The Temple Israel Building remains closed for services, classes, and regular events. If you are at the building conducting business or picking up materials, MASKS are REQUIRED in the building in accordance with city of Duluth and State of Minnesota ordinance and executive orders.

Office hours are 8:30am - 12:00pm Tuesday thru Friday.

Weekly Schedule of Virtual Meetups

Please join us for Torah study, Fridays at noon; and for Shabbat services on

   Fridays at 6:00 p.m.  
   and Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

e-mail the Temple office to obtain Zoom links if you do not already have them.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

So it’s almost November do you know what that means? Correct it is almost time to elect new members to the temple board of directors. At our last meeting I was surprised to find out a lot of our members had no idea how the process works. So here you go, it’s pretty simple. There is a nominating committee. That committee consists of the sitting president and the two previous past presidents and congregation member or two who work with the president elect to identify interested temple members to fill the vacant positions on the board. I know what you are thinking. Rob how do I get the opportunity to serve. Just let one of your current board members know you would like to join the board. The call might not come right away. Most years there is only a few positions that change over. With that being said, if you want to serve, we want you. When you get the call, just remember to say yes. I’m sure glad I did.

We have had a transition in the Office at Temple Israel. Nicole Widdes is the interim administrative assistant and will be available during office hours. We will be continuing our project of updating databases. If you have any questions, please give her a call!

Rob Shamblott  
President
FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY: November 2020/ Cheshvan-Kislev 5781

The Hebrew month of Cheshvan, which comes between Tishri (filled with all of the fall holidays – Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah) and Kislev (culminating with Chanukah) – has no special holidays of its own. In Jewish tradition, this month is sometimes called “Marcheshvan” (“bitter Cheshvan”) to reflect this lack of special holidays.

Actually, when I was a little kid I was taught that “Marcheshvan” meant “Mr. Cheshvan” – that, given its lack of holidays we should go out of our way to treat the month with respect and dignity because otherwise it will “feel bad.” (Similarly, I was taught that we cover the challah on a Shabbat table because the challah will feel bad if it knows that we are giving a much longer blessing (Kiddush) for the wine than the challah gets for itself [hamotzi])

I sort of like those more playful explanations even if, to cite Stephen Colbert, they may have more “truthiness” than “truth” in them...

Shortly after Cheshvan goes out and Kislev comes in this year, we come to that great American holiday, Thanksgiving. As Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan (the founder of the Reconstructionist movement) taught, we American Jews “live in two civilizations.” And it is certainly true that Thanksgiving both draws from Jewish sources and inspires us as Jews.

Regarding the latter idea, I remember when I was in rabbinical school at RRC one of my teachers, Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, used to invite students who were away from their families to her home for Thanksgiving dinner – and we’d start the meal with a big challah shaped like a Turkey.

And when I was in my early twenties spending a year working between college and law school, my (Jewish) supervisor at the law firm where I worked as an administrative assistant routinely referred to Thanksgiving as “yuntif.” (Yiddish for “holiday” – as if the fourth Thursday in November were also a traditional Jewish holiday). It is told that in creating the American Thanksgiving holiday, the Pilgrims drew on the tradition of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, one of whose themes is that of thanksgiving for the fall harvest. (One of the traditional names for Sukkot is “Chag Ha’asif”/ “The festival of the ingathering [of crops].)

In fact, in Judaism, every day is Thanksgiving Day, as the Amidah (in both its weekday and Shabbat versions) always includes “Birkat Hoda’ah” (The blessing of thanksgiving.)

It might be more challenging than usual this year to focus on being thankful when we are all still so frustrated to be amidst a third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. It’s prudent this year not to attend large in-person extended family Thanksgiving get-togethers. However you choose to celebrate on the fourth Thursday of November, please consider carefully how you will go about minimizing the risk of coronavirus transmission. Stay safe everyone!

And, with the country so politically divided, a significant portion of American society might be feeling frustrated, despondent or fearful --- and decidedly un-thankful --- about the results of the elections. (I’m writing this six days before Election Day so who knows what the state of our union will be by the time Thanksgiving arrives.). It’s not as simple as saying – “I hope your side wins!” or “May the best person win!” Whoever wins, and whatever party ends up controlling the various branches of government – there is and will be a lot of healing yet to be accomplished.

