

TEMPLE TIMES

September/October 2008

Elul 5768/Tishrei/Heshvan 5769

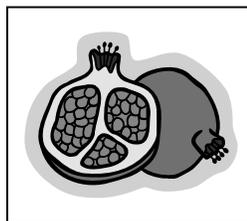
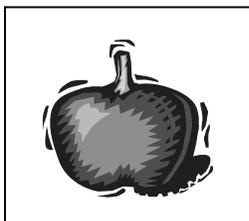
Temple Beth Shalom

Established 1953

Member United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Let us conquer sickness, war and famine,

let the New Year be for us a good year.



Temple Beth Shalom

Shana Tova Umetuka

Coming to
Temple Beth Shalom
September/October 2008

September 7
Welcome Back to Hebrew School

September 21
Parent Open House at
TBS Hebrew School

September 23
Sisterhood Blood Drive

September 29
Erev Rosh Hashanah

October 8
Erev Yom Kippur

October 12
USY Builds the Sukkah

October 26
Sisterhood Torah Fund Luncheon



| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| <i>In This Issue</i> | Schmoozing with the Sisterhood | 11 | Yahrzeits | 20 |
| Shabbat Services at TBS | Our Temple Family | 12 | Poland to Israel, Cantor's Assembly | 21-22 |
| Message from Rabbi Zucker | Men's Club Message | 13 | <i>Our Advertisers</i> | 23-48 |
| President's Message | <i>Spotlight on New Members</i> | 13 | | |
| The Cantor's Notes | Hebrew School News | 14 | | |
| High Holiday & Festival Services | B'nai Mitzvah | 14 | | |
| Limud—Adult Education | Yasher Koach Glenn! | 15 | | |
| High Holiday Customs | Tikun Olan - Buying Local Food | 15 | | |
| Pun Foods & Rabbi's Recipes | Amish Grace | 16-17 | | |
| TBS Calendar | Contributions | 18-19 | | |





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Temple Beth Shalom

Contact the Membership Committee at membership@TBSMahopac.org

DISCOVER. CONNECT. BELONG.

**Join us in our
 Membership efforts!**

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Spreading the word about our wonderful community? Planning events? Brainstorming new ideas? Then join the Membership Committee!!

Shabbat Services at Temple Beth Shalom שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

Regular Shabbat Services

Friday Evenings 8:15 pm
 Saturday Mornings 9:30 am

Junior Congregation

September 13 10:30 am
 October 11 10:30 am

Tot Shabbat

October 17 7:00 pm

Family Services

September 5 7:45 pm
 October 3 7:45 pm

Shabbat Shalom

**Celebrating
 Simchas!**

An Oneg Shabbat
 hosted by
 Ellen and Howard Gershman
 will be held on
 Friday, September 5
 in honor of Ellen's Birthday

יום הולדת שמח

**Shabbat and Festival
 Candle Lighting**

(Items in bold indicate holidays)

SEPTEMBER

5 7:03 pm
 12 6:51 pm
 19 6:39 pm
 26 6:27 pm
 29 **6:22 pm**

OCTOBER

3 6:15 pm
 8 **6:07 pm**
 10 6:04 pm
 13 **5:59 pm**
 17 5:53 pm
 20 **5:48 pm**
 24 5:42 pm
 31 5:33 pm



Message from Rabbi Zucker



Climbing the Ladder

Elena, Rahel, and I are thrilled to be joining the Temple Beth Shalom family. We have found a truly *haimishe* community here in the “wilds” of Putnam County. Thank you everyone for being so warm and friendly! The Putnam County Jewish community is different from that of Long Island, and I, for one, am very happy of that fact.

Living in a community where Jewish resources do not abound, we find it necessary to provide our own resources. Being self reliant, we manage, but we also realize that the synagogue becomes our center, both physically and spiritually. We turn to the synagogue to find spiritual nourishment and to absorb as much community spirit as we can.

My assignment as your rabbi - as I perceive it - is to provide as much Jewish spiritual nourishment as we are capable of absorbing, and with your help to build as strong a Jewish community as we possibly can. Rabbis Kalev and Brodie have built a solid base on the foundations that were established here. Together, we can now climb the ladder to build a solid superstructure on to what has been created here.

I use the image of the ladder advisedly, because in Judaism we speak of “going up in sanctity” (‘olim b’k’dusha). I ask you to join me in attempting to become stronger in our Jewish identities. Move upward at whatever pace is comfortable, but let us not be content to stay in one place throughout our lives. Our great leaders from the Torah were mountain climbers—Abraham of whom we read on Rosh HaShanah, and Moses, whose divinely-given instructions to Aaron we read on Yom Kippur. Let us emulate their desire to grow closer to God, to climb the ladder of sanctity, one mitzvah at a time. And let us remember—especially at this time of year—that our tradition teaches us that we grow closer to God by growing closer to our fellow humans.

To our new members, let me say welcome; to our returning members, welcome back!

Elena, Yehudit, Fortine, Rahel, and Amiel join me in wishing everyone Shanah Tovah U’Metukah—a Good and Sweet New Year, and G’mar Tov—May you be sealed in the Book of Life for a good New Year.

B’virkat shalom,

~ Rabbi Daniel M. Zucker

Rabbi’s Office Hours

Rabbi Zucker normally will be in the office according to the following schedule:

Monday and Tuesday: 10:30 am-1:00 pm, 2:30-5:00 pm.

Wednesday: 2:30-6:30 pm

Thursday: day off

Friday: 10:00 am -1:00 pm.

During weeks that contain Jewish holidays, the schedule will change. Given that Rabbi occasionally has meetings off-site or may be making hospital visitations, to be sure of Rabbi’s presence, it is always best to call ahead.

Rabbi is also available by appointment.

Open Sukkah at the Zuckers

Please join us at our Sukkah,
Hol HaMo’ed Succot,

Sunday, October 19th, 3:00 to 5:00 pm

at our home ~ 790 Route 6.



Parking is available in the TBS parking lot. Light refreshments served.

No need to RSVP; just come and enjoy!

