your favorite @TBE20s30s pals at our *Shabbat* hike. This hike will take place concurrently with services at TBE. We'll meet at Eisenhower Park and then head off to relish in the beauty of nature and the beauty of *Shabbat*. This has always been a favorite event for all who attend, so we sincerely hope to see you there. Your (leashed) furry friends are welcome at Eisenhower Park. Based on the conditions of the pandemic, we will determine whether we will be able to attend our traditional no-host lunch after our socially distant hike.

Digital After Hours | Friday, January 15 Zoom | Directly Following Erev Shabbat Service

When we finally are able to meet up at a restaurant in-person again, it's going to be such a joy! However, just like our December After Hours, we're anticipating we will most likely need to convene digitally to celebrate after services together. This *Shabbat* is our MLK Jr. Day *Shabbat* exchange with Antioch Baptist Church. Reverend Dr. Kemp will deliver a sermon during our service on Friday night and we'll be getting together right after to chat and generally have fun. I'm sure we'll all be inspired by Reverend Kemp and, as always, take joy in each other's company.

Torah and Tacos | Thursday, February 11 7:00PM | Zoom

We're dishing out the rebrand of another wonderful staple event of @TBE20s30s. You may remember *Torah on Tap* but say hello to *Torah and Tacos*! While we likely will not be able to be in person and share in delicious tacos together, we encourage everyone to order from their favorite taqueria (Taqueria El Rodeo Jalisco forever) as @TBE20s30s' own Dave Masters leads a conversation. We'll explore a topic through the lens of *Torah*. The entire congregation is welcome to attend this event and we look forward to a fantastic discussion! Details on the topic will be forthcoming.

Digital After Hours | Friday, February 26 Zoom | Directly Following Erev Shabbat Service

We've got some special timing for our After Hours in February. It'll be Purim! Yay! Break out the groggers and costumes. We hope that you will join us (in costume, I mean, c'mon) while we not only celebrate *Shabbat* but Purim! Hopefully everyone will have had the opportunity to make some *hamantaschen* and we'll schmooze and nosh together. We hope to see you there!



The 2021 Texas legislative session is approaching quickly, and RAC-TX is gearing up for its second campaign. In 2019, RAC-TX advocated successfully for school finance reform. The passing of Texas House Bill 3 (HB3) was historic and provided more money to classrooms, increased teacher compensation, cut local taxes, and reduced recapture. In 2021, Temple Beth-El will continue our work with RAC-TX as it explores and works on issues of criminal justice, education reform, and voting rights. Join other Temple Beth-El members as we engage in RAC-TX's work. This group will help process a plan for lobbying and civic involvement around the chosen issues. If you are interested in this endeavor, contact Ross at ross@beth-elsa.org.



Custom Temple Beth-El Face Masks

Observe the *mitzvah* of *Pikuach Nefesh* (saving a life) with a mask displaying our Temple Beth-El logo.

Masks are available in adult and children sizes.

Masks with logo only are \$10; or you can have your name included for \$15.

Order at <https://bethelsa.formstack.com/forms/tbefm>.

Adult Hebrew Classes Offered this Winter

Monday & Wednesday Evenings | 10 Sessions

Three adult Hebrew classes taught by Rachel Walsh will be offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings (via Zoom) **beginning January 4 and 6**. If you want to increase your knowledge of Hebrew, then join Rachel for one of these classes. Each of the classes is customized to the interest of the class.

Monday:

Class 1: 7:15 to 8:15 PM—This will be a complete beginner class. Knowledge of the Hebrew Alpha Bet is NOT required for this class. We will start from the beginning.

Wednesday:

Class 2: 6:00 to 7:00 PM—This will be a post-beginner class; knowledge of the Alef-Bet and ability to read words is required. A textbook will be used.

Class 3: 7:15 to 8:15 PM—This intermediate class will focus on learning different aspects of the Hebrew language; basic experience with Hebrew beyond the Alef-Bet is required. A textbook and novel for Hebrew learners are used.

The fee for the 10 sessions of the class is \$80 for members of Temple and \$105 for non-members. **Your REGISTRATION and payment are due by December 24** (<https://tinyurl.com/tbehebrew>). Information regarding the Zoom link will be forwarded upon registration. For further information about the classes, contact Rachel at rhwalsh@sbcglobal.net or 210-363-7738.

