

**February 2020**

**Shevat 6, 5780 – Adar4, 5780**

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**RABBI JUDY’S MESSAGE**

Wow, another wonderful event held at the Temple where we could share our culture and traditions with the community! January was Museum Month in Monroe and thanks to the hard work of Sandra Blate, our Temple Museum was part of this month long event. On Saturday, January 18, we held an open house from 10 am – 2 pm where people from the community could drop in and tour our museum and sanctuary. The event culminated in a challah baking demonstration in the kitchen. It was a terrific success. Many thanks to Sandra, Shirley, Allison Dalton, Jackie Rosenberg, Minette Saber, Ron Blate, Bob Ginsburgh, Heather and Lily Dickinson and Sharon Hakim for helping with this event. I enjoyed being there and seeing the vibrant community life that was happening at our Temple.

On Saturday, January 25, I presented a travelogue of my recent trip to Greece, Cyprus and Israel. Again, this event was open to the community and about 13 people attended. We enjoyed hummus, Greek olives, sugared almonds and loukoumi and a good time was had by all.

On February 11, we celebrate Tu Bish’vat, the birthday of the trees. Trees are very important in Israel and so is the environment in general. Israelis know first-hand how to take nothing (barren desert) and turn it into something (a beautiful land rich in natural resources).

Our Torah is called “A Tree of Life. A tree, like the Torah, is sturdy and contains all we need to live – it has a foundation and roots, it has branches that grow in many different directions, and it has leaves and fruit to shelter us and sustain us.

There is a well-known story (midrash) that tells of an old man who was seen planting a small seedling. A passer-by asked him why he was planting that tree if he would never live to see it grow and blossom and bear fruit. And, the old man replied, “I do not plant this tree for myself, but for those who will come after me.”

I am proud that our Temple is preserving the past and preparing for the future. By inviting people to learn about our traditions, beliefs and culture, we are creating a world with less bias, ignorance and hate. We are paving the way for future generations to know where they came from and hopefully live in a world with more understanding, love and kindness.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I am proud of our Congregation reaching out to the community this past year in an effort to bring the area together as one religious community able to practice their faith peacefully. We have had events this past year that were open to the general public, starting with the Taste of Judaism class last January through Chanukah in December. We have had many guests attend our Shabbat services. I am excited to continue to reach out to the community with more events this year. We already have participated in Monroe Museum Month and had a travelogue of the Rabbi’s trip to Greece and Israel. There are more events planned throughout the year. Our next big event will be the Community Passover Seder on April 10th. Details will be announced soon.

I hope you will continue to support our Temple and the Community at-large, by inviting your family and friends to Shabbat and all of our other events.

We have made improvements to the Temple over the last year, including painting the hall and including the pictures of the most recent presidents, installing a new sound system, security cameras and panic bars on the Orell side doors, and repairing the air conditioner. The Sisterhood and Men’s Club purchased 120 new chairs, which we filled nearly every one of them at the Chanukah party. We are currently working on repairing the pews in the sanctuary.

Alan Barth, President

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**SERVICE SCHEDULE**

February 7th Kash Schriefer

February 14th Rabbi Judy

February 21st Bill Levinson

February 28th Mike Rhymes

Lay leaders are subject to change.

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**DONATIONS**

**In Memory of his step-parents, Lillie and Henry Gerson**

Gerald Lindenstraus

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**MEN’S CLUB**

The next Men’s Club meeting is Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 10:00am.

Alan Barth, President

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Edward & Penny Hakim February 14th 35 years

Carl & Donna Aron February 18th 52 years

Dominic & Jo Agbasi February 22nd 50 years

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Jonathan Allen (8yrs) – February 1st Rebecca Allen (8yrs) – February 1st

Abraham Hakim – February 3rd Kelsey Laudenheimer – February 3rd

Yvonne Stephan – February 4th Jimmie Laudenheimer – February 5th

Dvorah Palmer – February 11th Betsy Laudenheimer – February 12th

Jeffery Laudenheimer – February 22nd Sondra Pratt – February 22nd

Annie Richardson – February 2nd Janet Brueck – February 24th

Wesley Moore – February 27th

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**SPECIAL SERVICE OF CONVERSION ON MARCH 13, 2020**

For over a year now, Rabbi Judy has been working with seven people who expressed their desire to learn more about Judaism and became members of our Jewish community.  These seven people have studied diligently and will go through a Bet Din (Rabbinic court) and a mikveh (ceremonial cleansing) prior to this service where they will publically be welcomed into the Jewish religion.  The entire congregation is invited as we welcome Mark Albritton, Curtis Brown, Jr., Chris Colbert, Allison Dalton, Heather Dickinson, Ethan Scherrer and Massie Willett to become a part of the Jewish people.  They will join Rabbi Judy on the pulpit and participate in the Shabbat worship service which will begin, as usual, at 6 pm in the sanctuary.  The service will be followed by a special oneg hosted by our Temple Sisterhood.  We hope you will make every effort to attend.