Please let the office know: If you or a family member is in hospital, please let the office know so that the rabbi can visit. Neither the rabbi nor the president possesses the gift of prophecy, so a phone call to the office concerning such is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

President's Message



Moving Forward

I'm glad to be back writing again after a much needed hiatus from the Temple Times. Thank you Debi for giving me the time off to recharge my battery, which, I have to admit, was almost drained by the end of May. The emotions felt when saying good-bye to Rabbi Kalev coupled with the pressure of finding someone to lead our community left me with very little to say, much less to write. I am happy to say that I am now re-energized, and dare I say, excited about our future and about moving forward as a community in the years to come.

It is apropos as we celebrate a new year in a couple of weeks that we are embarking on a new era here at Temple Beth Shalom under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Daniel Zucker. By now, I am sure most of you have heard that Rabbi Zucker has joined the TBS family. Hopefully, you have had a chance to meet him, his lovely wife Elena, and his beautiful daughter, Rahel. If not, please make it a point to introduce yourself to them during the holidays. Once you get to meet them you will see what our search committee and board saw... a warm, intelligent, and caring family who will fit right in with our TBS family.

What really excites me is that Rabbi Zucker brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience as a rabbi that he is eager to share with us from day one. Since the holidays are later this year, he will have a short time to get his feet wet and to get to know us a little better under normal circumstances. He will be able to learn our traditions and blend in some of his own while adapting to ours. He will be introducing new educational programming for children and

adults, starting with some High Holiday classes that will help us understand some of the complexities of the High Holiday services and traditions. Did I mention that he is an accomplished chef? I see kosher culinary classes in our future. There is so much that Rabbi Zucker brings to the table (no pun intended) that I cannot wait to learn what he has in store for us. I urge you all to check the weekly announcements and emails for programs or classes that might be of interest to you.

Moving forward after experiencing a loss is a difficult thing to do for a community. It takes heart, determination, and the ability to refocus on the future to make the transformation a success. This community has once again proven how awesome it really is. The dedication of our Board, the determination of our Search Committee, and the participation by our congregation has led us to this exciting point in our history.

I cannot thank all of you enough for putting your hearts and souls into making sure that our wonderful synagogue does not have to take a step back from where it is now. We are poised to move forward, and that is exactly where I want us to be.

I look forward to seeing you all at the synagogue during the holidays.

L'Shana Tova

Ron

~ Ron Arsham



2009 JCC Maccabi Games® Coming to Westchester! Be a Host Family! Be a Volunteer!

The JCC Maccabi Games, an international, Olympic style, athletic event for Jewish teens, will be hosted by the JCC of Mid-Westchester, along with the Rosenthal JCC and the JCC on the Hudson, in the summer of 2009.

Jewish teens of all skill levels will take part in five days of athletic competition, social activities and community service from August 16 to 21, 2009. 700 host families are needed to house the 1400 visiting athletes from across the US, Canada and abroad. By welcoming these young JCC Maccabi athletes into your home, you and your family will share the true experience of the Westchester 2009 JCC Maccabi Games. As a Host Family and/or as a

Volunteer, you will experience the excitement of the Opening Ceremonies, as well as five incredible days of athletic competitions that will create a lifetime of memories. In addition to the 700 host families, over 1,000 volunteers are also needed. If you are interested in being a Host Family and/or a Volunteer, please contact Marilyn Arsham (845) 621-2154 or email BuzzLt@aol.com [place 'Maccabi' in subject line] for more information. Please note your own child does not have to be a participant in order to host athletes or be a volunteer.





The Cantor's Notes



As a child in a modern Orthodox synagogue, my strongest memory of the High Holy Days is the awe and slight trepidation I felt at peeking over (around or through) the mechitsah (partition) to try to catch a glimpse on Yom Kippur of the Cohanim whose heads were carefully covered by their heavy tallisim.

I was enthralled by the chanting of these mysterious few whose faces were hidden but whose hands were held out towards the congregation in a strange position. I was told it was forbidden to look at them, but why? Would I anger the great and Supreme Ruler of the Universe if I peeked? I guess it couldn't have been that bad because I also remember my Papa and I witnessed as Leonard Nimoy blatantly dared to use the sacred position with non-Jewish (I assumed) stellar beings so that they should "live long and prosper". I suppose this was my first truly ecumenical experience.

Of course, I also loved the moment of the Great Aleinu, fully prostrating onto the blissfully cold cement floor of the large rent-a-sanctuary. The hall was always too warm from the daveners fervently shuckling and murmuring in what seemed to be an endless sea of dark suits in the middle surrounded by a quieter twittering and bouquet of fancy hats in the side sections.

I readily admit that I wasn't a perfect child, having tendencies to argue with my Mama almost every Shabbes as she urged us to get dressed so we could leave on-time for Shul. (I would have much rather slept in occasionally.) My young life was inundated with Jewish sounds, smells, songs and spirit. I simply floated through most of it; not yet realizing that because of all of this I was in fact, strangely connected to my family, to tradition, to something so much greater than me. I didn't yet know how blessed I was.

Now as I prepare for the Yamim Nora'im, I think of these defining moments and offer a prayer from my heart center to God (and a *thank you* to my Mother), for inspiring me all those years ago and still today. Knowing what it is now to try to raise my own children to a life of Judaism, I am even more honored and humbled. First, for my two who were brought into my life *by-body*, Emma and Yonah. For them I dream . . . and I wish for them the same experiences that will become vibrant memories. I add a prayer of gratefulness for being an influence to, as well as influenced by, my newer, *brought-by-love* children Arielle and Olivia. I wish for all of my children and yours, joyful exploration into their own religious/cultural/traditional experiences. I hope they will find something that holds special meaning and creates a foundation that will blossom as they grow and embark on their own spiritual journeys.

This will be a wonderful year and I am so grateful that my family will once again be a part of our larger congregational family. I especially welcome our new Rabbi, Dani Zucker, and his wonderful family. This year you will get to meet him and also see a bit more of me as I will be spending some Shabbat mornings making music with our newly forming Youth Choir; spending more time with our children in religious school; attending family services and all of our wonderful synagogue and life-cycle events. Of course, our adult choir will participate a couple of times this year and anyone who likes to sing is invited to join us! The biggest, most exciting thing I can share is that this year I invite our congregational families to join me, Rabbi Zucker and our families on the once-in-a-lifetime Cantors Assembly Mission to Poland and Israel scheduled for June

29 – July 12, 2009 (*see pages 21-22*). What a great opportunity to celebrate upcoming important events in your family's lives: graduations, B'nei Mitzvah or anniversaries! This will surely be one of the most inspiring, educational, historical and musical experiences you could ever share. If you can only attend one week (as is probably the case for me as well) please consider joining us in Israel. Program details and information can be found in the bulletin or by **c o n t a c t i n g m e :** CantorShira@optonline.net.

