

# JOLIET JEWISH CONGREGATION

**Mark Turk  
President**

*The Jewish Bulletin*

**Jenny Steinberg Kuvin  
Rabbi**



**Charles Rubovits  
Rabbi Emeritus**

January 1, 2021

17 Tevet 5781

## **Candle Lighting Times**

January 1, 2021.....4:13pm  
January 8, 2021.....4:20pm  
January 15, 2021.....4:27pm

## **Friday Evening Services—7:30 PM**

**January 1, 2, 8, 9**

**Zoom Only**

**No In-Person Services**

## **Shabbat Morning Services - 9:30am**

January 2, 2021  
Torah portion of the week.....Vayyechi  
Genesis 47:28-50:26  
Haftarah portion of the week.....I Kings  
2:1-12

January 9, 2021  
Torah portion of the week.....Shemoth  
Exodus 1:1—6:1  
Haftarah portion of the week.....Jeremiah  
1:1-2:3

## **Join us for Shabbat Services**

**Via Zoom on Friday evenings - 7:30 PM**

**& Saturday mornings - 9:30 AM**

## **Contacts**

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Our address.....250 N. Midland, Joliet, IL 60435

## **From the Rabbi's Study**

A NEW YEAR, A NEW HEART JOURNEY....

By  
Rabbi Jenny

"How can I begin anything new with all of yesterday in me?"

— Leonard Cohen

The promise of a New Year is upon on us with the onset of 2021. We have been through so much as a community, both individually and as a whole. How will we walk into this New Year? With hopeful anticipation...or negative trepidation? It is important to remember and learn from the past, but it is equally important not to engage in morbid self-reflection. The art of an attitude of hope is practiced through letting go everyday of the past pain and hurts that we sometimes like to cling to. After all, carrying a heavy load on a new journey is hard on the bones.

It is a natural part of the human personality to continue to look at the pain of the past as a way to protect our selves from future hurt. However, this antiquated part of the ego-mind can sometimes become a burden when it prevents us from seeing the new gifts placed in front of us. We must be willing to surrender those old ideas to make room for the new. We can make this task easier by engaging in new ways of listening and looking at the world that is more from the heart. Listening from the heart we can hear the essence of what is being said from a point of understanding and compassion. We can drop our defenses a little easier and become closer to the world around us.

This week in Torah we are beginning a new book, Exodus. Once again the rhythm of the Torah aligns perfectly with the rhythm of our lives. We can move into the new by taking guidance from the words we recite at the final portion of Genesis. "HAZAK, HAZAK, VENITHAZZEK " "BE STRONG BE STRONG

STRENGTHEN EACH OTHER." Let's be strong for each other as we take this new journey together with hearts wide open.

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Secular New Years has arrived; rebirth, a new beginning, excitement and hopefully a good new safe and healthy world to enter.

Here at Joliet Jewish Congregation we look forward to returning to full in-person services, school, and programs at some future time. We look forward to socializing, seeing our congregation families in person, and sharing prayer and enjoy each others company.

We hunkered down and found new ways to pray and associate with each other and we were resilient, we were successful, we have lots of Zoom activity from prayer to meetings, to school, and to programs.

We took it upon ourselves to survive, others sadly did not. We will be stronger and better for our efforts in the end. Now is the time to regroup, to set future plans and goals and to ensure our congregations positive future both current and for decades to come.

Together, we've proven we are unstoppable and we can survive and prosper. Together, we can make Joliet Jewish Congregation not just a good congregation, but also a great congregation.

Wishing you and your families a safe, healthy, satisfying, and prosperous 2021.

Mark Turk



Congratulations to Zachary Berman and Lauren English who were nominated by Rabbi Jenny for the Springboard Chicago 18 Under 18 award. Nominees for this recognition were identified as demonstrating passion for Jewish learning and standing out as role models and teachers within their Jewish communities.

BINGO				
4	26	43	59	70
9	30	41	55	68
7	23	FREE 32 SPACE	50	63
8	20	31	60	75
13	18	34	52	69

### ZOOM BINGO

Join us on Saturday, January 16, 7:30 PM for Shelter in Place Bingo via Zoom. Sign in info will be emailed to members.

