

TABLET BRIEFS

September 2022 | Issue 4

The High Holy Days are a time for reflection and renewal.

Your Temple Sinai clergy, staff and leadership have been reflecting deeply on where we have been during the past few years and where we are headed in the new year. Your input, ideas and involvement are all helping to shape our direction and we feel optimistic about what is in store for 5783. We look forward to seeing you during the High Holy Days, whether at services, workshops or programs and we wish you all a sweet New Year. *L'shana tovah!*

This Month's Featured Articles

- *L'eilah Ul'eilah* by Chazzan Cliff Abramson
- *Harif: Spicy in Haifa!* by Lucy Thomas

L'EILA UL'EILA

L'eila Ul'eila; what do these two words mean? Is it a small point of Hebrew grammar? A typo? Might it even been some mysterious acrostic in one of our prayers for the High Holy Days? Actually, the words represent a very simple but important change in how we say the Kaddish (Mourner's Prayer) on the High Holy Days and may provide us with some insight into just how personal the Days of Awe can be for each and every one of us.

The word *L'eila* may sound familiar, as it is said every Shabbat during services in the sentence, "*L'eila min kol birchata v'shirata, tushb'chata v'nechemata daamiran b'alma*" which translated literally means "(blessed be he) above all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolation which we utter in the world." Yet, on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we say "*L'eila ul'eila min kol birchata v'shirata*" which translates to "far or high above all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolation which we utter in the world." At first, some might be disturbed by this addition which serves to qualify God's distance from us.

Why, on the two most important days of the year does the text of the *Kaddish* tell us that God seems to be further away from us than usual? Is this slight change in language telling us that God pulls away from us when we are the most in need? It is a good question and one I have debated with colleagues and congregants alike.

Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman explains that the additional distance the modified text implies tells us that God is closer to what is holy on these days and, as a result, we need to strive harder for our prayers to be heard. There are other times we see an upward direction when we talk about what is holy, as well. During the *K'dushah* on Shabbat when we repeat the words "*Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh*" we all raise on our toes just to be a bit closer to God. This may be an indication why some people believe that the distance implied is about God being far away when we pray *L'eila ul'eila*. However, I think there is a better, more personal reason for the change in text.

From Chazzan Cliff Abramson

L'EILA UL'EILA CONTINUED

We all spend so much time during the year trying to fill the voids in our lives that result from dealing with challenges of family, work, loss of life and so many other things that we often forget just how small we really are in the greater scheme of things. I believe that the change in the text is not telling us that God is so much higher and further away during this special time of year, but rather it is a reminder that we need to take time for *tzimtzum*, the ability to contract oneself in order to make room for someone or something else, and find a vantage point for prayer that will allow us to benefit from the grandeur of the High Holy Day prayer experience. For some this will come through humility, for some it will come from simply letting go of what was so that what will be can become a reality. Regardless of how we get there, we all need to find a way to appreciate something that is bigger, smarter and more powerful than we are. This is no easy task and we all know that some years are easier than others.

It is my hope that this year we emerge from the High Holy Days feeling closer to each other, confident in the knowledge that as we and our loved ones are inscribed into the Book of Life for another year, our health and sense of wellbeing are gifts that we are meant to share with each other.



L'shanah Tovah,
Chazzan Abramson



JULY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING BRIEF

The meeting began with a prayer from Chazzan Abramson and his message from the weekly Torah portion reminding us to reach out to each other, go beyond our comfort zone to help those in need, ask for help when we need it ourselves and we will be better for it.

Next, President Alan Chalfin remarked that things are starting to fall in place. We are on a good path with the right people in the right place.

Andrea Eiffert reported that Temple Sinai received a grant from The Jewish Federation for Everything AND the Turkey, our Mitzvah Day project with a goal of preparing, donating and serving 250-300 meals to participants from Second Chance Last Opportunity. The event will be held on Sunday, November 20 and we hope to have everyone participate in some way!

