

TEMPLE TIMES

| Lubbock, Texas |

Announcements

Board meeting. May 22nd at 7:30 pm

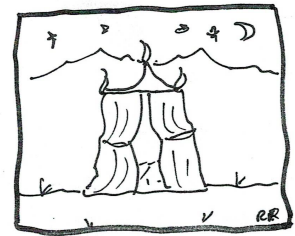
CSI First Thursday Monthly Lunch

Join us for lunch on Thursday, **May 4th at 11:45 am** (special time!) for lunch. Location TBD. If you want more information and/or if you want to be included in the monthly reminder, please reach out to:

Christo at hebrewliteracy@gmail.com

Dear Shaareth Israel,

Some of you may have seen that I contributed to the reformjudaism.org blog. Here is the link. And the full text is below. <https://reformjudaism.org/blog/thriving-isaac> (there are also a couple of blogs from one of your student rabbis from long ago: Rabbi Julie Pelc Adler)



-Ruth Rubin

Living most of my life in a hearing world – as a not-fully-hearing person – has been my “normal” living experience. I don’t know any other way of being. I suspect there is a different way of living because everyone around me tells me so – they imagine that my life must be so hard, how I must cope (what are my choices??). At one point, I tried to connect to the Deaf community. Between not being fluent in American Sign Language and being able to live in the hearing world, I didn’t feel welcome – although I learned a lot about myself as a less-than-fully-hearing person in a hearing world. A few years ago, when I went from hard of hearing to deaf, I decided that I would be just that, “deaf” without the capital “D”. I am now a deaf person living in a hearing world (as opposed to a Deaf person with connections to the Deaf community).

Even if my life is normal to me, I have always sought others who would understand the realities of my life. For example, people assume that removing my artificial ears equals deep silence. It actually makes me a heavy sleeper because of the constant white noise of tinnitus.

I am like Adam before Eve. Adam didn’t ask for a partner. After creating the first human, God stated that “it [was] not good” for this new creature to be alone (Genesis 2:18). God created a companion to help and challenge the new human.

Continued on page 4



May Yahrzeits

- 1 Teruko (Terry) Rosen
- 3 Zelda Perlman
Samuel Weisberg
Sidney D. Freid
12 Iyar Nathan Houstman
- 4 Allan Barasch
13 Iyar Alfred Salfield
- 10 Mollie Indin
- 15 David Friedman
- 16 Annie Lehman
- 18 Nat Luger
- 20 Helene Shiver
- 27 Sylvia Stettner
- 29 Jules Fenson
- 30 *10 Sivan* Hilde Goldmann
- 31 Anna Quicksilver Cohn

Donations

Thank you to all of our donors for your continued support!

General Fund:

- **Anonymous**, in memory of **David Ziman Bramzon**
- **Anonymous**, in memory of **Robin M. Green**
- **Machelle Harmon**

Building Fund:

- **Sandy Lehman**, in memory of **Sylvia Shopmaker, Sylvia Lehman,** and **Mike Morgan**
- **Jane Winer**, in appreciation for kindness shown to her during Monty's funeral

Thank you to all our donors, past, present, and future. When you send us a donation, please make note of:

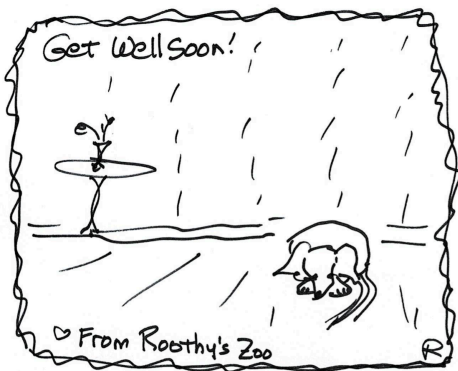
- The designated fund (without a designation, your donation will be directed to the General Fund).
- The purpose of the donation (Is it dues? Is it in memory or honor of someone?)

Refuah Shleimah

We offer Mi Sheberach, a prayer for healing, to those who are sick, and to all the people who love and care for those who are sick.

We are trying to keep this list as current as possible. Please email the rabbi any updates you have. Note: the Mi Sheberach list we read on Friday nights is different from the list published in our Temple Times.

- Fran Artstein
- Chuck Lewis
- Jonathan Marks
- Tova Marks
- Phillip Marshall
- Lillian Rachman
- Esmeralda Sandoval
- Jeff Steel
- Gail Tutino
- Jane Winer



~ Ruth Rubin

If any member would like to add a name to the monthly Yahrzeit list, please send the name, date of celebration, and relationship to Leon Shturman (leonsdesk@gmail.com).

