

Services for High Holidays will be online only

Look for details in the September bulletin



Temple Adath Israel Bulletin

August 2020

Av/Elul 5880

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



David
Wirschafter

The promise of comfort: Words worth repeating

The first sabbath of August, Shabbat *Nachamu*, takes its name not from the Torah portion, as is normally the case, but from the Haftorah, Isaiah 40:1-26, the prophetic text that accompanies it. Rabbi Gunther Plaut wrote that “chapters 40-66 of Isaiah are the work of an unknown author who lived in Babylon during the days of the exile (6th century B.C.E.). He preached unwavering trust in a God who would restore Israel to its homeland. ... Divine love is the subject of Isaiah’s message of comfort.”

The compilers of what we now call Haftorah demonstrated emotional, historical and poetic wisdom when they assigned this chapter as the reading for the sabbath immediately following *Tisha B'Av*, the ninth day of the month of Av, which commemorates the destruction of the first and second Temples, and the suffering that

See RABBI, Page 3

Shraberg returns as president; bylaw amendments approved

TAI held its 2020 annual meeting on Sunday, June 7, with more than 60 people attending via Zoom.

Pat Shraberg was installed as president for the second time. She previously served as president from 2014-16, a tenure that included hiring Rabbi Wirschafter. Joining her on the Executive Committee are Rich Ornstein, vice president;



See MEETING, Page 6 Pat Shraberg

Social Action Committee plans to focus on homeless issues in the year ahead

By Rick Clewett
TAI Social Action Chair

We find ourselves in a moment when the world is very much in need of *tikkun olam*, very much in need of healing. There are many voices calling out to be heard, locally, nationally, globally and within our hearts. As a Shabbat service we used 30 years ago said, we are called upon to be blessings to ourselves and others.

It is clear that one urgent

problem we can try to address is the rapid rise in evictions and homelessness. This is a crisis that has been building for some years, as the supply of affordable housing has dwindled. But now, the Lexington community and our city government need to find ways to minimize the suffering that will result from the imminent end of the eviction moratorium

See SOCIAL ACTION, Page 2

**Until further notice, services and other in-person events at TAI are canceled.
Please check your email for updates as the temple works to reopen safely.
Shabbat services are livestreamed at <https://venue.streamspot.com/230fb172>.**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



**Patricia
Shraberg**

We are getting through this together

I would first like to thank Deb Nelson for her dedication to our congregation. As president she accomplished many tasks and developed many relationships, and we are better for that work. She

managed so well when COVID-19 hit that you would think she had experience with navigating through a pandemic. I admire Deb and appreciate all of her good work.

While it is true that the Temple has closed its doors to group activities, it is not closed. We continue to have our rabbi and staff available, virtual services, and some limited committee work. We were hoping to have a partial reopen of services in July, but the infection numbers across the country suggested it might be better to wait. We are, however, getting prepared to reopen when the time comes. It will mean limiting the size of groups; no singing; physical distancing, including no hugging; health and temperature checks; cleaning/sanitizing; masks, and *no oneg*, which is difficult to imagine. And while that just doesn't sound like us, or the way we left things in March, it is our new normal for now.

When all this started, I was frustrated with the "new technology" and my lack of sophistication when

using it. Now I find it truly a blessing. Our Executive Committee and Board of Directors meet through Zoom. We have other temple groups such as the Juliets who have managed to nurture their relationships using Zoom. Thankfully we are able to stay in touch with you and to conduct temple business.

So, while some things will change, such as the way we will be together when it is safe to return to Temple, some things will stay the same. We are open for business; we have staff working and waiting to welcome everyone back; we have services and a desire to get back to a congregation that meets in person.

I am excited and grateful to be your president. Please feel free to email (patshra@aol.com) or call me (859 494-4428) if you would like to discuss something. I welcome your input and feedback. I do look forward to being together again hopefully in the very near future.

Stay safe and stay well,
Pat

SOCIAL ACTION

Continued from Page 1

triggered by the pandemic.

Working with others, the TAI Social Action Committee is going to do what we can to help in a variety of ways: by providing food to the homeless; by networking with other groups to help avoid the evictions of those with severe health conditions; and by

advocating in Lexington and Frankfort for governmental policies that will help poor and minority communities, already hardest hit by the pandemic and the structural legacies of racism, which will find themselves, in increasing numbers, without food or shelter, etc.

