



Volume 21, Issue 11

TEMPLE ISRAEL CHRONICLE

Nov-Dec 2021 ☆ Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet

Please Join Us  
Sunday, December 5th, 5:00 p.m.  
at the Friedman JCC for the

Community  
Chanukah Lighting  
&  
52nd Annual Mayrutz Run

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TEMPLE B'NAI B'RITH, FRIEDMAN JCC & MIDRASHA

This year we hope you will join us and the entire Jewish Community for another festive Chanukah event at the Friedman JCC- the lighting of the Chanukiyah and the 52nd Annual Mayrutz Run!

There will be festive singing led by the clergy from both Temple Israel and Temple B'nai B'rith. Plus, everyone will get a sweet treat to take home- Krispy Kreme donuts and the newest trend in holiday treats: a Hot Cocoa Bomb!

# Rabbi Kaplan



*Writes.*

Dear Friends,  
Having spent almost a quarter of Temple Israel's past hundred years with the congregation I can safely say

that it was the best move I could possibly have made. We have been through many challenges through the years and are experiencing many at this moment. And somehow, just as the Jewish People have persevered through the ages, so has the Temple Israel family continued to progress and adapt to changing conditions.

As of this writing we are still not certain when we will be back in our sanctuary, what the Covid restrictions will be, and what our services will be like. What I can suppose is that they will not be the same services we experienced before Covid. I'm not suggesting that we take the advice of the angels that were leading Abraham's nephew Lot and his family out of Sodom and Gemorrah before God rained down sulfurous fire to destroy the cities. They said to Lot and his wife and children, "AL TABIT ACHARECHA!- Don't look back!" And according to the story, Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.

Our worship services could hardly be compared to Sodom and Gemorrah, God forbid. They were the legacy of 100 years of Jewish prayer, molded by a series of Rabbis and Cantors and pious men and women who attended Minyan and Shabbat and Holiday worship regularly. Their devotion to Jewish tradition and particularly to the nuances of the Conservative Movement enabled many generations to experience traditional Jewish worship and get closer to God.

The question isn't should we look back, it is HOW should we look back. Some of us remember the extensive exercise we did years ago when we took a bold look at our Temple's future. One of the projects

was to have two large tables down in our vestry close to each other. One table was empty, the other was filled with small pieces from board games and other little chachkas scattered around the table. Our task was to see that filled table as our past, and the empty table as our future. We were to take only those pieces that we wanted to use and employ in our future and place them on the empty table. We were to leave behind those pieces that were in our past, and which did not have an active place in our future.

We had to think about everything that surrounded those aspects of our past that contributed to the usefulness and value of everything on that table. The demographic make up of our congregation through the years, the number of congregants raised in traditional Jewish homes, the number who were familiar with the davening and who were expecting an almost three hour service on a Shabbat morning. The large numbers at Men's Club and Sisterhood gatherings and meetings. The many social events and holiday functions that took place in our synagogue. The weekly Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies.

And then we needed to bring over to the empty table only those aspects of our past that would be fruitful and useful, spiritual and meaningful, practical and inviting, for a new generation.

These were difficult decisions. I recall having thoughts of those poor people on the TV show "Hoarders" who found it catastrophic to part with anything, no matter how useless or trivial. Let's face it, we all do at least a little "hoarding" of our memories of the way things used to be. And we're not being asked to throw it all away. But the challenge faces all of us- what will we be doing inside our beautiful building once it's ready to celebrate our 100th anniversary?

Covid has given us a glimpse. This tragedy has forced us to rework everything from how we do services to how we bring spirituality into our lives. It has helped us to decide what absolutely needs to be on that new table. It now includes all kinds of technology that was never on the table. In fact, I recall the occasional relative with a camera

snapping a picture of the Bar Mitzvah boy being castigated by members of the congregation for daring to take a picture during a Shabbat service. I used to wonder, back then, that despite the questionable Halachic (Jewish legal) grounds for not allowing photography (having to do with making an indelible picture on film), wouldn't God want us to take advantage of the technology we had developed with the brains God had furnished for us, in order to capture our sacred moments?

And now those sacred moments are not only captured, but streaming live to us in our living rooms, cars, offices, kitchens and decks. If we had access to a selfie God's been taking lately, I think He'd be smiling at us.

Our Covid and Post-Covid (speedily and in our day) synagogue life will be forever changed. We are searching for the best ways to involve everyone in our congregation and beyond, so we can best take advantage of our beautifully restored sanctuary and make the next hundred years of Temple Israel bring about a love for God that will enhance all of our lives.

*-Rabbi*

## NEED HELP GETTING SERVICES ONLINE?

Visit our website or Facebook page to watch services  
Website: [templewb.org/worship/watch-now](http://templewb.org/worship/watch-now)  
FaceBook Page: [facebook.com/templewb](https://facebook.com/templewb)

Need help? Contact the Temple Office and one of our Technology Committee volunteers can arrange to show you or your loved ones how to navigate through the process.



