# TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM BULLETIN

### KISLEV - TEVET 5781 **DECEMBER 2020 - VOL. 11 NO. 4**

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### FROM YOUR RABBI: IS GOD IN QUARANTINE, TOO?

Congregants have been asking me so many questions these days...questions that aren't easy to answer. I'm used to the easy ones: When is the first night of Hanukkah? Is our Book Review Class this week or next? Do we have to wait until it's completely dark before we can have a wedding on Saturday evening? Those are the simple ones...but with everyone feeling so anxious, worrying about losing control over our lives, and frightened of the pandemic, I've been called upon to answer (or try at least) questions that may be beyond our understanding.



The numbers of people with Corona virus

are staggering. Some are asymptomatic, while others are crowding hospitals at alarming rates. It's very frightening to think that one of us may get sick or pass the virus to someone we love who might not be able to fight it.

Then there are people who get sick from other illnesses as well. People who would rely on family and friends to visit, either with a container of soup or a warm embrace, to visit in the hospital or at home while we recuperate. Yes, it's not difficult to drop off the soup at the front door, but the physical touch is nowhere to be found. Loneliness is one of the most debilitating aspects of the pandemic...that coupled with fear of the unknown. When will all of this end?

If we travel for the upcoming holidays...quarantine becomes the norm. We follow the guidelines from the state, but how safe can we be eating a meal with our families in the dining room? It's hard to eat turkey or a potato latke wearing a mask...

The answers to the questions we have about how to stop the spread of Covid19 can be found on the internet, but the questions about how deal with anxiety, stress, and the disappointment of not being with our family and friends at the holidays aren't as easy to answer. The therapists are overwhelmed with these questions, and so are the clergy at every religious institution. If anyone thinks that life is easier for ministers and rabbis during the pandemic, I can say that is certainly not the case. We are overwhelmed too.

The question I hear most often is one that can't be answered on the internet. Where is God during this stressful time? How can God allow this to happen? Is God away somewhere letting us to deal with the stress of the pandemic by ourselves? Or is God in quarantine too? I think that God indeed is in quarantine, just as we are whether we are alone in our homes and apartments or just trying to get through the day reading a book or going to the grocery store without seeing the people we love the most, and need the most. And as the weather gets colder and the hours of daylight shrink, our reliance on God, whether we feel His presence or not, grows deeper and deeper.

God is with us whether He is quarantined or not. He doesn't have a ZOOM account that I know about, but He is able to connect with us without the Internet, Wi-Fi, or a wireless modem. If we just take the time to center ourselves, meditate or pray in whatever way comforts us, we can find God in the unexpected, or unexpectedly find God. As a friend recently said, "Let us open ourselves to God and welcome God into every part of our "new normal," as unexpected as it may be. Although things may not feel familiar this year, let us remember that it is not familiarity and comfort that connects us with God; but, rather, it is our quiet sensitivity to God's voice and our deliberate invitation of God's presence".

May God be with us all of us as these difficult days continue.

#### Your rabbi,

#### **Peter Kessler**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Short and sweet this month...

By now, you should have received by mail the schedule for our Hanukkah programming. Just like with the High Holidays, there are live and pre-recorded events, a drive-through pick up and drop off, and an important social action component. If you recall the big green button on our website that directed you to everything related to the High Holidays, it has been replaced with a NEW, BIGGER, AND GREENER button that will serve as Hanukkah central. Many thanks to everyone involved in ensuring that our members have another holiday experience that is as engaging, meaningful, and stress-free as possible.

As always, please contact me with questions or concerns at *robteplitz@comcast.net* or (717) 329-3101. In the meantime, a happy and healthy Hanukkah and New Year to you and your loved ones!

#### Rob Teplitz

President, Temple Ohev Sholom

# **COVID-19 POLICIES**

### **NEW COVID-19 POLICIES FOR YOUR PROTECTION**

Due to the escalation of the COVID-19 pandemic and new government orders with which Temple Ohev Sholom must comply, the Board of Trustees closed the building as of Thanksgiving to everyone, including employees, except for very specific tasks that cannot be done remotely.Our Hanukkah programming, described in a letter to the congregation dated November 16, 2020, is not affected due to protocols already in place under medical guidance.

The board also adopted the important policies below. Please read and comply in order to help protect the health and safety of our temple family. If you have any questions, please contact our temple president, Rob Teplitz, who has also been leading our COVID-19 Response Committee since March.Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

### COVID-19 POLICY NO. 1

1.ENTERING THE BUILDING: Everyone entering the building must sign in on a sheet inside the first set of main doors (name, phone number, purpose of visit, date, and time), self-certify they have not experienced the listed symptoms of COVID-19 within the previous 48 hours, and sign out with the time when they leave.

2.**INSIDE THE BUILDING:**Everyone inside the building must wear a mask and maintain a distance of six feet from others at all times. This rule does not apply if a person is completely alone in an enclosed room, nor does it prohibit the rabbi and organist from recording videos for the congregation in a responsible manner.

