

# JOLIET JEWISH CONGREGATION

**Jan Stone**  
President

*The Jewish Bulletin*

**Jenny Steinberg Kuvin**  
Rabbi



**Charles Rubovits**  
Rabbi Emeritus

January 15, 2022

13 Shevat 5782

## **Candle Lighting Times**

January 21, 2022.....4:36pm  
January 28, 2022.....4:45pm  
February 4, 2022.....4:54pm

## **Friday Evening Services**

January 21, 2022.....**7:00pm**  
January 28, 2022.....**No Services**  
**Scheduled**  
February 4, 2022.....**7:00pm**

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

### **Saturday services are in-person**

January 22, 2022  
Torah portion of the week.....Yithro  
Exodus 18:1-20:23  
Haftarah portion of the week.....Isaiah  
6:1-7:6; 9:5-6

January 29, 2022  
Torah portion of the week.....Mishpatim  
Exodus 21:1-24:18  
Haftarah portion of the week.....Judges  
4:4-5:31

### **Join us for Shabbat Services**

**Via Zoom - Saturday mornings - 9:30 AM**

### **Contacts**

Main Phone.....(815) 741-4600  
Email.....**jolietjewish1@gmail.com**  
Fax.....(815) 741-9311  
Website.....www.jolietjewishcongregation.com  
Our address.....250 N. Midland, Joliet, IL 60435

## THE HOLY PIG?

By

Rabbi Jenny Steinberg Kuvin, JD

Often we question the laws of Kashrut for relevancy in modern times. With kitchens and chemicals to clean and cure the meats, we may wonder why we Jews are instructed *not* to eat the pig. This week, however, a medical miracle provides a possible answer.

At the University of Maryland Medical Center a 57-year-old man with life-threatening heart disease received a heart from a genetically modified pig. It is the first successful transplant of a pig's heart into a human being. The eight-hour operation took place in Baltimore on Friday, January 7, and, according to his surgeons, the patient, David Bennett Sr. of Maryland, was doing well on the following Monday.

Dr. Bartley Griffith, the director of the transplant program, who performed the surgery told the New York Times, "It creates the pulse, it creates the pressure, it is his heart. It's working and it looks normal. We are thrilled, but we don't know what tomorrow will bring us. This has never been done before."

Most people might not know that the pig has a very close DNA structure to humans. Certainly Moses and Aaron, without the advanced science of today, could not have known of this anatomical similarity. I cannot help but wonder myself, as a modern Rabbi, if the pig's primary organ that supports life was somehow part of Hashem's "master plan" for sustaining life.

I'd like to pose the following "what if" scenarios about the pig: What if our view of the pig "as something offensive and unclear" is incorrect? What if we are not to eat the pig because it resembles us humans in chemical and biological makeup? Perhaps the pig is not "unclean" as stated in Deuteronomy, 14:8. Might the pig be holy? What if the pig is among those ani-

mals that we honor by not consuming it because our sacred relationship to pigs is yet to be understood?

In thinking of placing a non kosher animal's organs in the body of man we must also consider the concept of *Pikuach Nefesh*, which states that the laws may be set aside when human life is in peril. The value of human life is a fundamental principle of all Jewish law and at the center of Jewish tradition. *Pikuach Nefesh* is derived from Leviticus 19:16, "Neither shall you stand by the blood of your neighbor." According to *Pikuach Nefesh* a person must do everything to save the life of another, even donate bodily organs.

Whatever one's perception of the truth, there is no doubt that the pig and its heart will offer hope for healing for many patients for whom there is no other hope. A carrier of hope is a light indeed.

#### A Well Kept SECRET!

Did you know that JJC is a well-kept secret in and around the Southwest Suburbs?

When I am talking to people about where the Jews in the suburbs live, my conversation goes something like this, "Are there "Jews" in Aurora?" "Yes," I respond, "There are "Jewish people" in Aurora."

The next question is usually, "What Synagogue do you and Marty belong to? My response is "Joliet Jewish Congregation in Joliet." "There's a Synagogue in Joliet?" is the surprised follow-up upon hearing my answer.

My wish for our beautiful Synagogue in Joliet is to be on the mental map of those who live in surrounding areas, not just those in the immediate vicinity of-Joliet. We have an absolutely fantastic Rabbi, Rabbi Jenny. Additionally, we have a Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Charles Rubovits who leads an engaging, weekly Lunch and Learn. And to top off our religious leaders, we have a talented cantor, Cantor Jessica Tobacman. Let's share our Rabbis and Cantor with everyone!

We will have some volunteer opportunities in the near future that highlight the Jewish Communities near and far. They will show others that we, a Joliet Jewish community exist and are thriving. We may be small but we are a strong and proud community at JJC.

Keep checking the website at [www.jolietjewishcongregation.org](http://www.jolietjewishcongregation.org) for upcoming events. We need "each and every one" of you, our

JJC members, to step up and volunteer.

Let's show everyone who we are. It's time that Joliet Jewish Congregation becomes a "conversation" among Jewish families in the Southwest suburbs rather than "a well-kept secret!

Best regards,  
Jan Stone, President

#### COVID CORNER - By Dr. Gary Trager

I have been asked to contribute a brief column to the newsletter regarding covid. This is my first column and I will be open to comments, criticisms and suggestions for future writings. I can be reached by email at "[gmtrager@ameritech.net](mailto:gmtrager@ameritech.net)" and by phone/text at 779.206.9124.