## Notes... from Cantor

You may have noticed that the Jewish holidays are on the early part of the cycle this year. Consequently, Chanukah actually begins on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend (the first night is November 28). Can we find any connections between the two holidays? It's a bit of a stretch, but here goes.

Let's briefly review the history behind both holidays. In 167 BCE Antiochus Epiphanes, with the support of Hellenized Jews, effectively outlawed Judaism, going as far as banning circumcision and sacrificing pigs on the altar of the Temple. His actions provoked a large-scale rebellion, led by the priest Mattathias and his 5 sons. When Mattathias died, his son Judah the Maccabee took over as leader. The Apocryphal text 1Maccabees records that after 2 years of fighting, the rebellion was successful. Judah ordered the Temple to be cleansed, a new altar to be built in place of the polluted one and new holy vessels to be made. An eight-day celebration of songs and sacrifices was proclaimed upon re-dedication of the altar, but there is no mention of the miracle of the oil (that was added centuries later by the Rabbis of the Talmud).

Now to Thanksgiving. It is likely that the deeply religious Pilgrims consciously drew on a model well-known to them from the Bible. Seeing themselves as new Israelites in a new "promised land," the Pilgrims surely found inspiration in Leviticus Ch.16 where God commands the Israelites to observe the Feast of Booths, and "to rejoice before the Lord your God" at the time of the fall harvest. There are other connections between the two holidays. In ancient times, Sukkot entailed a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to give thanks for a plentiful harvest while dwelling in booths during the week-long festival. Likewise, the American pilgrims lived in makeshift huts, wigwams that the Native Americans helped them build during their first winter in Massachusetts.

There's no question that Thanksgiving is based on Sukkot, but what you may not know is the Chanukah connection to that Festival. Chanukah was actually originally set up as a belated observance of Sukkot, which the Jews were unable to celebrate because of the war with the Greeks. So Chanukah and Thanksgiving may not be directly connected, but they have Sukkot in common.

Both holidays have special significance for us at Temple Israel. We're thankful to be coming out of the isolation of the pandemic, and grateful as we rededicate our beautiful Temple in this 100th Anniversary year.

*-Cantor*

## Join Rabbi Kaplan this February for an exciting week in the Holy Land!



Leaving Sunday, February 27, 2022

Returning early Wednesday March 9, 2022

Our Travel hosts: Barry and Jay Weiss

Total Cost \$4995\*

Includes everything listed below except souvenirs!

- **Airfare on El Al Israel Airlines**
- **Amazing Israeli Buffet Breakfast AND Dinner EVERY DAY**
- **8 days of touring Israel with professional driver and Lee Glassman, native of Scranton, PA, perhaps the most sought after tour guide in all of Israel**
- **8 nights in beautiful Israeli hotels including the 5 Star Inbal in Jerusalem**
- **All fees for all sites and programs**
- **Brand new sites you've never seen before**

\$500 deposit payable to ODYSSEY TRAVEL 320 Northern Blvd., Chinchilla, PA 18410 (570) 587-2244

More details available by calling Temple Israel at 570-824-8927 or emailing Rabbi Kaplan at [rabbi@templewb.org](mailto:rabbi@templewb.org)

\*Based on minimum number of participants.

**Quarter Pound Burger or McFefafel???**

# BLESSINGS FOR LIGHTING CHANUKAH CANDLES

As with all other Jewish rituals, the lighting of candles goes according to a specific order and has blessings that accompany it.

On the first of Chanukah's eight nights, only two candles are placed in the Hanukkah menorah (also known as a chanukiyah): the shamash, or "helper" candle, which has its own designated spot (usually in the center), and another candle. Each night, another candle is added so that on the eighth and final night of Chanukah, nine candles (the shamash plus eight others) are lit.

The candles are placed in the from right to left (just as Hebrew is written from right to left), but are lit from left to right. The shamash candle is always the first one lit, and is used to light the others, starting with the left-most one. (Think of it as lighting the candle representing the newest night first.)

*Before lighting the candles (but after placing them in the menorah), we recite these two blessings each night:*

ברוך אתה יי, אלוהינו מלך העולם, אשר  
קיַדְשָׁנוּ בְּמִצּוֹתָיו וְצִיָּוָנוּ  
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה

**Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam asher kid'shanu  
b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel chahnookah**

Blessed are you Lord our God, ruler of the universe, who made us holy through the commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah lights

ברוך אתה יי, אלוהינו מלך העולם, שַׁעֲשֵׂה  
נִסִּים לְאַבֹּתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה

**Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam, she-asah nisim  
la'avoteinu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh**

Blessed are you Lord our God, ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in those ancient days at this season.