3.**SYMPTOMS:**All employees must notify the board president immediately upon experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, immediately upon scheduling a test, and immediately upon receiving the results of the test.This rule also applies to board members and volunteers who have been in the building within 14 days of experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.All employees, board members, and volunteers are encouraged to download and use the state's COVID-19 Alert PA application on their phones.

4.**STATUS:**This policy does not change the status of the building, which remains closed to non-employees.

5.**DISTRIBUTION:**This policy shall be posted with the sign-in sheet and also individually distributed to all full- and part-time employees, independent contractors, and board members, with a request that they acknowledge their receipt and understanding in writing.

### Adopted by the Board of Trustees, Nov. 11, 2020

#### COVID-19 POLICY NO. 2

Whereas the Board of Trustees of Temple Ohev Sholom acknowledges the serious, complex and rapidly changing nature of the current COVID-19 public health crisis, and desiring to be exemplary stewards of both our congregation's health and safety as well as that of our community, we do hereby take the following action:

1.Adopt and incorporate by reference all current and future Orders, Policies, and Regulations from governmental entities relevant to the ongoing operation of our Temple and the conduct of our full- and part-time employees, contractors, board members, volunteers, and congregants during the public health crisis, including, but not limited to, Orders, Policies, and Regulations issued by The Office of the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health;

2.Acknowledge that all future such governmental Orders, Policies, and Regulations shall be de facto adopted by Temple Ohev Sholom as if duly voted upon and authorized by the Board of Trustees unless a concern regarding said Order, Policy, or Regulation is submitted to the Temple President in writing by three or more members of the Board of Trustees;

3.State the Board of Trustees' express intention that all of Temple Ohev Sholom's full- and part-time employees, contractors, board members, volunteers, and congregants shall abide by said Orders, Policies, and Regulations to the extent applicable to their employment, service, or direct interaction with Temple Ohev Sholom;

4.Authorize the Executive Committee to oversee the creation and adoption of an Employee, Contractor & Congregant Handbook that unifies and organizes Temple Ohev Sholom's existing policies and incorporates by reference all pertinent governmental Orders, Policies, and Regulations as noted above; and

5.Authorize the Temple Ohev Sholom Ad Hoc COVID-19 Response Committee to issue summary or clarifying statements regarding governmental Orders, Policies, and Regulations.

The Orders, Policies, and Regulations issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that are incorporated herein by reference can be found at<u>https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/</u>.

This policy builds upon COVID-19 Policy No. 1, adopted by the Board of Trustees on November 11, 2020, and both policies shall remain in effect until such time as they are revoked in whole or part by the Temple Ohev Sholom Board of Trustees.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, Nov. 25, 2020

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

It was a very busy November for Sisterhood, with several well-attended gatherings. The **Symons/Rose Book Review** was a huge success, despite limitations presented by Covid 19 and the Temple being closed. Though Sisterhood was not able to do our customary Book Review with a dinner and in-person presentation by an author, Talia Carner, author of *The Third Daughter*, gave a wonderful and informative presentation about her book via Zoom. Sisterhood had 95 people registered for this program. A big thank you goes to the Symons/Rose families for sponsoring this annual event, and to the Book Review Committee, chaired by Irith Harpster, who did an excellent job "thinking outside the box" to make it happen.

Our first **Soup and Torah Study** of the year with Rabbi Kessler was also well attended. We examined Midrashim (stories/interpretations) from the Book of Genesis. It was both educational and enjoyable for all. Thank you to Rabbi Kessler for leading Soup and Torah Study, and to Sisterhood's Soup and Study Committee for organizing this program.

Things to look forward to:

Please reference the letter that you received or look on the Ohev Sholom website for all of the upcoming **Hanukkah** programs. Sisterhood is very excited to announce our **Latkes and Lights** event, which will take place, via Zoom, on Monday, December 14th at 7:00pm. We will start the program by lighting our Hanukkah candles together, and then enjoy a latke demonstration, led by Jaimi Smith. You can follow along with her and make your own latkes, or just watch the latke-making unfold – either way, it should be a really "delicious" evening! I hope you will join us; please RSVP to Jeanette Krebs at jeanettedkrebs@gmail.com.

Thinking ahead to Sisterhood's **Winter Social**, please mark your calendars for this event, which will take place on Saturday evening, January 23rd. We are still in the planning stages, but rest assured that it will be great fun.

Our many Sisterhood committees are always looking for volunteers, and we are currently looking for a co-chair for our Emergency Aid Committee, and a chair for our Program Committee. Please contact me if you are interested – it's a great way to get involved in Sisterhood activities. And of course, your presence at our events is another great way to be involved!

As always, if you any questions, please email me or give me a call. My telephone number is 717 379-0674, and my email address is <u>rmjose32@comcast.net</u>. I look forward to welcoming all of you into our Sisterhood!

From my home to yours... I hope everyone had a very nice Thanksgiving, and I wish all of you peace and joy this Hanukkah season. May it be a festival of hope, happiness, love and health.

In Sisterhood,

Reyna Jose President

### **BOOK REVIEW UPDATE**

On the evening of Thursday, November 5th, seventy people logged on to their electronic devices and participated in this year's Temple Ohev Sholom Sisterhood Book Review event generously sponsored by the Symons/Rose families. Our guest speaker, Talia Carner, gave a captivating review of her book, *The Third Daughter*.

