

the SHOEFAR



TEMPLE BET YAM

December 2021

Kislev/Tevet 5782

"Am Israel Aravim Se La Se" "All Jews are responsible one for another."

—Babylonian Talmud, Shevuot 39a

The years 2020 and 2021 have been very difficult years for all of us, for our friends, our family, and for the entire world. Who could imagine these difficult times or predict the COVID Pandemic? All of us lost people that we knew.

This month we will finish the year 2021 and one lesson that comes to my mind is that "All Jews are responsible for each other." This is a well-known Talmudic teaching that helps account for the well ranging charitable activities within the Jewish community; Jews are indeed commanded to feel responsible for each another. The Hebrew word used for "responsible," *ah-reivin*, literally is "surety," one who makes himself responsible for another, either as a sponsor, godparent, or guarantor of a loan. We need to be responsible for our community and for our society. During 2020 and 2021, we practiced this teaching.

Also, during this December we read in the Torah the story of Joseph and his brothers. One of Joseph's brother is Judah. Judah is the biblical model of a surety. In Egypt, when Joseph, whose identity is unknown to his brothers, informs them that he will sell them food only if they return with their remaining brother, Benjamin, their father Jacob prohibits it. In the beginning, the other brothers accede to Jacob's resistance. But as the famine in Canaan increases, they decide that they must persuade their father to let them take Benjamin. Finally, Judah says to Jacob, "Send the boy in my care.... I myself will be surety for him; you may hold me responsible; if I do not bring him back and set him before you, I will stand guilty before you forever" (Genesis 43:8-9).

Later, Judah proves that he was not just expressing a platitude. A cup from Joseph's court is found hidden amid Benjamin's possessions, and Joseph

announces that he will take Benjamin as a slave, while letting the other brothers go free. Judah steps forth to plead with Joseph: "Now your servant has made himself a surety for the boy to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, I shall stand guilty before my father forever.' Therefore, please let your servant remain as a slave to my lord instead of the boy. And let the boy go back with his brothers." (Genesis 44:32-33).

The willingness of Judah, the very brother who seventeen years earlier had suggested selling Joseph as a slave, to himself to be one in lieu of Benjamin urges Joseph to fully forgive the evil his brothers once did him. A midrash suggests that in reward for noble behavior, all Jews are then named for Judah (the word for Jew in Hebrew is *yehudi*, which comes from his name *Yehudah*).

In addition to making Jews responsible for other Jews' physical safety and well-being, this teaching is also understood by some to mean that all Jews ultimately are responsible for the behavior of other Jews. This means that all of us need to be partners of God to repair this world. I pray that we will remember the lessons that 2020 and 2021 taught us. I pray that always we will be responsible for one another no matter if this other is a Jewish person or our neighbor.



May God bless all of us with health, wisdom and happiness! My family and I wish Temple Bet Yam a happy, healthy and sweet 2022!

B'bracha,
Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan,
MD, MBE, MEd

THE SHOFAR

Temple Bet Yam

2055 Wildwood Drive, PO Box 860098

St. Augustine, FL 32086-1146

Phone: (904) 819-1875

Email: templebetyam@gmail.com

Website: templebetyam.org

Rabbi: **Rabbi Claudio Kogan**

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The Shofar is published monthly. It is distributed free of charge to members and advertising sponsors. Advertising inquiries should be addressed to Sue Kinkela at (412) 600-9553 or at abbeyrd45@comcast.net.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month which precedes the month of the publication. Late submissions will be held for the following issue.

Let's Celebrate!