Stepping Stones to Jewish Knowledge: A Basic Judaism Course

HOLIDAYS

LIFE CYCLES

PRAYER

HISTORY

THEOLOGY

Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30 PM

Class will begin online January 20, 2021

Registration and Payment (<http://tinyurl.com/tbe-ssjk>) for the course is due by January 11, 2021

This course will be held on zoom for the time being. If things change in terms of Covid-19, we could switch to in-person classes held at Temple Beth-El.

6:30–7:45 PM | Section 1A

Stepping Stones to Jewish Knowledge

Open to anyone who would like to reinvigorate their Jewish knowledge or begin their journey to conversion. Topics include life cycles, holidays, prayer, history, and theology.

7:45–8:30 PM | Section 1B

Beginning Hebrew, The Aleph Bet

(note: Stepping Stones and Hebrew will be taught concurrently each week)

Section 2 – Choosing Judaism

Delve deeper into the topics previously learned as well as the more personal conversion process, including group discussions, journaling opportunities, and community partnerships with congregants.

Members interested in attending the Stepping Stones to Jewish Knowledge course are encouraged to do so. This group becomes a community during the course, registration for the entire first section is necessary.

Completion of the Stepping Stones course (including Hebrew) is a requirement for all conversion candidates. If you are interested in exploring the conversion process please contact Iris Berman-Smith (iris@beth-elsa.org) by email or by phone at 210-733-9135 ext. 106.

Cost of Section 1A: \$180 + \$28-45 for materials (based on your preference)

- Materials: *Honoring Tradition, Embracing Modernity: A Reader for the Union for Reform Judaism's Introduction to Judaism Course.*
 - Hardcopy Book: \$34
 - PDF of Book: \$28
 - PDF and Hardcopy Bundle: \$45

Cost of Section 1B: \$100 + \$20 book

Cost of Section 2: \$80 + \$100 *mikvah* fee (required for conversion) + \$50 *Hatafat Dam Brit* fee (for male conversion candidates who are interested in this).

Total for whole year-long course: \$360 + materials and extra fees.

Registration and payment for the class is due prior to January 11, 2021.

In the Temple Family

We congratulate those celebrating life's joyous occasions...

Renee and Brent Silber, on the birth of their granddaughter, Goldie Mila Putterman to Lindsey and Matthew Putterman and big brother Robert Putterman, in Houston on October 26.

Marriage of Channah (Kimmelman) and Daniel Lande. Granddaughter of **Tina and Brian Weiner**. Daughter of **Ellyce Kimmelman and Gil Kimmelman** and son of Julie Brooks, of blessed memory and Philip Lande. The small family wedding took place in Indianapolis, Indiana, where his family resides, on Sunday October 18.

We congratulate those who have achieved something extra-special...

Congratulations to **Mel Eichelbaum**, author of *The Legal Aid Lawyer*, for being selected as a program lecturer for the University of Texas Osher Life Long Learning Institute, and as a keynote speaker for the membership meeting of the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

We congratulate those celebrating milestone birthdays in December 2020...

Isabel Bass, Tina Blumenthal, Carl Brown, Charlotte Burnett, Richard Butler, Cathi Cohen Baker, Sebastian Cohn, Madeleine Davis, Chuck Drileck, Gerald Dubinski, Rob Eichelbaum, Martin Epner, Hazel Feldman, William Handmaker, Eric Lane, Matthew Martin, Gerd Miller, Rita Newell, Carl Pfeifer, Lesley Rubin, Sherril Rubin, Leslie Selig Byrd, and Marion Shaenfield.

We congratulate those celebrating milestone birthdays in January 2021...

David Alexander, Sherrie Allyn, Michael Bloom, Sylvia Brown, Maddie Cohen, Mary Lou Daugherty, Hazel Davis, Lewis Donzis, David Feigenbaum, Jeannie Frieden, Greg Gonzalez, Ami Gordon, Gabbe Grodin, Tom Hallstead, Sara Hart, Roxanne Henkin, Sylvia Honigblum, Jack Kallison, Rose Kamin, Marsha Krassner, Rochelle Lefton, Bonnie Reed, Fred Ricci, Jr., Leslie Sapadin, Ilya Shterenberg, Cathy Siegel, Joci Straus, Joe Straus, Jr., Fleur Tamon, and Dan Wigodsky.