*On the first night only include this third blessing:*

ברוך אתה יי, אלוהינו מלך העולם, שֶׁהִחַיָּנוּ  
וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה

**Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu,  
v'kiymanu, v'higyanu lazman hazeh.**

Blessed are you Lord our God, ruler of the universe, who has given us life and sustained us and enabled us to reach this season.

## RUNNERS NEEDED!

The Friedman JCC's 52nd Annual Mayrutz Run continues the long-standing Running of the Torch- Mayrutz Halapid tradition that originated in 1940 Israel in when young men would run to distant cities of the country to light public menorahs. All are welcome to join us this year and carry on this meaningful tradition that lights the way for many generations into the future.

Contact Kevin Harcarick at 570-824-4646 ext. 215  
orathdir@nepaja.org for more info or to sign up.

## NEXT BOOK CLUB: MON. JAN. 10TH, 6PM

**Where:** Theo's Metro, Luzerne

### Book Selection:

***What the Wind Knows* by Amy Harmon**

### Synopsis:

Anne Gallagher grew up enchanted by her grandfather's stories of Ireland. Heartbroken at his death, she travels to his childhood home to spread his ashes. There, overcome with memories of the man she adored and consumed by a history she never knew, she is pulled into another time.

The Ireland of 1921, teetering on the edge of war, is a dangerous place in which to awaken. But there Anne finds herself, hurt, disoriented, and under the care of Dr. Thomas Smith, guardian to a young boy who is oddly familiar. Mistaken for the boy's long-missing mother, Anne adopts her identity, convinced the woman's disappearance is connected to her own.

As tensions rise, Thomas joins the struggle for Ireland's independence and Anne is drawn into the conflict beside him. Caught between history and her heart, she must decide whether she's willing to let go of the life she knew for a love she never thought she'd find. But in the end, is the choice actually hers to make?



# SEPTEMBER PIZZA IN THE HUT-FALL FEST A HIT!

Fun was had by all who attended the PIZZA IN THE HUT event held at the JCC. Temple Israel & Temple B'nai B'rith Midrasha families kicked off the school year and celebrated Sukkot. Special thanks to the continued financial support from the SHAFFER SUKKAH ENDOWMENT.





# Toys from Heidi

Heidi Mitchneck Seeherman Annual Toy Drive  
A joint project between Friedman Jewish Community Center,  
Temple B'nai B'rith, Temple Israel and  
Congregation Ohav Zedek.



The toys will be gifted to children ages  
infants to 12 years who are from needy homes.

Due to COVID we are asking for monetary donations  
to support this program, starting November 1st.

Please make checks payable to:  
**Temple Israel Religious School**  
and mail to:  
**Temple Israel**  
**613 SJ Strauss Lane**  
**Kingston, PA 18704**

We hope you will take part in this wonderful cause.  
Help us make smiles brighter this holiday season.

## MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATES NEEDED!

Our member database is missing some important information, especially Hebrew names of our members. Keep an eye out for a letter requesting updates. We will provide each of you with all the information we have on file for you, including a list of family yahrzeits. Please review and provide updates or corrections. We'd like to have the most up-to-date information including your Hebrew name, names of any children, and birthday info as well.

## 2022 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Plans are in the works to have a series of events in the coming year to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. We're finalizing the details of a concert event the weekend of April 23rd followed by a Centennial Gala Event later in the year. We are creating a video presentation highlighting everything from the major landmark occasions and events to any and all of the family simchas, Bar and Bat Mitvah's, graduations, weddings, baby namings, consecrations that make up our history over the past century. Please jump in and help be a part of making this once in a century occasion spectacular! We value your input and ideas and need your participation to make it happen. Contact the office or email [info@templewb.org](mailto:info@templewb.org) to express your interest to get involved.



# From the President...

As we move past the High Holidays, we are all very grateful to all those that helped put together such wonderful services at the JCC. The integration of live and pre-recorded sections gave everyone the ability to participate, and with the help of our video expert Bill Schultz, the services presented well both in person and on-line. Joel Zitofsky lead the team to convert the space in the JCC to a magnificent temporary sanctuary, and I again thank him for all his work. I cannot thank Gary and Bob and the whole JCC family enough for being so flexible and providing the space to us. Our partnership with them has been wonderful. Going forward, we will continue to broadcast all services on-line and encourage all of you to tune in.