To close this article, I would like to share an inspirational poem of my Grandmother's, Florence Jeanne Goodman (z"l) with blessings that we all join together in our spiritual home, both here at TBS and in Eretz Yisrael this year. Shana Tova.

Hear me, ye precious bones,

And hear me, Lord.

Thy seed is safe.

Though I was lost

And hardly knew the way,

Through deserts and wilderness,

Through pain and disbelief,

With a half forgotten promise

Ringling in my ears,

I found the lights of the Temple

In time to bring my children home.

© Florence Jeanne Goodman

B'shirim v'Shalom,

~ Cantor Shira





Limud ~ Adult Education

High Holidays/Succot Preparation

Come join us for any of the following classes as we prepare for the *Yamim Noraim* ("Days of Awe" = High Holidays)

High Holiday Trope Tutorial: The Torah readings on *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur* morning are chanted to a special trope melody, unique for these Holidays. If you read Torah, come join us for this opportunity to hear and learn this special, beautiful trope melody. **Time and location:** Wednesday, September 3rd, 7:30 pm in the TBS *Kiddush* room.

High Holiday / Festival Nusach Tutorial: At the Holidays, the basic pray melodies of the services change from the normal melodies that are familiar to us on weekdays and *Shabbat*. Come join us for an overview of these basic melody patterns that are used at the High Holidays and those used at the Festivals. Holiday Hebrew prayer leaders should plan to attend this class. **Time and location:** Wednesday, September 10th, 7:30 pm, in the TBS *Kiddush* room, and by appointment.

Introduction to the High Holidays and Succot: Midnite services, unfamiliar melodies, strange foods, unusual customs, mysterious gyrations and genuflections – what's it all about? Come find out what the High Holidays and Succot are all about (And learn how to make a *Lulav* shake!) **Time and location:** Sunday, September 14, 7 pm in the TBS sanctuary.

Introduction to High Holiday melodies w/ Cantor Shira and Rabbi Zucker: Now that you have an idea about all the strange customs and traditions of the Holidays, come learn some Holiday melodies from Cantor Shira, and learn what these prayers are about with Rabbi Z. **Time and location:** Sunday, September 21st, 7:00 pm in the TBS sanctuary.

TBS High Holiday & Festival Service Schedule

Rosh Hashanah

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Erev Rosh Hashanah | Monday, September 29 | 8:15 pm |
| Rosh Hashanah Day 1 | Tuesday, September 30 | 8:30 am & 8:15 pm |
| Tashlich | Tuesday, September 30 | Following Services |
| Rosh Hashanah Day 2 | Wednesday, October 1 | 8:30 am |

Yom Kippur

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Yom Kippur Eve | Wednesday, October 8 (Kol Nidre) | 6:00 pm |
| Yom Kippur | Thursday, October 9 | 8:30 am |
| Yom Kippur (Yizkor) | Thursday, October 9 | Approx. 11:00 am |

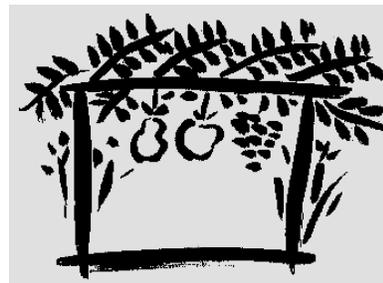


There will be children's services and activities on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur beginning at 11 am. There will also be babysitting for the younger ones.

Out of respect for the sanctity of the Holy Days, please leave cell phones and pagers at home. Bring a sweater or jacket with you instead as the sanctuary can get chilly.

The lobby sanctuary doors will remain closed throughout the High Holy Days. Please enter through the rear doors and have your tickets with you.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Sukkot

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Erev Sukkot | Monday, October 13 | 8:15 pm |
| Sukkot Day 1 | Tuesday, October 14 | 9:30 am & 8:15 pm |
| Sukkot Day 2 | Wednesday, October 15 | 9:30 am |
| LULAV SHAKE! | Wednesday, October 15 | 4:15 pm |

Simchat Torah

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Hoshanah Rabbah | Monday, October 20 | 8:15 pm |
| Shemini Atzeret & Yizkor | Tuesday, October 21 | 9:30 am & 7:00 pm |
| Simchat Torah | Wednesday, October 22 | 9:30 am |

Holiday Service Styles

High Holiday services at TBS will be similar to prior years, but they will also feature some changes, hopefully ones that you grow to enjoy. Much will be familiar from the past; a few things will be new.

As our congregation is a real blend of those that are more liberal and those more conservative (I'm talking about Jewish tradition, not politics), we will feature services that try to meet the needs and desires of our different constituencies. So, *Shaharit* and *Minhah* services will feature more traditional *nusach davenning*, while *Maariv*, the *Torah* service, *Musaf*, and *Neilah* will feature the traditional *hazanut/cantorial-choir* mixture that Cantor Shira has introduced to TBS and the type of blend of Hebrew and English that has been featured in the past.

With this breakdown of styles being delineated, chose which ones fit your style and temperament, or be inquisitive and come for everything!

~ Rabbi Zucker

Holiday Customs: Foods for a Sweet Year

As with most Jewish holidays, food is the focus of home celebrations of Rosh Hashanah. Families and friends gather for extended meals, which include traditional foods, such as apples and challah dipped in honey. Honey, a symbol of the wish for a sweet new year, also appears in other holiday foods, such as *tayglach*---a honey and nut pastry---and honey cake. The *challah*, normally braided, is round, as a reminder of the never-ending cycle of life.

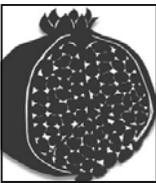
Like other festival and Shabbat meals, the *Rosh Hashanah* meal begins with Kiddush, the sanctification of the day over the wine. Both at dinner and at lunch, the *Rosh Hashanah Kiddush* includes a reference to the *shofar*, the most prominent symbol of the holiday.

In some families, it is traditional to serve the head of a fish or lamb (though meat substitutes would also do the trick for vegetarians) in the hope that everyone at the table will be at the "head" and not at the "tail" of whatever they do in the new year. You might add personal meaning to these rituals by asking everyone at the table to offer a wish for the new year as he or she dips the apple or *challah* in honey.



