# SERVICES IN-PERSON, ONLINE

Reservations are not required to attend in-person Shabbat services at 7 p.m. Fridays. Attendees must sign in, however. Services continue to be broadcast on Zoom and Facebook Live.



Temple Adath Israel Bulletin

February 2022

Shevat/Adar I 5782

# 3 lessons for a 3rd pandemic reading

# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



David Wirtschafter

Going by the Hebrew calendar, this month marks the second anniversary of the pandemic. At the Hadassah Shabbat in 2020, we were adjusting to refraining from hugs and hand-

shakes. When I foolishly extended a kiddush cup to Rabbi Uriel Smith (z'l) at the end of Saturday morning services he gently declined, and the entire assembly broke into nervous laughter. Unwelcome change was in the air. A few days later we canceled the Purim spiel, in which Rabbi Smith was to be the narrator. (He would have had the audience in stitches.) Friday evening services were canceled, as was Torah Study and Kollel. I drove to New Jersey to pick up Zachariah from college. Months of online instruction were about to begin. Fittingly enough, the Torah portion that Shabbat was Ki Tisa, The Golden Calf, a cautionary tale about what not to do in a crisis. On Feb. 19 (18 Adar) this year, we will be reading that portion for the third time since the pandemic began. Ki Tisa was the first portion affected by COVID protocols. Who knows which one will be the last? What we do know, however, is that Ki Tisa provides us with important lessons about crisis management.

Lesson One: The People. Do not succumb to



## The big sort begins

Religious School second-graders Genevieve Voglesong, left, and Elyse Sandler sorted caps with their classmates during their enrichment period. The caps will be turned into a bench for TAI's garden. More information on Page 2.

# Change to TAI fiscal year OK'd

At a special congregational meeting on Jan. 24, more than 70 TAI members voted unanimously to change the temple's fiscal year to July 1-June 30, effective in 2023. Doing so required amending the TAI's bylaws.

The special meeting was called so TAI could make the transition during the upcoming 2022-23 fiscal year, which starts May 1 and will end June 30, 2023. Work on that budget will begin this month, and the budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting on May 23.

See RABBI, Page 3

# Youth group restart exemplies upswing

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Rich Ornstein I'm still an optimist. While Covid hasn't died off as quickly as we would like, it hasn't stopped TAI from moving forward. With a combination of in-person and online events, there are a lot of things going on at TAI.

The day I wrote

this, I joined more than 20 of our friends for a TAI Zoom art class, "A Sampler of Jewish Art," with Leslie Blacksberg. Leslie is highly knowledgeable and a wonderfully engaging speaker, so I encourage you to join us for the remaining classes at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 31, and Feb. 7 and 14.

What really makes me optimistic for TAI's future is our youth. Debbie Masters and I met in January with some of our high school students who decided it was time to restart our youth group. They tentatively plan a kickoff event Feb. 26. In addition, they are looking forward to working on the TAI Purim Carnival, and some are planning to attend a NFTY event March 25-27 at Goldman Union Camp in Indiana. TAI will be providing full scholarships for those wishing to attend. If your child is interested in joining LEXTY (Lexington Temple Youth), have them contact the

group's president, Laine Fine. If you have any questions or need more information, you're welcome to call me or Debbie.

Things are on the upswing at TAI. I look forward to seeing you at future events.

This month's featured volunteer, Jan Cerel, is one of my favorite people. Jan will do just about anything to make TAI a better place. When TAI needed help with security during Religious School, Jan volunteered. Now you can find her most Sunday mornings monitoring the door cameras. Jan serves the Board of Directors, various committees, and is an active member of the Juliets. Most important to me, whenever I need to bounce an idea



Jan Cerel

off someone, Jan answers the phone. We talk, and she gives me her unvarnished opinion. Having someone who cares so much about our congregation, someone who will volunteer for just about any assignment and who gives her all is inspiring. Jan is one of the people who makes TAI so special. The next time you see Jan, make time to sit down and talk with her. It'll make your day!

# Sorting, weighing caps off 2 years of collecting plastic lids

Sorting has begun in earnest on TAI's collection of recyclable plastic caps and lids, which piled up during the two years since the project began in the days just before COVID-19 changed the world.

The original goal was to collect 250 pounds of caps and lids to be turned into a bench like the ones shown below, for TAI's garden. Based on the number and size of the bags that must be sorted and weighed, we will exceed that goal two or three times over.