As I discussed at services, our building is going through some much needed repairs. After years of patches, the roof and masonry needed a total overhaul. Not only will the repairs fix the many leaks we have seen over the past few years, but when you drive by, take a close look at the dome and exterior of the building. Part of the work is to patch and clean the exterior as well, and you can already see how beautiful it has made the building look on the outside. On the inside, the plaster is being stabilized and painted, so we will not have to worry about any hidden dangers. While the repairs have been extensive, they are a long term fix that should hold up for decades to come. We are hopeful to have the work complete in the not too distant future. In the meantime, Joel Zitofsky is also doing an evaluation of the whole building and the systems so that we can better plan for future maintenance issues and costs.

One big question is when can we return to in person services. Between Covid 19 and repairs, we have been much more restricted than we had hoped. As the repairs come to an end, we hope that Covid stays in check, and we will be meeting soon to discuss when is the proper time to reopen live. Please stay tuned, as we will update you all as soon as we can every step along the way.

We are hopeful to turn our energy now toward happy events. Hanukkah is just around the corner and we encourage you all to participate in our Community Chanukah Candle Lighting at the Friedman JCC on Sunday, December 5th. As we turn toward 2022 we are quickly approaching our 100th anniversary of our Temple. We are planning a big celebration. We need volunteers to help plan and execute our great milestone. Please contact Jane Messinger at the Temple office and let her know you are willing to participate in the organization of the event.

I want to close by thanking everyone that has been putting so much time into the running of Temple during my presidency. Times have been crazy. We are short staffed. There have been so many unusual occurrences. To the small group who I have leaned on so much, thank you. To anyone who has any time to

lend a hand, reach out to me and I am sure there is some way you can help. For those who have any ideas (or even complaints), please don't hesitate to let me know. You can always reach me at [jyelen@yelenlaw.com](mailto:jyelen@yelenlaw.com) or by calling the Temple Office.

I hope to see you all soon – in person.

*Jeffrey Yelen*



FIND YOURSELF HERE

## WILKES-BARRE BBYO IS BACK!

Learn more about the new chapter and all the events, conventions and get togethers planned for the year ahead! For more info contact : Hal Levine [hallevine@verizon.net](mailto:hallevine@verizon.net) or Rachel Kislin [rkislin1986@gmail.com](mailto:rkislin1986@gmail.com).

## YEARNING FOR LEARNING?

*Have you been to or watched Temple services, a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or heard someone chant a haftarah and thought, "I wish I could do that!" Looking to learn more about our faith, history, the Bible and readings? Rabbi and Cantor are looking to gauge interest in the following:*

- **Learning more about our heritage, history and practices**
- **Refreshing or advancing your Hebrew reading skills**
- **Discovering the ancient systems of Biblical cantillation (trope) and nusach (prayer modes)**
- **Learning to read a Torah or haftarah portion, lead a part of the service, or do all 3!**

Based upon interest we will decide what's most suitable, whether working with you in a group or one-on-one personalized sessions, whether in person or virtually. If interested contact Rabbi or Cantor by calling the office 570-824-8927 or emailing them at: [rabbi@templewb.org](mailto:rabbi@templewb.org) or [cantor@templewb.org](mailto:cantor@templewb.org).



Temple Israel  
613 S.J. Strauss Ln. Suite #2  
Kingston, PA 18704  
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*Temple Israel, an egalitarian Conservative synagogue rooted in a rich heritage of traditional Jewish values, is committed to enhancing the religious, spiritual, educational and cultural life of its members and the larger Jewish community through a commitment to Torah, our community, and continuity and growth amid change.*

**Staff:**

Larry G. Kaplan, Rabbi  
Ahron Abraham, Cantor  
Jane Messinger  
Sally Strayhall  
Linda Israel

Jeffrey Yelen, President

**Schedule of Services**

Daily Minyan:  
**5:15 PM**



Shabbat Services:  
**Saturday, 10:00 AM**

Layout Design courtesy of  
Bedwick & Jones Printing.



## Attention Snowbirds



We need all winter addresses and the dates you plan to be away. Please note, even if we had this on file previously, please resend to [info@templewb.org](mailto:info@templewb.org) or call the office so we can verify that all membership information is correct. Thank you!

### **YOUR DONATIONS TO TEMPLE ISRAEL ENDOWMENTS AND FUNDS ARE APPRECIATED!**

Whether earmarked for “area of greatest need” or any of the endowments and funds listed below, contributions can be made for any occasion, such as memorials, simchas, recoveries, etc. and acknowledgement notices will be sent out to recipients.

For decades our minimum contribution has been and remains \$5 (unless otherwise noted with the listing), however, with rising costs we hope you will consider making minimum contributions of \$10. Donations can be made through our secure online merchant portal on our website: [templewb.org](http://templewb.org) or by mailing your payment and donation details to the office. Thank you!

DR. AND MRS. HAROLD BERSON FUND  
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BUILDING FUND  
BIBLE FUND (\$10)  
CHAI CONTRIBUTIONS (\$18)  
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EVA & NATHAN SHAIMAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND  
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