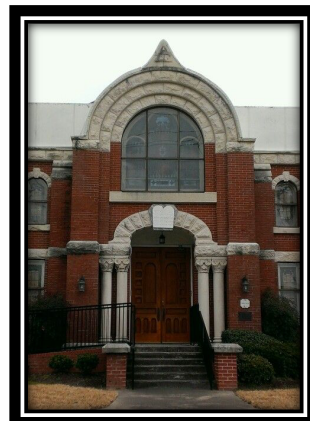


# Temple Sinai

713 Hodges St. Lake Charles, LA 70601  
<http://templesinai.info> / T: 337-439-2866

January, 2021  
February, 2021

Tevet/Sh'vat 5781  
Sh'vat/Adar I 5781



## WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2021	TEVET / SH'VAT 5781	FEBRUARY 2021	SH'VAT / ADAR 5781
<b>Friday, January 1, 2021</b> 6 PM online TORAH: Va-y'chi: Genesis 47:28–50:26 HAFTARAH: I Kings 2:1-12	<b>18 Tevet 5781</b>	<b>Friday, February 5, 2021</b> 6 PM online TORAH: Yitro: Exodus 18:1-20:23 HAFTARAH: Isaiah 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6	<b>24 Sh'vat 5781</b>
<b>Friday, January 8, 2021</b> 6 PM online TORAH: Sh'mot: Exodus 1:1–6:1 Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23	<b>25 Tevet 5781</b>	<b>Friday, February 12, 2021</b> 6 PM online TORAH: Mishpatim: Exodus 21:1-24:18 HAFTARAH: II Kings 12:5-18 & Isaiah 66:1, 23 <i>Sh'kalim and Rosh Chodesh</i>	<b>1 Adar 5781</b>
<b>Friday, January 15, 2021.</b> 6 PM online TORAH: Va-eira: Exodus 6:2–9:35 Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21	<b>3 Sh'vat 5781</b>	<b>Friday, February 19, 2021</b> 6 PM online TORAH: T'rumah: Exodus 25:1-27:19 HAFTARAH: I Kings 5:26-6:13	<b>8 Adar 5781</b>
<b>Friday, January 22, 2021</b> 6 PM online TORAH: Bo: Exodus 10:1–13:16 HAFTARAH: Jeremiah 46:13-28	<b>10 Sh'vat 5781</b>	<b>Friday, February 26, 2021</b> 6 PM online TOARH: T'tzaveh: Exodus 27:20-30:10 HAFTARAH: Esther 7:1-10; 8:15-17 or I Samuel 15:2-34	<b>15 Adar 5781</b>  <i>Zachor</i>
<b>Friday, January 29, 2021</b> 6 PM online TORAH: B'shalach: Exodus 13:17-17:16 HAFTARAH: Judges 4:4-5:31	<b>17 Sh'vat 5781</b>  <i>Shirah</i>		

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## *LIVE STREAMED SERVICES*



**Temple Sinai  
Lake Charles, LA**

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### *January Anniversaries*

- 3 Barbara & Tony DiBartolo  
19 Carol & Charlie St. Dizier

Until further notice, the sanctuary will not be open for services for several reasons: 1) the renovation of the sanctuary ceiling, 2) the rise of COVID-19 numbers in our community again, and 3) the repairs being made following Hurricanes Laura and Delta. We will continue to stream services with Rabbi Barry, and we will keep everyone informed and updated as situations change.

You may watch past services and events on our YouTube Channel at [temple-sinai.tv](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPujk_V4hMqI5s5GXxqOTQ) -OR-

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPujk\\_V4hMqI5s5GXxqOTQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPujk_V4hMqI5s5GXxqOTQ)

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### *Mazel Tov!*

Mazel Tov to **Reve Greenberg** for finally getting back home to Resthaven from evacuation in Pineville!

### *Mi' she' bei' rach*

Wishing a refuah shleimah, a complete and speedy recovery, to:

Tony DiBartolo  
Reve Greenberg  
Jill Greenberg

Charlene Blevins  
Brenda Bachrack  
Maurice Gold

If there is anyone who needs to be added to the mi'she'bei'rach list for prayers for continued health improvements, please let Sandy know.  
[sdesadier@gmail.com](mailto:sdesadier@gmail.com)

### *Kroger Reward Program*

If you have not already renewed your Kroger rewards card, please go to [www.kroger.com/account/update](https://www.kroger.com/account/update) log in, and renew your card with:

Organization Name:  
Temple Sinai

Organization Number:  
IE298

as the recipient of your Kroger rewards.