Religious School students began the sorting operation during their enrichment periods on Jan. 23. They will continue to do so on as many Sundays as possible through the end of the school year. We also hope to have opportunities for adult/family participation; details will be sent by email when they become available.



# FROM SISTERHOOD



Elissa Weinstein, President Shalom Sisters! Due to the recent COVID surge, we were unable to get together in person in December to celebrate Hanukkah. In January we had a great group of women gather (virtually) for our annual Lunch and Learn. In honor of this being the 50th anniversary of the

ordination of Rabbi Sally J. Priesand, we were fortunate to have the newest rabbi in Lexington, Shani Abramowitz, lead us in some Tu BiShvat-themed study. Our group of ladies challenged themselves and learned a lot. Thank you, Rabbi Abramowitz!

This month, we are hoping to gather and make blankets as we've done in the past. Please keep an eye on your email for more information.

Membership information for this year went out in the fall. If you have been a Sisterhood member or would like to join, please reach out. Call me at (859) 263-1859 or send me an email at taisisterhoodpresident@gmail.com.

I hope everyone is staying safe and knows we are keeping our Sisters in our thoughts.



# FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Elissa Weinstein, Director

Shalom! Religious School is in full swing for the second semester. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our Martin Luther King Sunday of learning and service due to bad weather, but we're hoping cold and snow won't keep us away again.

In January, we were excited to continue with a project

that we began pre-COVID. With Mary and Bruce Engel's help, we began sorting plastic caps and lids donated by congregants over the past two years, getting things organized and finally working toward getting an upcycled bench for the Religious School grounds. Our Religious School students are excited to help.

In January, our fifth-grade class led us in prayer for our monthly Family Shabbat; *kol hakavod* to Jordan Brennan and Nathan Palley and their class. Given all the ups and downs the pandemic has thrown us, it's been so great to have kept the consistency of monthly class-led services this school year. On Feb. 11, our third/fourth-grade class, led by teacher Abby Miller, will be our Family Shabbat hosts.

Even with the current surge of COVID cases, we are hoping to bring back Onegs this year.

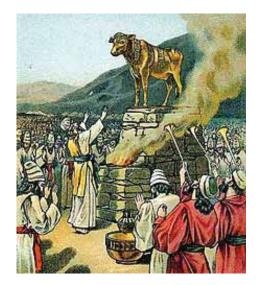
# **RABBI**Continued from Page 1

and panic. Moses' prolonged absence is understandably stressful. It is easy to pardon the people for being anxious. What cannot be pardoned easily is the way they react to that anxiety. Making and worshipping a Golden Calf, thanking it for leading them out of Egypt, was not a good idea. They knew better. Having witnessed the 10 Plagues and parting of the waters, and receiving daily manna and the 10 Commandments, experience and faith should have been more than enough to prevent such a horrid lapse of judgment. Once people succumb to a mob mentality, it's terribly difficult to bring them back. We can empathize with people for feeling abandoned, yet we cannot excuse people for allowing the fear of abandonment to lead them to abandon logic, responsibility and self-control. In the case of both COVID and the Golden Calf, an irrational impulse to disregard basic expectations led to disastrous consequences.

Lesson Two: Aaron. Crises do not constitute unlimited license to compromise core values. Aaron's mishandling of the situation is completely out of character. You can read the Torah a thousand times and not find a mistake of Aaron's even remotely approaching this magnitude before or after the debacle. Leading the people to make a Golden Calf to distract them from their anxiety might

be construed initially as creative, but its impact is catastrophic. Redirecting a mob can be a laudable tactic, but not if it violates the standards of our position and the trust others place in us. Elected officials and opinion influencers who have flouted health mandates and spread unfounded claims about vaccines bear responsibility for misleading those who needed them, just as Aaron failed those who were relying on him.

**Lesson 3: God and Moses.** The wrongful behaviors of others do not justify a disproportionate response from those whom they have wronged. Initially, Moses does a brilliant job of talking God out of destroying the entire people. Unfortunately, things go woefully awry after that. Without any clear distinction between those who refused to participate, willingly participated or were forced to participate in the Golden Calf incident, Moses appoints a select group to serve as executioners and condemns many more to execution. There is no denying the seriousness of the sin of making and worshipping the Golden Calf. The problem, as theologian David Blumenthal painstakingly points out, is that such a disproportionate response is inherently abusive. Context and background can provide insight into how we feel provoked, but provocation is no excuse for so excessive a response. Punishment might well be part of a just response, but so, too, are education, reconciliation and extending a



compassionate opportunity to atone and make amends. When this pandemic is over, those of us who got vaccinated and wore masks are not entitled to vindictive measures against those who opposed them. The mistakes and misdeeds of our fellow humans do not give us carte blanche to demean them. No one in the Golden Calf story is perfect, and no one in our current crisis is either.