New Fruit

On the second night of *Rosh Hashanah*, it is common to eat a "new fruit"--a fruit that participants have not tasted for a long time. This tradition has become a way literally to taste the newness of the year, by enjoying an unfamiliar food. Often, a pomegranate is used as the new fruit, as the pomegranate is said to have 613 seeds, corresponding to the 613 *mitzvot*. The pomegranate has also long been a symbol of fertility, and thus of the unlimited possibilities for the new year.



The tradition of eating a new fruit need not, however, be restricted to pomegranates. Instead, this ritual can be an excuse for scouting out the "exotic fruit" section of the produce department, or exploring fruit markets to find fruits that you have not tasted previously. (Interestingly, the custom developed as a technical solution to a legal difficulty surrounding the recitation of the *shehehyanu* blessing on the second day of the holiday. The blessing, usually recited to commemorate a new situation, is said on the second day of *Rosh Hashanah* both in honor of the day and the new fruit.)

~ Rabbi Zucker



Uncle Shlomo Needs You...to be a High Holiday Torah Reader

If you enjoy reading Torah, TBS can use your abilities for *leyning* Torah. Each day of *Rosh HaShanah* there are 6 *aliyot* and *Yom Kippur* morning there are 8 *aliyot*, with three more *aliyot* at *Minhah*. The *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur* morning readings are done to the special High Holiday *trope* which is more like the *Haftarah trope* melody (or *Megillah trope* for those that know *Megillat Esther*). Tapes or CDs will be available as will be tutorial sessions prior to the Holidays. If interested, please contact Rabbi Zucker at the synagogue ASAP.

Haftarah Readers needed, too (the usual trope melody is used).

Come toot your horn! (Shofar that is):



Baalei Tikiya' are cordially invited to join Reb Z. in the TBS Non-brass band for sounding the *shofar* on *Rosh HaShanah*.
Auditions on Sunday morning, September 28th during religious school hours (9 am-noon).
 [Audition does NOT require proficiency in "Flight of the Bumblebee"]. Bring your own *shofar*.

Lulav/ethrog sets:

If you would like Rabbi Zucker to act as your agent to purchase a *Lulav* and *Ethrog* for your personal use during *Succot*, please sign up in the office or contact Rabbi no later than noon, Sunday, October 12th. Price details will be available before *Yom Kippur*. (Generally prices run between \$30 and \$75, dependent on quality and size.)



Pun Food

A number of other food-based rituals can also enliven the home celebration of Rosh Hashanah. Sephardic communities (which trace their ancestry to Mediterranean lands) have developed a *Rosh Hashanah seder*, which revolves around the eating of symbolic foods and the recitation of prayers that transform these foods into wishes for the coming year.

Many of these prayers are based on Hebrew puns involving the food in question. For instance, the prayers before eating a date (*tamar* in Hebrew) includes the phrase "*yitamu hataim*"--may the wicked cease. Before eating pumpkin or squash (*k'ra'a* in Hebrew), Sephardim say "*yikaru l'fanekha z'khuyoteinu*"--may our good deeds call out our merit before you--. Alternatively, they might use the resemblance between the word "*k'ra'a*"--"pumpkin" and the word "*kara*"--to cut or rip--to express the hope that any bad deeds will be ripped out of God's book.



Other symbolic foods include leeks and onions, which are associated with the exodus from Egypt; beets, whose Aramaic name "*silka*," similar to the Hebrew "*salak*"--go away-- is used to express the hope that our enemies disappear; and peas or beans, mentioned in the Talmud as "*ruviah*," a word that sounds like the Hebrew "to increase," and therefore indicates a desire for increased blessings in the new year.

The foods eaten and puns used change from community to community, according to the types of vegetables available and the inherited traditions. In planning your own *Rosh Hashanah* menu, you can be creative in developing your own English puns. For instance, you might eat raisins to commit to "raisin' your expectations for the



Rabbi's Recipes

Pesce all 'Ebraica Italian Holiday Sweet-Sour Fish

Ingredients:

1 ¼ lbs skinless white fish such as sole, flounder, perch, haddock, tilapia or cod
 or 6 small, whole dressed fish such as trout
 2-3 T canola, grapeseed or peanut oil (to grease bottom of pyrex casserole dish)
 1 T water
 1-2 T honey
 3 T red wine vinegar or lemon juice
 2 T quality olive oil
 ½ cup raisins (dark or light, or combination)
 2-4 T pine nuts
 1 t dry (or 1 T fresh chopped) mint leaves (spearmint)

Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 400° F; use canola or peanut oil to grease flat pyrex casserole dish large enough to fit all the fish in one layer. Rinse fish in cold water, pat dry with paper towels, and place in dish.
2. Combine water, honey, vinegar/lemon juice, and olive oil in pyrex measuring cup and heat in microwave for 20-30 seconds (To help blend ingredients, do not cause it to boil.)
3. Pour mixture over fish.
4. Sprinkle raisins, mint and pine-nuts over the fish.
5. Bake in oven 15-20 minutes until fish is cooked but not falling apart. Baste 1-2 times during baking process, and at end.

Remove and let cool somewhat. Fish can be served warm, room-temperature, or slightly chilled. Any liquid left in pan can be *reduced* by half and poured over plated fish as sweet sauce.

Pesce all 'Ebraica is served in Italian Jewish homes as the fish dish on *Erev Rosh HaShanah*. In the Zucker home it is traditional for both nights of *Rosh HaShanah* and also for *Shabbat Shuvah*. Occasionally, it is also served on *Shabbat Hannukah*.

Buono appetito / B'teiavon!



new year" or peas in the hope of increased peace. Your salad might be a chance to say, "Lettuce find happiness in the new year," or "We will beet any obstacles that come our way," or to remind yourself to say "Olive you" to family and friends. Children can be involved in creating puns and devising a menu based on these newly-symbolic foods.

(My thanks to my colleague Rabbi Jill Jacobs, who wrote this material.

