

Blending Jewish Traditions with Modern Life September 2023 Elul 5783 - Tishrei 5784

ימים נוראים

Yamim Noraim The Days of Awe 5784 2023



High Holidays Schedule of Services In Person & By Zoom

Saturday, September 9th - Selichot :

In-Person only service at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 15th - Erev Rosh Hashanah :

Potluck Dinner at Temple Bnai Israel at 6:30 p.m. Evening Service begins at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 16th - First Day Rosh Hashanah :

Morning Service begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes ~12:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 17th - Second Day Rosh Hashanah :

Morning Service begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes ~12:00 p.m. Tashlich in person at Lauter Park immediately following kiddush, weather permitting.

Sunday, September 24th - Cemetery Service :

Begins at 11:30 a.m. In this season when we face our own mortality and our relationship with the living God, we honor the lives of our community's loved ones with this brief memorial service.

Sunday, September 24th - Kol Nidrei :

Begins promptly at 6:10 p.m.

Monday, September 25th - Yom Kippur :

Morning Service begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes ~12:00 p.m.

Yizkor Evening Service :

Begins at 6:20 p.m. If you wish, please have a picture of the loved ones you are remembering to share on a table in the sanctuary or through your webcam.

Yom Kippur Conclusion :

Ne'ilah begins ~6:50 p.m., with the Final Shofar, Havdalah & Break-fast at ~7:25 p.m.

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SEPTEMBER SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, September 2nd at 9:30 AM - Bagel & Bible hosted by the Stoloff Family - See Page 7

Tuesday, September 5th at 1:00 PM - Security Drill Training Refresher - See Page

Saturday, September 9th at 7:30 PM - Selichot - See Page 6

Friday, September 15th at 6:30 PM - Erev Rosh Hashanah Potluck followed by Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Saturday, September 16th at 10:00 AM - Rosh Hashanah Service
Sunday, September 17th at 10:00 AM - Rosh Hashanah Service & Jewish Explorations Rosh Hashanah Experience

Tuesday, September 19th at 6:00 PM - Brews, Views, Schmooze at Willimantic Brewing Company - All Welcome!

Sunday, September 24th at 11:30 AM - Cemetery Service

Sunday, September 24th at 6:10 PM - Kol Nidrei

Monday, September 25th at 10:00 AM - Yom Kippur Morning Service

Monday, September 25th at 6:20 PM - Yizkor Service & Yom Kippur Conclusion

Friday, September 29th at 6:15 PM - Stew & Story in the Sukkah -See page 5



THE BULLETIN is a monthly publication of Temple Bnai Israel 383 Jackson Street P.O. Box 61 Willimantic, CT 06226 Phone: (860) 423-3743 Fax: (860) 423-7594 www.templebnaiisrael.org

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Temple Bnai Israel

is an affiliate of *Reconstructing Judaism* <u>Reconstructing Judaism.org</u>

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hillary Stern

Embracing Jewish Traditions in the Heart of the Countryside

When I moved to Connecticut from New York City in 2005 my life changed drastically. I had been living in a studio apartment for almost 20 years; I moved into a large house with 3 acres in the woods. I followed my heart and came to live with my now husband, and his children, and it was the best decision of my life. However, my work as a social worker/therapist used to be counseling a culturally diverse group of people who were dealing with inner city poverty and the related problems. When I came to Storrs I began counseling farmers with cow and tractor problems. I adjusted.

When I joined Temple Bnai Israel, of course my experience of Jewish community and connection were also unique to this "Quiet Corner" of eastern Connecticut. The small town setting of Willimantic offers a distinctive backdrop for Jewish celebration and community. Intimate and personal gatherings are highlights for our community. Our recent Wine and Cheese Shabbat had a social justice topic: Doreen Simonsen invited her daughter and her daughter's fiancé to discuss their expertise of Union organizing. More specifically, Women in Unions in Connecticut. It turned out that several woman in our congregation who were there that night had personal stories to share about their history working as union organizers.