May the next time we read the story of the Golden Calf, or the next Purim celebration, Passover, confirmation, annual meeting, opening day of Religious School, weekly and High Holy Day Services, Sisterhood and Hadassah Shabbat not be affected by the pandemic. But until we are free from this disease, let us remain dedicated to practicing the patience and persistence required to see us through it.





#### **One Book Jewish Lexington**

1:30 p.m. Feb. 20. Discussion of "Morningside Heights" by Joshua Henkin facilitated by Melanie Shapiro. Follwed by panel discussion with information about caregiving issues and Alzheimer's research at UK and Hadassah Hospital in Israel. Registration required; go to rb.gy/qrl5tl. Cosponsored by JFB and Lexington Hadassah. More info: Melanie Shapiro, bluegrassgirl55@aol.com, or JFB's Daniel Baker, daniel@jewishlexington.org.

#### Torah Talk

1:30 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, email Aylene Kovensky-Gard at aylenekg@gmail.com.

#### **Emails and e-news**

If you're not receiving our weekly Shabbat or "Beyond the Bluegrass" emails, get on the list by contacting Daniel Baker at daniel@jewishlexington.org

#### **Assistance requests**

If you or someone you know needs help with housing, utilities, grocery shopping, picking up a prescription or transportation to a medical appointment, Jewish Family Services can help. Contact Paula Mertens, JFS director, at (859) 269-8244 or jfs@jewishlexington.org.

# Summer trip revisits history of civil rights movement

Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass is sponsoring "Hope, History & Healing," a bus trip to Birmingham and Montgomery, Ala., this summer.

Chester Grundy, a civil rights activist and former director of the Office of African American Student Affairs and the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center at UK, will serve as tour guide Stops will include the Rosa Parks Museum, Southern Poverty Law Center, 16th Street Baptist Church and more.

The trip will be June 27-July 1. For more information, email Mindy Haas, JFB executive director, at mindy@jewishlexington.org.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### **CARING CONNECTIONS**

**Sheila Menkus** with thanks for the birthday greetings and Tu B'Shevat treats

#### **END OF YEAR**

Susan Cobin and Randall Roorda Leslie Tate Lisa and Dan Taulbee Alan and Elissa Weinstein

#### **FLOWER FUND**

Stacy Bloomfield in memory of Dana Bloomfield
Odette Kaplan in memory of Hazel J. Nicki Kaplan
Dan Liebman in memory of Ellen Liebman
Annette Milch in memory of Stelle Steinberg
Marc Plavin and Toni Reiss in memory of Dorothy Plavin
Abe and Marian Rabiner in memory of Samuel Rabiner
Lou and Bobbi Shain in memory of Frederick A. Meyer
David and Pat Shraberg

#### **GENERAL FUND**

Ben and Ruth Baker in memory of Sandee Wildes
Robert Blacksberg in honor of Leslie Blacksberg's class
Len and Judy Boral in memory of Tom Creamer
Dianne Bazell and Larry Kant in memory of Julie
Lauderback, Sandee Wildes and Louise Heiss
Pete and Deb Nelson in memory of Louise Heiss and
Tom Creamer