We congratulate those celebrating milestone anniversaries in December 2020...

- 20 Years: **Katherine and Brad Feldman**
- 25 Years: **Lisa and Jesse Edelman**
- 50 Years: **Sallie and Barry Chasnoff**
- 66 Years: **Mary Lou and Sherm Kimelblot**

We congratulate those celebrating milestone anniversaries in January 2021...

- 10 Years: **Rachel and David Rubenstein**
- 40 Years: **AnnDee and Jimmy Steidel**
- 50 Years: **Dana and Steve Reimer**
- 60 Years: **Gail and Bobby Gurwitz**

Youth Corner



Temple Beth-El is excited to offer some interactive, fun, safe, and free youth events this December.

Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 AM—Hanukkah for Young Families

This free event will be geared towards families with children ages 2 through 7 and will be held on Zoom. During the program, we will be reading a story, participating in a fun activity, and celebrating *Hanukkah* together. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/Hanukkah-tbe> to register.

Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 PM—Hanukkah Mirror Project

Temple Beth-El and URJ: 6 Points Sci-Tech will be hosting this interactive event via Zoom and it will involve building a menorah out of mirrors and lights. Temple Beth-El is recommending this program to families with children ages 8 to 14. Contact me for additional information.

Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 PM—Community Teen Menorah Lighting

Teenagers from the entire Jewish community will gather outdoors at the Jewish Community Center (12500 NW Military Hwy) to light the menorah together. Social distancing will be enforced, and masks are required. Additionally, there will be nightly *Hanukkah* trivia throughout the holiday!

As we look to 2021 and beyond, Temple Beth-El will continue to plan and organize youth programming, including the Purim Carnival, based off recommendations from our COVID taskforce. If you have any ideas for events, please feel free to contact me at ross@beth-elsa.org or 210-733-9135 (ext. 110).



Ross Halfant

Need Help with Recovery?

If you are struggling or have a friend or family member who is, the TBE Recovery *Chavurah* is a good resource.

We do not share information with the Temple, nor do we keep records. You may contact JimBisGrateful@gmail.com.

Anyone seeking timely advice regarding issues relating to addiction can also contact one of the Temple rabbis, who will give you one of the Recovery *Chavurah* member's phone number for a prompt response.

#TBEMitzVotes

Temple Beth-El is thrilled to share our voting selfies received as part of Temple's #TBEMitzVotes and #ReformJewsVote social media campaign. Over 130 voting photos were submitted to Temple and, as of November 2020, the congregation has had nearly 800 voter pledges. Do you see yourself? If you would like to send a voting photo, you can do so by emailing Ross Halfant at ross@beth-elsa.org.



Stay Connected

We want to remain connected to you during this fragile time for our community. Our staff is working remotely from their homes until it is safe for us to reopen the Temple offices. During this period it is best to reach our staff at their email addresses below. Please be sure to visit beth-elsa.org and our Temple Facebook page (facebook.com/TempleBethelsa) for up to date information.

- Rabbi Mara S. Nathan** MNathan@beth-elsa.org
- Rabbi Marina Yergin** MYergin@beth-elsa.org
- Cantor Julie Berlin** JBerlin@beth-elsa.org
- Rabbi Alan Berlin** ABerlin@beth-elsa.org
Executive Director
- Leah Apothaker** Leah@beth-elsa.org
Director of Congregational Learning
- Joel Swedlove** Joel@beth-elsa.org
Director of Strategic Engagement
- Iris Berman-Smith** Iris@beth-elsa.org
Clergy and Cemetery Administrator

- Ross Halfant** Ross@beth-elsa.org
Social Justice Coordinator
- Michael Ringel**, Controller Michael@beth-elsa.org
- Edith Vanderventer** Edith@beth-elsa.org
Rabbinic Assistant & Cantorial Assistant
- Sara Planto** Sara@beth-elsa.org
Religious School Administrator
- Dollie Closna** Dollie@beth-elsa.org
Administrative Assistant

Yizkor Elohim

We note with sorrow the passing of our members...