December Anniversaries

December 19th, Phyllis & Leon Feirman
56th anniversary

December 24th, Phyllis & Maury Keiser
60th anniversary

December 28th, Toby & Stan Weintraub
69th anniversary

December Birthdays

December 4th, Steven Rich

December 6th, Nancy Cohen

December 9th, Milena Kogan, 16th birthday

December 9th, George Stern

December 15th, Davis Love

December 15th, Cynthia Weiss

December 16th, James Kaye

December 16th, Bruce Simon

December 19th, Jeremy Gordon

December 25th, Ananda Gordon, 12th birthday

December 26th, Ben Feldman, 18th birthday

December 26th, Jane Seiden

December 30th, Martin Newman



In Memoriam - May their memory be a blessing

December 1st, Sara Boyarsky

Mother of Cherie Hamilton

December 2nd, Ida Wosnitzer

Aunt of Jackie Witte

December 3rd, Anne Cohen

Mother of Mark Cohen

December 3rd, Louise Duke

Mother of Ellen Mensh

December 3rd, Geri D. Lindsley

Sister of Iris Goldstone

December 3rd, Adel Extrowich Rosenthal

Mother of William Rosenthal

December 3rd, Russell Selig

Father of Karen Selig

December 4th, William Drimmer

Great Uncle of Terre Wallach & Barbara Carman

December 4th, Eva Pinsker

Mother of Clive Pinsker

December 5th, Stephen Duke

Brother of Ellen Mensh

December 5th, Agnes Fargis

Grandmother of Merrie Meiselman

December 5th, Selena Jane Siegel

Daughter of Rosalie Siegel

December 5th, Isadore Simon

Father of Bruce Simon

December 7th, Henry Miller

Father of Harold Miller

December 8th, Martha Greenfield

Mother of Paul Greenfield

December 9th, Todd Dinsmore

Son-in-law of Isabel Sherman

December 10th, Sylvia Schachnovsky

Mother of David Schachnovsky

December 10th, Lena Strock

Grandmother of Rabbi Fred Raskind

December 11th, Cecelia Berman

Mother in law of Sara Berman

December 11th, Trudy Carman

Mother-in-law of Barbara Carman

December 12th, Heimie Eskowitz

Father-in-law of Arnie Levine

December 12th, Bernard Grolman

Father of Ellen Grolman

December 12th, Irving Smith

Grandfather of Barbara Molinari

December 13th, Elliot Stone

Husband of Min Stone

December 14th, Edward Drimmer

Grandfather of Terre Wallach & Barbara Carman

December 15th, Elliott Carman

Husband of Barbara Carman

December 15th, Rose Eskowitz

Mother-in-law of Arnie Levine

December 15th, Lena Simon

Grandmother of Bruce Simon

December 16th, Jean Emerick

Aunt of Dinah McNamara

December 16th, Reuben Feirman

Father of Leon Feirman

December 17th, Seymour Stoll

Father of Ellen Miller

December 17th, Sylvia Strock

Aunt of Rabbi Fred Raskind

December 19th, Leo M. McCarthy

Father of Leo McCarthy

December 19th, Morton Swickle

Father of Jane Seiden

December 20th, Murray Carman

Father-in-law of Barbara Carman

December 20th, Cary David Yales

Husband of Bonnie Yales-Gibson

December 22nd, Pearl Case

Sister of Mimi Selig

December 22nd, Melanie Perretti

Grandmother of Jen Sherman

December 23rd, Clara Fisher

Grandmother of Sharon Rice

December 23rd, Michael Satz

Father of Phyllis Greenfield

December 23rd, Fredrica B. Shartin

Mother of Iris Goldstone

December 24th, Max Marsh

Father of Janice Angorn

December 25th, Michele Miller

Daughter of Phyllis and Paul Greenfield

December 26th, Beatrice Saslafsky

Mother of Ileine Hoffman

December 27th, Louis Henkin

Grandfather of Bruce Simon

December 28th, Mildred Smith

Grandmother of Gale Zucker

December 28th, Robert Sorkin

Husband of Nancy Sorkin

December 28th, Helen Steinberg

Grandmother of Carol Levy

December 29th, Herman Lavenberg

Grandfather of Barbara Kushner

December 29th, Marvin Strum

Uncle of Larry Kurlandsky

December 30th, Doris Levi

Mother of Barbara Rogove

December 30th, Joseph Sukel

Grandfather of Debra Morris

Donations Made To Temple Bet Yam

General Fund

Ellen Mensh - Speedy recovery for Carol Gladstone
Carol McCuskey

Rabbinic Leadership Fund

Phyllis & Paul Greenfield - Get well Carol Gladstone, Jane Seiden, Phyllis Keiser, and Nancy Sorkin; in memory of Jen Sherman's stepmom
Terre Wallach

Religious School Fund

Andrea & Joe Marx-In memory of Robert Leibowitz and Irmgard Marx

Murray Weiss Fund

Terre Wallach

Mitzvah Fund

Phyllis & Paul Greenfield - For Dining with Dignity, with thanks to Joe Marx for keeping TBY's involvement active



Upcoming Events for December. Mark your calendar!

Shabbat Service (ILO RS)

Friday, December 3rd, 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Religious School Hanukkah Celebration

and pot-luck lunch at Treaty Park pavilion
Saturday, December 4th, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Sisterhood Hanukkah Lunch at TBY

Tuesday, December 7th, 11:30am – 2:00pm

Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 7th, 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Religious School

Sunday, December 12th, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Men's Club Hanukkah - Gypsy Cab -

Wednesday, December 15th, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Sisterhood Lay-Led Shabbat Service

Friday, December 17th, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Lifelong Learning: Holocaust Denial; What is it and what should we do about it?

