

Bulletin, January 2018

“Temple Israel is a welcoming and vibrant center of Jewish life for our region, l’dor vador
... from generation to generation”

AT A GLANCE

[Message from the President](#)

[From the Rabbi's Study](#)

[News from the Hebrew and
Religious Schools](#)

[Future Events](#)

[Todah Rabbah](#)

**January Birthdays and
Anniversaries**

[January Calendar](#)

Shabbat schedule

**Torah portions for the next
two Shabbatot:**

December 23/ 5 Tevet:

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have just finished up Hanukkah. I hope everyone had a great Holiday! It was a busy time at Temple. The Religious School Hanukkah party was a blast! It is great to see all the kids playing and having fun. To me there is nothing better than watching a bunch of kids playing together.

We fed 60 people (largest religious school dinner to date). Thank you to all those that helped out with a great meal. Then 2 days later we had our Congregational Dinner with about 150 people in attendance. Once again the food was delicious!! Thank you to Bart for leading the charge. I was a little nervous when he decided to change the brisket recipe, but it turned out great. It is always a fun event to be a part of. The guys work hard at putting this together. Thank you to the DUSTY kids for setting up and serving. Thank you to everyone helped cleanup after. I think we set a record for the quickest cleanup!

As many of you know we have met the Overman match and the board has approved Builder's Commonwealth to demo and resurrect our new front entrance way. Demolition will start the week between Christmas and New Years. Construction will follow and the remainder (painting, cleaning up and minor repairs) will continue in the spring once the weather has warmed up.

Thank you to all that donated to this project.

Vayigash (Genesis 44:18 – 47:27)

Second Year of Triennial Cycle:
Genesis 45:19 – 46:27)

December 30/ 12 Tevet:

Vayechi (Genesis 47:28 – 50:26)
[conclusion of the Book of
Genesis]

Second Year of Triennial Cycle:
Genesis 49:1-26; 50:21-26)

**The Temple Israel Building will
be CLOSED from December 24,
2017 through Jan 1, 2018.**

Only regular Shabbat Services
and Shabbat morning Torah
study sessions will be held
during this time period.

Shabbat evening services
Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat morning Torah study
Saturdays at 9:15 a.m.

Shabbat morning services
Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

January Birthdays

3 - Peter Wodrich

If you have not paid your 2017 dues please make sure that you take care of that as quickly as possible. That money keeps our doors open. If you have any questions about dues please feel free to contact me.

Thank you and enjoy our cold and snow!

Josh Widdes

President Temple Israel

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

RABBI'S ARTICLE FOR JANUARY 2018/TEVET-SHEVAT 5778 BULLETIN

"We reaffirm our commitment to the UN-approved principles for a Palestinian-Israeli settlement, which include the status of East Jerusalem as the capital of the future Palestinian state. At the same time, we must state that in this context we view West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

The above quotation comes from a statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry in April 2017.[1] It does not appear to have been followed by widespread protests or international controversy.

"Today's actions — recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and announcing the relocation of our embassy — do not reflect a departure from the strong commitment of the United States to facilitating a lasting peace agreement. The United States continues to take no position on any final status issues. The specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem are subject to final status negotiations between the parties. The United States is not taking a position on boundaries or borders."

This second quotation comes from the Presidential proclamation issued by the White House in December 2017.[2] It appears to have been followed by much more international protest and controversy.

All this seems a bit strange to me, since President Trump's proclamation clearly leaves open the prospect of East Jerusalem being the capital of a

4 - Steve Goldfine

Fran Leff

6 - Toby Marcovich

Nicole Widdes

7 – Dana Krivogorsky

Christina Olson

8 - Alana Friedman

11- John Fisher

Anna Guttman

Paul King

Jacob Petersen-Perlman

12 - Mark Cohen

17- David Vosen

19- Jane Fisher

Roberta Taran

21 - Max Frank

Robert Goldish

23- Neil Glazman

Marko Jukic

Tracy Goman

Barb Segal

Steven Seiler

27- Susie Rosenzweig

28 - David Siegler

29- Fia Goldfine

30 - Kelly Krenzen

January Anniversaries

9 - Stephanie Love and Blake
Cazier

11 Scott and Frieda Hall

Palestinian state should the parties negotiate such an agreement; and since all of Israel’s Knesset, High Court and other governmental institutions are all well within the western parts of Jerusalem that have been under Israeli jurisdiction since the end of its War of Independence in 1949.