Dr. J. Michael Freiberg
husband of Sharon Hellman-Freiberg

*The Congregation extends its sincere condolences
to the families of...*

Selma Robinson
mother of Laurie (and Jim) Lefko; grandmother of
Allison Lefko and Michael Lefko

Robert Rubenstein
uncle of David (and Rachel) Rubenstein; grandmother
of Sammy Rubenstein

June Valerie Walker
mother of Sara (and Daren) Hersh and Steve
Walker; grandmother of Lauren Hersh, Emily Hersh
and Candace Walker Fernandez

*"May their souls be bound up
in the bonds of eternal life."*



Maccabees and Other Super Heroes

Saturday, December 12 | 7:00 PM

Ever wonder which super heroes light a menorah and eat latkes? Or what they have in common with the original Jewish super heroes, the Maccabees of the Hanukkah story? Join Isaac and Rabbi Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik for a look at the nature of heroism, struggle and identity—through the lens of traditional texts, pop culture, comic books, and art.

Pre-registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/TBEPaperMidrash>.

Sunday Scholars Series— Fall Semester

Life in the Time of COVID-19...
What Should Our New Normal Be?

Sundays | 9:30-11:00 AM | Zoom



Temple Beth-El promotes life-long learning and therefore offers learning opportunities for every stage of life. In addition to exceptional youth educational opportunities, Temple Beth-El also offers a robust adult education program. One example of adult learning is our Sunday morning series which in recent years has been taught by Rachel Stern. Rachel holds master's degrees in both Jewish Education and Jewish

Non-Profit Management and has been in Jewish education for over 20 years. Rachel currently serves as the Chief Learning and Engagement Officer for Shalom Austin.

The Sunday classes focus on a yearly theme and explore a multitude of angles. This year the theme is *Life in the Time of COVID-19... What Should Our New Normal Be?* The class draws a diverse crowd and while there is great learning, the atmosphere is relaxed and comfortable to ensure learners of all levels feel welcome and included. Some participants are parents of religious school students inspired to learn with their children, while others are exploring Judaism for themselves. Some participants attend all the sessions, while others come for the specific topics of their interest. Everyone is welcome, and everyone becomes part of the unique classroom community that Temple has fostered. You will leave with new ideas to think about and happy that you took this time for yourself.

Join Rachel for her class in December and stay tuned for more offerings in the spring semester.

December 13—Rachel Stern

Creating our own Mikdash M'at (a private sanctuary)

We miss coming to Temple to pray and to be together, but the growing familiarity with online worship, learning and programming creates ease of access to endless opportunities. How has our time at home deepened our spiritual lives and connected us to the rituals of our faith?

Pre-registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/tbe1213>

This class is made possible through the Gilbert and Ruth Lang Human Endowment Fund.

Keep the Temple Informed

We rely on our Temple members, their friends and family to let us know when someone is hospitalized or suffering any illness or bereavement, or would just enjoy a call or visit from the clergy or a member of the congregation. The clergy would also like to hear good news, such as celebrating a birth or other *simchah*. Please share this information with our clergy by contacting Iris Berman-Smith at iris@beth-elsa.org.

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Contributions of Our Members and Friends

Contributions received in the Temple office by Friday, January 8 will appear in the February Temple Bulletin. For a list of Temple funds and their descriptions, go to the Temple website at www.beth-elsa.org/Funds. You may also make a contribution online at www.beth-elsa.org/Donations.

RABBI NATHAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF

The High Holy Day services	Rachel Rustin and Brandon Henson LuAnn and Dr. Lawrence Cohen Gerri and Steve Jacobs Charlotte and Bob Pollock Glynda Neuwirth and Dr. Yair Gazitt Terry Glaser
The unveiling service for Shelley Propper	
The officiating the service of Rose Dreiseszun	Marillyn Kaufman

IN HONOR OF

The birth of Conrad Hoffman	Ann and Roger Ojeda
The <i>bar mitzvah</i> of Josh Roomberg and in appreciation	Susan and Mark Roomberg