## HADASSAH BOOK CLUB

The Hadassah book club will meet on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. The selection to be discussed is The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michel Richardson. The story is a fictionalized account of 2 real subjects in the history of Eastern Kentucky. It is available at the library and as an e-book.



Lunch & Learn has resumed via Zoom, but now it's lunch-less. Please join us as Rabbi Rubovits leads the discussion. Meeting information is sent by email.



### HADASSAH DONOR LUNCHEON

The annual Hadassah Donor Luncheon **has been postponed**. We will notify everyone when a new date is selected.

### DONATIONS

A significant donation for both programming and security was received from Karen Buczek, whom some of you know. The donation was split between sponsorship of a future Rabbi Kuvin program and security. Karen wishes the donation to honor January – June birthdays and anniversaries. If you know Karen and have a birthday and/or anniversary during this period, please know she's honoring you. If you wish to acknowledge the honor simply send a note in care of the congregation for her and we will get it to her. Thank you, Karen, for thinking of us.

### WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

It would be more efficient, if you have an event, celebration, and/or program if you wish on the website and/or Facebook that you submit them by email to the volunteer administrator Deb White at [debra.white@comcast.net](mailto:debra.white@comcast.net) so we have a better flow of information. Your help will hopefully improve the flow of information.



### NOTE FROM RABBI RUBOVITS

I, for one, am not sorry to see 2020 fade into oblivion. I realize I must temper my disgust with the year because there were certainly many incidents that deserved celebration both within our family and without. There were high school and college graduations, weddings, and births and all were celebrated, albeit with scaled down versions, but I am sorry to say that the negatives this year far exceed the positives. I am given to wonder if Gd really needs to get His dander up every 100 years or so simply to stay in shape. Sorry, that was very snippy of me and I must apologize.

Within the tumult of our world because of Covid19, we quickly forget that Gd is in charge of everything and everyone. In the middle of our Yom Kippur afternoon service, we all stand before Gd and recite the ancient prayer, "How many will leave this world, and how many shall be born, who shall live and who shall die." "But repentance, prayer, and deeds of kindness can remove the severity of the decree." Diligently wearing a face mask and washing our hands very regularly certainly helps as well.

I am continually amazed at the scoff-laws and the 'you can't make me' attitudes displayed by so many. "So what if I get Covid!" Just watch the evening news. Every one of us is up to here with the quarantine. We want to move about freely, to go to the park or restaurant or shopping mall. We want to gather with our friends at a home or in the synagogue. Gd did not create human beings to live their lives in isolation but to ignore the possible illness and potential death to yourself or others is a terribly selfish attitude.

I heartily applaud the various pharmaceutical companies across the world who have developed and shipped their preventative vaccines so quickly and I congratulate those who have received their vaccination and many more of us are in line. I am mildly confident we will see the end of the pandemic before June 2021 but the economic fall-out from this disaster will take years to rectify. Tens of thousands of businesses have closed or are on the brink of closing which translates into job losses numbering in the hundreds of thousands. The death toll of the pandemic across the world in one year exceeds the number of those killed in battle in all our world wars. How do we grapple with these awful numbers let alone get ahead of them?

World and Jewish history have dealt with enormous tragedies before. It often took decades, even centuries to get back to a sense of normal life but, for the

most part, a sense of normalcy eventually returned to society. I wonder how long it will take this time?

I refuse to get into the "blame game," and my crystal ball is as clear as yours. We need unified action by the federal government and we need it now! We would do well to take the state governments out of the vaccination equation and turn over the distribution of the medication and the actual vaccinations to the military as quickly as possible otherwise we'll simply end up chasing our tail for years before all our people are protected. What part of EMERGENCY is not understood?

I am angry! I am also afraid. Afraid that I'll see my children and grandchildren and my friends and family only on Zoom for years to come. And I am afraid for all of you as well. New leadership will take the reins of Washington in 20 or so days. We are hearing snippets of new plans to get rid of the Covid19 virus and produce more vaccine but I am still skeptical. Everyone wants a piece of the pie but the pie is still illusive. So I guess I'll just ask Gd to intercede.