# Annual Congregational Meeting

**Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**  
**7:00PM on ZOOM Video Conferencing**

Join Zoom Meeting Using this Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87632005671?pwd=cFd1c05iRjk3ZDRWdHJOWDVLYnVDZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 876 3200 5671

**Passcode:** 5zYNCy

You can go directly to the above link on the internet, or you can download the Zoom Application on your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

You must be a member of Temple Sinai and caught up on your Temple dues in order to attend the Congregational Meeting.

## Temple Birthdays:

### January Birthdays

- 3 Joel Dondis
- 6 Sandy Desadier
- 9 Benjamin Gall
- 16 Robert Levy
- 17 Matthew Sturgis
- 21 David Holtzman
- 25 Hayes Michel
- 25 Jeff Hankin
- 27 Barbara DiBartolo
- 28 Calvin Billings

### February Birthdays

- 8 Bruce Katz
- 12 Jennifer Goldman Pollack
- 18 Shirley Riff Billings
- 22 Ron Desadier
- 25 Mark Holtzman
- 26 Sarah Hodnett
- 27 Sallie Dondis

**POSTCARD FROM CAMP!** 



**DON'T MISS OUT!**  
**REGISTER FOR CAMP!**  
[jacobscamp.org/register](http://jacobscamp.org/register)

**TASTE OF CAMP 1ST-4TH GRADE**  
Try out camp before you register!  
Join us on 1/24/2020 at 1:30 PM CT!  
Sign up at [jacobscamp.org/tasteofcamp](http://jacobscamp.org/tasteofcamp)



**MISSING JACOBS CAMP?**  
Relive the magic through our new Promo Video! [jacobscamp.org/promo](http://jacobscamp.org/promo)



# Message from the Rabbi:

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## Prayer

Prayer has been an integral part of my life. Since age two I have struggled with asthma. Most winters of my youth I was in hospital in our small Waverly, New York hospital. This was in the 1940's. An oxygen tent enveloped my bed so that I could breathe! With the arrival of Terramycin during my teen years my asthma subsided, although I still take preventive medicine to keep it "at bay." I vividly remember making prayers as best I could while in hospital.

Otherwise I can still recall the prayer my parents taught me:

"Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.

If I should die before I 'wake,  
I pray the Lord my soul to take."

If I may "revise" my youngest years a tiny bit, I'd like to suggest that I then closed with the Sh'ma, but I can't promise this is true!

As I grew older and began preparing for Bar Mitzvah, which had to be delayed due to hospitalization for asthma, the idea of Jewish Prayer became an even larger part of my life. I loved studying for my Bar Mitzvah, and the weekly car trips to nearby Elmira, New York, where my "Melamed," my Hebrew tutor, resided. He taught me how to chant the Parasha along with the Torah Blessings. During these years my Father, Mother, and Brother Z"L infused my life with prayer. My late brother Eliyahu often wrapped himself in Tefillin early in the morning before going to school. Dad would go about our home chanting many of the Siddur's prayers in a most joyful voice. Every Friday evening Mother would bless the Shabbes candles in our small dining room, always shedding a few tears. Why? Because every Shabbes evening she remembered her own mother who passed away when Mom was hardly a teenager.

These are but a few of the reasons why prayer has been such a large part of my life. But prayer became even more important to me during my recovery from my severe Aortic Dissection, Friday the 13th of May 2016. How well I remember each and every day of my recovery in hospital here in Baton Rouge.

Through the night of May 26 my heart began to slow. The nurses checked on me very frequently through that long night. I shall always remember how I prayed the Sh'ma over and over between my slowing heart beats. Early the next morning my pacemaker was gratefully installed by Dr. Paul Dampf, for whose Bar Mitzvah, Confirmation and Wedding I presided!!

THAT morning I offered H'S my deepest prayers of thanksgiving.

Now, in these most trying days of OUR recovery from Hurricanes Laura and Delta, while coping for months and months with Pandemic, I find myself praying virtually nonstop. I pray so deeply for our loving members who have contracted Covid, and for our members recovering from most serious surgery and surgical procedures. Their loving family members caring for them every hour have a most special place in my heartfelt prayers. In my personal prayers I often turn to the Siddur with which I grew up so many decades ago: The Union Prayer Book.