Thank you to those of you who encouraged me forward and helped me to organize this very different book review.Getting your positive remarks afterwards made the work worthwhile. Below are some positive comments that I received:



"Talia was great! What a professional.Great presentation!"

"She was wonderful!! Loved every minute of it! Congrats, Irith, for a job well done!"

"Wonderful!! Great book review, thank you!"

"The Book Review was great! She's a very engaging speaker."

B'Shalom, Irith Harpster

Temple Ohev Sholom Sisterhood is excited to announce...



### Latkes and Lights Monday, December 14, 2020 7:00PM

Join us on Zoom to light our Hanukkah candles together. Afterwards, Jaimi Smith will lead a demonstration on making latkes. Follow along with her to make your own, or just watch and enjoy.

> Please RSVP to Jeanette Krebs to receive the Zoom link: jeanettedkrebs@gmail.com



(if you plan to fallow along with laimi's cooking demo, please have these ingredients ready: 2 medium potatoes, 2 eggs. 2 onion, salt and pepper, cream of tartar, K cup matza meal, cooking oil, <u>plus</u> a grater, frying pan, spatula and poper towels)

### ADULT EDUCATION | DECEMBER SCHEDULE

I look forward to seeing you on ZOOM for our November classes:

Basic Judaism and PEP are on December 6th Lunch & Learn Is December 9th Rabbi's Book Review is December 13th Confirmation is December 13th.



I'll send out the ZOOM link the week prior to the class. Looking forward to seeing you virtually!

Peter

PEP will be taught on ZOOM this fall, on various Sunday mornings at 11 AM.

**Book Review** will be taught on ZOOM this fall, on various Sunday mornings at 11 AM.

**Basic Judaism/Conversion clas**s will be taught on ZOOM this fall, on various Sunday mornings at 10 AM.

**Hershey Study** will be taught on ZOOM this fall, on various Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM.

**Lunch N Learn** will be taught on ZOOM this fall, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12 noon.

If you haven't received the schedule for these classes by e-mail, please contact Rabbi Kessler at <u>rabbi@ohevsholom.org</u> to be placed on the e-mail list. Many thanks!!

**WILL YOU JOIN US?** Please let Michelle Darr know if you are willing to start receiving the Bulletin by email only.

Eliminating unnecessary printing and postage costs will help us manage expenses during these financially uncertain times. So far, about one-quarter of our member households have opted in, which we greatly appreciate, but more participation is needed in order to achieve meaningful cost savings.

Thank you!

### **DECEMBER KADDISH**

#### **December 4**

Louis Adler **Richard I. Baum** Harry Chernicoff Jeffrey Cohen Ilse Feldhiem Jay Feldman J. Helen Goldberg John Goldsmith Rosa M. Goldsmith Joseph Goldstein Bill Gross Ida Gross Andrea Huggard Abraham A. Jaffe Margaret W. Kohn Diana Maglin **Edward Maglin** Elmer H. Miller Trudi Pepper Milton Ring **Roselle Roth** Frank L. Rubin Sally Aronson Yoffee Jan Zarkin

#### December 11

Milton S. Abel Sam Begler Reuben Ettinger Martin L. Finkelstein Herbert Galowitz Clara Goodman Dorothy Sweedler Hess Anita Jaffe Carol Kaye Shirley Klawansky Martha Lehrman Melvin J. Levine Norman Neiman Shirley S. Schneiderman Carolyn Schwartz Jerry Schwarz Richard Zarin

#### December 18

Phyllis Bagley Harry Becker Florence Berger Albert Bryant Grace S. Buxbaum Sylvia Casher Abe Epstein Nat Epstein Michael P. Feldser Leah Fukson Myer Gross Ken Hess Sue Hoffman Israel Kades Goldie Kassnar Moe Mishkin Joseph E. Morris

Rheda Rubin Saxe Caroline Schultz Morrie Schwab Leroy M. Shellhammer Lucille Spotts Anne V. Wagenheim Abe Yamin Bernard Zeliger Natalie Zisman

### December 25

Matilda Arch **Robert Baum** Myra Bornstein Minnie D. Bryant **Beatrice K. Clymin** Helene Cohen **Kay Dupont Beth Fine** Minnie Gordon Louis C. Jacobs **Blanche Krauss** David Lang Harry S. Lasker Abe May Phillip Menaker Jay Prensky Jean Sensel Harry Yablonovitz Morris S. Yoffee

### TRIBUTES

A reminder that we will no longer be publishing a monthly list of tributes and other donations. The pandemic has compelled a review of all areas of Temple operations, including the Bulletin.

We encourage members to continue making donations in honor and in memory of others -- including through the new Payments page on our website -- with our assurance that the person being honored and the family of the person being memorialized will still be notified of the gift and able to acknowledge it in an appropriate and timely manner. However, due to health care privacy and other considerations, the donations can no longer be compiled and presented as a regular public list.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and continued generosity!

# Happy Charles



TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM 2345 N. FRONT ST HARRISBURG PA 17110 **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**