Thank you.

May Shabbat Services

- 5th Emor - 7:00 pm
Leviticus 21:1 - 24:23
- 12th Behar - Bechukotai - 7:00 pm
Leviticus 25:1 - 27:34
- 19th Bamidbar - 7:00 pm
Numbers 1:1 - 4:20
- 26th Shavuot - 7:00 pm - ZOOM ONLY

Thank You!

- Thank you to **Christo Chaney, Stephanie Shine,** and **Dorothy Chansky** for leading a Shabbat service in April.
- Thank you to **Fela & Leon Shturman** for organizing a Shabbat dinner to wish Dorothy well on her next journey beyond Lubbock!



-Ruth Rubin

Continued from page 1

Consciously or unconsciously, we still seek out people who will understand us well enough to support and challenge us. We feel a connection to those with whom we share similar experiences. We can better relate to those who understand and know what we have been through.

I grew up hard of hearing and am now deaf. I have mostly lived and thrived in hearing communities. As much as I appreciate my many blessings, there is also a thread of loneliness as no one in my immediate circle relates to my experience.

I am always subconsciously seeking people who share my experience. Someone in whom I can see myself. From the moment my husband shared his grandmother's theory that our patriarch Isaac might have had a developmental disability, I was hooked on this interpretation. The idea of Isaac living with a disability gave me comfort and I felt a little less alone.

Isaac is one of our three patriarchs. He stands tall in the memory of our tradition. And yet... Isaac never appears alone. Others choose for and manipulate him. The narrative implies that his family and community do not trust Isaac to do things independently. His parents are highly overprotective, which we see when Sarah demands that Abraham send Ishmael and Hagar, Ishmael's mother, into the desert in response to Ishmael mistreating Isaac. Abraham is overly involved in finding a wife for Isaac (the only major biblical figure who uses a matchmaker). When the time comes to bury their father, Ishmael knows that Isaac cannot bury Abraham alone, so he returns to help. Isaac is described as though he is incapable of acting independently.

Seeing Isaac through the lens of disability helps us better understand his character and role in our history. The possibility that Isaac was disabled reminds us that there have always been people who need accommodations. That said, whatever made Isaac different from others did not disqualify him from being a patriarch; he is an essential link in the chain of our ancestors.

In Genesis 27, we encounter the conclusion to Isaac's extraordinary life. As a blind old man, those who know him best attempt to trick him. Isaac's wife and younger son seek to take advantage of Isaac's disabilities so that he gives his elder son's birthright to the younger Jacob. Despite their intentions of trickery, the text suggests that Isaac understood what was happening and chose to participate in the charade as a co-conspirator:

Which of my sons are you? (Genesis 27:18)

How did you prepare the meal so quickly? (Genesis 27:20)

Isaac is very suspicious. Isaac's keen senses of hearing, smell, and touch enabled him to discern between his two sons. Before granting Jacob the birthright, he says as much, pausing to reflect before obliging his son's request.

"The voice is the voice of Jacob, yet the hands are the hands of Esau." (Genesis 27:22)

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

In going along with Rebekah and Jacob’s plan, Isaac deliberately takes a course of action that alters Jewish tradition. By allowing his wife and son to believe they had fooled him, Isaac upended tradition. Isaac possessed an ability to discern the right course of action, perhaps not despite his disability, but because of it.

If Isaac lived his life with a disability, it went unnoticed by many generations. While I’m not a patriarch or have a centuries-long legacy, I can relate to having a disability that goes unnoticed. Sometimes I wear a face mask that has the word “DEAF” spelled out in bold pink letters, or a bright pink shirt with a huge yellow sign that says “DEAF.” Even with bright colors and huge letters, people cannot always see what feels so obvious to me. Instead of telling people I am deaf, I’ve learned to tell people what I need, whether that is to slow their speech, speak louder, or communicate in writing.

When I wear my DEAF shirt or mask, I inevitably meet someone else who has hearing loss or can sign. My pink gear doesn’t always get the right people’s attention, but it does build connections!

Calling a person with a disability an “inspiration” is a veiled insult. With that in mind, I don’t see Isaac as an inspiration; I see myself. What’s more, I see us both thriving in our communities with our disabilities.

Rabbi

Speaking of practicing joy . . .
 Do you enjoy chatting over cake and coffee?
 Relaxing with friends during dinner?
 Be a mensch - **organize an Oneg Shabbat or Shabbat Dinner.**
 These gatherings only happen when you step up!