Rob Krasow, VP Development, discussed some fundraising proposals for the coming year. Chai Day, Casino Night, 50/50 Drawing, Mishloach Manot Purim Baskets, Jewish Food Festival to return, our Annual Appeal and a December musical fundraiser called A Night at the Theater.

JULY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING BRIEF (CONTINUED)

Barbara Pollack, VP Ritual, spoke regarding the expense of a produced livestream (with a live, remote camera operator) versus static livestream (cameras are on but there is no operator). The cost for a produced livestream is \$159 for just under two hours and a static livestream is free. The board voted and approved a motion: *B'nei mitzvah* families wishing to livestream will be asked to cover the cost beginning fiscal year 2023-2024. Additionally, it was recommended to add a button on the livestream landing page of our website for people to make a donation to offset the cost of livestream.

David Weiss, VP Facilities, shared that there has been a congregant request to implement a congregational survey and that there have been a few meetings and preliminary discussions. Rabbi Huntting stated he believes it is too soon to do a survey; he said a great deal of work is being done to reformat the services so they will flow better and make us stand out. He requested some time to create these services and atmosphere and asked not to do the survey now. Discussion continued stating that it is too soon to put a survey out. David stated that he has heard from other members that are concerned about viability and member retention and perhaps research whether the Union for Reform Judaism and/or congregations who have been in similar situations might have suggestions about a course of action. Sherry Thomas spoke regarding the congregational survey from last year and that so many changes have taken place since the survey was implemented. The board agreed it was best to wait and conduct a survey at some point in the future.

Ritual

Many people still refer to the Days of Awe as the “High Holidays,” though the Reform movement now identifies this time period as the “High Holy Days.” It is felt that the word “holidays” conveys a sense of communal celebration, while “holy” creates an introspective awareness and self-reflection.

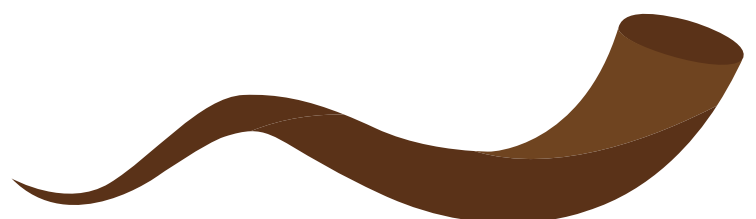
At Temple Sinai, whether you worship in person or virtually, you will find the readings and music moving and spiritually comforting. This month’s Tablet includes the many (and varied) ways to join in the High Holy Day services. Come listen to Dr. Betsy Stone and Sue Huntting facilitate a Selichot discussion on “enhancing oneself after a traumatic situation,” then enter the sanctuary to participate in the pensive *Selichot* service. Services for Rosh Hashanah Day 1 and Yom Kippur continue our tradition of having post *b’nei mitzvah* students chanting Torah and Haftarah. Listen to the evocative and magnificent Kol Nidre and on Yom Kippur afternoon attend the Clergy Talkback given by Chazzan Abramson and Rabbi Huntting. The Yizkor service has been moved to the late afternoon, right before the beautiful *N’ilah* service.

As 5783 is ushered in, not only will we be able to hear the Shofar’s blast throughout the sanctuary, but we’ll be able to cast away the past year’s sins and regrets on Turtle Beach as we celebrate *tashlich* together on the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah. Finally, as the High Holy Day services end, we’ll be able to Break the Fast as a community!

These are just some of the spiritual opportunities for renewal, forgiveness, reconciliation, gratitude and joy that I hope each of you experiences.