Another special Shabbat experience unique to our country hamlet is the Nature Shabbat. We had a great turn out from families and children who come together at Mansfield Hollow. Morah Dara, our Youth Coordinator, asked us to look for God while we hiked and prayed. Many children noticed things like feathers and mushrooms that made them feel connected to the wonders of God. Such a connection to nature really enhances my awe and gratitude for the source of life.

As we get ready for the new school year at Temple Bnai Israel, attendence in our school is growing. Also, Temple Bnai Israel's parents are planning to bring together our local youth with the youth from other Jewish communities in eastern Connecticut. This is how we are creatively opening up our options for connection and growth. Temple Emanu-El in Waterford has been working with us to join together for youth and family events. Can't wait to see what they come up with. YOU CAN DO IT!

Volunteer Opportunities

Fundraising and Development Committee invites membership!

Currently looking for help with an initiative to get advertisers on our website and public Facebook page. **Contact Sheila Amdur:** sheilabamdur@gmail.com

<u>Library Committee</u> invites volunteers!

Have updated computer hardware, now we need people to breathe life back into the library. **Contact Rochelle Marcus:** rochelle.marcus@gmail.com

Grounds Coordinator position open!

Looking for volunteer(s) to oversee the maintenance of the Temple grounds. Work with the Beautification Committee in coordinating the vendors who mow the lawn, prune the plants, plant flowers and shrubs, and keep the grounds tidy.

Contact Temple Office:

(860)423-3743, office@templebnaiisrael.org

<u>Caring Committee</u> invites volunteers!

Help in the effort to offer support to our congregation members in need. **Contact Ellie Shane:**

<u>shaneellie01@gmail.com</u> or Fran Jaffe: <u>franjaffe@earthlink.net</u>

<u>Ritual Committee</u> invites

volunteers! Help enrich our shabbat and holiday gatherings. **Contact Judy Stein:** jstein@medicareadvocacy.org

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RABBINIC REFLECTIONS

Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz



On the First of Tishrei, the day we call "Rosh Hashanah," at the time of the return of the exiles from Babylon,

Nehemiah the Governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were explaining to the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the ETERNAL your God: you must not mourn or weep," for all the people were weeping as they listened to the words of the Teaching. He further said to them, "Go, eat choice foods and drink sweet drinks and send portions to whoever has nothing prepared, for the day is

holy to our Lord. Do not be sad, for your rejoicing in the ETERNAL is the source of your strength." The Levites were quieting the people, saying, "Hush, for the day is holy; do not be sad." Then all the people went to eat and drink and send portions and make great merriment, for they understood the things they were told.

- Nehemiah 8:9-12

I recently did some Zoom learning with Rabbi Aviva Richman about putting love, rather than judgement, at the center of the High Holidays. It happened that I was already planning on speaking about something very similar this year and you'll hear more in my sermons. But Rabbi Richman started with the above passage and drew a simple, important conclusion from it that I'd like to share with you as an introduction to our High Holiday season. She said that the social aspect of Rosh Hashanah – sharing food and drink and joy – isn't separate or opposed to the main focus of Rosh Hashanah; it's an essential part of it. There's the old joke about the different kinds of Jews who come to shul: "Goldberg comes to talk to God and Cohen comes to talk to Goldberg." It's often told as an acknowledgement of possibly unfortunate reality that leaders have to put up with or build on. Not at all, says Rabbi Richman. "Talking to Goldberg" is an essential part of Rosh Hashanah and Judaism. In fact, she suggested that if Goldberg doesn't talk to Cohen, they're probably not really talking to God, either. Part of ethical/religious/spiritual awakening is discovering there's a world outside ourselves, making room for the people and other beings of that world, and connecting our lives to them.

Maybe there will be some tears this Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Despite the instructions of Ezra and Nehemiah, I think that's ok. But mostly, I hope you'll come to shul to "talk to Goldberg," rejoice in the New Year, have some choice foods and drinks at our starting and ending pot lucks, and I'm sure – I have faith – that if you do, God will show up, too.

Shanah tovah – May you have a year filled with goodness, joy, blessing, sweetness, and health!