A classic teaching in the Talmud (the citation is Masechet Shabbat 127a) sets out certain mitzvot for which there is no limit to the spiritual reward one can earn in both this world and in the world to come for doing them. One of the examples set forth in that passage that comes most vividly to mind as we get ready for Election Day is the mitzvah of הֲבָאַת שָׁלוֹם שֶׁבֵּין אָדָם לַחֲבֵרוֹ (“hava’at shalom shebeyn adam lachavero”) --- bringing peace between one person and another. Whatever happens in the coming days and weeks ahead, may each of us be among the bringers of shalom as we move forward together.

L’shalom,
Rabbi David Steinberg
rabbidavid@jewishduluth.org
NEWS FROM THE HEBREW AND RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

One of our students and her Dad took the concept of home-based Judaism to heart by building their own sukkah, then inviting some of her Jewish friends inside for donuts.

Other students enjoyed making mini-sukkahs as part of their preschool/kindergarten home-based Judaism lessons developed by Morah Elizabeth and Morah Chris.

Online classes for Hebrew students, 3rd-6th grade religious studies students, B’nai Mitzvah students and Confirmation students continue now through Nov. 21 at their regularly scheduled times on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Classes won’t meet on Wednesday, Nov. 25 and Saturday, Nov. 28, due to Thanksgiving break.

The next home packet pick-ups for preschool, kindergarten and 1st grade students are 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24. Please use the 16th Avenue East entrance.

We are still working on ideas for the children’s Hanukkah parties. A party for our younger students, preschool through 1st grade ages, is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12. A party for our older students is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 16. If anyone has suggestions for outdoor venues and activities, please message or call me.

Andrea Novel Buck
Youth Education Director
Join us for Shabbat Evening service
November 20th, 2020

Our Shabbat evening service on Zoom on Friday, November 20th at 6:00 p.m. will feature guest speaker Lee Stuart. Her talk is entitled “CHUM: Birthright? Blessing? Both?” Lee sees that CHUM is restoring basic elements of birthright and also providing blessings to those who come to CHUM, but both the birthright and the blessing CHUM provides are inferior to justice. How do we practice our charity to the fullest, while pushing against “charity is no substitute for justice withheld?”

Lee Stuart has over twenty-five years of experience in non-profit leadership and community organizing. She created SHARE - New York, a 10,000-member food assistance program in the South Bronx and then went on to be the lead organizer of South Bronx Churches. In that role, she led the teams that created new approaches to affordable housing development, school reform, and building public-private-nonprofit partnerships that led to the restoration of large areas of the South Bronx. She moved to Duluth MN in 2011 and worked with Duluth LISC for two years as a program officer before becoming Executive Director of CHUM in 2013. She holds a PhD in Ecology from the joint doctoral program of San Diego State University and University of California Davis.

CHUM’s mission statement is "people of faith working together to provide basic necessities, foster stable lives, and organize for a just and compassionate community." For more information about CHUM visit www.chumduluth.org. Temple Israel is one of CHUM’s 42 member congregations.

The title of Lee’s talk is an allusion to the weekly Torah portion for the Shabbat of November 20-21, Parashat Toledot (Genesis 25:19 – 28:9). In Parashat Toledot, Jacob buys his brother Esau’s birthright and goes on years later to steal the deathbed blessing that their father Isaac had intended for Esau.

Book Club

The next meeting of the Temple Israel Book Group will occur via zoom on Sunday, December 13th at 1:00pm. We will discuss The Last Watchman of Old Cairo by Michael David Lukas, Random House paperback, 2020. You do not need to read the book to participate in the discussion. All are Welcome. Please contact Mark Weitz at msw1517@gmail.com for the zoom address.

Indiana University’s Borns Jewish Studies Program will be awarding multiple scholarships of up to $60,000 ($15,000/year for 4 years) for incoming Jewish Studies majors or Jewish Sacred Music (pre-cantorial) students entering in Fall 2021. “The program has more than 200 alumni working in careers related to Jewish Studies. IU’s premier Jewish Studies Program has a world-renowned faculty, and offers more than 40 courses per year, career support and mentoring, many cultural and academic events throughout the year, an active student association, an Israel-friendly campus, and opportunities for study in Israel. See: https://jsp.sitehost.iu.edu/index.shtml

To apply for Fall 2021 Jewish Studies scholarships see: https://jsp.sitehost.iu.edu/undergraduates/funding_freshmen.shtml

Deadline: Tuesday, January 19, 2021. (Eligible if bringing maximum of 29 credit hours to IU.)
If we are missing your Birthday or Anniversary, please contact the office at admin@jewishduluth.org

