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**February 2022**

**Shevat 29, 5782**

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**RABBI JUDY’S MESSAGE**

After the events in Colleyville, Texas a few weeks ago, I am both relieved and shaken. What a horrible ordeal for a congregation and their Rabbi to endure. I am so grateful that the end result was so positive.

But it made me think – How safe are we? How do we know who is safe to let into our building and who is not? Are we prepared in the event of an anti-Semitic act or would we know how to handle an active shooter or hostage situation? Everyone can say, “Oh that can never happen here.” But, it can. On the eve of Yom Kippur, our Temple building was vandalized. As mentioned before, we do not think this was a targeted anti-Semitic act, but it happened. And on the very day of the Colleyville hostage event, an unknown man came to our Temple door. We did not know who he was, but we let him in. It turns out, he was lost and we tried to help him find where he needed to go and he left. This was before I knew about what was going on in Texas. They too, let a stranger in and tried to help him. But their situation turned deadly.

Again, I ask, who decides who we let in and who we do not? Are we not taught in the Torah about *Hachnasat Orchim* – welcoming the stranger or hospitality? We want to be a welcoming community, a Temple that is inclusive and inviting to all who wish to enter our doors. But, at the same time, we must be cautious. It is a delicate balance. A synagogue, or any house of worship, should be a place where we come to pray, to learn and to assemble and we should feel safe and secure within these walls. After all, the place where we worship is called a “sanctuary” – by its very definition - a place of safety.

**Rabbi Judy’s Message continued**

I am pleased to tell you that I have spoken with our Temple leadership and they are on top of all of this developing safety protocols to share with the congregation so that we are all aware and prepared. We will continue to maintain our good relationship with law enforcement in Monroe and continue to let them know that we are here and we need their watchful eye. We will continue to build good relationships with our neighbors and look out for each other. And we must not let incidents like what happened in Colleyville make us stop being proud to be Jewish. We cannot live in fear. I pray for the safety of us all. And I encourage you to remember the words of this prayer:

May we see the day when hate and bloodshed will cease,

When a great peace will embrace the whole world.

Then nation shall not threaten nation

And mankind will not again know war.

For all who live on earth shall realize

We have not come into being to hate or to destroy.

We have come into being to praise, to labor, and to love.

Compassionate God, bless the leaders of all nations with the power of compassion.

Fulfill the promise conveyed in the Torah:

I will bring peace to the land,

And you shall lie down and no one shall terrify you.

I will rid the land of evil

And it shall not be destroyed by hate.

Let love and justice flow like a mighty stream.

Let peace fill the earth as the waters fill the sea.

And let us say: Amen.

On a happier note, our current conversion class visited Congregation Agudath Achim in Shreveport for their Saturday morning services on January 22 This is always a great field trip and allows us to see how other more observant Jews worship. We were also treated to a lovely Kiddush lunch after the service.

I will miss all of you this month as I will not be there in person in February. Bob and I are hoping to go to Hawaii on a long overdue trip. When I return to Monroe, we will celebrate Purim together. Everyone be well and safe.

Rabbi Judy

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Even with all that is happening in the Jewish communities, I want to assure you we will continue to be a house of worship for all to attend. SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY! We continuously evaluate our security protocols and make adjustments as necessary. We have a very good relationship with the law enforcement community and our neighbors. They keep an eye on the property when we are not here. For the foreseeable future, there will be security guards at all Shabbat services.

We are adding additional outdoor lighting to discourage intruders after dark. You will notice when you come to the Temple while Shirley is there, you will now have to ring the buzzer next to the mailbox and identify yourself before the lock is released for you to enter.

I want to extend my deepest sympathy on behalf of myself and the entire congregation to the families of Rita Blumenthal and Carl Aron. May they rest in peace.

Gay Nell Barth, President

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**SERVICE SCHEDULE**

February 4th Deb Roa

February 11th  Alan Barth

February 18th Sandra Blate

February 25th Sandra Blate

Services will be held in person at the Temple, as well as live streamed through our website, [www.bayoujews.org](http://www.bayoujews.org), unless otherwise noted.

Lay leaders are subject to change.

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**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

February schedule:

Sunday, February 6th, 10-11 am - religious school

Sunday, February 13th, 10-11am – religious school

Sunday, February 20th, 10-11 am – religious school

Sunday, February 27th, 10-11 am – religious school

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Ed & Penny Hakim February 14th 37 years

Dominic & Jo Agbasi February 22nd 52 years

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Jonathan Allen – Feb. 1st (10 years) Rebecca Allen – Feb. 1st (10 years) Abraham Hakim – Feb. 3rd Kelsey Laudenheimer – Feb.3rd

Yvonne Stephan – Feb. 4th Jimmie Laudenheimer – Feb.5th

Betsy Laudenheimer – Feb. 12th Jeffrey Laudenheimer – Feb. 22nd

Sondra Pratt – Feb. 22nd Annie Richardson – Feb 22nd

Janet Brueck Lang – Feb. 24th Wesley Moore – Feb.27th

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**RITUAL AND WORSHIP**

I would like to thank Deb Roa and Sandra Blate for leading services and Rachel   
Allen, Massie Willett, and Allison Dalton for leading our responsive readings in January. We will miss Rabbi Judy in February while she is on vacation.