Rav Screening



TORAH READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Elul, 5783 - Tishrei, 5784

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

16 ELUL, 5783 Parashat Ki Tavo Deuteronomy 26:1 - 29:8 This year: 26:1 - 27:10 Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 1 TISHREI, 5784 Rosh Hashanah Genesis 21:1-21 SATURDAY, SEPTMBER 9, 2023 22 ELUL, 5783 Leil Selichot Parashat Nitzavim-Vayele<u>h</u> Deuteronomy 29:9 - 31:30 This year: 29:9 - 30:14 Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10 - 63:9

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

8 Tishrei, 5784 Shabbat Shuva Parashat Ha'Azinu Deuteronomy 32:1-52 This year: 32:1-52 Haftarah: Hosea 2:23-25, Micah 7:18-20

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 15 TISHREI, 5784

Sukkot l Leviticus 22:26-23:44, Numbers 29:12-16 Haftarah: Isaiah 35:1-10

STEW AND STORY IN THE SUKKAH

A holiday dedicated to being welcoming? To peace among all nations? To praying that the climate brings blessing and not curse? Gathering plants from the place of one's indigenous roots that symbolize freshness in the dry times? Giving thanks for water?

Sound contemporary? The holiday is Sukkot. This year, we're trying a little twist. We'll welcome each other in the Temple Sukkah (if the weather allows; the social hall if not) with "stew and story." Do you have a stew or soup that comes with a story? Maybe a story about you or your family or ancestors? Come share the stew and the story! We'll get to know each other a little better and have a delicious, beautiful evening.

LULAV & ETROG SETS AVAILABLE

Lulav and etrog sets will be available to pick up at the Stew and Story potluck. If you can't make it to the potluck, lulav and etrog sets will be available, first-come, first served, from the end of Yom Kippur until they run out. We'd love to get them into your hands! They cost the Temple \$50 and you are welcome to have one for whatever you can afford to donate. (If you pick them up on the First Day of Sukkot after sunset, please send your donation to the Temple separately. We don't handle money on the festival. Thanks.)

SEPTEMBER SHABBAT SERVICES AND CELEBRATIONS

Please note Zoom and In-Person availability for each week and watch your email for last minute changes!

Friday, Septmber 1, 2023 7:30 PM Shabbat Service - In Person & by Zoom

Saturday, September 2, 2023 10:00 AM Bagel & Bible - In Person & by Zoom

This month's Bagel and Bible is hosted by David and Debbie Stoloff in honor of the aufruf (Torah aliyah before a wedding) of their daughter Fay and fiancé Matthew Istrin. David will lead us in learning and discussing a variety of Jewish wedding customs. (See next page for details.)

Friday, September 8, 2023 6:15 PM T.G.I.Shabbes - In Person, Zoom opens at 6:45 PM

"If you believe you can mess up, you also believe you can repair." – Rebbe Nachman

Saturday, September 9, 2023 10:00 AM Shabbat Service - In Person & by Zoom

Saturday, September 9, 2023 7:30 PM Selichot - In Person Only

We conclude Shabbat with a kumzitz of songs of hope and peace, transitioning through Havdalah to begin our High Holiday prayers with songs of forgiveness and renewal. A brief work party follows to prepare our sanctuary for the Holidays.

Friday, September 15, 2023	7:30 PM	Erev Rosh Hashanah - In Person & by Zoom
Saturday, September 16, 2023	10:00 AM	Rosh Hashanah - In Person & by Zoom
Sunday, September 17, 2023	10:00 AM	Rosh Hashanah II - In Person & by Zoom
Friday, September 22, 2023	7:30 PM	Tikkun Olam vaNefesh Service - In Person & by Zoom
Saturday, September 23, 2023	10:00 AM	Shabbat Service - In Person & by Zoom
Friday, September 29, 2023	7:30 PM	Stew & Story in the Sukkah Potluck Dinner - In Person
Saturday, September 30, 2023	9:30 AM	Shabbat Sukkot Service - In Person & by Zoom



SECURITY DRILL TRAINING REFRESHER

Tuesday, September 5th, 1:00 PM

Please join us for a security drill training refresher before the High Holidays. We will review and practice emergency situations, evacuation procedures, and safe rooms. Please RSVP to <u>ishay255@gmail.com</u>.