L’Shanah Tovah,

Barbara Pollack
VP of Ritual



Schedule of High Holy Day Services

DATE	SERVICE/PROGRAM	TIME
Saturday, September 17	Selichot Program & Desserts	6:00pm
	Selichot Service	7:45pm
Saturday, September 24	Rosh Hashanah Fair & Prayer Family Event at Phillippi Estate Park	4:00pm
Sunday, September 25	Erev Rosh Hashanah Service*	7:30pm
Monday, September 26	Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Morning Service*	10:30am
	Tashlich Together at Turtle Beach	5:30pm
Tuesday, September 27	Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Morning Service	10:30am
Friday, September 30	Erev Shabbat Shuvah Service	6:00pm
Saturday, October 1	Kever Avot Service at Palms Memorial Park	11:00am
Tuesday, October 4	Kol Nidre Service*	7:30pm
Wednesday, October 5	Yom Kippur Morning Service*	10:30am
	Family Yom Kippur Experience	1:30pm
	High Holy Day Talkback	2:30pm
	Afternoon Yom Kippur Service	4:30pm
	Yom Kippur Yizkor Service	5:00pm
	N'ilah and Havdalah Service	5:30pm
	Break the Fast	6:30pm
Monday, October 10	Sukkot Service & Kiddush	10:30am
Monday, October 17	Sh'mini Atzeret/Yizkor Service	10:30am
	Congregational Simchat Torah Celebration and Consecration Service, with Yiddish Cowboys	5:30pm



**These services require tickets to attend in person and are also available on livestream.*



Harib: Spicy in Haifa!

BY LUCY THOMAS

How do I even begin? I spent four weeks in the holiest place for Jews on earth and it's almost impossible for me to tell you just one simple description of it. For starters, it was thrilling, adventurous, emotional, relaxing, and eye-opening. I didn't realize I could have so many feelings in such a short time, but a place like Israel can do that to you. On our second day there we were already at HaKotel (the Western Wall) and it still didn't feel real yet even as I had my palm flesh pressed to the rock of the limestone barrier.

We went everywhere on this journey including: Jerusalem, the Judean Desert, Eilat, Tel Aviv, the Sea of Galilee, Tzfat and all the nearest oceans' and nations' borders. Every place we went was just so different and unique that we felt like we went on a new trip every single day as we traveled to and from these cities. My new friend and I were both waiting for our "Israel moment" in the first week of the trip. And by that I mean the moment when you truly feel your connection to Israel. We both expected it to be at the Wall but surprisingly enough it wasn't on the first try. For both of us it was swimming in the Dead Sea and camel riding.

I made friends from quite literally all over the world and I made new friends from right here in the United States. It's amazing what a place like Israel can do and how it can bring together so many different types of people. We even had nine Israeli teenagers join us for a week and we exchanged multiple different parts about our cultures and experiences having grown up where we did. We also did a short four-day trip called *chavaya* where we had the choice of three different opportunities: army training, hiking from sea to sea or helping to repair the world. This was an amazing way to get us outside our comfort zones a little bit and learn more about the country.



Harif: Spicy in Haifa!

CONTINUED

I'm so glad that I was able to go with Camp Coleman because I was able to feel this place with the people I have grown up with in my Jewish safe space. We had so many moments in time where we could feel our connection to each other and Israel that I couldn't imagine my first Israel experience being with anyone else. There was this one moment in Tzfat where we were in a cave that was pitch black and was in a circular shape. We had a Jewish star formed in candles in the middle and we all sang the "sh'mashkeveinu" (*sh'ma* and *hashkeveinu* prayers) together. I'm not lying to you when in this moment I could feel all of our souls connecting for a purpose. It was truly fascinating and memorable. I truly recommend this trip if you are able because it really is life changing. No doubt.

To Coleman B'Yisrael 2022, Todah Rabah!



L'Shanah Tovah

Wishing you health,
happiness and peace.

The Life & Legacy Team



The Rabbi Geoffrey Hunting
Endowment Fund

Please contact Janine Cohen
(jlc@dmcohen.com) for
information on Life & Legacy

Upcoming Featured Events

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR SPEAKER SERIES

THIS MONTH - LORA AND SIGMUND TOBIAS

Sunday, September 18

10:30AM - 11:30AM

During this series, local Holocaust survivors will share their personal stories and experiences during the Holocaust. This program is free and open to the entire community.