~ Rabbi Zucker



Calendar

Temple Beth Shalom

September

Elul 5768-Tishri 5769

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| | 1 TBS Office Closed | 2 Choir, 7:30 pm | 3 High Holiday Trope Tutorial, 7:30 pm | 4 Sisterhood - Taste of Rosh Hashanah, 7 pm | 5 Family Shabbat Service, 7:45 pm | 6 Shabbat Morning Service, 9:30 am |
| 7 <u>First Day</u> <u>Hebrew School</u> 9am-noon Men's Club Mtg, 9:30 am Fundraising Committee mtg, 11:15 am | 8 House & Grounds Mtg, 7:30 pm Membership Mtg, 7:30 pm | 9 Choir, 7:30 pm | 10 Hebrew School - 4:15-6:15 pm Adult Hebrew class, 7:30 pm High Holiday/ Festival Nusach Tutorial, 7:30 pm | 11 Hebrew School Board mtg, 7 pm | 12 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 8:15 pm | 13 Shabbat Morning Service, 9:30 am Jr. Congregation, 10:30 am |
| 14 Hebrew school, 9am Dalet Class Meeting, 9:30 am Introduction to the High Holidays & Sukkot, 7 pm | 15 Executive Committee mtg, 7 pm | 16 Choir, 7:30 pm | 17 Hebrew School, 4:15 pm Adult Hebrew class, 7:30 pm | 18 Board mtg, 7 pm | 19 Tot Shabbat, 7 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 8:15 pm TBS Board Installation | 20 Shabbat Morning Service, 9:30 Slichot Services, 9:00 pm |
| 21 Hebrew School, 9am <u>Back to School for Parents, 9 am</u> <u>Mishpachah,</u> <u>11 am</u> USY Kick-off dance, 5-8 pm | 22 Intro to High Holiday melodies w/ Cantor Shira & Rabbi Zucker Sunday, 9/21, 7 pm | 23 Sisterhood Blood Drive, 3-8 pm Choir, 7:30 pm | 24 Hebrew School, 4:15 pm Adult Hebrew class, 7:30 pm | 25 | 26 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 8:15 pm | 27 Shabbat Morning Service, 9:30 am |
| 28 Hebrew School, 9 am Shofar auditions, 9am-noon | 29 EREV ROSH HASHANAH Service, 8:15 pm  | 30 ROSH HASHANAH Service, 8:30 am Tashlich, 2 pm Evening Service, 8:15 pm | | | |  |

A Closer Look - Slichot Services – Saturday, September 20, 9 pm

Join us for *Slichot* services as we begin preparing ourselves for the High Holidays. *Sephardim* begin the recitation of *Slichot* (Penitential prayers) a month before *Rosh HaShanah* on *Rosh Hodesh Elul*. *Ashkenazim* begin the Saturday night/Sunday morning before *Rosh HaShanah*, but since one is to have four days before *Rosh HaShanah*, in years where *Rosh HaShanah* falls early in the week, as this year, we begin *Slichot* the prior week. So, please join us Saturday night, **September 20th** in the TBS sanctuary as we begin our High Holiday services with this “warm-up” to the Holiday season.

Time: **9:00 pm**

Duration: about 70 minutes



October

Tishrei-Heshvan

Calendar

Temple Beth Shalom

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | | 1 TBS office closed Rosh Hashanah, Day 2 Service, 8:30 am No Hebrew School | 2 Sisterhood mtg, 7:30 pm | 3 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 8:15 pm | 4 Shabbat Morning Service, 9:30 am |
| 5 Hebrew School, 9 am Men's Club Mtg, 9:30 am Fundraising Committee mtg, 11 am Mishpachah, 11 am | 6 House & Grounds Mtg, 7:30 pm Membership Committee mtg, 7:30 pm | 7 | 8 TBS office closes at 3 pm EREV YOM KIPPUR KOL NIDRE SERVICE, 6 pm | 9 TBS office closed YOM KIPPUR Service begins at 8:30 am Yizkor, 11 am | 10 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 8:15 pm | 11 Shabbat Morning Service, 9:30 am Junior Congregation, 10:30 am |
| 12 Hebrew School, 9 am USY Builds the Sukkah  | 13 TBS office closed EREV SUKKOT Sukkot Services, 8:15 pm | 14 TBS office closed Sukkot Services, 9:30 am 8:15 pm  | 15 TBS office closed Sukkot Services, 9:30 am 4:15 pm Lulav Shake No Hebrew School | 16 TBS Board mtg, 7 pm | 17 Tot Shabbat, 7 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 8:15 pm | 18 Shabbat Morning Service, 9:30 am |
| 19 Hebrew School, 9 am Gimmel Family Education, 9 am Open Succah @ the Zuckers, 3-5 pm | 20 Hoshanah Rabbah Service, 8:15 pm | 21 TBS Office Closed Shemini Atzeret Services, 9:30 am, & 7 pm | 22 TBS Office Closed No Hebrew School Simchat Torah Service, 9:30 am  | 23 School Board mtg, 7 pm | 24 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 8:15 pm USY Sleepover @ Clear Lake | 25 Shabbat Morning Service, 9:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Julian Chipkin |
| 26 Hebrew School, 9 am Sisterhood Torah Fund Luncheon Honoring Ellen Gershman and Chris Spano, 2 pm | 27 | 28 | 29 Hebrew School, 4:15 pm Adult Ed - Hebrew Class with Lynn Michaels resumes, 7:30 pm | 30 | 31 | |



✎ Closer Look - The Shofar

A shofar is an instrument made from the horn of a ram or other kosher animal. It was used in ancient Israel to announce the New Moon (Rosh Chodesh) and call people together. It was also blown on Rosh Hashanah, marking the beginning of the New Year, signifying both need to wake up to the call to repentance, and in connection with the portion read on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, the Binding of Isaac (Genesis, chapter 22) in which Abraham sacrifices a ram in place of his son, Isaac.

There is a great deal of symbolism tied in with the legal requirements for what constitutes a proper shofar. The shofar of Rosh Hashanah, whose purpose it is to rouse the Divine in the listener, may not be constructed of an artificial instrument. It must be an instrument in its natural form and naturally hollow, through which sound is produced by human breath, which God breathes into human beings. This pure, and natural sound, symbolizes the lives it calls Jews to lead. According to Leo Rosten, "The bend in the shofar is supposed to represent how a human heart, in true repentance, bends before the Lord. The man who blows the shofar is required to be of blameless character and conspicuous devotion; he must blow blasts of different timbre, some deep, some high, some quavering."