This will be our main focus, but we also will try to support and enable members of the TAI

community who want to address other forms of *tikkun olam* in line with URJ guidelines and our congregation's values.

If you are interested in becoming part of this team, please contact me at clewetrick@gmail.com or temple administrator Laura Creamer at laura@lextai.org.

May we truly be blessings to ourselves and others.

EVENTS ONLINE

You'll notice that there are no monthly calendars in this bulletin. The temple remains closed as we proceed cautiously based on available guidance. So, with the annual summer slowdown and to save paper, here's a list of what's going on and how you can participate virtually.

SHABBAT SERVICES

7 p.m. Friday; watch the livestream at <https://venue.streamspot.com/230fb172>

SATURDAY STUDY SESSIONS

Kollel or Jewish Texts at 9 a.m., Parsha at 11 a.m. Held via Zoom; to sign up for the link, which is the same each week, email Laura at laura@lextai.org by 4 p.m. Friday.

JULIETS

This social group for women older 60 meets via Zoom from 4 to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday. To get the link, email Toby Troffkin, tobymay@windstream.net.

TAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meetings are now on the third Tuesday of the month. If you would like to attend, email Laura at Laura@lextai.org for the Zoom link.



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**Elissa Weinstein,
Director**

What unconventional times we are living in! I hope that this summer has had a bit of normalcy for everyone while we are in such abnormal times. Religious School, while off for the summer, has not been spared from having to cope with the uncertainty everyone is facing. However, we will persevere!

This past month a survey was sent to Religious School families to gather their thoughts on some different aspects of learning that potentially will affect us going forward. As responses come in, the Youth Education Committee and I will compile the results and use them to help us shape what looks to be a year unlike any we have experienced.

I am planning on announcing our Religious School 2020-21 plan in early August to allow our wonderful teachers plenty of time to prepare for our first day, which will be Sunday, Sept. 13. While some things will be different this year, one thing that will remain the same is our ability to provide a quality and enriching Jewish education to the families of Temple Adath Israel.

RABBI

Continued from Page 1

resulted from the forced exile that followed each time.

Nachamu, Nachamu, Ami

Comfort, take comfort My People.

Says your God.

Ascend a lofty mountain in Zion;

... Raise your voice with power, O herald of joy to Jerusalem—

Raise it, have no fear;

Announce to the cities of Judah:

Behold your God! (Isaiah 1-40:1-9.)

Many of us were taught in school to avoid using the same word twice in the same sentence. The Hebrew Bible does not conform to this guideline. Rather than using words like *very* or *really*, Torah uses the same word or a directly related word to convey a sense of intensification and heightened feeling. Yet the rabbis and commentators are a bit more like our English teachers, sticklers for usage. They followed an interpretive principle that Torah is not just using flowery speech. If a word is repeated, indeed even if two similar words are used when one would suffice, then there must be a reason why.

So, especially during this season of COVID-19, we ask the rabbinic question, Why is *nachamu*, why is “take comfort” repeated? Perhaps it is meant to teach us something about who should take comfort, that *all* of us should take comfort, not just some. If a people, a community, a nation are to find comfort, that comfort should be the comprehensive reality for all, not just a few privileged sectors of society. Maybe the repetition is employed to convey that we should take total and complete comfort, not just a tiny dose, to get us through another hour, another day, another month. Could it be that the prophet is urging us to

dare to dream beyond temporary relief, to imagine a lasting and durable state of comfort? Is that why Isaiah says, “Have no fear?”

These musings are merely my attempt to apply traditional interpretive technique to the challenges of living during this pandemic. You do not have to be a rabbi or scholar to attempt this exercise. I invite and encourage you to write your own interpretations of this passage. Please send them to me and/or forward them to family and friends, and invite them to wrestle with the question, too.