BAGEL & BIBLE & AUFRUF

Shabbat morning, September 2, 2023

Bagel and Bible on Jewish wedding traditions, Aufruf, Community Kiddush

Debbie and David Stoloff invite our community to:

9:30 am - 10:30 am - A Bagel and Bible discussion on Jewish wedding traditions, using notes posted at <u>https://writingsdls.wordpress.com/jewish-wedding-traditions/</u> and the sharing of wedding traditions and experiences

10:30 am - 12:00 noon - A shortened service including morning Shabbat prayers and Torah reading, and the calling up to the Torah (aufruf) of

Fay Stoloff and Matthew Istrin to celebrate their upcoming wedding

Approximately 12:00 noon - Kiddush from Crown Market

All community members are welcomed, just bring your wedding memories.

TEMPLE FAMILY NEWS

Refuah Shleyma - Get Well רפואה שלימה

To Gerry Berkowitz, who is recovering from hip surgery.

To Yves Kraus, who is recovering from illness.

To Art Kirschenbaum, who is recovering from illness.

We wish you all a swift recovery!



New Members - Welcome!

We're happy to welcome new member Ellen Diane Cushing to both the congregation and the community!

CARING COMMITTEE - Caring For Each Other In Times Of Need

Fran Jaffe 860-228-2390 franjaffe@earthlink.net Ellie Shane 860-428-5392 shaneellie01@gmail.com

The Caring Committee is always ready to help our community! Please let Fran, Ellie or Rav Jeremy know if anything is needed. We would like to have new committee members and monthly leaders - please join us as we do this rewarding work.

The summer is almost over and we are looking forward to seeing you all at services for the holidays!

Ellie and Fran



JEWISH EXPLORATIONS

Greetings, chaverim!

When I was a child attending a Yeshiva in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, this was my favorite time of year. School would be starting soon, which meant new clothes, a new school bag, new shoes, and my favorite: new school supplies (especially those scented erasers!) It was also very close to September, the time when we started preparing for the High Holidays, and there would be wonderful scents coming from the kitchen as my grandmother prepared all our favorite dishes. Overall, it was a time of starting over, and new beginnings. The possibilities were endless.

I look at the year stretching out before us and I feel much the same as I did in those days. I am so excited to the upcoming year, to hearing the plaintive wail of the shofar, to eating raisin challah, to singing the prayers that I used to sing as a child with my own family.

I'm also looking forward to new beginnings in our Jewish Explorations and Early Childhood programs—looking forward to meeting new students and their families, and reuniting with the ones I know. I am very excited to spend this upcoming year learning and growing together.

We have TWO classrooms this year in which to do our learning! We will be using the Chapel classroom, as we did last year, and we will also be utilizing room 6 for our Early Childhood learning.

Our first gathering will be on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. We will work together to prepare the Temple's snack of apples and honey and challah as we get to know each other better. What a sweet beginning to the new year!

If you know of anyone looking for programming for their children from early childhood through grade 7, please have them contact me at <u>morahdarabowling@gmail.com</u> or have them contact Jackie in the Temple office at <u>office@templebnaiisrael.org</u>. We would love to welcome new friends to our classes!

Wishing you all a happy, healthy New Year, friends, at this time of contemplation and renewal.

Be well, and do good.

B'shalom, Morah Dara

FROM THE HOCHBERG COMMITTEE

Carol Kraus, Chair

A MIGHTY PEN

During World War II, Arthur Szyk, a Holocaust survivor and later a Connecticut resident, used his Artist's voice as a potent weapon against the Axis. The Fairfield University Art Museum will host "In Real Times – Arthur Szyk: Artist and Soldier for Human Rights" from September 29 through December 16, 2023. This is the only stop in the Northeast for this interactive experience. The art and life of Arthur Szyk is just as relevant today as it was then. For more information go to <u>https://fairfield.edu/museum/szyk/</u>.

TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE NEWS

Our Energy Efficiency Weatherization event scheduled for regional faith communities on July 16th had to be cancelled, ironically due to a concerning tornado watch in our area. We hope to reschedule in early October but there are still many variables to coordinate for this to happen. Please watch the Weekly Updates about whether this will be going forward on October 1st! Otherwise we will let you know the rescheduled date in an upcoming Bulletin article.

Meanwhile, if you have not already done so, please schedule your energy assessment through Energize CT and Eversource at this website:

https://energizect.com/explore-solutions/energy-evaluations

When you arrive at this site, you will notice options for **Home Energy Solutions** and **Home Energy Solutions – Income Eligible**; please choose the one appropriate for your household. If you schedule an assessment, please let me (or Jackie in the Temple office) know so we can add you to our list of synagogue members taking up the challenge to improve energy efficiency in their home.

By the time The Bulletin is published, we will have returned to the WAIM garden at the end of August to help with weeding and mulching and other possible projects. This August date completes our service commitment to WAIM this year. Please be on the look-out for WAIM's Walk for Warmth fundraiser and Thanksgiving Service scheduled for Sunday, November 19th.

The Tikkun Olam Committee has a number of potential new projects that we are excited to share with the community as we navigate and make choices. **If you have questions about some of our possible new endeavors, please contact Merle at jermerle@att.net**.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

Hillary Stern

A strong sense of community thrives here in this "Quiet Corner" of eastern Connecticut. Where would we be without our Caring Committee? Rav Jeremy often says he thinks it is the heart of our community. I am so glad that I moved here and connected with the wonderfully thoughtful and caring folks at Temple Bnai Israel. When my mom died and I was bereft and overwhelmed it was the connection of the Caring Committee that came for Shiva, sustained me, and helped me through.

I'm really looking forward to the High Holidays with Temple Bnai Israel. The Ritual Committee has worked for months to provide us with a meaningful passage through the Days of Awe. I personally love Sukkot here. I enjoy being outside in the sukkah on the deck of the Temple and in my yard with my dogs and husband. Seeing the stars through the roof of the sukkah isn't really possible in a city, but here the night sky is visible in all its starry splendor.

Living in the country has really heightened my connection to nature and also to my community. I had so much fun at Third Thursday in Willimantic last week. Many of our families came and helped out at our booth. Kids blew bubbles and talked to visitors that came by to find out what we have to offer. I don't know if the visitors will come to our synagogue, but I do know that if they do they will be welcomed and embraced by a fun and loving community.

SEPTEMBER YAHRZEITS

Remember to light your Yahrzeit candle on the night before the date shown. It is also appropriate to join our Shabbat celebration to say Kaddish on the Shabbat when your loved one's name is read, and to give tzedakah in your loved one's memory. May their memory be a blessing.

Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on September 1st & 2nd					
Harry Kelman		17 Elul	September 3		
Israel Saltzman		18 Elul	September 4		
Abraham Silverstein	Grandfather of Sheridan Vernon	19 Elul	September 5		
Molly Shifrin	Great-Aunt of Bruce Brettschneider	19 Elul	September 5		
Victor Frimitt		20 Elul	September 6		
Jeanne Kraus	Mother of Yves Kraus	22 Elul	September 8		
Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on September 8th & 9th					
Benjamin Ballon		23 Elul	September 9		
Robert Drutman		23 Elul	September 9		
Evelyn Hugo Finkelman	Grandmother of Lisa Finkelman	23 Elul	September 9		
Ralph Marshall	Husband of Ellen Marshall	23 Elul	September 9		
Joel Matthew Rinne	Brother of Sheila Amdur	24 Elul	September 10		
Jerry Marcus	Father of Alan Marcus	24 Elul	September 10		
Harold Ringel	Father of Faye Ringel	26 Elul	September 12		
Israel Schreiber	Father of Bernard Schreiber	26 Elul	September 12		
Sam Spector	Grandfather of Lisa Finkelman	26 Elul	September 12		
Pauline Frimitt		27 Elul	September 13		
Esther Brettschneider	Great-Grandmother of Bruce Brettschneider	28 Elul	September 14		
Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on September 15th & 16th					
Celia Stutz Israel		1 Tishrei	September 16		
Frances Reiss Seliger	Mother of Joan Seliger Sidney	1 Tishrei	September 16		
Carlman Frankel	Grandfather of Michael Lassow	3 Tishrei	September 18		
Dora Kronisch	Grandmother of Marc Kronisch	3 Tishrei	September 18		
Jesse Greer		3 Tishrei	September 18		
Abraham Kesslbrenner	Father of Sima Lessner and Ada Mitlisky	3 Tishrei	September 18		
Abraham Paster	Uncle of Sharen S Peters	5 Tishrei	September 20		
Anna G. Brockell	Mother of Kathleen Brockell	5 Tishrei	September 20		
Harry Heller		6 Tishrei	September 21		