Yes folks, it's time to hunker down and pray. Pray hard! Pray that more drug companies lend their expertise to killing the Covid19 bug. Pray that the vaccines can be safely produced by the tanker load and quickly delivered to every hospital, nursing home, school, church and synagogue in the country so that our military can line us up and vaccinate us all safely and speedily. And let us pray that our beautiful country can come back from this emergency quickly and safely.

Rabbi Rubovits

### BEST KEPT SECRETS

Wow!! Since we haven't been in person in the Temple, something has changed for the good. Alonso & I were discussing our brass handrails in the Chapel & Sanctuary and how to clean them. Alonso discovered a process and wow!! They look almost new. So now, not to leave any work undone, he is going through the building and refurbishing all the door rails, hardware, handles and kick plates and all this in regular hours. Maybe some of you can remember what they used to look like and then see what they are now. If you are as impressed as I am, maybe a thank you note to Alonso would be appreciated.

### DUES

Dues statements will be out shortly for the 1st Quarter, so please get payments in as soon as possible to assist us with cash flow.

Thank you.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



### Happy Birthday to:

- 1/7 Matthew Cohen-Marshall
- 1/8 Thomas English
- 1/11 Dr. Art Glaser
- 1/11 Jeremy Link
- 1/11 Aaron (AJ) Lyp
- 1/15 Abe Ordman
- 1/20 Dr. Robert Friedman
- 1/23 Ashley Freeman
- 1/23 Amy Turk
- 1/24 James Kaplan
- 1/29 Mark Fisher



### Happy Anniversary to:

- 1/18 George & Lea Stuhr

## Hattie & Harry Brown Funds

### Recovery

- None

### Happy Day

In Honor of **Mr. Mark Brown** on his birthday

- **Mr. & Mrs. Mark Turk**

In Honor of **Rabbi Jenny Kuvin** on her birthday

- **Mr. & Mrs. Mark Turk**

In Honor of **Mrs. Ronald (Joyce) Orloff** on her birthday

- **Mr. & Mrs. Mark Turk**

In Honor of **Ms. Linda Rudman** on her birthday

- **Mr. & Mrs. Mark Turk**

In Honor of **Mr. Marty Stone** on his birthday

- **Mr. & Mrs. Mark Turk**

In Honor of **Rabbi Charles Rubovits, Rabbi Jenny Kuvin & Cantor Jessica Tobacman** for their service to the Congregation

- **Dr. & Mrs. Gary Trager**
- 

### Memorial

- None

## WELFARE CHEST

With the advent of 2021, let's talk about what, how & who the Welfare Chest is and how & whom they help.

First we are all volunteers, both Board and donors. We are a separate 501C-3 charitable welfare chest and although named and housed under the Joliet Jewish Congregation, we are not governed by, but many of our donors are members of the Joliet Jewish Congregation.

Our mission is to accept donations and then provide funds to many Jewish, non-Jewish and Local social service providers.

We raise and provide about \$8000.00-\$10,000.00 annually. That sum years ago used to be much higher but we are constrained by revenues received although the need is so much greater.

Some Jewish organizations we support are ADL, Hadassah Hospital, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, Jewish Braille Institute, JNF, JUF, JUF Coat, Glove & Hat Drive, Magen David Adom, Maot Chitim, NJOP, Shalva, and The ARK.

Non-Jewish and local providers we support include CASA, Cornerstone Services, Crisis Line, Guardian Angel Community Services, Independent Living Center, Joliet Area Community Hospice, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Senior Services Center, Sunny Hill Nursing Home, The Community Foundation, Will County Center for Community Concerns, Will-Grundy Medical Center.

Additionally we provide funds for homeless feeding at Daybreak Shelter, need assistance for Religious School tuition, and humanitarian relief in local emergencies along with food & gas gift cards for the Rabbi to use at her discretion when approached by a local traveler and/or resident in need.

Thus you can see we do a lot, help a lot of folks in need, and support a lot of good agencies, but could do so much more if more of you would help.

Think about helping us, help others in 2021. Give what you can, when you can; those we help I'm sure appreciate whatever assistance we can offer.

Just make your check and/or monthly deposit to the Joliet Jewish Welfare Chest and mail to the Temple. Together we can do more.