ROSH HASHANAH FAIR AND PRAYER EVENT

Saturday, September 24
4:00PM at Phillippi Estate Park

We will gather for a short interactive musical Rosh Hashanah family service ending with *havdalah*. Following *havdalah*, participate in a fair filled with activities, games, arts and crafts, face painting, a visit from the Sarasota Honey Company, playground time and more.

For ages 0-12

TASHLICH TOGETHER

Monday, September 26

5:30PM at Turtle Beach Park Pavilion

Bring your shofar and a chair or blanket for the beach sunset. Dinner, crafts and activities! All are welcome!

This event is generously sponsored by Mark & Laurie Criden, Barbara & Michael Pollack and Alan & Fredda Chalfin.



New Social Justice Initiative



Old Computer? Use It to Help Others.



Laptop Donation Drive for Area Foster Kids

The Children's Guardian Fund (CGF) and Sarasota Technology Users Group (STUG) have teamed up to collect used computer laptops. With a long history of recycling and safety, the STUG sanitizes the hard drive with a seven-step process that protects the donor's information. They then refurbish the laptop and install software that is typically required for school. Refurbished laptops are distributed to area students in foster or state care through the CGF and the Guardian ad Litem Program.



**Children's
Guardian Fund**



Drop Off At: 1750 17th Street, Building J-1, Sarasota FL 34234

Arrange for Pickup: Call MARK at (941) 374-1107 or email msharff@gmail.com

TO LEARN MORE VISIT:

www.temple Sinai-sarasota.org/adult-communities/socialaction

WHO WE ARE

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION



CHAZZAN CLIFF ABRAMSON SENIOR CLERGY

Email: ChazzanAbramson@templesinai-sarasota.org

SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS

ANDREA EIFFERT | DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

Email: aeiffert@templesinai-sarasota.org

Phone: (941) 924-1802, option 6

LAURA FREEDMAN | DIRECTOR OF EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Email: laura@templesinai-sarasota.org

Phone: (941) 926-9462

BETHANY LEINWEBER | DIRECTOR OF YOUTH
EDUCATION AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Email: bleinweber@templesinai-sarasota.org

Phone: (941) 263-2015

MARIAN SIEGEL | CONTROLLER/ADMINISTRATOR

Email: msiegel@templesinai-sarasota.org



STAFF MEMBERS

OFFICE

TINA BARAN

tina@templesinai-sarasota.org

CUSTODIAL

HORACIO VALDIVIA DELGADILLO

custodian@templesinai-sarasota.org

YOUTH

JOSH LEINWEBER

jleinweber@templesinai-sarasota.org

CONTACT US



office@templesinai-sarasota.org



(941) 924-1802



www.templesinai-sarasota.org



4631 S Lockwood Ridge Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34231

TRIBUTES

TEMPLE SINAI GENERAL FUND

Aravilla

Rae Ellen and Robert Levene

Martha Magenheim, for security

In Honor of:

Greta and Malcolm Roberts'
granddaughter Elsie Inez Roberts,
becoming a Bat Mitzvah: Toniet and
James Wolfson

Carole and Fred Gorin's granddaughter
Raya Elaine Brown, becoming a Bat
Mitzvah: Toniet and James Wolfson
Andrea and Eric Eiffert's 30th Wedding
Anniversary: Betty and Donald Cahall
Ilene and Jeffrey Gelber's 50th Wedding
Anniversary: Betty and Donald Cahall

Speedy Recovery of:

Ron Benice: Judy and Zvi Rogovin

In Memory of:

Choava Galter, grandmother of Sheila
Wollheim: Sheila and Warren Wollheim
Ralph Ambrosio: Fredda and Alan Chalfin
Sylvia and Joseph Rosof, parents: Phyllis
and Stephen Swerdlow
Fran and Leon Swerdlow, parents: Phyllis
and Stephen Swerdlow
Rebecca Chalfin: Fredda and Alan Chalfin
Thomas Moloff: Fredda and Alan Chalfin
Maurice Chalfin: Fredda and Alan Chalfin
Marvin Abrams: Fredda and Alan Chalfin

CHAZZAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Judith and Robert Mintz

Gillian and Chester (Pearl) Perlinski, for
office furniture

In Honor of:

Rae Ellen Levene's 80th Birthday: Elana and
Mark Margolis

Speedy Recovery of:

Marilyn Lapidus: Elana and Mark Margolis

In Memory of:

Jean Kaufman, mother of Kenneth
Kaufman: Kenneth Kaufman
David Chalfin: Fredda and Alan Chalfin
Harvey Brownrout: Sunny Brownrout

GAN FUND

Gillian and Chester (Pearl) Perlinski, for
security

In Memory of:

Jay Dockterman: Geri Jo Manson
Morris Citron: Geri Jo Manson
Fannie Citron: Geri Jo Manson
Albert Soodhalter: Geri Jo Manson

REB ARI ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In Appreciation of:

Sherry and Jerry Thomas, for your
friendship, love and care: Reb Ari Shapiro
Judy Gee, for your friendship, care, and
help: Reb Ari Shapiro

TRIBUTES (CONTINUED)

URJ SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of:

Seth Woolf: Laurie Lachowitz

FANCHON D. ROSENSTEIN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In Honor of:

Laurie and Mark Criden's daughter
Madeline being married to Matthew:
Judith and Leonard Swerdlow

ADULT PROGRAM FUND

Rae Ellen and Robert Levene
Heidi and Harris Schild

In Honor of:

Ilene and Jeff Gelber's Wedding
Anniversary: Laurie and Mark Criden
In Honor of Adult Programming who
work so hard on our behalf: Jeanette
Andriesse

SHERRY LINHART FLOWER FUND

Jadwiga and Donald Brown
Wende Kozlow and Adam Gersh

Thank you

CONDOLENCES AND YAHREZEITS

(WE REMEMBER THEM)

Harold Kornman on the death of his beloved wife, Ruth Kornman, who passed away on July 25, 2022.

Jean Andriesse for Judy Maggie Andriesse.

Marilyn and Paul Blankman for Barbara Augenstein.

Gail and Larry Coel for Joseph Coel.

Geraldine and Leonard Drexler for Seibert Drexler.

Alice and Stephen Feldman for their parents, Carol and Arthur Brock.

Coleen and Marc Friedman for Paul Friedman, Pat Robinson, and David Erdman.

Roberta Gerlach for Lawrence M. Mabe.

Judith and Herbert Gofman for Aaron Safier.

Barbara Bryden-Gruenberg and Michael Gruenberg for Ernest Gruenberg.

Robert Krasow for Kenneth Krasow.

Deborah Linick for her father-in-law, Jack Linick.

Joni Mandel for William Mandel.

Shelley and Gregory Markus for their friend, Wendy Good, Dr. Sidney Chucker and their beloved uncle, Norman Rice.

Marlene and Calvin Miller for Yetta Miller Waxman.

Sheila Namiot and Marvin Rosen for Michael Lindheimer.

Roz Rosenthal for Sydney Rosenthal, Mona Gianetti, Linda Rosenthal, Charles Finn and Theresa Finn.

Barbara and Jonathan Ryder for Abraham Bernstein and Aaron Gershon.

Patricia and Allan Schreiber for Jaydene Schreiber.

Cynthia and Arthur Solomon for Scott Matthew Solomon and Sidney Sherman.

Paula and Arnold Spitalny for Carol Brock.

Karen and Daryl Worobow for Lenore Worobow and Melvin Ashil.

Dena Wirt for Stephen Wirt.

*Zichronam Livracha -
May their memories
be for a blessing.*