May their memories be a source of strength and a blessing.



SEPTEMBER YAHRZEITS (continued)

Remember to light your Yahrzeit candle on the night before the date shown. It is also appropriate to join our Shabbat celebration to say Kaddish on the Shabbat when your loved one's name is read, and to give tzedakah in your loved one's memory. May their memory be a blessing.

Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on September 22nd & 23rd					
Sigismund Lauter		8 Tishrei	September 23		
Geraldine Brownstein	Sister of Gene Mittelman	8 Tishrei	September 23		
Sydney Berliner	Mother of Martin Berliner	8 Tishrei	September 23		
Benjamin Waingrow		9 Tishrei	September 24		
Hyman Rabinowitz		11 Tishrei	September 26		
Eugene Feigelstock		13 Tishrei	September 28		
Jeanne Hauslaib	Mother of Mark Hauslaib	13 Tishrei	September 28		
Helen Rothblat		14 Tishrei	September 29		
Hyman Reiner		14 Tishrei	September 29		
Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on September 29th & 30th					
Florence Warner Chasen		15 Tishrei	September 30		
Abraham Zenchoff		15 Tishrei	September 30		
Stephen W. Schuster	Step-father of Glenn Blumenstein	15 Tishrei	September 30		
Marianne Morascini	Daughter of Jeanne Morascini	16 Tishrei	October 1		
Tillie Moskowitz	Mother of Robert Moskowitz	16 Tishrei	October 1		
Irving Schretter		17 Tishrei	October 2		
Bertha Schupack		18 Tishrei	October 3		
Shirley Lenore Wrubel		18 Tishrei	October 3		
Peter R. Lessler	Cousin of Judy Stein	19 Tishrei	October 4		
Gertrude Frankel Feldman		19 Tishrei	October 4		
Goldie Nishball	Grandmother of Marc Kronisch & Alex Nishball	19 Tishrei	October 4		
Rebecca Kaplan	Mother of Roberta Schwane	20 Tishri	October 5		
Pauline Ballon		20 Tishri	October 5		
Anna Eisenberg Gibson		20 Tishrei	October 5		
Raphael Glass		20 Tishrei	October 5		
Joseph Horn	Grandfather of Roberta Schwane	20 Tishrei	October 5		
Seymour Hochman		21 Tishrei	October 6		

CHEVRA KADISHA

After a Jew dies, a burial society, the *Chevra Kadisha* (literally, "holy society") prepares the body for interment. This process, called *Taharah* (purification), involves the ritual cleansing and subsequent dressing of the body, by men for males and by women for females, in preparation for burial. This requires training in the traditions and prescribed methods involved in traditional Jewish burials. This is a very personal and meaningful mitzvah we perform to support our fellow members.

We welcome anyone interested in joining us in this sacred work. Please contact Fran Jaffe (*franjaffe@earthlink.net*) or Ken Dardick (*kdardick@gmail.com*), Co-Chairs, or Rav Jeremy (*ravjeremy@templebnaiisrael.org*).

September 2023 15 Elul 5783 - 15 Tishre 5784