Source: www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org



Schmoozing with the Sisterhood



A Message from your Sisterhood

Sisterhood Executive Board

President
Lynn Michaels 528-2233
sisterhood@tbsmahopac.org

Vice President
Ellen Gershman
Anita Bellenchia

Treasurer
Chris Feuer 628-0448

Recording Secretary
Monica Scavone 855-9403

Program Chair
Marge Pollack 628-5252

Gift Shop Chairman
Linda Tigershtrom 208-3249
GiftShop@tbsmahopac.org

2008 Calendar

2008

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| Sept 4 | Taste of Rosh Hashanah | 7:00 pm |
| Sept 23 | Sisterhood Blood Drive | 2:30 pm |
| Oct 2 | Sisterhood Meeting | 7:30 pm |
| Oct 26 | Torah Fund Luncheon | 2:00 pm |
| Nov 6 | Paid Up Dinner | 7:00 pm |
| Nov 22 | Havdalah Dinner & Movie | TBA |
| Dec 4 | Grab Bag/Meeting | 7:00 pm |

2009

| | | |
|---------|------------------------|---------|
| Jan 8 | Sisterhood Meeting | 7:30 pm |
| Jan 24 | Family Game Night | 7:00 pm |
| Feb 5 | Israeli Cooking | TBA |
| Mar 20 | Shabbat Across America | 6:15 pm |
| Mar 28 | Havdalah & Wine Taste | 8:00 pm |
| Apr 2 | Taste Of Passover | 7:00 pm |
| May 7 | Sisterhood Meeting | 7:30 pm |
| June 4 | Sisterhood Meeting | 7:30 pm |
| July 2 | Sisterhood Meeting | 7:30 pm |
| July 26 | Picnic | Noon |

Don't forget to come to the next Sisterhood meeting, "A Taste Of Rosh Hashanah", on Sept 4th, 7:00pm at Lynn's House. Make and Swap recipes! No reservations are required



Hello again from Sisterhood. We had a great year and we are now starting a new one. Yasher Koach to all the hard work Sisterhood has done and looking forward to all the events coming up.

Speaking of events, I want to take a minute to explain why RSVP's are needed as well as why we ask for the RSVP to arrive at a certain date.

As we all know, RSVP's are to ensure that there is enough food for everyone. But, food is not all we use RSVP's for. It is also to determine how many chairs and tables are needed as well as in which room in the temple to hold the event—sometimes two rooms are needed. All events in the temple need a room reservation form which provides set-up instructions for our beloved Billy.

When we get RSVP's at the last minute, the entire room set-up is compromised and there is much scrambling just prior to the event. In fairness to your hosts, and to Billy, please submit your RSVP by the requested deadline.

This article does not mean to offend anyone. It is more of a clarification of why RSVP's are important—it is not just for food.

Please remember to set aside some time for the Annual Sisterhood Blood Drive. The Blood Supply is at a critical low and this is our way of helping our community. Thank you in advance for coming.



Sisterhood recently sent out bills for its annual dues ~ Send your new or renewed membership in today. When you support Sisterhood, you support our temple community!

I look forward to meeting our new members and to seeing current members at our Sisterhood meetings.

Remember—it ain't your mother's Sisterhood!!!!

Take Care,

Lynn

Photos: Annual Sisterhood Picnic, July 26, 2008



Sisterhood Blood Drive - September 23, 3-8 pm



Donating blood is literally giving the gift of life. Each day, NYBC needs close to 2,000 people to roll up their sleeves to give the gift of life. Without volunteer donors, our community would not have an adequate community blood supply.

Preparation

Be sure to eat at your regular mealtimes and drink plenty of fluids prior to donating. We recommend that you not take aspirin, or products containing aspirin, for at least 72 hours before your scheduled appointment if you are donating platelets. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health. People over 75 can continue to donate blood if they meet all donor criteria and present a physician's letter allowing them to donate.

Our Temple Family

*Mi'sheberach ~
Wishing a return to good health to
those who are ill in our community*



- | | |
|--|--|
| Leah Bat Sholmo Ve Ester Shelley Adler Ari Chanan ben Rivka Giselle Dollinger Marcus Fitz Charles Gassett Gordon C. Gladden Lloyd Goldfarb Mae Greenberg Ana Horn Sol Indig Kenneth Kaplan Helen Lichtman Dina Marterino Fannie Meyer | John Morelli Bill Morrill Shirley Porter Alana Rogers Tom Ryan Joanne Sachs Ginny Schaffer Rosalee Steiner Yitzhak ben Sura Ethel Thomas Larry Ticker Lois Van Etten Charles Winterhalter Geri Winterhalter Megan Wood |
|--|--|

September

Celebrating Birthdays in Our Community

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 2 Jesse Lichtman Vera Nieweg Joseph Occhiogrossi Ilana Vatkin | 11 Jon Rothstein Ralph Small | 19 Anthony Branca |
| 3 Marla Friedman Frank Lauri | 12 Richard Chavis Alexci Mazinski Harvey Teplitsky David Tomback | 20 Jesse Carrillo Adam Coffey Gary Reing |
| 5 Jill Carrillo Ellen Gershman | 13 Marcia Scanlan Meryl Weiner | 22 Ilana Goren |
| 6 Dana Berkwitz Emilie Brigman | 14 Linda Silbert | 23 John Katzenstein Dylan Vatkin |
| 7 Marcia Stiman-Lavian | 15 Chaim Wachsberger | 26 Melanie Frenkel |
| 8 Mark Sapir | 17 Gary Friedman | 27 Melvie Ost |
| 10 Cynthia Teplitsky | 18 Larry Feuer Daniel Kushner | 28 Ellen Reing |
| | | 29 Amy Hershey-Webb |