To those who might argue that Isaiah and many like him sound like a broken record, let us patiently reply that some words, some messages, bear repeating. The promise of comfort merits repetition. There are ample reasons to be discouraged. No amount of denial can defeat the virus. Yet Isaiah’s message of comfort to the exiles can bring us consolation, too. Let us remember the many reasons we have for hope. We have gifted scientists seeking a vaccine. We have dedicated doctors and nurses who have made remarkable strides in the treatment of this dreadful disease. We have courageous essential workers from all walks of life, in any number of jobs, helping us keep food on the table, water in our pipes and electricity in our homes. Millions of people do not have any of these things, and it is our duty to help them in any way we can. When we bring comfort to those who are struggling, we are engaging in the obligation of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, and doing our part to bring the lofty words of the prophet that much closer to earth.

(For ways to help those in need, go to our website or check our emails pertaining to efforts related to COVID-19.)

¹The Torah: A Modern Commentary; 1981, URJ Press, page 1,595.



WORSHIP, STUDY SCHEDULE



All worship services are available by livestream; study groups are meeting via Zoom.

July 31

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Aug. 1

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Va'etchanan — Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

Aug. 7

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Aug. 8

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Ekev — Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

Aug. 14

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Aug. 15

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Re'eh — Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

Aug. 21

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Aug. 22

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Shofetim — Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

Aug. 28

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Aug. 29

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Ki Tetze — Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

Sept. 4

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Sept. 5

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Ki Tavo — Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

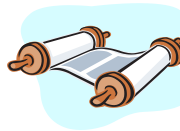
KOLLEL STUDY GROUP

Kollel meets at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Jewish Texts, in the library. The group explores cultural, ethical and historical aspects of our 4,000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. You may join the group any time.



JEWISH TEXTS STUDY

We will discuss selected readings in rabbinic literature at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Kollel Study Group, in the library. The discussion is always lively and informative, and you may join the group any time.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Executive Committee

Thursday, Aug. 13, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Directors

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m.

PARSHA

Join us each Saturday morning at 11 in the library as we take a look at the Torah portion for the week. Sessions are not held when there is a bar or bat mitzvah service.

Directory update:

Angie and Jonathan Smith
3677 Horsemint Trail, 40509

New members

Drs. Larry Herman and Pamela Allweiss
624 Teakwood Dr., 40502
(859) 269-5229
lmherman@yahoo.com
pallweiss@gmail.com

Becky Katz
129 Ashland Dr., Winchester, 40391
(859) 771-6636
r.katz@moreheadstate.edu

TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Adath Israel is a Reform Jewish congregation linked to a tradition of welcoming those searching for a community committed to honoring the dignity we all share as children of the one God by embracing these enduring Jewish values: *AVODAH* (Worship); *TALMUD TORAH* (Torah Study); *TZEDEK* (Social Justice); and *KEHILAH* (Community). Our mission is to inspire our congregants' Jewish engagement and to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future by nurturing the many generations of our community. We share a commitment to the Reform Jewish foundational beliefs of furthering individual and communal spiritual growth, while recognizing a range of personal philosophies, practices and needs. We are the community center through which our families can celebrate faith, justice, and the blessings of family lives present and future.



YAHREZEIT ... *These we remember...*



July 31

Graham Beck
Steven Hillard Bernzweig
Carroll G. Cole
Dora Fine
Mary Lou Fischbein
Elliott Helfand
Harold B. Jacobson
Jennie Kaplan
Chaim Lazurik
Moishe Lazurik
Bertram S. Leopold
Janice S. Lipton
Alice Weil Mickler
Bettie Miller
Arnold William Mullens
Edna Natow
Louis Scher
Carolyn Schulzinger
Harry I. Shuman
Efraim Siegel
Eugene J. Straus
Leo Umansky
Julia Weisenberg

Aug. 7

Edna Fleischaker Frankel
Ada S. Gail
Robert Gelbard
Helen Gilbert
Rabbi Samuel Goldenson
Bertha Goldstein
August E. Hammel
Barbara "Bobbie"
Henry-Faricy
Bess Herman
Billy Roger Johnson
Esther Kaplan
Leon Kornreich
Dr. Joseph J. Liebman
Alma Miller
Abraham Mickler
John Mickler
Edwin H. Munich
Moysey Orlov
Jay Douglas Paritz

Lea Rudder
Zelda Silver
Florinne E. Starr
William D. Wagner Sr.
Maurice Weil Jr.
Saul Zusman