As 2020 has ended and 5781 continues, the following prayer has become especially important to me. I share it now in deepest hope that our new secular year of 2021 will be a much better year for each and every one of our beloved Temple Sinai members and for our most precious Lake Charles and all Louisiana, our nation and our world:

"Thou, who art the source of all blessings, be with this congregation and with all its members, their families and their households; prosper them in their various callings and occupations, help them in their needs, and guide them in their difficulties. Hear Thou the prayers of all who worship here this morning, comfort the sorrowing and cheer the silent sufferers. Bless those who guide and serve this congregation, and those who contribute to its strength. Reward with the joy of goodness the charitable and the merciful who aid the poor, care for the sick, teach the ignorant, and extend a helping hand to those who have lost their way in the world.

Fervently we invoke Thy blessing upon our country and our nation. Guard them, O God, from calamity and injury; suffer not their adversaries to triumph over them, but let the glories of a just, righteous and G-d-fearing people increase from age to age. Enlighten with Thy wisdom and sustain with Thy power those whom the people have set in authority, the President, his counsellors, and advisers, the judges, law-givers and executives, and all who are entrusted with our safety and with the guardianship of our rights and our liberties. May peace and good-will obtain among all the inhabitants of our land; may religion spread its blessings among us and exalt our nation in righteousness. Amen."

(Union Prayer Book, The Central Conference of American Rabbis, New York, 1961, page 148.)

May these words of prayer help usher in a better 2021, a year of healing and health for us all!

*Rabbi Barry*

# RABBI BARRY'S WORD OF THE MONTH: SKVETCH

SKVETCH: This old Yiddish word is usually translated as "to complain!"

I believe one of the most descriptive treatments of "Skvetch" can be found in a book which I have packed in one of our many boxes: Born to Kvetch, Yiddish Language and Culture in All of Its Moods, a very funny book by Michael Wex (Harper Perennial, NY, 2006). From this book, I share this memorable description of the meaning of "Skvetch!"

A man is on a European train, in which one sits in a compartment facing another passenger. The other passenger, somewhat elderly, complains about his thirst.

"Oy vey, oy vey, I'm so very thirsty," he repeats and repeats.

Finally, his compartment mate, gets up, goes down the corridor, pours some water into the little cubed paper cup, and brings it back to the complainer.

The elderly passenger eagerly swallows the water, and then immediately starts to "skvetch" again: "Oy vey, oy vey, I was so thirsty!"

This is a true "Skvetch!" Not only was the passenger complaining at first about being extremely thirsty, but he also couldn't cease complaining even after being given water. To keep complaining and complaining even after one's complaint has been satisfied, is to be a real Skvetch!

Here is the story which actually was a New Yorker Cartoon many years ago:

A dog owner asks his dog to FETCH.

The dog answered:

"You don't feed me enough! You don't walk me enough! My doghouse is uncomfortable!"

The dog misunderstood the command, thinking his owner had told him to KVETCH!



Just a little old Jewish humor!!

May all our Skvetching be mindful of the old Yiddish word, "G'nug." G'nug means "Enough!" But even more, it really means "Enough already!!" So, let our Skvetching in the new secular year be mindful also of "G'nug!"

I hope that a little humour now and then is appropriate for our newsletter, especially with all the challenges we have had since March 2020.

With love and enduring thanks always,

*Rabbi Barry*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

December 2020

To all Congregants and Friends of Temple Sinai of Lake Charles:

As we bring 2020 to a close, I hope this finds you, your family and friends well and healthy. There is no doubt that we all are still dealing with 2020 in some real way. Please just continue to know that I believe we will come out on the bright side and I look forward to some great times in the coming year with all of you.

The Temple rebuild continues to be very slow as we determine the proper course of action with our insurance company. As of this writing, Guide One, our temple insurance company, has only provided a very small sum of money which allowed us to reroof the entire property that was damaged. We have secured and protected our property. Now we wait until we can come to a conclusion with Guide One. As many of you know, we are not alone in frustration of non-performing insurance companies. No doubt we should all be concerned for those that have to deal with this level of frustration involving their homes. Rabbi, Linda and Amy's home is being worked on now and they will be able to move in by the end of January. Again, I repeat that they will offer so much support and wisdom to our spiritual community of SWLA. I know they are excited along with all of us.

We have lost friends and members of the Jewish community of SWLA recently with many more recovering from different types of illnesses. We hold each of them in our every prayer. The sad part is the loss, yet the bright side is the opportunity, to offer these families and friends support and friendship. We welcome all to reach out to Rabbi or myself for any needs that we can provide from our Temple membership.