**Yom Huledet Samgach
יום הולדת שמח**

October

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Ralph Horowitz Sandra Zager | 9 Alicia Raskob Linda Tigershtrom | 20 Mark Greenberg Muriel Jaffe |
| 2 Scott Cohen Beverly Petrone Andrew Plaut Laurie Skolnick | 10 Margaret Chacon 11 Seth Gunzberg Eric Lederer | 21 Kayla Gorelick Kevin Toledano |
| 3 Julian Chipkin Joseph Houslanger Wendy Klein Elizabeth Lauri Robert Small | 12 Max Gambino Robert Nieweg | 22 Eric Perlman |
| 4 Michael Carrillo | 14 Paul Bellenchia Nancy Sapir Jacob Schlem | 23 Rochelle Persampieri |
| 5 Jessica Bellenchia Lynn Michaels Alan Tuchman | 15 Diana Markowitz Nell Wachsberger | 24 Miriam Cohen |
| 6 Anita Feldman | 17 Matthew Gorodess Stella Ost | 26 Steven Feldman |
| 7 Mickey Alexander Steven Bettman Benjamin Charkow | 18 Russell Cohen Jerry Tesler | 27 Marcia Lichtman |
| 8 Ellen Alexander | 19 Deborah Hilfman Ian Hochberg Ruth Kaiser | 28 Steven Gorelick Yvonne Horowitz |
| | | 29 Stanley Gurewitsch |
| | | 30 Hannah Peikes |
| | | 31 Richard Petrone |

**Mazel
Tov!**

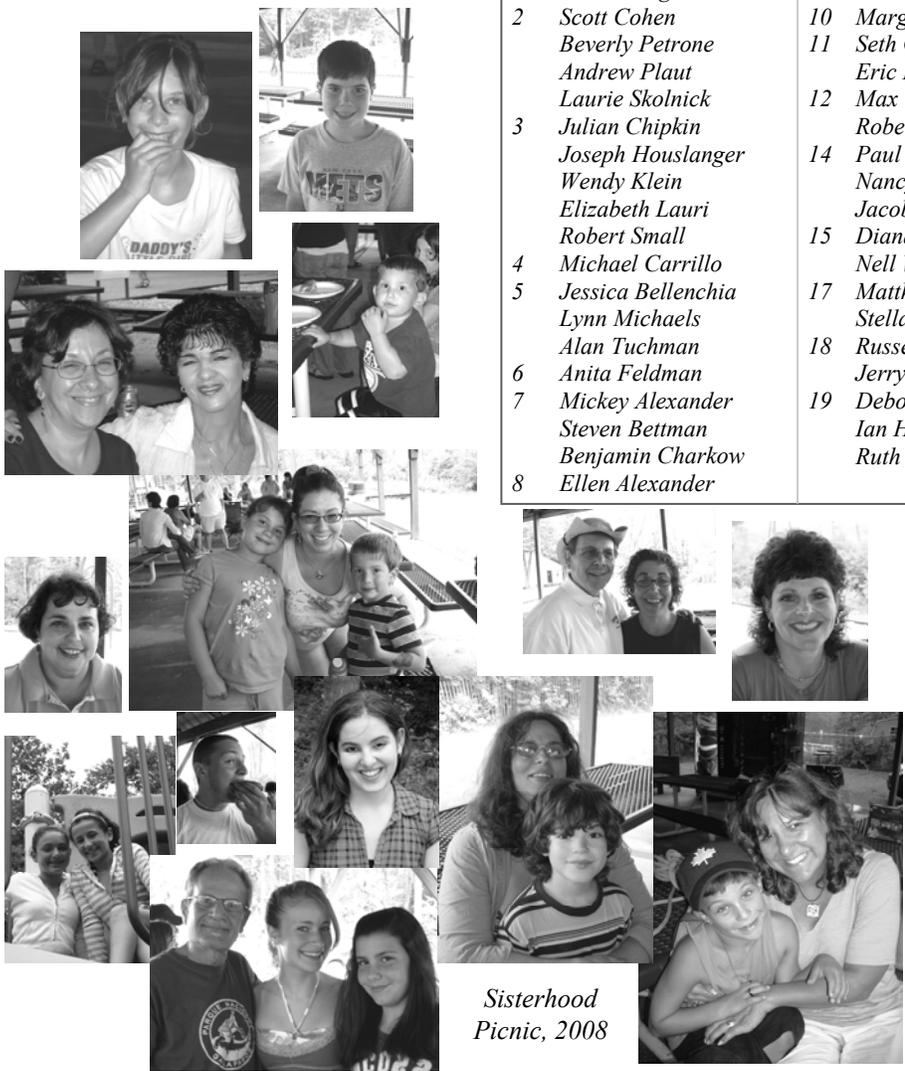
CLASSIFIEDS

Looking for a job in
publishing?



TBS is seeking a new editor for its award winning Temple Times newsletter. Must be computer savvy, organized, and have time to gather information and layout each issue.

Interested? Contact the temple office: 845-628-6133.



*Sisterhood
Picnic, 2008*

Men's Club Message



I hope that you are enjoying the summer. Believe it or not there have been some nice days in between the severe rain storms that have been occurring.

At our last breakfast on July 27, 2008, which was jointly sponsored by the Hazak group, we had the pleasure of having our State Senator, Vinny Leibell, as our guest. His topic was how we treat our troops coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan and what services we are providing and should provide for them. We had an excellent turnout and the question and answer period

lasted quite a while. We are in the process of setting up our programs for the fall season and I welcome your input. Please send in your dues for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Statements will be going out shortly.

Shalom,

Joel

Joel Greenberg

P.S. Just as an aside, I want to thank all those from our Temple family that helped Wendy and me out after my surgery last winter.



Breakfast with Senator Leibell, July 27, 2008.



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS

By Glenn Sapir



Harold Weinberger Settles into Mahopac Life

When one gets on in age, life is typically settled.

We develop routines, and days are fairly calm. Apparently, nobody told new member Harold Weinberger that.

“Life is busy now,” he said. “I am just trying to get settled.”

Harold’s life has taken on many new aspects. For instance, after 21 years of contracted work as a security guard for a federal agency in Yonkers in his most recent career, Harold has finally retired.

Retirement presented him the opportunity to move from Kingsbridge in the Bronx to Putnam County, where he has moved into an apartment in the William Koehler Senior Center in Mahopac near Baldwin Place.

“I’m still trying to get my apartment set up,” Weinberger said, giving the

impression that furnishing it and getting things in order has not been easy.

Surely, Harold originally envisioned a retirement with his wife Betty, and together they would create their living quarters. Betty, however, has been afflicted with Alzheimer’s disease, and now she is confined to Somers Manor. Harold visits her during the day, but he is unable to drive at night.

The couple have raised three children, and one, Robert, lives nearby, in Baldwin Place. Harold checks in on Robert’s two children, 13 and 10, but says they do fine without him.

In the Bronx, Harold enjoyed services in a Reformed temple, but as his Bronx neighborhood changed, so did his temple.

