

TEMPLE TIMES

| Lubbock, Texas |

Announcements

If you would like to reserve an oneg, please contact Jonathan Marks. November and December still have some open dates as they are two of the three months that we don't have board members covering.

Shabbat Dinner

November 10th, 2017 at 6:45 pm

Services at 6:15 pm

RSVP Fela Shturman at shturman@sbcglobal.net by Wednesday November 8th, 2017 if you would like to attend!

Men's Lunch

November 2nd at 11:45 am at Caprock Cafe on 34th Street, all male members of the temple are invited! Please RSVP to Mike Calfin at (806) 786-8559 by text or leave a voicemail.

Dear CSI Family,

We've concluded our High Holy Day season, just in time to watch the country get ready for its holiday season! During this time of year, we often feel on the spot either having to accept the assumptions that all of us celebrate Christmas or in having to defend/explain our Jewish ways.



Sometimes, as we explain our ideas, our holidays, and what makes us Jewish, the question arises: Who is a Jew? The answer is multi-layered and complex. Being a Jew can mean one, two, or all three of the following:

1. Ethnically Jewish, being born to Jewish parents
2. Culturally Jewish, loving bagels & lox, feeling a sense of connection to other Jews through osmosis. May or may not include Jewish upbringing.
3. Religiously Jewish: either from growing up in a religiously-observant family or through conversion. [When a person converts, s/he often absorbs Jewish culture, too.]

Most people don't think about the breakdown in this way. Those who have some knowledge of Jewish tradition will immediately answer that a Jew is a person born to a Jewish mother. The upbringing doesn't matter, their faith doesn't matter. All that matters is the mother's Jewish identity. That means that a person

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November Yahrzeits

- 8 *19 Cheshvan* Herman Swartz
- 9 Samuel Miller
Aida Arker
- 11 *22 Cheshvan* Albert David Gomel
- 13 Dottie Buchalter
- 15 Donald Zarfaz
- 16 Phillip Rosen
- 19 Alphonse "Al" Norman
Lehman
Tommy Moss
- 20 Daryl Goldstucker
Francis Deutch
- 21 Esther Lezan
- 24 Anna Cohen Glassman
Hindy Cohen
- 6 Kislev* Jack B. Moss
- 26 Jake Blinderman
- 27 M. H. "Mac" Miller
- 28 Preston Frederick Beaird
Mendel Luger
Dorothy Lasky
- 10 Kislev* Ethel Michaelson
- 29 Sarah Kovnar
Alice G. Barasch

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 (Shturman@sbcglobal.net). Thank you.

Donations

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

General Fund

- **The Blancas Family** in honor of the **High Holy Days**
- **Ronald Caress** in honor of the **High Holy Days**
- **Bobby** and **Jane Ann Skibell**

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- **Harold and Deena Evensky** in memory of **Sylvia Evensky**

Glassman Fund

- **Betty Skibell** in memory of **Archie and Bertha Skibell**

Religious School

- **Henry and Sellie Shine** in memory of **Jack Shine**

Refuah Shleimah

- Terry Bennett
- Mark Meyer
- Lillian Rachman
- Bobby Skibell
- Monty Strauss

Thank You!

- Thanks to **Christo Chaney, Andrew Friedman, and Religious School teens** for serving as lay leaders for services in October.
- Thanks to **Deborah Bahme and Tim Nokken** for providing onegs in October.



Remember to check our CSI website for the updated calendar and for the dates the Rabbi will be here at csitemple.org

Also, CSI's Facebook page is available at Congregation Shaareth Israel - Please "Like"

Our members are invited to reserve a date to host an oneg Shabbat! Please contact Jonathan Marks to reserve a November or December oneg!

November Services

- 3rd Vayeira 7:30 pm - Rabbi Goldmann
(Genesis 18.1 - Genesis 22.24)
- 10th Chayei Sarah -
Shabbat Dinner 6:45 pm
Services 6:15 pm
(Genesis 23.1 - Genesis 25.18)
- 17th Toldot 7:30 pm - Rabbi Goldmann
(Genesis 25.19 - Genesis 28.9)
- 24th Vayeitzei 7:30 pm
(Genesis 28.10 - Genesis 32.3)

Remember, in case of bad weather:

In the event of poor weather conditions, and to be sure that the Temple is open, before you leave home please call the synagogue's answering machine at **806-794-7517**. If services, religious school, or meetings are cancelled, we will put a message on the answering machine at **least an hour before the scheduled time of the event.**

We will also send an email notification, so keep an eye on your email for cancellations.

born to a non-practicing Jewish mom and a Catholic father is still Jewish. If at 70 years old that person suddenly decides to live a Jewish life, no conversion process is required, even if that person spent all 70 years as a devout Catholic. If this is the exact same scenario, but the person was born to a Catholic mother and a Jewish father, they are not considered Jewish. As such, after a lifetime of being a devout Catholic, a conversion is necessary. Another interesting and unusual possibility: If a child is born to a Jewish mother, and the next day that mother converts to a different religion, that child is still considered Jewish – regardless of upbringing.