Whatever will be the outcome of hoped-for peace negotiations, Jerusalem in particular, and the historic land of Israel in general, remain focal points of Jewish history and identity. However, the question of how that historic Jewish connection fits in with contemporary Jewish identity is much more complicated to answer. That’s why I’m very excited to let you know about a new initiative between the Union for Reform Judaism and the Shalom Hartman Institute, a pluralistic center of research and education that focuses its work on the areas of modern Jewish identity, Israeli democracy, and the relationship between Israel and world Jewry.

The Shalom Hartman Institute has for the past several years been producing adult education courses called “iEngage” that combine viewing of videos presentations by its scholars with local classroom discussions.[3] The latest iEngage course is called “Israel’s Milestones and Their Meanings.” It consists of eight sessions exploring the impact on Jewish identity of the Balfour Declaration of 1917, the U.N. Partition Plan of 1947 (and subsequent establishment of the State of Israel in 1948), and the Six-Day War of 1967. When I was in Boston last month for the Union for Reform Judaism North American Biennial, I attended a symposium jointly presented by the URJ (through its ARZA [“Association of Reform Zionists of America”] division) and the Shalom Hartman Institute entitled “Bringing Israel Home: The Essentially Complicated Place of Israel in North American Reform Judaism.” It included a training session for instructors who wish to bring the “Israel’s Milestones and Their Meanings” course to their congregations.

The half-day symposium (which took place on Sunday, December 10th following the conclusion of the main portion of the URJ Biennial) culminated with a talk by Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman, the President of the Shalom Hartman Institute. One major theme of his is that the Torah includes two different kinds of Jewish identities: What Donniel Hartman calls “Genesis Judaism” in which our identity, as described in the Book of Genesis, is a “national” identity centered around family, ethnicity and peoplehood; vs. what he calls “Exodus Judaism,” in which our identity, as described in the Book of Exodus, is a “covenantal” identity centered around religion, faith and practice. This “Genesis Judaism” model has been predominant in Israel while, in North America, the “Exodus Judaism” model has been predominant. The challenge is to meld the two and to develop an idea of “Relational Zionism” in which North American Jews who don’t plan to make Aliyah can strengthen our connection with Israel; and in which Israeli Jews

21 - Richard and Diane Gould

Please call or email the office if we missed your birthday or anniversary!

Donations

Beautification

Shirley R Witkin

Cemetery

Stephen and Katherine Bloom

Chum

Anonymous

Endowment

Jack and Cindy Seiler

Chris and Dan King

Erwin Goldfine Memorial

Beverly Goldfine

Amy Goldfine

General

Michael and Annette Jaros

Joyce Levenson

Sharon Marcovich

Toby and Sharon Marcovich

Mark and Carol Weitz

Jeanne and Steve Praver

Sharon and Toby Marcovitch

Elizabeth Pasko

Ruth Hafner

WITC Social Committee

Bruce and Bonnie Lurye

can develop a better appreciation and respect for the rebirth of Jewish creativity that has taken place in North American Jewish life.

My current intention in terms of scheduling is to have the course meet on the first Wednesday evening of each month, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., starting in February (with a break during the height of the summer). The course is free (thanks to a grant from the URJ to Reform congregations teaching this material) but registration is required. Please feel free and encouraged to register for the class even if you know you'll only be able to attend some of the sessions.

The planned session topics include:

Unit 1 (Feb. 7): 1917 - The Balfour Declaration: The Idea of a Homeland for the Jewish People

Unit 2 (Mar. 7): 1947 - The United Nations Partition Plan: The Jews in the World

Unit 3 (Apr. 4): 1967 - The Six Day War: Power, Land and God

Unit 4 (May 2): Judea and Samaria: Occupation or Liberation

Unit 5 (June 6): One State, Two States: Moral Red Lines

Unit 6 (Sept. 5): Jerusalem of God, Prayer and Peoplehood

Unit 7 (Oct. 3): Jerusalem of Responsibility, Loss, and Hope

Unit 8 (Nov. 7): The Jubilee Year and Beyond: Milestones and their Meanings

If you would like to participate in this upcoming course, please contact me to register. This way I will be able to give you access to web-based materials that are available to registered students. As we reach the end of 2017 which marked the centennial of the Balfour Declaration and the half-centennial of the Six-Day War; and as we begin 2018 which marks the seventieth anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel, what better time to deepen our understandings of the complexities of our identities and of our connection with Israel.