IN MEMORY OF

Edward A. Duchin and in appreciation	Marilyn and Brian Duchin Andrea and Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman Jeanne and Dr. Jay Rubin Shelly and Jeffry Michelson Claudia and Don Bankler Marjorie Gernsbacher Claudia and Don Bankler Gabrielle and Jeffrey Davis Judy Lachman Myra and Dr. Arthur Bahme
Abbi Michelson	
Robert Gernsbacher	
Luise Bankler Dr. Daniel E. Dimetman Andrea Lachman Nathan Bahme	

RABBI YERGIN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF

The High Holy Day services	Rachel Rustin and Brandon Henson Glynda Neuwirth and Dr. Yair Gazitt Judy Harris Charlotte and Bob Pollock Gerri and Steve Jacobs
	LaDina and Michael Epstein
	Lori and Murray Schlesinger
	Susan and Mark Roomberg
	Jason Miller-Goodman and Arron Miller-Goodman
	LaDina and Michael Epstein
	Florence Herbach

IN HONOR OF

The birth of Charles Michael Epstein and in appreciation	LaDina and Michael Epstein
The baby naming of Theodore Robert Cohen and in appreciation	Lori and Murray Schlesinger
The <i>bar mitzvah</i> of Josh Roomberg and in appreciation	Susan and Mark Roomberg
The 3rd wedding anniversary of Arron and Jason Miller- Goodman and in appreciation	Jason Miller-Goodman and Arron Miller-Goodman

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Ruth Reinke Sam Reinke Donald Herbach	LaDina and Michael Epstein Florence Herbach
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<https://tinyurl.com/Hanukkah-tbes>

If you are not a Sisterhood Facebook page member, you will have to request to be added as one to view the images, or zap an email to itsfromlynn@gmail.com if you would prefer to get the images and information in an email. We appreciate the support.

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for the February/March Temple Bulletin will be Monday, January 11, at 12:00 PM. All articles and photos must be submitted by that time. Articles and photos may be submitted via email to joel@beth-elsa.org. Articles may not exceed 250 words.



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The mission of Temple Beth-El, the historic heart of Reform Judaism in San Antonio, is to provide a sacred framework that inspires people to cultivate their Jewish lives.

COVID-19 Survivor to Be Honored at Virtual Catholic-Jewish Hanukkah Celebration

On Thursday, December 10, at 12:00 PM, members of the San Antonio-area Roman Catholic and Jewish communities will participate in a livestreamed interfaith *Hanukkah* celebration.

This marks the 19th year that San Antonio-area Catholics and Jews have jointly celebrated Hanukkah. The Jewish Federation of San Antonio and San Fernando Cathedral are the co-sponsors.

Catholics & Jews Celebrate
HANUKKAH
virtual program
THURSDAY
DECEMBER 10, 2020
12 - 1:15 PM
HONORING JARED DIAMOND,
HIS PHYSICIAN, DR. LUIS CISNEROS,
AND ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY COVID-19
Featuring guest speaker:
Dr. Renata Furst
Associate Professor of Scripture & Spirituality
Associate Dean for Hispanic Engagement
Oblate School of Theology
REGISTER AT [SFCATHEDRAL.ORG/HANUKKAH](https://sfcathedral.org/hanukkah)



Jared Diamond, a member of Congregation Agudas Achim, who survived a lethal form of COVID-19, and his Roman Catholic physician, Dr. Luis Contreras, will be honored this year.

In the past, this has been an in-person program and luncheon with over 300 members of the Roman Catholic and Jewish communities in attendance. This year, because of COVID-19, only those with roles on the program will be in person in San Fernando Cathedral Hall. All others will be able to take part virtually.

Featured speaker will be Dr. Renata Furst, Associate Professor of Scripture and Spirituality at Oblate School of Theology. She also serves as Oblate's Associate Dean for Hispanic Engagement.



The Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio, will be the presiding host for this interfaith observance this year. The Very Rev. Victor Valdez, Rector of San Fernando Cathedral, and Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El, will lead the proceedings.

Free registration for this year's livestreamed event can be found at <https://sfcathedral.org/hanukkah>. Donations are welcome.



Jewish Federation
of San Antonio



San Fernando Cathedral
THE HEART OF SAN ANTONIO