

High Holy Days and Festivals

We're all looking forward to celebrating the upcoming High Holy Days and Festivals in our newly decorated synagogue. The Schedule begins on **September 24**, with Selichot at **9 PM** at the Temple. The program includes three short films (two dramas and documentary)—made by students at Maalah, Jerusalem's School of Television, Film and the Arts—and focus on High Holy Days themes. The films will be followed by refreshments and Selichot Prayers in preparation for the High Holidays.

Student Cantor Julia Katz has assembled a group of talented and devoted congregants to form the Adas Israel High Holy Day Choir. The choir has been rehearsing throughout the summer, and will be ready to sing in the New Year.

(a complete schedule of services for the High Holy Days can be found inside)

Message From Rabbi Leon A. Morris



Despite the fact that Rosh Hashanah always falls on the first day of Tiishrei, we are accustomed to the yearly assessment of the holy days being either "early" or "late." I always remind others that they are, in fact, "on time." Our summer seems to have come to an abrupt end with Labor Day so we have an unusually long time before the New Year begins.

With this in mind, I'd like to suggest a variety of ways to prepare for Rosh Hashanah and *aseret yemei teshuvah* (the ten days of self transformation) that it initiates. The Days of Awe, if they are to be experienced fully—and if we want to maximize their potential for enabling us to rethink and re-make our lives—cannot be entered into coldly or suddenly. Like a major journey for which we plan—make lists, do advance reading and seek advice—the High Holy Days also require thoughtful preparation. Here's a check list for the days ahead. Choose as many as you wish and feel free to add and improvise.

1. Make amends with anyone with whom you have unresolved issues.
2. Check in with anyone you feel you may have hurt or slighted
3. Write those notes (condolence, congratulatory, get well) you intended to write but never got around to
4. Make significant charitable contributions
5. Recite Psalm 27
6. Visit the graves of your loved ones
7. Volunteer at a soup kitchen or food pantry
8. Plan to host a holiday meal
9. Call your children and/or parents

10. Call your siblings
11. Immerse in a Mikvah (such as the ocean or Peconic Bay) as a form of spiritual preparation
12. Make a list of the three main things you hope to change in yourself during the coming year
13. Write your own prayer to bring with you and read to yourself during the High Holy Days
14. If you have an honor in the synagogue, practice what you will be doing (blessing over the Torah, Prayer for America, etc.)
15. Read to your children/grandchildren
16. Purchase a ritual object you do not own (mezzuzah, candlestick, etrog box, Seder plate)
17. Donate what you would have spent for food on Yom Kippur to charity
18. Join us for Selichot On Saturday evening September 24 at 9 PM

Shana Tova!

Message from President Neal Fagin

They Are Almost Here!!! Yes, they are just in time this year. The planning for the High Holidays has been going on for months. We do need your help. The sanctuary and the upholstered blue chairs in the adjacent Social Hall are reserved for Temple members only. Non-member family and friends will be accommodated in the other seats in the Social Hall. Please respect this request.

This year we are having two services for Kol Nidre. On Oct. 7th at **6 PM** Rabbi Morris will conduct a service for non-members (our open door policy). Of course, members may also attend. This service will end at 7:20 PM. If you are attending the **8 PM** service—for members only—please wait in the tent in the parking lot and you will be able to enter the temple at about 7:35 PM. As our congregation grows and our facility does not, we thought it prudent to have two services as many Temples do.

I look forward to greeting you and wishing you a Shana Tova. And hope to see you at both our outdoor Kiddushes or our Break the Fast. Both will be held in the tent.

Summer flew by, leaving behind some nice Rosh Chodesh memories to savor. For the first time, lovely, cool weather enabled us to have our annual picnic outdoors on the patio with members bringing delicious dishes to share. Dasee Berkowitz illuminated the month of Tammuz with some provocative thoughts about our perceptions and expectations of summer contrasted with the substance of the Jewish calendar at this time of the year. This lively presentation sparked an interesting discussion about our reactions to the seasons and how informed they are by life circumstances and our psychological frame of

mind. Then came Ellen Ruby's suggestion that our group engage in a "mental pot luck" of thoughts and feelings about Judaism and Jewish experiences that had personal resonance with our members. It was a lovely afternoon filled with food for the belly, soul and intellect. We also looked forward to another annual event... our Spiritual Preparation for the High Holy Days., led by Dasee. The framework this year was an exercise in self reflection exploring both the negative and positive elements in our nature. Our sharing is always voluntary with substantial support, love and acceptance within the group. What always emerges from this, is how

much alike we are in our flaws and struggles and how reassuring it is to hear our strengths and innate goodness affirmed by others.