## Yahrzeits

(Week of December 27-January 2)

**None**

(Week of January 3-9)

<b>Ron Galowich</b>	19 Tevet	January 3
<b>Judy Block</b>	20 Tevet	January 4
<b>Dr. Gary Trager</b>	24 Tevet	January 8
<b>Bea Scholar</b>	24 Tevet	January 8
<b>Jim Kaplan</b>	24 Tevet	January 8
<b>Ken Pollock</b>	24 Tevet	January 8

(Week of January 10-16)

<b>Michael Freeman</b>	29 Tevet	January 13
<b>Dianne Parker</b>	29 Tevet	January 14
<b>Mark Turk</b>	2 Shevat	January 15

The Yahrzeit light is lit on the evening before the date noted above.

Yahrzeit lights will be lit on our Memorial Tablets in memory of:

**Week of December 27-January 2: Harry Festenstein, Mrs. Etta Aronson, William Melcher, Carl Sohn, Dr. George F. Glaser, Lena Maddis, Harry W. Sanders, Morris Fisher, Mrs. Rose Lewis, Mrs. Sarah Press**

**Week of January 3-9: Abraham Kahn, Isadore Lewis, Joseph Deutsch, Ruth Festenstein, Mrs. Sara H. Singer, Mrs. Rae Cohen, Samuel W. Fisher, Leonard Saper, Irwin Eisen, Louis Markle**

**Week of January 10-16: Augusta Freeman, Joseph Lewis, Daniel Mann, Lilian Lewis, Irving Hirshfield, Maurice Press, Mrs. Bess Freeman, Mrs. Rose Berlin, Mrs. Florence Deutsch, Louis Turk, Jennie Noriansky**

## GRANTS

During December we were blessed with 3 grant programs that our program committee, Rabbi's and Cantor secured. Some of you were not able to attend any of the three which were funded by JUF grants. We missed you.

Dr. Gizzi's presentation was not only of great educational and instructional value, but also thought provoking, Laura Berman's was enjoyable and good to meditate with and Cantor Jessica's was not only spiritual and educational, but also a joy to watch and listen.

We just got funded for 4 more programs for 2021, so watch and schedule them. You'll be happy you did.



## SCRIP

A new order form is included in the newsletter. Thank you to all who participate in this program.

## OBSERVATIONS ON ZOOM

A while ago Zoom Etiquette was published and has assisted in improving the Zoom experience. However, in my observation, there is still room for improvement.

Please remember that as long as your audio is on, every comment, phone calls, pets barking, movement of your device from its original placement, TVs in the background, even noises from other rooms, causes the others on Zoom to hear that noise.

Let's try to remember that if we need to take a phone call, all that is needed is to mute oneself, and turn off the video portion, too, if needed. The host of Zoom can proceed with whatever the program might be, without any external distractions and extra sounds.

Mark Turk

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SABBATH SERVICES

Usher to ensure social distancing, distribute disposable masks, yarmulkes. Disinfect prayer books and wipe down seating area after services. Different shifts available. Sorry, no pay, but you help keep us all safer. Please contact the office if you are interested in helping. Thank you.



## ONGOING FUNDRAISERS

Joliet Jewish Congregation collects inkjet/laser cartridges & cell phones to recycle. Please drop them off at the office. We also have a newspaper recycling container at the Campbell St. entrance



## HELP THE JOLIET NOON LIONS

Please bring in pop top tabs, old keys, used glasses and hearing aids and leave in the office. Help the Lions help those in need. Thanks!

mail

fax resume:

### BOARD MEMBERS

Want to give back to your synagogue? Apply to be a Board member.

Contribute your time and talents to help your congregation thrive.

If you are interested, please call President Mark Turk (815) 922-4065 for a copy of what is expected of a Board member.

ply at Ave. S.F.

ASSOCIATE

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## SPECIAL PROGRAM

### Torah Heart Meditation & Storytime

with Rabbi Jenny and short stories by Reb Nachman

#### Overview

Rabbi Jenny will guide you in a heart opening meditation and share stories by Reb Nachman of Breslov. Each week Rabbi Jenny and attendees will analyze and allow the deep messages of each story lead the group in a discussion of each person's own life and places that need healing.