November Birthdays

1 - Erin Aldridge
   Alan Apter
   Devyn Wallace
4 - Connie Jacoby
5 - Stephanie Love
6 - Lillian Wodrich
8 - Elizabeth Kaplan
9 - Isabell Tusin
   Jay Aldridge
10 - Ben Yokel
14 - Alexis Pogorelskin
16 - Steve Kenigsberg
17 - Sharon Kaner
   Gary Latz
   Alice Loons
18 - Sam Buck
   Arianna Loons
19 - Dori Streit
20 - Allyz Kramer Polacsek
21 - Burton Cohen
   Linda Eason
   Max Frank
23 - Theresa Bobula
25 - Rosemary Kenigsberg

November Anniversaries

4th - Sam Black & Kathy Stinnett
11th - Kathy Levine and Mike Olson
15th - Jeff Wallace and Susan Ginsburg
18th - Rob and Kristin Shamblott
27th - Steve Davis & Terese Tomanek

Remember those in care facilities
Carol Cohen, The Pines Three
Paul King, St Ann's
Rochelle Rubin, Benedictine Health Center
Barbara Segal, BeeHive Homes

November Donations
Donations listed were received 9/15/2020 – 10/29/2020

Benton/Goldfine Library Fund
Joan Bischoff In Memory of Chaya Feldman

CHUM/Food Shelf Fund
Sharon & Toby Marcovich In Memory of Jill Bachinski
Francine Gurovitsch In Memory of Isaac Gershgol
Janet Rosen In Honor of Miles Rosen & Lily Fesler
Sherrill Weinberg In Memory of Morris P Weinberg
Joan & Lee Sacks In Memory of Irvin Lewenstein

Endowment Fund
Jack & Cindy Seiler In Memory of Sylvia Seiler
Jack & Cindy Seiler In Memory of Louis Otto Macor
Jack & Cindy Seiler In Memory of Harold Vosen

General Fund
Frieda & Scott Hall In Memory of David Atlas
Susi Saxl & Rober Kramer
Sharon & Toby Marcovich In Memory of Pauline Brizer
Barry Tusin In Honor of Temple Leadership
Sharon Kaner In Honor of Tracy & Chuck Goman
Tracy Goman In Memory of Grandparents
Janet Rosen In Memory of Martin Sabin & Harriet Dean

The Polacsek Family In Memory of Clarence Mettlar & Ben Szyzka
Carol Cohen In Memory of Ida & Fred Daneiko
Mark & Carol Weitz In Memory of Harold Vosen
Mark & Carol Wietz In Memory of Charles Wietz & Augustus Wolfman
Shirley Witkin In Memory of Pauline Brizer

Let’s Make a Mask
Andrew Neimyer & Lisa Abrahams

Prayer Book Fund
Bruce & Susan Winthorp In Memory of Harry & Rosalywn Shamblott & Marshal Shamblott

Rabbi Discretionary Fund
Richard Kanoff
Howard & Barb Klatzky In Memory of Sam Klatzky
Anonymous
David Wiltz In Memory of Cheryl Anson

Religious School Endowment
Sharyn Seiler In Memory of Shawn Seiler
Religious School
The Polacsek Family In Memory of Beatrice Kaspin & Lillian Konikoff

Recording for the Blind
Lenore Bear In Memory of Miriam Smith
Social Action Fund
Linda Glaser In Honor of Andrea Gelb

Temple Music
Linda Glaser In Honor of 2020 Temple Choir
Dear Temple members,

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, our congregation is working on ways to connect those of us who might be homebound and in need of assistance due to being in a high risk category with those of us who might be able to provide that assistance. To that end, we invite you to fill out the following survey and e-mail it back to the office at admin@jewishduluth.org or call the Temple office at 218-724-8857.

We advise everyone to consider you and your own family’s health and safety first and do not volunteer if you are not comfortable or if it would be inadvisable to do so.

***************************************************

NAME: _______________________________    E-MAIL AND PHONE: ______________

“I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER”:

___ grocery or medicine pickup and delivery                         ___ meal preparation and delivery
___ check-in/support calls - daily or with some regularity      ___ pet sitting
___ other:

“I COULD USE SOME ASSISTANCE”:

___ groceries and/or pharmacy runs                                     ___ meals delivered
___ pet sitting                                                                      ___ support phone calls
___ other:

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Please also note that people who are in self-isolation (coronavirus infected) and quarantine (close contact with an infected individual) should contact St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Department 218-625-3600. They can also provide supportive services for people who are self-isolating or in quarantine at this time.
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<td>9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service</td>
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<td>5/19</td>
<td>10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service</td>
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<td>12:00 pm Torah Study and Family Service</td>
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(Events listed are placeholders and will be updated with actual events as they are scheduled.)