People like to say that Reform Judaism is the lack of commandments and expectations, that Reform Judaism is more relaxed about all Jewish laws. Yet, when it comes to Jewish identity, Judaism takes a whole-person approach that is more restrictive than other denominations’ approach to Jewish identity. In 1983, the Central Conference of American Rabbis [the Reform Rabbinic organization in the U.S.] wrote:

The Central Conference of American Rabbis declares that the child of one Jewish parent is under the presumption of Jewish descent. This presumption of the Jewish status of the offspring of any mixed marriage is to be established through appropriate and timely public and formal acts of identification with the Jewish faith and people. The performance of these mitzvot serves to commit those who participate in them, both parent and child, to Jewish life.

Depending on circumstances, mitzvot leading toward a positive and exclusive Jewish identity will include entry into the covenant, acquisition of a Hebrew name, Torah study, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and Kabbalat Torah (Confirmation). For those beyond childhood claiming Jewish identity, other public acts or declarations may be added or substituted after consultation with their rabbi.

In other words, children born to one Jewish parent who are welcomed to the covenant or community at birth, are raised as Jewish, and then publicly affirm their identity (Bar/Bat Mitzvah) are Jewish. In the Reform Jewish world there are three requirements that affirm a child’s Jewish identity. Most people focus on only one requirement for Jewish identity: that only one parent needs to be Jewish. This is unfortunate because, in the Reform Jewish community, the expectations for Jewish identity are, in fact, very high. According to the 1983 declaration, a child isn’t fully Jewish until s/he completes his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah!

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Religious School Corner

9:45 am to 12:15 pm

November 5, 12, and the 19th

Please see the temple calendar for more information on when the Rabbi will be here.



Where the principle of “anyone born to a Jewish mother” seems unfair and sets the expectation low, the Reform principles seem high, especially if they really don’t recognize the child as “Jewish” until the Bar/Bat mitzvah.

Neither scenario is perfect, and both hold complications. So, at the end of the day, how do we know “who is a Jew?” Communities in general are very inquisitive, and can, for better or worse, be quite judgmental. I would argue that if a community accepts someone as Jewish, most often that tends to suffice. For example, perhaps there is someone who was brought up with little to no Judaism, but has been living as an accepted Jew for more than 20 years; that person can be identified as Jewish. The process of conversion, then, becomes about helping the community welcome/accept new people as members of the tribe, and it’s a formal transition for the person going through this spiritual change.

It’s not enough for a person to say, “I’m Jewish! I identify as a Jew, please take me in.” It is not an individual declaration. Rather, it is a combination of understanding rabbinic text, a rabbi’s point of view and understanding of said individual’s story, AND a community acceptance. These pieces work together in some way as we determine who is Jewish. Having different entities involved in this identity-making process acknowledges that there are many paths to Jewish identity; some of those paths might appear to be outside Jewish Law, but with the rabbinic and community’s guidance, exceptions can take the form of solid identities, right alongside with the more conventional journeys.

As we approach this American holiday season, let’s remember that we know who we are, whether we accept the “Merry Christmas” greetings or we feel the need to defend and explain that our High Holy Day season is long over.

Wishing you a safe, warm, and peaceful season,

Rabbi



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csitemple.org

Board Members

Deborah Goldmann, Rabbi
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Contact info for members:

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

Urgent Matters - Please contact Jonathan Marks at (806) 577-8489 or email at jonathan.marks@ttu.edu or contact Rabbi Goldmann

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

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month!

November 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Men's Lunch 11:45 am at Caprock	3 Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	4
5 RS 9:45 am	6	7	8 RSVP Fela for Shabbat Dinner!	9	10 Shabbat Dinner 6:45 pm Service 6:15 pm	11
12 RS 9:45 am	13	14	15	16 Board Meeting 7:30 pm	17 Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	18
19 RS 9:45 am	20	21	22	23	24 Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	25
26	27	28	29	30		