**Stephanie Moon and Steven Osborne** in honor of Pat and Michael Marx

Camilla Rawlings and Eliyahu Ghoujeghi

**Eleanor Sutter** 

Kim and Rob Rosenstein in memory of Tom Creamer Stewart Home and School

Mixon Ware

## $\underline{\mathsf{DR. VICTORIA GREENBERG RABBINCAL INTERN FUND}}$

**Rick Greenberg** 

#### **HINENI FUND**

Samye and Darryl Stith in memory of Tom Creamer

#### **SHERMAN AND FANNIE MILLER FUND**

Samye and Darryl Stith in memory of Sandee Wildes

#### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE AUXILIARY FUND

**Dominique Olbert** 

#### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**Leslie Blacksberg** 

Marion Ferguson, Norma Snow-Goldberg and Jennie

Hermey in honor of Leslie Blacksberg

Paul Joseph in honor of Rabbi Wirtschafter

Jean Kessler

**Patricia and Michael Marx** 

David and Pat Shraberg in honor of Rabbi's birthday

#### **ROSENSTEIN FAMILY FUND**

The Rosenstein Family



# YAHRZEIT ... These we remember...



#### Jan. 28

Celia F. Abraham Frances Bramlage Solomon Cantor Matthew Cohen Howard Allen Gerson Jeanette Gordon Henrietta Rubel Harrison Corrine Higdon Elliott Joffe Meyer M. Katz Bert Klein Susan Kelly Knoll Rose Lampel Krinsky Yolanda Font Musgrave **Ethyl Paritz** Bertha Pessin **Estelle Sacks** Larry Scher Gerald W. Smith Harold Hyman Sogin **Aaron Weinberg** Fanny B. Winters Miriam Zuckerman

#### Feb. 4

Abraham Blucher Clara Blucher Sam Feller Howard Flomenhoft Carl Goldschmidt Geraldine Mitchell Grapes Meyer Max Harrison Robert Joffe Alan Lubin Ruth Mandel Sam Rozen Irven David Sachs Freda Schumard

George Shipman Marty Solomon Emanuel Suhl Ella Jean Taulbee Walter Troffkin Morris Waisblum Rosa Salmon Weil

#### Feb. 11

Benjamin Barath Rebecca Barath Florence C. Belin Louis Berkowitz Charles Biederman Clementine Weil Bing Siegfried Bing **Dorothy Saloshin** Braun Joseph Cherin Fannie Cohen Stanley Efron Gussie Ehrlich Melvin Engel Joseph N. Frankel Jack Gellin Lawrence Heller Bernard Hymes Robert Jacobson Anna Springer Jaffee Lee R. Masover Lloyd Mayer Neoma Mellman Raymond Paluch Benjamin Roos Elsie Salzman Philip Sobel Irene Starr Reitza D.

Feb. 18
Leon Amster
Joe Bograd
Libby Fleishman
Alfred Shirley Gray

Wirtschafter

Kenneth Hart Sam Herman **Ruby Helfand** Milton Heskel Jerome Mitchell Lederer Margaret Liautaud Waldo B. Newell Jr. Ellinor G. Newman Charles Parker Stephen J. "Skip" Jeanne Schennberg Thelma A. See Mever Siegel Jonathan William Snyder **Nell Stepman** Leona Sugarman Carolyn Weinberger Evelyn R. Wides

#### Feb. 25

Mary Bercovitch Hugo Bloomfield Anita Ditty Rebecca T. Ditty Helen Edelstein Julia Fink Vernie Jane Hall David Allen Jacobs

Peter W. Josten Annie H. Kreger Avraham Lazurik Josephine Grauman Marks Sydelle Meyers Harry B. Miller Shirley Ades Platt Judy Rattner Irving Rosenstein Rose Rubin Dr. Charles I. Schwartz **Esther Schwartz** Lena M. Skuller David Kenneth Sommer Rabbi Samuel Thurman Milton Victor Martin Weil **Howard Weiss** Louise Wile

#### March 4

Louis Abrams
Sarah Fox Ades
Maurice M. Ballin
Sadye M. Breck
Isaac Capilouto
I. Davis
Steve Fleckman

**Irving Fleet** Carol Flomenhoft Ora Slaughter Frankel Barbara "Bobbi" Fried Phillip Gall Emma B. Goldman Lori Rebecca Hufana Maude S. Jacobson Robert Adam Katz Stanley Katz Dora (Doris) Krekun Jack Landesberg Melvin Machesney **Ethel Medsker** Beatrice Milner Morris Rattner Henry Ravvin Donna Saleeby Phyllis Scher **Corinne Strauss** Stern Larry Steur Nathan Waldman Belle Weill Weil

James D. Weil

Witzer

Henrietta "Henny"

## In Memoriam ...

Louise Bruetsch Heiss, mother of Beverly Heiss

Harold Dueker Swanson, father of Mark Swanson (Nancy Schoenberg), grand-father of Rachel Swanson (Emerson Hardebeck) and Ben Swanson

**Tom Creamer,** father of Trevor (Laura) Creamer and grand-father of Maya, Julia and Jonah Creamer

#### **Marion Hymes**

May their memories be for a blessing



## **WORSHIP, STUDY SCHEDULE**



## Study groups meet in person with a Zoom option.

Jan. 28

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Jan. 29

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Michaetim — Evadus 21:1 24:18

Mishpatim — Exodus 21:1-24:18

Feb. 4

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Feb. 5

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Terumah — Exodus 25:1-27:19

Feb. 11

Family Shabbat 7 p.m.