Aug. 14

Grace Akers
Joseph Baker
Matthew Barrett
Nathan Cohen
Charlie Crouch Sr.
Benjamin Crystal
Eva Sharpe Davis
Jennie Gorman
Ann Jackel
Dale Jarvis
David Joffe
Elizabeth Kossay
Louise Lavenstein
Ernst Rudolf Lohmeyer
Zoe Meade
Janet Miller
Rose Markovitz Miner
Lillian Carrol Rashcovsky
Mary Schoenfeld
Murray Sher
Robert (Bob) Silman
Beatrice Solomon
Alice Sondergard
Dr. Jonathan Wirtschafter

Aug. 21

Louis R. Ades
Carroll Cole
Naomi Denney
Shirley Eskapa
Dorothy N. Fox
Frima Gelbard
Ira Gewirtzman
Stella Gittelman
Sol Graff
Ina Kesten
Stephen Kesten
Peggy Kirkwood

David Samuel McDowell
Frieda Grace Miller
Robert Miller
Judith Gayle Waisblum
Plotkin
Helma Victor
Meyer Weinstein
Roger Wells
Laura Ann Wides

Aug. 28

Hattie Aberson
Julius B. Abraham
Abraham Bloomfield
Luraine Boggs
Eleanor Burger
Max Chertkoff
Patricia Dominus
Rosalyn Eldot
Philip Flomen
Richard Friedman
Julia Biederman
Friedland
Estelle Helfand
Ethel S. Herman
Hessie Lazurik
Sarah Lazurik
Thelma Lipton
Harry Marks Markhoff
Elliott Marcus
William Menkus
Mollie S. Rabiner
Pauline Ravvin

Chernesta Lorraine
Raymond
Leon Scott
Dorothy L. Sky
Jacob Slaughter
Sim Weil
Harold Weinberg

Sept. 4

Milton Alexander
Harry Brazil
Graham Rex Brown
Heather Creamer
Bruce Foster
Blema Gerson
David M. Glixon
Mildred Jaffee
Stanley Kline
Garnett Nathan
Barbara Pastan
Saul Rubin
William Leonard Shraberg
Harry Skuller
Norbert Slepian
Rabbi Herman Snyder
Madelyne L. Strauss
Mesad Tareque
Jack Wallace
Arnold Morris Warshoftig
David Simon Weil
Adolph J. Winters
Jeffrey Mark Wurmser
Myron Zuckerman

In Memoriam ...

Alan Bloomfield, husband of Nancy, father of Stacy Bloomfield, grandfather of Blake and Ryan Bloomfield

Myrna Palley, mother of Kevin (Clair) Palley, grandmother of Nathan and Amanda Palley

Rabbi Uriel Smith, husband of Hanna Smith

May their memories be for a blessing

News From



The Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass office is currently closed to visitors, but staff is available to assist community members in need.

MEETING

Continued from Page 1

returning treasurer Debbie Masters and secretary Mary Engel; and Deb Nelson, past president.

New board members are Debra Booker and Randi Gaiser. Mark Schachman, who was appointed last year to serve the final year of an open seat, was elected to a three-year term. In July, Rhonda Miller was appointed to the board to complete the remaining two years of Ornstein's board term.

During the meeting, changes to

temple bylaws were approved, including one that created an ex officio seat on the board to be filled by the Endowment Committee's treasurer, who currently is Garry Hoover.

The major changes in the bylaws involved articles governing the Endowment Committee. The changes were needed to comply with state law and to update sections that were outdated or considered overly restrictive. More than 125 TAI members voted via online proxies to approve those changes.

CONTRIBUTIONS

ANITA AND HAROLD BAKER MUSIC FUND

Sandee Wildes in memory of Jeanette Gordon

BLOOMFIELD FAMILY FUND

In memory of Alan Bloomfield:

Ben and Ruth Baker, Joseph and Cynthia Brumley, Jan and Jerry Cerel, John and Peggy Collins, Marilyn and Ralph Hacker, Holly Hughes, Ben Kaufmann and Janet Zusman, Bruce Kunkel, Ellen Lee Marshall, Padgett Construction Inc., Marian and Abe Rabiner, Rob and Kim Rosenstein, Arthur and Simone Salomon, John Tobe, Nicole Ware, James Wenneker