We thread the concept of Forgiveness through this exercise. Afterwards we are always happy to relax and enjoy lunch together after the hard work of self reflection. In the months ahead, I will lead an exploration of the idea of Forgiveness from the perspectives of psychology and religion. Looking ahead, Margaret Bromberg and I will partner on the theme of Jewish Sources on Dying and Death. In the late Fall we will enjoy our annual celebration of the

East End Harvest.

At various times during the year highlighting and sharing special foods becomes a central spiritual element in our gatherings. Our warmth for and connection to one another threads its way through our intellectual explorations in a very meaningful way. If you would like to join our Rosh Chodesh group, please call me at 631-725-2943 or email me at bdwybaby@optonline.net

Rosh Chodesh extends best wishes to our Temple family: may warmth and connection infuse your relationships, and may good health and a sense of hope be yours in the year ahead. L'Shana Tova!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE...

Fran Gottfried

As you know, we have had a busy summer with numerous enjoyable lectures and concerts. The Program Committee will be meeting soon to plan offerings for the Fall and Winter ahead. If you have any suggestions or recommendations please do not hesitate to contact me: fgottfried@aol.com. Good wishes for the Holidays!



SOCIAL ACTION...

James Dwoskin reports that his Committee will be meeting soon. They are planning a bi-lingual Book Drive with the local Head Start program and other exciting projects are in the works.

ADMINISTRATION...Eileen J. Moskowitz

Summers have always been our "busy" season and this one was no exception! The number of flyers we create is a good indicator of how "Event-full" our Calendar has become—and they've been flying out of the office: Shabbat Shaboom Puppet shows; Wine and Cheese for Young Jewish Professionals, Rabbi's Speaker series, High Holy Days Choir, Cantorial Concert, Mother's Circle, Artist-in Residence Weekend with Tobi Kahn,

Jewish Meditation, Art Gallery Opening Reception, New Membership campaign and various classes. We even have a new display rack for them—so please feel free to take one or more the next time you're in Temple and show your friends what's going on here.

During the past few months we've made wonderful renovations to both our building and our website (and added an "Art Gallery" to each). Our new logo and

this newsletter have also taken on a new "look." We hope you'll agree that it is fresh and attractive. It was created by a local artist, John Musnicki, and was inspired by the wood carving over the *bima*.

After all that summer fun, preparation for the High Holidays became our primary focus. Projecting our new look for the holidays involved creating new designs for the various materials generated by the Temple office.

A major function of our office is to communicate; a connection between you and the Temple. Through e-mails, e-blasts. Newsletters and our website, we work hard to keep you all informed—using the least amount of paper (trees) possible! So, if you haven't given us your e-mail address yet, please do so, and keep us up to date so we can keep YOU up to date! Thank You!

DAVE LEE REMEMBERS...

We have always had a generous congregation as evidenced by the stories below.

A member who'd been involved in a fire asked me why we didn't have a "fire exit in the sanctuary." I told him that we had it on our "to-do" list. He asked me to have it done immediately and send him the bill.

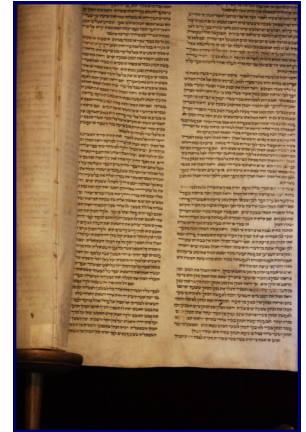
One Yom Kippur, during a break in the service, a lady told me she could not participate fully in our service because our "sound equipment" wasn't very good and she couldn't hear. True, it was far from satisfactory. She donated \$7,000 and by Sukkot, we had installed a new, very

good system.

Another item we sorely needed was a piano/organ. While making an appeal on a Rosh Hashanah, I asked for a volunteer to fund the purchase of an instrument. At a break during the service six people approached me and offered to buy the instrument. The late Robert Salzman and his wife Connie Freeman got to the *bima* first and purchased the instrument we now use.

Even after we air-conditioned our building the balcony was hot. I mentioned this to Richard Hemley—he took the challenge and had an air conditioner installed.

When our Torahs needed to be inspected and repaired, a congregant spent many thousands to have this done. Our Holocaust Torah came to us after the shipping costs (from London) were donated by volunteers. It now needs refurbishing...anyone care to help? The drapes and Torah covers which grace our *bima* have always been supplied by Donald and Gertrude Katz. Member May Kelman embroidered our beautiful Chanukah quilt. These important items and many others were supplied through the generosity of members. And there are many other opportunities!



Our Holocaust Torah, an "orphan" from Czechoslovakia

THE ARTS...Barbara Freedman

The **Artist in Residence** weekend was a great success. Tobi Kahn, noted painter/sculptor, scholar and teacher, spoke Friday following services on Sacred Art and what it means in today's Jewish world. On Saturday morning he spoke informally in the newly re-furbished Social Hall where the walls were hung with art created in the Artists' Beit Midrash at the Skirball Center, where he and Rabbi Morris co-taught for eight years. On Sunday his talk was illustrated with slides comparing two different modern artists. Attendee at the events spoke highly of Tobi who was engaging and delightful.