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**RITUAL AND WORSHIP**

Thank you to Kash Schriefer, Bob Eisenstadt and Bill Levinson for leading services in January. As always, your services were inspiring and informative. Also thank you to Rabbi Judy for uplifting service on January 24th .

February 28th is **“Shabbat Across America”.** We will be joining with synagogues throughout the United States to reach out to our communities and invite them to share Shabbat service and learn a little more about Judaism. We will have a special service. We will have a potluck dinner following the service. The Temple will provide the main dish. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

Mike Rhymes, Chair

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**YAHRZEIT**

**FEBRUARY 7TH**

Beatrice Gorn Jan Fishman

Bella S. Davidson Cele Marcovitz

M. L. Gill 2-9 Saul Adler 1-14

Flora Miriam Bernheim Eli Dante 1-25

Lenore Schwelling

**FEBRUARY 14TH**

Dora Heiman Henry Heller

Lilo Brueck 5-17 Minnie Kristal Levine

Tootsie Sarah Scherck 3-15

**FEBRUARY 21ST**

Joe Marx Sam Adler

Joe E. Marx, Jr. Elsye Henninger 3-23

Louis Lowentritt, Jr. 3-6 Ernest Lowe

Alan Sugar, Jr. Abe Blotner

Arthur William Rose, Jr. Fred Strauss

**FEBRUARY 28TH**

Lillie Gerson Herman Blotner

Bertie Liner May Edgar May

Norman Fleisher Hyman Boxerbaum

Jane Seligman Meyer Leo Lowentritt 3-11

Shirley Haas Snyder Lee W. Strauss

Stewart Doernberg Carlie Rose Marcus

Stanley Marcus Freida Wilenzick

**FEBRUARY 29TH**

Herman Strauss

The numbers following a name is the location of their plaque on the Memorial Board in the Foyer. The first number represents the column. The second number represents the position in the column. The lights on both sides of the plaque are light during the week of their Yahrzeit. If you would like to have your loved one remembered with a bronze plaque on the memorial board, order forms are available at the Temple.

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**“WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY”**

**FILM TO BE SHOWN IN ALEXANDRIA**

On Wednesday evening, April 15, 2020, the Arts Council in Alexandria is presenting a wonderful film titled “Who Will Write Our History.” Rabbi Judy is putting together a special evening which will include a dutch treat dinner at the historic Bentley Hotel at 5 pm and then the film at 7 pm followed by a Question and Answer session with Roberta Grossman, the film’s producer and director.  We will meet in the Bentley Hotel lobby for a brief tour and then enjoy dinner in the Bentley Room for $18 plus tax and tip (includes choice of 4 entrees – Catfish Jenkins, Pasta Primavera, Bar-B-Q Shrimp or Chicken Breast with Goat Cheese – all served with a salad and a non-alcoholic beverage.  The film is $5.

Rabbi Judy is hoping we can form some car pools to attend this event.  If you are interested in attending, please call Shirley and let her know.  Rabbi Judy needs to get an exact count by the beginning of March in order to purchase enough tickets and make arrangements with the Bentley.

Information about the film includes: In November 1940, days after the Nazis sealed 450,000 Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto, a secret band of journalists, scholars and community leaders decided to fight back. Led by historian Emanuel Ringelblum and known by the code name Oyneg Shabes, this clandestine group vowed to defeat Nazi lies and propaganda not with guns or fists but with pen and paper. Now, for the first time, their story is told as a feature documentary. Written, produced, and directed by Roberta Grossman and executive produced by Nancy Spielberg, **Who Will Write Our History** mixes the writings of the Oyneg Shabes archive with new interviews, rarely seen footage and stunning dramatizations to transport us inside the Ghetto and the lives of these courageous resistance fighters. They defied their murderous enemy with the ultimate weapon – the truth – and risked everything so that their archive would survive the war, even if they did not.

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an evening out with friends in an historic location and to view a film which tells an unbelievable story of foresight and resilience.

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**ARCHIVES/MUSEUM NEWS**

Monroe Museum Month was a great success! Over seventy people toured our temple during January. Our Open House Day not only included tours, but also included a Challah baking demonstration. KNOE ran a news story on our event that aired several times. I would like to thank the greeters and docents who made our visitors welcome: Allison Dalton, Minette Saber, Jackie Rosenberg, Rabbi Judy, Penny Hakim, and Shirley.

The Challah baking demonstration began with Sharon Hakim showing how to make a three-braid Challah and Heather Dickinson showing how to make a six-braid Challah.  When the Challahs were ready to bake, Sharon and Heather taught the class how to put the recipe together. While the bread was baking, Nitzon Hakim shared how Israeli children learn to make the Sabbath bread. There was a question and answer period. Nitzon added a special touch to the cooking class. When the Challah's came out of the oven, we served warm freshly baked bread with butter and jelly. What a hit!

Our museum has acquired two new pieces for display. Alan and Gay Nell Barth donated a Purim photograph and Douglas (Doug) Breckenridge, a local Architect and Artists, donated a beautiful oil painting of the Moorish Temple in Port Gibson, Mississippi.  The painting compliments the other art hanging in the Masur Social Hall.

Sandra Blate, Director

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