CARING CONNECTIONS AUXILIARY FUND

Sheila Menkus

Rob and Kim Rosenstein in memory of her mother, Janet Clawson

FLOWER FUND

Martin and Odette Kaplan in memory of Israel Abittan

Ben Kaufmann and Janet Zusman in memory of Jeffrey Kaufmann

Ilyse Lonsbury in memory of Rita Mitchell Nichtberger, Irwin "Buz" Bussel, Morris Schimmel, Seymour Nichtberger, Blanche Bussel and Miriam Mitchell Arlen

Annette Milch in memory of Edward Steinberg

Barbara Straus in memory of Eugene Straus

Alan and Elissa Weinstein in memory of Ord Matek and Lucille Paskowitz

GARDEN FUND

Joseph and Cindy Miller

GENERAL FUND

Ben and Ruth Baker in honor and appreciation of Deb Nelson's presidency

Ben and Ruth Baker in honor of Pat Shraberg's installation as president

Jared and Shirley Bryan in memory of Betty and Morris Bryan

MAURICE KAUFMANN ADULT EDUCATION FUND

David and Pat Shraberg in honor of Ben Kaufmann's birthday

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Stacy Bloomfield

Beverly Heiss

Robert and Kim Rosenstein

Samye and Darryl Stith in memory of Rabbi Smith and in great appreciation of Rabbi Wirtschafter

Zalman L. Soloveichik

ROSENSTEIN FAMILY FUND

Leon and Linda Ravvin in memory of Janet Clawson

Sandee Wildes in memory of Janet Clawson

UNIONGRAM/YES FUND

Carol and Ron Hustedde in appreciation of Uniongram anniversary greetings

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Pat Shraberg
President

Kristen Hoffman
Marketing and Development Director

Rich Ornstein
Vice President

Elissa Weinstein
Youth Education Director

Debbie Masters
Treasurer

Nick Fain
Brotherhood President

Mary Engel
Secretary

Elissa Weinstein
Sisterhood President

Deborah Nelson
Immediate Past President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTED/APPOINTED

Debra Booker
Jan Cerel
Carly Conatser
Randi Gaiser
Tim Grossman
Rhonda Miller
Mark Schachman
Reva Schottenstein-Reed
Rebecca Young

EX OFFICIO

Nick Fain (Brotherhood)
Garry Hoover (Endowment)
Vacant (Sisterhood)

TEMPLE FUNDS

Contributions may be made to any of the following funds. Acknowledgment will be made to the individual or family honored and will be listed in the Bulletin. Please check the fund of your choice. **All donations not specifically directed to one of the funds listed below will be placed in the Temple Hineni: Here I Am Reserve Fund.**

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Anita & Harold Baker Music Trust Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert S. Miller Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bloomfield Family Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Sherman E. & Fannie H. Miller Memorial Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jayne Bolotin Memorial Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Music & Worship Program Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Temple Building Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Janice Newman Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TAI Brotherhood Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach Program Fund |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Victoria Greenberg Rabbinical Intern Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rose Family Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hineni: Here I Am Reserve Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rosenstein Family Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maurice, Evelyn and Barbara Hymson Education Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Betty Rosenthal Rabbinic Chair Fund |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Maurice Kaufmann Adult Education Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Larry and Robert Scher Memorial Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cindy Jennings Kline Memorial Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Skuller-Cohen-Cerel Fund |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Marilyn & Arthur Lieber Board Leadership Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn & Herman Straus Memorial Fund |
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☐ In memory of _____

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FUND FACTS

Over the years TAI congregants have established funds to support specific programs or for specific purposes. Each month, FUND FACTS will present a snapshot of a fund to familiarize congregants with TAI's resources.

Warren Rosenthal created the Betty Rosenthal Rabbinic Chair Fund in memory of his wife, Betty. Established in 2015, the fund supports the annual or periodic salary and/or compensation incurred by the temple to employ a rabbi.

In 2017, Art and Marilyn Lieber gave a very generous gift to the congregation, and the board decided to add a substantial portion of their gift to this fund.

Each May the accumulated income from the previous fiscal year of the endowment is transferred to the General Fund. As of December 2019, the Rosenthal fund had a balance \$259,549, \$8,341 of which was the interest earned in 2019.