In addition, the Temple's newly formed Art Committee met with him during lunch to gain his thoughts on going forward with efforts to make ART a part of our Temple life. Adas Israel's Beit Midrash will be modeled after the one at Skirball, but the format is not yet definite. So far, two exhibits have been shown: Ann Chwatsky's photos of Jewish farmers and my show, featuring works created during the past 10 years at Skirball. It is meant to convey how text study can lead to the creation of art. Our next exhibit will feature the works of other members of the Arts Committee and will be on display until mid-November. Our new hanging system was made possible by the generous donation of the Heller family, in honor of our member, Annette Heller.

MEMBERSHIP...Myra Peskowitz

The "Come Back to Shul" Membership Drive has attracted a lot of attention from potential members. The membership tree in the social hall is filling up. An additional event was held on September 18 at the Temple—giving prospects an opportunity to meet with Rabbi Morris over coffee and bagels and learn about the congregation, as well a take a tour of the historic building.



Shalom Bat Chairs,
acrylic on wood.
By Tobi Kahn

HEBREW SCHOOL...

Director Leah Oppenheimer

wishes a very sweet and healthy year to all my families, students and fellow congregants. Sometime this year I will be back with a quick step and a happy smile...until then, loving congratulations to Amanda Mintz and her family, and Jared and Natalie Wolf and their family...these new Jewish Adults have earned their calls to Torah. Pray for peace, jobs, food and books for all in need.

DASEE BERKOWITZ, Interim Director reports the School opened for the year on September 12 and welcomed both new and returning students. While we will miss Leah for the next four months (we wish her a big *Refuah Shleimah* as she recovers from knee surgery) we are looking forward to continuing earning (and playing!) together as a Hebrew School community.

CARING PROGRAM....

We are pleased to have offered assistance to a number of families this summer who were dealing with a death of a loved one or someone dealing with illness and recovery. Thanks to a growing roster of generous volunteers, we were able to provide support, comfort and some welcomed meals to Temple members. In the area of *Bikur Cholim* (visiting the sick) we have expanded our focus to highlight support services for the Caregiver. Here's a sample::

1. a phone conversation to mutually assess specific situational needs from the Caregiver's vantage point
2. running an errand
3. making a simple meal
4. visiting the sick to relieve the Caregiver.
5. offering assistance with insurance and bureaucratic issues

Is there something you might need that we haven't thought of? Please e-mail me at bwaybaby@optonline.net and we'll add it to our list. With four very able captains—Ellen Ruby, Emilie Kutash, Julie Tatkon and Diane Schade—and over 30 volunteers, we're ready to pitch in. Call the Temple—631-725-0904—if you need us!

Some innovations this year include a monthly family program and potluck dinner for all our school's parents and children on the first Monday each month and a new "take home" component called "Bringin' it home...a way for students to practice with their parents what they learned in school. We will spend time



Rabbi Leon explains the origins of the *shofar* to the students of our Hebrew School

MAZEL TOV TO...Rhonda and Mitchell Rachlin

on the birth of their granddaughter, Sophie Anna Bernardo, born 7/21/11. Proud parents are Sari and Michael Bernardo...**Linda Mintz** on the 9/17/11 Bat Mitzvah of her daughter Amanda...and **William Wolff** on the 10/29/11 double *simcha* of the Bnei Mitzvah of his twins, Jared and Natalie Wolff.

IN MEMORIAM... The condolences of the congregation go out to **Sheila Zaslower** who lost her beloved sister, Linda Dayan, June 19, 2011. **Meg Taylor's** sister-in-law Jeanne Benjamin died July 3rd; **Russ Fierman**, beloved husband of **Adrienne** left us on July 22nd.

Elaine Gruenstein, dear mother of **David Gruenstein (Nicole)** and much adored "Bubbe" to **Jessica and Joshua** died August 7. And **Sheila Britz** lost her dear Mother Hazel Greenspan on August 29...**Leo Kelmenson**, beloved husband of **Gayle** and father of **Philippa** died on August 30.

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exploring Hebrew roots and learning how they form the foundation to ancient and modern Hebrew.

Our talented teachers, Rabbi Leon, Eileen Moskowitz, Diane Shifman, Judy Spencer and Beverly Deak look forward to engaging our students and families in the whole range of prayer, bible stories, Jewish ethics and holiday preparations in interactive and child-centered ways. We are particularly eager to help the children and their families prepare for the synagogue's new initiative **Shabbat Across Sag Harbor**, to take place in early November. If any of you know of other families who'd like to be involved in our community, please ask them to contact daseeb@gmail.com.

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