With this in mind and so many generous gifts for our efforts to rebuild, Temple Sinai's Board has voted to create a "dedicated fund" for **Tzedakah**, thereby making a *tikkun olam* difference! This will provide a new fund (**Tikkun Olam**) for all to make contributions to, so that we as Temple Sinai can offer the same type of support that so many have provided us. Please consider giving to the **Tikkun Olam Fund** as we grow it to be ready, when needed, to make financial gifts to those in need.

In closing I give credit to Temple Emanuel's Social Justice Committee for this following passage. I found it to be so true and timely.

"Taking care of oneself all the time and even more so during the Covid-19 Pandemic is not only important, it is the *mitzvah* of *shmirat haguf*. We are created in the image of God. The body is a divine gift, so it is our individual responsibility to "take heed to thyself and take care of your lives" (Deuteronomy 4:9) and to "be extremely protective of your lives." (Deuteronomy 4:15) In so doing the *mitzvah* of *shmirat haguf*, you will be making a *tikkun olam* difference for yourself, for your family, for your congregational "family", and for your friends!"

Stay positive, stay focused on your needs and please communicate if you need to talk. We are a community, not individuals alone.

Shalom,

*Joel Davidson*

Temple Sinai President  
337-529-6710

תיקון עולם

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## Temple Yahrzeits:

(Week Ending)

### **January 1, 2021**

Minnie Pearl Levy (1)  
Roy Prater (1)  
Jacob Winner (1)

### **January 8, 2021**

Isaac Reinauer (2)  
Vergie Comeaux (3)  
Kenneth Hartman (3)  
Rebecca Reinauer (4)  
Esther Goldman (5)  
Sarah Rebecca Wolf Klaus (5)  
Bertha Greenwood Runte (6)  
Dora Thibodeaux (7)  
Irving Bachrack (8)

### **January 15, 2021**

Marlene Levite (9)  
Adele H. Greenberg (10)  
Theo Frank (13)  
Sonya (Toni) Harris (14)  
Robert Levite (14)  
Florence Eisen Rosenthal (14)  
Ruth Buncher (15)  
Ray C. Fredrick (15)

### **January 22, 2021**

Beck Rikess (16)  
Robert Stopnik (16)  
G. B. Walker (18)  
Ethyl Landau Jacobs (19)  
Louis Reinauer (19)  
Marie Gold (20)  
Bernard Loftin (20)  
Irma Hoffman Smith (20)  
Lucia Amara (21)  
Deborah Levy (21)  
Henry Packman (21)  
Eugene Earl Toerner (21)  
Sidney Hoffman (22)  
Fannie Sorkow (22)



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## **Temple Contributions**

### **Funds:**

#### **Sisterhood:**

Decorating Fund  
General Fund  
Meal of Consolation

#### **Send Checks to:**

Ellen Raley  
4270 Indigo Place  
Lake Charles, LA 70605

#### **Temple:**

Cemetery Fund  
Courtyard Fund  
General Fund  
Music Fund  
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund  
Tikkun Olam Fund (New as of Dec. 2020)  
Tree of Life Fund  
Youth Fund (formerly Camp Fund)

#### **Send Checks to:**

Temple Sinai  
713 Hodges St.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601

### **Contributors**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print, clip and submit this form with your contribution to  
avoid any confusion during the acknowledging process.)



## *Temple Yearzeits:*

(Week Ending)

#### **January 29, 2021**

Blanche Michel (23)  
Julia Gross (24)  
Nanette Hess (24)  
Marjorie Hebert (25)  
Joey Stoner (25)  
Lena Messer (26)  
Leon Gordon (27)  
Robert F. Michel (27)  
Sanford Gold (28)  
Jack Labovitch (28)  
Lucy Manoff (29))

#### **February 5, 2021**

Leha Bohn Gordon (Jan. 30)  
Michael Helman (30)  
Samuel Milstein (30)  
Marx Weill (30)  
Fannie Hart (31)  
Freda Marcus (31)  
Isidora Reinauer (31)  
Rose Margulis (Feb. 2)  
Irving S. Stein (2)  
Coleman Greenwood (4)  
Hinda Stopnik (4)  
Harry Bressler (5)  
Irving Sorkow (5)