Reach out if you would like to organize an Oneg Shabbat or Shabbat dinner
stephanie.shine@ttu.edu



Shabbat Shalom – by Rae Chichilnitsky

Letters and Stories

After five short hours, the four of us found ourselves pulling up to the gates of Greene Family Camp in Bruceville-Eddy, Texas (outside of Waco). The car was rumbling with excitement as the boys bounded out, eager to greet familiar faces and places from their weekend at Greene back in September.

I was excited to show my new fiancée the summertime stomping grounds from my youth. We checked in to the on-site motel where the boys were slightly disappointed to learn they would not be in a cabin with bunk beds, but Lisa and I were excited to see that we and they would each have our own adjoining rooms complete with queen beds, air-conditioning, and the all-important WIFI (though we were too busy having fun all weekend to make much use of the latter).

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

After getting settled in, we made the short walk to the dining hall where we began braiding challah and met some friends from Lubbock, the Meyer family. Soon we were eating a delicious meal and celebrating Shabbat together - camp style. We sang songs that I hadn't sung in years and learned some new melodies to our Sabbath prayers as we danced and welcomed the sabbath full of joy and *ruach*.

The following day – which was vaguely described on our itinerary as “Shabbat camp magic” – was filled with activities for kids and adults, both together and separately. We made tie-dyed shirts and Havdalah kits together, and the boys enjoyed the bounce house and various games and activities.

I walked around the camp grounds with Lisa showing her my old haunts (where a mural I worked on still stood) as well as some of the exciting new construction like the state-of-the-art gym and computer lab.

The weekend closed with a campfire Havdalah and s'mores. I wanted the boys to sit with us as a family while we sang campfire songs, but they had already strengthened the bonds with their old friends and made some more so they wanted to spend the last hours of camp with them.

They can't wait to have their first “real” GFC experience this summer, and we can't wait to go back to family camp, hopefully with an even stronger Lubbock contingent!

By Andrew Friedman

What's the Board up to?

We are very pleased to announce that we have an agreement with Rabbi Carla Fenves, who will serve as our two-year Interim Rabbi beginning July 1 with a first visit to Lubbock in August! Rabbi Fenves will be commuting here part-time and will help us prepare for our next steps as a congregation.

[Rabbi Goldmann continues to serve as our wonderful Rabbi through June 30.](#)

The Board met April 24. The next Board meeting is May 22.

Volunteers have stepped up to take on important tasks. **Beth Cobb** will coordinate the *Temple Times*, **Tim Nokken** will send out weekly emails and update the website calendar, **Elissa Zellinger** is heading Religious School and overseeing our new Facebook page. We thank them all! These tasks are in addition to many other regular tasks that we are grateful for: maintaining our *yahrzeit* lists (**Leon Shturman** and **Sherril Skibell**); keeping our books, collecting dues, and paying our bills (**Leon Shturman**); managing the cemetery (**Leon Shturman**); caring for the building and grounds (**Charles Skibell** and **Leon Shturman**); taking Board minutes (**Deborah Bahme**); overseeing our finances (**Charles Skibell**); editing the bulletin (**Jonathan Marks**); providing tech support for Zoom services (**Christo Chaney** and **Leon Shturman**); making sure the kitchen is stocked (**Fela Shturman**) and cleaned (**Leon Shturman**) and sending handwritten thank-you notes and condolences (**Fela Shturman**). And Steve Balch has proposed to organize film nights in the fall!

You are welcome to contact us by emailing csilubbock@gmail.com.

Congregation Shaareth Israel
P.O. Box 93594
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(806) 794-7517

csitemple.org

Clergy

Deborah Goldmann, Rabbi
 Vicki Hollander, Rabbi Emerita

Board Members

Stephanie Shine, President
 Charles Skibell, Vice President
 Deborah Bahme, Secretary
 Leon Shturman, Treasurer
 Jonathan Marks, Immediate Past President
 Elissa Zellinger, Religious School Delegate
 Andrew Friedman, Member
 Eileen Nathan, Member
 Steve Balch, Member

Contact info for members:


Rabbi Goldmann - Call her or text her at (310) 402-7425 or email her at dygoldmann@gmail.com please.

Urgent Matters - Please contact **Stephanie Shine** at (806) 470-1340 or email stephanie.shine@ttu.edu or contact Rabbi Goldmann

Bulletin Submissions - News, reports, information, etc. can be submitted to the bulletin editor at csi_bulletin@hotmail.com

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month!

Bulletin Design: Jonathan Meyer

May 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2	3	4 1st Thursday Lunch 11:45 am	5	6
		8	9	10	11	12 Shabbat Service 7:00 pm
		13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22 Board Meeting 7:30 pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	June 1
June 2	June 3					