Feb. 12

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Tetzaveh — Exodus 27:20-30:10

Feb. 18

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Feb. 19

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Ki Tisa — Exodus 30:11-34:35

Feb. 25

Shabbat 7 p.m.

Feb. 26

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Vayakhel — Exodus 35:1-38:20

March 4

Shabbat 7 p.m.

March 5

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Pekudei — Exodus 38:1-40:38

#### **KOLLEL STUDY GROUP**

Kollel meets at 9 a.m.
Saturdays, alternating with Jewish Texts. 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.



We will discuss selected readings in rabbinic literature at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Kollel Study Group.

The discussion is always lively and informative, and you may join any time.



# **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Executive Committee
Thursday, Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 10 6:30 p.m.

**Board of Directors** 

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.

### <u>PARSHA</u>

Join us each Saturday morning at 11 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 updates**

#### New members

Julia and Nisim Falach (Gloria, Jacob) 747 Lakeshore Drive, 40502 Julia: (562) 417-2514, juliamfalach@gmail.com Nisim: (562) 774-8613 nisim.falach18@gmail.com

Robin Embry and Jason Galliers (Aryanna Embry) 30 Mentelle Park, 40502 (859) 893-6203, (916) 870-8418 robinembry@outlook.com Pam Kaufman Ross 216 Bruin Trace Richmond, Ky. 40475 (717) 497-6338 pamkross@gmail.com

#### **Directory omission**

Odette Kaplan 2357 Abbeywood Dr., 40515 (859) 271-8332, mrtnkaplan@gmail.com

#### **Directory corrections**

Jill Rappoport (434) 962-4783

Smith Schwartz (859) 940-5634

#### TAI 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: A VODAH (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.













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Laura Creamer David Wirtschafter **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** Rabbi Administrator **ELECTED/APPOINTED** rabbiw@lextai.org laura@lextai.org Bob Belin Rich Ornstein Elissa Weinstein Debra Booker President Youth Education Director Jan Cerel Carly Conatser **Debbie Masters** Lorne Dechtenberg Aaron Ann Cole Funfsinn Vice President Musician in Residence Randi Gaiser Rhonda Miller Nick Fain Mary Engel Smith Schwartz **Brotherhood President** Treasurer Mark Schachman Elissa Weinstein **EX OFFICIO** Sisterhood President Secretary Nick Fain (Brotherhood) Garry Hoover (Endowment) Pat Shraberg Judi Gewirtzman (Sisterhood) Immediate Past President 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. ☐ Adolph A. & Celia F. Abraham Music Fund ☐ Dr. Sherman E. & Fannie H. Miller Memorial Fund Anita & Harold Baker Music Trust Fund Music & Worship Program Fund ■ Bloomfield Family Fund Janice Newman Fund Jayne Bolotin Memorial Fund Outreach Program Fund ☐ Temple Building Fund Preschool Fund ☐ TAI Brotherhood Fund □ Rabbi's Fund Centennial Fund ☐ Religious School Program Fund ■ Enrichment Fund Rose Family Fund Gerson Family Fund Rosenstein Family Fund ☐ Dr. Victoria Greenberg Rabbinical Intern Fund ■ Betty Rosenthal Rabbinic Chair Fund ☐ Hineni: Here I Am Reserve Fund □ Ricky Rozen Memorial Fund ☐ Maurice, Evelyn and Barbara Hymson Education Fund ■ Larry and Robert Scher Memorial Fund Sheldon "Cokie" Hymson Fund ■ Skuller-Cohen-Cerel Fund ■ Maurice Kaufmann Adult Education Fund ☐ Marty Solomon Fund for Jewish Youth Experiences and General Cindy Jennings Kline Memorial Fund **Fund Purposes** ■ L'Chaim Fund David, Ruth & Al Sommer Fund Marilyn & Arthur Lieber Board Leadership Fund Tikkun Olam Fund Anita W. Mersack Woman of Valor Award Fund Uniongram/Sisterhood YES Fund Mersack Scholarship Fund Wurmser Family Fund Robert S. Miller Fund ■ Youth Education Fund for the fund checked above. Please accept my enclosed donation in the amount of \$ □ For the recovery of In honor of □ In memory of Please notify family of/or \_