Covid has been related to almost 900,000 deaths in the U.S. since the pandemic started, with 28,000 of them in Illinois and 1,200 of them in Will County. Case counts and positivity rates have become less useful since these figures do NOT include the millions of at home tests.

Illinois has 69% of people >5 yo fully vaccinated while Will county has 62% of people with 2 or more shots. However, the state shows that 87% of people >65 yo have had 2 or more shots. In Illinois, almost 800,000 doses of vaccine have been wasted due to multiple reasons.

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has a section of their web site devoted to which covid home test kits are approved, accurate and not related to scams. Regarding the omicron strain, it should be remembered that N95 and KN95 masks are much more useful at preventing spread and acquisition of this virus in high risk situations compared to surgical masks while cloth masks and gaiters are of almost NO value.

The most important item of this article is as follows: the covid vaccines in use in much of the world are NOT effective in preventing viral infection, especially from the omicron strain, but are very effective at preventing severe disease and death from the virus

**ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE  
SYNAGOGUE REGARDLESS OF  
VACCINATION STATUS  
MUST WEAR A MASK.**

**THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO ANY NEW  
STATE OR LOCAL REGULATORY CHANGES**



Please join us or Lunch & Learn as Rabbi Rubovits leads the discussion on Thursdays at Noon. **For the time being, we will be on Zoom only. We will notify everyone when Lunch & Learn will be back in-person.**

## HADASSAH BOOK CLUB

### HADASSAH BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Book Club is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM. The next book is called "The Matzah Ball" by Jean Meltzer. It's described as heartwarming, hilarious and a joy to read! It has a scene stealing bubble! What more could we ask for?

**PLEASE NOTE: TIME CHANGE FOR FRIDAY EVENING SHABBAT SERVICES. THEY ARE NOW AT 7:00 PM.**

### PAPER RECYCLING

The cow is back and it's hungry. Please fill the container as quickly as possible with paper items for recycling. No cardboard or brown paper bags. Our hungry cow thanks you!



### ANNUAL RAFFLE

The annual raffle drawing will take place on Tuesday, February 15th.

Please turn in your ticket stubs & money to the office as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support of this congregation fundraiser.

The Raffle Committee



### ONGOING FUNDRAISERS

Joliet Jewish Congregation collects inkjet 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 & hearing aids and leave in the office.

Help the Lions help those in need.

### Yahrzeits

(Week of January 16-22)

<b>Key Resis</b>	14 Shevat	January 16
<b>Bernard Pollock</b>	19 Shevat	January 21
<b>Howard Pollock</b>	19 Shevat	January 21
<b>Jim Kaplan</b>	20 Shevat	January 22
<b>Mark Reiner</b>	20 Shevat	January 22

(Week of January 23-29)

<b>Louise Freeman</b>	22 Shevat	January 24
<b>Bea Scholar</b>	23 Shevat	January 25
<b>Key Resis</b>	23 Shevat	January 25
<b>Harriet Barnett</b>	24 Shevat	January 26
<b>Rabbi C. Rubovits</b>	25 Shevat	January 27
<b>Mark Turk</b>	25 Shevat	January 27
<b>Dr. Gary Trager</b>	27 Shevat	January 29

(Week of January 30-February 5)

<b>Paul Beaver</b>	1 Adar	February 2
<b>Mark Horwitz</b>	1 Adar	February 2
<b>Key Resis</b>	1 Adar	February 2
<b>Mark Turk</b>	3 Adar	February 4
<b>Ron Galowich</b>	4 Adar	February 5

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 January 16-22: Fannie Singer, Shirley fish, Sina Fishman, Maurice Greenberg, Louis Geller, Max Schwartz, David Kristal**

**Week of January 23-29: Mrs. Ida Resis, Mrs. Bertha Belle Gray, Bertha Schneider, Mrs. Ivy Barnett, Mrs. Rayda Kramer, Maralyn Sharon Isaacs, Miss Mary Ida Slack, Reva Schreiberman**

**Week of January 30-February 5: Morris Trackman, Mrs. Esther Barkin, Mrs. Florence Adelson, Seymour Beaver, Mrs. Rose Fleisher, Isadore Schreiberman, Jerald S. Galowich**

### Hattie & Harry Brown Funds

#### Recovery

- None

#### Happy Day

- None

#### Memorial

- None



### SCRIP PROGRAM

A new order form will be included in the next newsletter. Thanks to all who participate in this program

# January 2022

## Tevet-Shevat 5782

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
2 No Hebrew/ Religious School Scheduled	3	4	5	6 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Noon Zoom Only	7 Shabbat Services 7:00 PM	8 Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
9 Hebrew/Religious School 9 AM/10 AM	10	11	12	13 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Noon Zoom Only	14 No Shabbat Services Scheduled	15 Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
16 No Hebrew/ Religious School Scheduled	17	18 Board Meeting 7:00 PM	19	20 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Noon Zoom Only	21 Shabbat Services 7:00 PM	22 Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
23 Hebrew/Religious School 9 AM/10 AM	24	25	26	27 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Noon Zoom Only	28 No Shabbat Services Scheduled	29 Shabbat Services 9:30 AM
30 Hebrew/Religious School 9 AM/10 AM	31					

Joliet Jewish Congregation  
250 N. Midland Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60435  
(815) 741- 4600

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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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