We are currently exploring having “movie night” at the Temple. We have some Jewish themed movies selected and think you will enjoy them. We have not decided what day and time to show the movies and are looking for your input. Please contact Shirley and give her you preference. We would like to make this a monthly event.

Mike Rhymes, Chair

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**YAHRZEIT**

**FEBRUARY 4TH**

Norman Fleisher Hyman Boxerbaum

Beatrice Gorn Jane Seligman Meyer

Bella S. Davidson Cele Marcovitz

Carlie Rose Marcus Stanley Marcus

Freida Wilenzick

**FEBRUARY 11TH**

Mack L. Gill 2-9 Herman Strauss

Johanna Strauss Saul Adler 1-14

Joseph Berkelhamer Flora Miriam Bernheim

Eli Dante 1-25 Rose Carlie

Henry A. Heller Lilo Brueck 5-17

Esther Synder 4-19

**FEBRUARY 18TH**

Charles Chernow Betty Marshall

Abraham S. Hakim 6-1 Joe Marx

Louis Tolchinsky Faye Weinberg

Elsye Heninger 3-23 Louis Lowentritt, Jr. 3-6

Florence Renaud

**FEBRUARY 25TH**

Abe Blotner William Rose

Fred Strauss Lillie Gerson

Herman Blotner Annie Perlstein 2-5

Marie Sugar 5-7 Bertie Liner May

Yetta Boxerbaum Louis Greenberg 1-16

Roselyn Perlstein Haas 3-6

**FEBRUARY 28TH**

Leo Lowentritt 3-6 Shirley Haas Synder

Lee W. Strauss Stewart Doernberg

Ida Adler Rosenberg 2-10

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**NORTH LOUISIANA JEWISH FEDERATION**

The North Louisiana Jewish Federation has invited us to join them as they welcome scholar-in-residence, Benzy Kogen to celebrate Shabbat and share his wisdom with the community. He was originally scheduled to be in Shreveport in January. This has been rescheduled for April 8 – 10 at Agudath Achim and B'nai Zion in Shreveport.

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**DONATIONS**

**In memory of Janet Russell**

**General Fund**

Phrose Raphael

**In memory of Rita Blumenthal**

**General Fund**

Dr. Howard & Mrs. Ellie John Karen & Doug Walters

Charles, Michael & Penny Masur Travis & Armand Breard

Phrose Raphael

**Archives Fund**

Ron & Sandra Blate

**Cemetery Fund**

Don & Phyllis Marcus

**In Honor of Ed Caplan’s 90th Birthday**

**Archives Fund**

Ron & Sandra Blate

**Donations Continued**

**In Memory of Carl Aron**

**Endowment Fund**

Phillip Roby

**Cemetery Fund**

Don & Phyllis Marcus

**General Fund**

Janet Brueck Gina Kellis

Edgar & Barbara Newstadt Travis & Armand Breard

Karen & Doug Walters Carol & Conrad Rispoli

Jessika Cleveland Melancon Joy McElroy

Renee & Mike Broyles Lauren Bender Tochner & family

Walter Pierron Stephen Katz

Mark & Marian Berkin Phrose Raphael

The Charles Masur family Joseph & Susan Wheeler, Jr.

Miriam & Bernard Danzig Benjamin Peters

Elkan & Laurie Scheidt Vanessa, Steve, & Jocelyn Reaud

Callie & Zach Doyle Celia Cangelosi

A.W. Rosenthal Jere Waggoner

Kerstin Pohlman Bob Eisenstadt

Don & Pam Laudenheimer

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**LOOKING FOR JEWISH PROGRAMING ON TV?**

### Jewish Broadcasting Service (JBS) is a Jewish television channel featuring daily news from Israel, leading Jewish figures, issues and events of Jewish importance, call-in programs, Jewish studies, 92nd Street Y, Live Friday and holiday services for the home-bound, childern’s programs, film, music, books and entertainment.

If you are in Louisiana, the service can be found on Direct TV channel 388 or on Comcast channel 1684HD, X1Box. It can also be found on the streaming services Ruku Genre/Educational, Amazon Fire TV and Apple TV.

If you are outside of Louisiana, you can find the channels and streming services by going to their website and click on “find us”. Their website is www.jbstv.org.

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**ARCHIVES/MUSEUM NEWS**

Thirty -one years ago the Temple B'nai Israel adopted a new project-The Precious Legacy Archives.  Over the years the archives has grown into a full-fledged museum. Some items of the collection can be viewed on our virtual exhibit, as well as the two videos recorded last summer. These can be found of the museum page on our website, www.bayoujews.org. One of my Neville classmates viewed the videos and said it brought back memories of her grandmother’s dedication to her participating in the American Red Cross Gray Ladies.

Our newest project is creating a training manual so many of you can learn to be a museum docent. Participating as a museum docent is a learning and gratifying experience.  Golda Meir always said that we all have the same 168 hours in our week.  Block out some time and become a museum volunteer.

Bring sunshine, joy and laughter into your day!

Sandra Blate

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