L'shalom,

Rabbi David Steinberg

rabbidavid@jewishduluth.org

Stuart and Judith Passon

Ben and Barry Wolfe

Dorothy Slonim

Jill Mittleman

Harry Glazman Kiddush

Bruce and Bonnie

Chris and Dan King

Jeffery Elliot

Michelle and Mike Baddin

Chuck and Tracy Goman

Willacy A Jr. Lord

Dave and Gail Blustin

Ruth and Mark Fromm

Allen and Rita Cohen

John and Jane Fischer

June Weinberg Memorial

Sherill Weinberg

Marko Retirement

Laura and Martin Weintraub

Prayer Book

Tom and Pam Griggs

Rabbi's Discretionary

Gayle Held

Michelle and Michael Badin

Margaret B. Thomas

Sally Krovitz Children's

William Thomas

Marilyn Krovitz Blunt

Social Action

Sherman and Joyce
Levenson

Ida Krovitz Davis

[1] http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/2717182

[2] <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-recognizing-jerusalem-capital-state-israel-relocating-united-states-embassy-israel-jerusalem/>

[3] https://hartman.org.il/Programs_Landing_Page.asp?Cat_Id=295

NEWS FROM THE HEBREW AND RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

“Am I Jewish enough?” I heard a teenager who grew up in an interfaith family share with 6,000 Jews at the URJ Biennial last month that she had held those doubts. Not only did her question resonate with me personally, it made me pause to examine how I treat our Jewish students from interfaith families in our school.

Have I been welcoming? Have I been respectful? Have I overlooked their specialness in our Jewish community? Have I offended them by something I said in class? Have I been open to them discussing non-Jewish matters that are important to them? Have I helped them navigate their dual religious identities?

We pride ourselves on being a welcoming community. Our website reads: "Our congregation includes people from traditional Jewish backgrounds, interfaith families, and people with little or no previous Jewish learning or experience. Our membership includes families, couples, and singles; children and elders; Jews by birth and Jews by choice (or still choosing). We value and seek to include everyone who shares our commitment to living and learning about compassionate, ethical Judaism regardless of age, marital status, income level, sexual orientation, gender identity, race or disability."

As a Jew by choice, I too have wrestled with the question, “Am I Jewish enough?”

Chris and Dan

Youth

Sherman and Joyce
Levenson

Temple Israel
1602 E Second Street
Duluth, MN 55812

218 724-8857

www.JewishDuluth.org

Send news articles to
bulletin@jewishduluth.org by
the 18th for next month's
bulletin.

The temple administrative
assistant may be contacted at
admin@Jewishduluth.org

Remember those in care facilities

Shirley Goldberg - St. Anne's
Dorothy Slonim - Benedictine
Health Center

Barbara Segal - BeeHive
Homes

Temple Israel

**All Shabbat evening services
start at 6:00 p.m.**

Sometimes that questioning stems from a lack of self-confidence. When Rabbi Amy Bernstein and I were setting the date of my conversion, she asked me if I had any concerns about becoming Jewish. My answer, "I don't know enough."

I was embarrassed by that lack of knowledge at my first Jewish Reconstructionist educator's conference at Siegal College in Cleveland. We gathered to mark the ending of Shabbat with Havdalah. Everyone seemed to know all the songs they were singing. I did not. When one converts to Judaism, the songs haven't been rolling around in your head since childhood.

When one converts to Judaism, you don't have a Jewish history or lifelong Jewish identity to draw upon. When accompanying my colleagues to Boston last month, they were looking forward to getting together with other Jews they have known throughout their lives. I had absolutely no expectation of running into anyone I knew, besides my three colleagues. (To my surprise, I did run into Willie and Marge Portillia, former Temple Israel members.)