#### 12 Week Series

Week 1	November 11, 2020	The Lost Princess
Week 2	November 18, 2020	The King and the Emperor
Week 3	November 25, 2020	The Cripple
Week 4	December 02, 2020	The Bull and the Ram
Week 5	December 09, 2020	The Prince of Gems
Week 6	December 16, 2020	The Humble King
Week 7	December 23, 2020	The Spider and the Fly
Week 8	December 30, 2020	The Rabbi's Son
Week 9	January 06, 2021	The Sophisticate and the Simpleton
Week 10	January 13, 2021	The Burger and the Pauper
Week 11	January 20, 2021	The Exchanged Children
Week 12	January 27, 2021	The Master of Prayer

#### Registration

The series begins on November 11, 2020 and will be on Wednesday evenings for one hour from 7-8 p.m. You are welcome to attend as many sessions as you like.

These sessions are no charge and are sponsored by Joliet Jewish Congregation.

To register please send an email to Joliet Jewish Congregation ([jolietjewish@att.net](mailto:jolietjewish@att.net)) and you will receive Zoom information.

# Joliet Jewish Congregation Presents

## **Reconciliation, Shared Society and Co-existence Efforts Between Israelis and Palestinians**

### **An Overview**

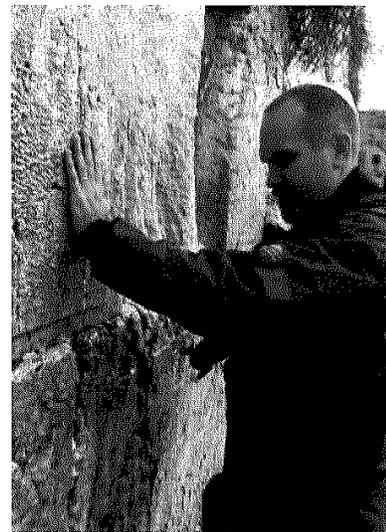
Up-to-date assessments of politics of a one state or two state agreement for Israel and its neighbors.

**Dr. Michael Gizzi, Ph.D.**

Professor of Criminal Justice  
Illinois State University

A political scientist by training, his interests are diverse, ranging from American Constitutional law, to an on-going five year project focused on studying shared society endeavors between Jews and Arabs in Israel, where he spent 70 days conducting interviews since 2015.

Gizzi is a consultant to the Israel Action Network and regularly speaks on BDS issues at synagogues and federations across the nation. He is co-editor and author of two chapters in a forthcoming book, *Peace and Faith: Christian Churches and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, with Dr. Cary Nelson. At ISU, Gizzi has been faculty advisor to ISU Hillel for the past six years.



Michael Gizzi at the Western Wall.

**Monday, January 18th**

**7:30 p.m. CT on Zoom**

**To reserve your free ticket  
email: [JolietJewish@att.net](mailto:JolietJewish@att.net)**

A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community.

# January 2021

## Tevet-Shevat 5781

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Hebrew/Religious School 9 AM/10 AM	4	5	6 Torah Heart Meditation & Storytime w/Rabbi Jenny 7 PM	7 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Noon	8 Shabbat Services 7:30 PM	9 Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
10 Hebrew/Religious School 9 AM/10 AM	11 Community-Wide Jewish Mediation Gathering 8 PM	12	13 Torah Heart Meditation & Storytime w/Rabbi Jenny 7 PM	14 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Noon	15 Shabbat Services 7:30 PM	16 Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
17 Hebrew/Religious School 9 AM/10 AM	18 Dr. Gizzi Presentation 7:30 PM	19 Board Meeting 7:00 PM	20 Torah Heart Meditation & Storytime w/Rabbi Jenny 7 PM	21 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Noon	22 Shabbat Services 7:30 PM	23 Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
24 Hebrew/Religious School 9 AM/10 AM	25	26	27 Torah Heart Meditation & Storytime w/Rabbi Jenny 7 PM	28 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Noon	29 Shabbat Services 7:30 PM	30 Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
31 Hebrew/Religious School 9 AM/10 AM						

**Joliet Jewish Congregation**  
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My name is Mark Brown, CFP®, AIF® (pictured lower-right). I am a long-time member of the Joliet Jewish Congregation. We invite you to visit us, or I will be happy to visit you.

Our completely independent firm provides plain-English solutions for your financial needs. Please consider stopping by our office, where **second opinion reviews** and a cup of coffee are always **free!**



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