Monday, December 20th, 10:30am – 12:00pm

Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 28th, 5:30pm – 6:30pm



New Member Profile

Adam and Debra Silbar have been visiting Saint Augustine since 2014 when their son Cameron was recruited by Flagler College to play on the soccer team. They fell in love with the town and purchased The Butterfield Garage apartments and shops at 137 King Street. Cameron lived there while attending school and now Adam and Debra are renovating one of the apartments to be their new home.

The Silbar's met in 1980 while attending High School in Newport Beach, California. Adam, a child actor, went off to New York to understudy Mathew Broderick in Biloxi Blues on Broadway. Debra stayed in Los Angeles to work in fashion and marketing.

When Adam returned to L.A. they married in 1988 and settled in Topanga Canyon, California. They have two sons, Cameron age 25, is in his second year at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. Ben age 20, is in his second year at Temple University in Philadelphia studying Biology.

For Your Information

The Sunshine Committee sends cards or gifts to TBY members or family members who are ill or have had a death in the family. If you know of such a situation, please notify Laura Weiss at (805) 705-6266 or l.s.weiss@comacast.net.

Temple Bet Yam Cemetery – TBY has consecrated a portion of the Craig Memorial Park on Old Moultrie Road. All Temple members are eligible to purchase burial plots in this section for themselves, their spouses, partners, children and parents. Following Reform Jewish philosophy, there are no restrictions concerning burial of non-Jewish family members adjacent to their loved ones.

Those interested in purchasing burial plots as part of their preplanning should contact Craig Memorial Park directly at (904) 824-1672. For further information or questions, contact Marty Cohen at shelmar826@gmail.com.

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**NOTE: A SEPARATE CHECK IS REQUIRED FOR THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND.*

PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO TEMPLE BET YAM, WITH NAME OF FUND ON THE MEMO LINE. THANK YOU.

Donations

The custom of making donations as an expression of prayer traces back to Biblical times and has always been a practice of congregations. The amount given is less important than the deed. At TBY, we have a number of offerings for you to consider when making donations. Here is an explanation of a few of them. Additional funds are listed on our Contribution Form.

Memorial Board Plaques – When you purchase a plaque for your loved ones, you memorialize them on our memorial board in the sanctuary, as well as in the Book of Remembrance. All names on the Memorial Board are recognized during the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur. See the Donation form on our web site, TempleBetYam.org or contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Celebratory Wall – Celebrate a simcha in your family or honor a TBY member by purchasing a plaque for our commemorative garden wall. For additional information and order forms, please contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Murray Weiss Memorial Fund – In the spirit of Tzedakah, this fund helps congregants in need. Past gifts have helped pay for dental surgery, medications, enrollment for children in a Jewish summer camp, and past due mortgage payments. Requests are held in the strictest of confidence. For more information, contact Mimi Selig at (904) 461-4316. To make donations, see the Contribution Form on the next page.



Trees For Israel



We are enjoying huge success with our Trees for Israel. Every tree purchased is not only recognition of some significant event in your life or in the life of someone close to you but is also a mitzvah for Israel and contributes to our Temple fundraising effort. Please use this very important program as a memorial to a friend or loved one or in celebration of a happy occasion for someone dear to you.

Israel's forests are not only a valuable source for water preservation, but are a source for boosting the morale of Israel's citizens by providing a haven in which to put aside the pressures of living in a nation under siege.

JNF will acknowledge every donation with a receipt to the donor and a certificate to the recipient of the honor. Your donation will also benefit Temple Bet Yam with a portion of the donation amount. It is a double Mitzvah.

Trees may be ordered by contacting Toby Weintraub at 904-471-0418. Please provide Toby with your name, address, phone number, the name and address of the person being honored and the name and address of the person you want to receive acknowledgment.

Donations for Trees for Israel are \$18.00 per tree.
Checks should be made out to Temple Bet Yam.



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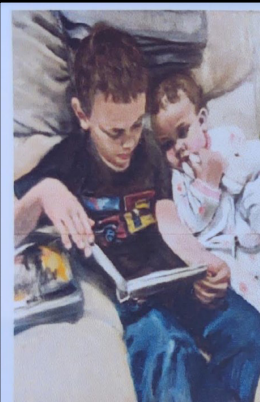
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