We say we value and seek to include everyone. But do we? I think of some comments I have heard others in our synagogue make, and I cringe. Sometimes we ask the question, "Am I Jewish enough?" because of something someone else has said.

Seven years ago, when I took on the role as Youth Education Director, I sat in my office overhearing a conversation taking place in the office next door. An older couple, long-time congregants, were trying to figure out who I was. The then-administrative assistant told them that I was a convert. Their conversation about me ended with an "oh."

I remember thinking at that time that I will never be accepted as being "Jewish enough" by some in our community, and especially the greater Jewish community.

But last month at the URJ Biennial, I found myself one among 6,000 other Jews. My confidence in being "Jewish enough" was bolstered by my son becoming a Bar Mitzvah and by the experience of having read from the Torah scroll, both one week before. And I realized that in the eyes of the Reform Jewish movement all of us there were "Jewish enough" no matter what path we had traveled or experiences we had in our Jewish journeys.

Todah Rabah

All Shabbat morning services start at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat morning Torah Study starts at 9:15 a.m.

Is Your Contact Information Correct?

Please check the Temple Directory.

Is your name, address, phone number and email address up-to-date?

If there are any changes, please email or call the temple office and let us know!
admin@jewishduluth.org or
218-724-8857

Notice for DUSTY members

Meeting planned for: January 24, 2018
from 6:30 to 7:30

Jewish Book Club

will meet at the home of Michael and Sophia Waxman on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Children's Hanukkah Party: DuSTY and Junior DuSTY members Hanna Widdes, David Wallerstein, Sam Buck, Jake Widdes and Zippy Vosen helped lead activities. Teachers Jeff Wallace, Susan Rees, Tina Alcala-Sales, Linda Glaser and Rabbi David Steinberg supervised activities. Bart Polacsek, Allyz Kramer Polacsek, Melody Skoglund, Michael Skoglund, Stephanie Brenner, Josh Widdes and Elyse Carter-Vosen cooked latkes, mac and cheese and other delicious foods. Anna, Gretta and Henry Skoglund helped make sugar cookies. And Dan Wallerstein did more than a "fair share" of dishes.

Thank you to Chris King, who ran the school, and Andrew Podolsky, who taught my Hebrew classes, while I was away at the URJ Biennial.

Thank you to everyone who purchased lemony drinks at the Annual Meeting. The students raised a little over \$140 that will go towards funding their efforts to give care to 29 Jewish families in Houston who lost their homes to Hurricane Harvey.

January Calendar Notes

There is no Hebrew or Religious School on Saturday, Jan. 20, which coincides with the Duluth Public Schools' semester break.

TU BISHEVAT SEDER ON FRIDAY JANUARY 26

What is the meaning of "Tu BiShevat?" "Tu" is a pronunciation of the Hebrew letters for the number fifteen; and the holiday falls in (the prefix "bi" means "in") the Hebrew month of "Shevat," approximately parallel to late January or early February. This date was originally just a date for the end of the tax year for fruit trees. Whatever fruits blossomed before Tu Bishevat belonged to the previous tax season for purposes of tithing. However, by borrowing from the Passover Seder model, the mystics of medieval Safed created a ritualized ceremony for drinking wine and eating fruits, in particular fruits from the land of Israel. This custom was adapted by early-20th century Zionist educators who made it a tree planting holiday to help redeem the land. Subsequently (circa 1970's), Jewish environmentalists added their own layer of meaning to the holiday as a time to emphasize our concern for appreciating and protecting nature.

The holiday is also known as "Rosh Hashanah La'llanot" ("The New Year of the Trees.")

11:30 am. We will discuss *THE COLUMBUS AFFAIR* by Steve Berry, followed by a dairy pot luck lunch. As it gets closer, please RSVP to the Waxman's at 218-724-5488.

Thanks,

Pam Griggs

Please join us on Friday, January 26th at 6:00 p.m. for our annual congregational Tu Bshevat Seder. The seder will include elements of the Shabbat evening service so that we won't be having a service in the sanctuary that night.

RSVP to the Temple Office by Monday, January 15th. Cost and menu not available at publishing. Will be announced when it is.