#### **February 12, 2021**

Ann Luce (6)  
Mrs. Julius Goldsmith (7)  
Clara Spector (7)  
Robert Kennelly (8)  
Jacob Gorin (10)  
Arthur Weiss (11)  
Florence "Titter" Wise (11)  
Sid Atlas (12)  
Joseph Fry (12)  
Alfred William Mayer (12)

## *We are grateful for these contributions:*

### **Building Fund:**

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

From: Temple B'Nai Israel (Panama City, FL)

From: Diane Hunt

From: Ann & Scott Michel  
In Memory of: Blanche & Bob Michel

From: Temple Beth El (Boca Raton, FL)

From: Karen & David Dee

From: Laine, Chris, Lotus, & Sakura Fabijanic  
(Go Fund Me Administers)

From: Larry & Helen Rose

From: Network for Good  
(Facebook Fundraiser)

From: Allan Levin

From: Gail & Percy Johnson  
In Memory of: Jim Levy

From: Barbara & Tony DiBartolo  
In Honor of: Speedy Recovery for Charlene Blevins

From: Temple Emanuel (Beaumont, TX)

From: Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans

From: Deborah & Phillip Drago

From: Leah & Paul Katz

## *Temple Yahrzeits:*

(Week Ending)

### **February 19, 2021**

David Reims (13)  
Cecile Mandelbaum (14)  
Murray Seidenberg (14)  
Mary Gilbert (15)  
Francine Messer (15)  
Julius Goldsmith (16)  
Angus Jennings (16)  
Gay Gold (17)  
Louis Kushner (17)  
Mary Altman (18)  
Harry Goldman (18)  
Jennie Helman (18)  
Ethel Love (18)  
Jacob Sukiennik (19)

### **February 26, 2021**

Muriel Fuerst (20)  
Alorene Greenwood (20)  
Stuart Greenberg (22)  
Elias Berwin (23)  
William Wilson McGhee (23)  
Rose G. Greenberg (24)  
Francis Austin (26)  
Francis Raley (26)

### **March 5, 2021**

Marguerite Whiting (Feb. 27)



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### **Building Fund Continued:**

From: Gail & Gary Swartz

From: Marlene Swerdlow

From: Gail & Percy Johnson  
In Memory of: Mike Gold

From: Dr. & Mrs. Harry Kleinman

From: Pat Seamons

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

From: LK Greer

From: Anne & David Reinauer

From: Barbara & Tony DiBartolo  
In Honor of: Speedy Recovery for  
Maurice Gold

From: Jim Levy, Jr.  
In Honor of: Florian Levy & Jim Levy, Sr.

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

From: Tim & Charlene Blevins

From: Simone & Stan Levy, Jr.

From: Lewis & Gladys Bass Family  
In Memory of: Joseph Lowenthal

From: Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Leeman

From: Congregation Emanu El  
(Houston, TX)

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:**

Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans

### **Tree of Life Fund:**

From: Carol & Charlie St. Dizier  
In Memory of: Beverly Lowenthal



**Arts & STEM Online Programming for Jewish Families:  
Perfect for Winter Break Fun!**

**RJ ON THE GO**

Jewish wisdom teaches that in each age, the children of Torah become its builders.  
(Mishkan T'filah)

A full schedule of weekday online activities is currently being hosted on the [RJ on the Go](#) platform – including Minecraft tutorials, visual and paper arts projects, game nights, a 3D design course, and more. All sessions are designed for students in grades 3-8 and will be led by expert staff from across the URJ's robust camping system.

[Special activities being offered this winter](#) are free and open to all students in grades 3-8.

As an added bonus, you'll find a series of parenting sessions throughout January, focusing on topics like video games and violence, sports parenting, and supporting our children's creative sides (even if we aren't always as creative as they are!).

# TU BISHVAT

(January 27 - 28, 2021)

Tu BiShvat or the "New Year of the Trees" is Jewish Arbor Day. The holiday is observed on the 15th (*tu*) of the Hebrew month of Shvat. Scholars believe that originally Tu BiShvat was an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring. In the 17th century, Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu BiShvat that is similar to a [Passover seder](#). Today, many Jews hold a modern version of the Tu BiShvat seder each year. The holiday also has become a tree-planting festival in Israel, in which Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of loved ones and friends.



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For family activities, videos, recipes, and more, visit: <https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/tu-bishvat>

# Happy Purim!

February 25-26, 2021

ReformJudaism.org  
Jewish Life in Your Life

For family activities, videos, recipes, and more, visit: <https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/purim>