(Note: If cost is prohibitive to you please let the office know in confidence and your meal can be paid for through the Rabbi's discretionary fund. As with all Temple Shabbat meals, you can send your payment to the office before or after Shabbat if you prefer not to handle money on Shabbat. But please contact the office to reserve your place in any event.)

TALMUD STUDY WITH RABBI DAVID

Join Rabbi David on selected Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for a study of *Masechet Sanhedrin*, a tractate in the Talmud that deals mainly with how courts would be set up in a Jewish society, how judges are to be qualified, as well as questions of criminal law and the administration of justice. However, just as in other tractates of the Talmud, there is also a stream of consciousness feel to it, with discussions going off in many directions.

Here are links that you can use to purchase your own copy of the text, whether you prefer the Artscroll-Sonnenstein edition or the Koren-Steinsaltz edition, each of which are available in various formats. Either version is acceptable, and we'll certainly plan to consult the explanatory notes in each of these editions as well as adding our own understandings into the mix.

Artscroll-Sonnenstein Edition:

<http://www.artscroll.com/Books/9780899067414.html>

Koren-Steinsaltz edition:

https://www.korenpub.com/koren_en_usd/koren/talmud/vol-29-sanhedrin-part-1.html

No prior knowledge or experience of Talmud study is required.

If you'd like to participate, please just show up, but feel free to contact me, Rabbi David with any questions you might have. The class begin in November but anyone is welcome to join in at any point along the way.

Upcoming Class dates: 1/4, 1/18, 1/25 plus additional subsequent dates to be announced.

5778 2018		January		tevet shevat		 www.karben.com		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 14 tevet NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 15 tevet 10:00 a.m. Zumba Gold 5:00 p.m. Yoga 8:00 p.m. Adult Hebrew	3 16 tevet 4:30 Hebrew Sch 8:30 Confers Class Hebrew book	4 17 tevet 10:00 a.m. Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm Talmud Study	5 18 tevet 6:00 pm Shabbat Family Sn	6 19 tevet 8:30 Hebrew Sch 10:00 Halig Sch 9:15am Torah Study 10am Shabbat		
	7 20 tevet NEW YEAR'S DAY	8 21 tevet NEW YEAR'S DAY	9 22 tevet 10:00 a.m. Zumba Gold 5:00 p.m. Yoga 8:00 a.m. Adult Hebrew	10 23 tevet 4:30 Hebrew Sch 8:30 Confers Class	11 24 tevet 8:00 pm Shabbat serv	12 25 tevet 8:30 Hebrew Sch 10:00 Halig Sch 9:15am Torah Study 10am Shabbat		
	14 27 tevet MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	15 28 tevet MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	16 29 tevet 10:00 a.m. Zumba Gold 5:00 p.m. Yoga 8:00 p.m. Adult Hebrew	17 1 shevat 1:00 Mahjong 4:30 Hebrew Sch 8:30 Confers Class	18 2 shevat 10:00 a.m. Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm Talmud Study	19 3 shevat 8:00 pm Shabbat serv	20 4 shevat 8:30 Hebrew Sch 10:00 Halig Sch 9:15am Torah Study 10am Shabbat	
	21 5 shevat MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	22 6 shevat MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	23 7 shevat 10:00 a.m. Zumba Gold 5:00 p.m. Yoga 8:00 p.m. Adult Hebrew	24 8 shevat 4:30 Hebrew Sch 8:30 Confers Class DUSTY 8:30-7:30 p.m.	25 9 shevat 10:00 a.m. Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm Talmud Study	26 10 shevat 6:00 pm Adult TU 8:30 Hebrew Sch 10:00 Halig Sch 9:15am Torah Study 10am Shabbat	27 11 shevat 8:30 Hebrew Sch 10:00 Halig Sch 9:15am Torah Study 10am Shabbat	
28 12 shevat	29 13 shevat	30 14 shevat 10:00 a.m. Zumba Gold 5:00 p.m. Yoga 8:00 p.m. Adult Hebrew	31 15 shevat 1:00 Mahjong 4:30 Hebrew Sch 8:30 Confers Class	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28		TU 8 SHEVAT		

January Calendar Notes

There is no Hebrew or Religious School on Saturday, Jan. 20, which coincides with the Duluth Public Schools' semester break.