“All three temples in my neighborhood closed,” he said. “Mine became a public school.”

Frankly, he says, Temple Beth Shalom was the closest to Harold’s new residence, so he joined us this summer. He has already become a regular at Saturday services, and he made his

presence felt as chief server of hotdogs, hamburgers and other treats coming off the grill at the annual TBS picnic at Sycamore Park in Carmel in late July.

“I had a good time,” Harold said. “I’ll be glad to help the temple however I can.” In the Bronx, Harold used to deliver Passover food to people that couldn’t get out.

He says he would come to Friday night services and other nighttime activities if he had transportation.

So far, Harold is generally pleased with TBS. A man of few words, Howard’s comments are usually very direct.

“It’s nice. The people are friendly. We doven good,” he said. “But I can’t understand most of what is being said.”

May your association with our congregation enrich your life.

Hebrew School News

McHebrew School??



Excitement is in the air as we embark on another Hebrew School year. Classes begin on Sunday September 7th

with a great line up of teachers, students, creative new programs, and of course a new Rabbi. Our children are given the opportunity to receive an excellent education, but we have to wonder if we are becoming just like a fast food restaurant? It sometimes seems that we are more like a drive through school, not a full service establishment. It is an unfortunate commentary on how we treat our Hebrew School. Some parents drop off and pick up the kids without ever setting foot in the building. True, we do try to accommodate the busy lives of our Hebrew School families by having a pick up line on Wednesday evenings so everyone can get home to dinner and homework after a long day of school and then 2 more hours of Hebrew School. **But....**we want you to meet other Jewish parents and find a place for yourself within our walls while your children attend school. *We want Temple Beth Shalom Hebrew School to be more than "Jew-on-the-Run".*

Parents...we need to show our children that Judaism has more to offer than just 5 ½ hours per week. We need you to be part of the commitment to their education that reflects itself in your participation. We love to see you and your enthusiasm on Family Education days and at our schoolwide special events. We try to entice you to stay in the building with things like men's club programming and breakfasts, tefilah minyans with your children, and scrip sales, but we still note your absence and connection with other parents.

Now we, along with Rabbi Zucker, would like to provide you with the opportunity to meet other parents in an informal setting, do a little learning, smoozing and of course have some coffee and bagels while your children are in school. We are planning some short programs for parents following drop off on Sunday mornings that will give you a chance to be part of our learning community. We try to provide a source of continuing Jewish identity and learning, but we need you to be part of the equation in helping the Hebrew School provide your children with lifelong skills necessary to be a successful Jew.

Let's begin the New Year by getting out of the drive-thru mentality and make an effort to make some connections with other parents, to do some learning and set an example of "leisurely dining" for our children.

Plan on joining us on Sunday September 21st, for our **Back to School Program**. This will give you time to meet the teachers, other parents and hopefully be the first of many opportunities to be part of our community of learners and help us to truly become a "full service" school.

Shana Tova

~ Carol Zager, Principal

ה ת ג ב א

B'nai Mitzvah

Julian Zulman Leib Chipkin 25 October 2008

An 8th grade student at George C. Fisher Middle School, Julian's favorite subject is definitely math. He plays the violin in the school orchestra and has been selected to play bass guitar in the Rock Ensemble.

Julian enjoys playing soccer and baseball with his friends, and he loves to draw. A determined and goal-oriented young man, Julian is setting high scholastic standards for himself as he trains his eyes on a top notch college and a future career in architecture. He feels that studying architecture will allow him to play to his strengths in design, math, and drawing.

With a reading of *Beresheit*, Julian will mark his bar mitzvah as his parents, Dana and Kenny Chipkin look on. His brother, Lane (10), and his grandparents, Doris and Irving Chipkin will be in the congregation to share in the celebration. For his mitzvah project, Julian is working as a companion visiting the residents of a local retirement facility. He has developed a special relationship with his tutor, Karen Kwan during his studies at TBS.

Behold a good doctrine has been given to you...Forsake it not.



TBS HEBREW SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 7 First Day Hebrew School, 9 am
- 10 Hebrew School, 4:15 pm
- 13 Junior Congregation, 10:30 am
- 14 Hebrew School, 9 am
Dalet Class Meeting, 9:30 am
- 17 Hebrew School, 4:15 pm
- 21 Hebrew School, 9 am
Back to School for Parents, 9 am
Mishpachah, 11 am
- 24 Hebrew School, 4:15 pm
- 28 Hebrew School, 9 am

OCTOBER

- 1 No Hebrew School
- 5 Hebrew School, 9 am
Mishpachah, 11 am
- 8 No Hebrew School
- 11 Junior Congregation, 10:30 am
- 12 Hebrew School, 9 am
- 15 No Hebrew School
Lulav Shake, 4:15 pm
- 19 Hebrew School, 9 am
Gimmel Family Education, 9 am
- 22 No Hebrew School
- 26 Hebrew School, 9 am

Yasher Koach Glenn!

Yasher Koach to Glenn Sapir who, at the Professional Outdoor Media Association conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was recognized as the **National Wild Turkey Federation’s 2008 Communicator of the Year**. Each year the NWFT honors the communicator who answers the call to promote the NWFT’s mission of wild turkey conservation and the preservation of North America’s hunting heritage.

His career in outdoor communications has included posts as editor of for Outdoor Life, Sports Afield, New York Sportsman and 18 years with Field and Stream Magazine. Glenn writes a regular outdoor column for the Journal News and has authored, “Secrets of the Turkey Pros.” Added to all this he is a frequent contributor to the Temple Times!

We at TBS echo the sentiments of Tammy Sapp, NWFT senior vice president, when she said, “We all know Glenn as one of the most prolific and talented outdoor communicators, but he’s also one of the kindest people you’ll ever know.”

~Elaine Jacobs



The Sukkot Celebration: Reconnecting with the Earth
You shall celebrate the Festival of Ingathering (Sukkot), at the end of the year, when you gather in the results of your work from the field.
 (Exodus 23:16)



10 Reasons to Buy Local Food

1. Local food tastes better. The crops are picked at their peak, and farmstead products like cheese are hand crafted for the best flavor. Food imported from far away is older, has traveled on trucks or planes, and has sat in warehouses before it finally gets to you.
2. Local produce is better for you. The shorter the time between the farm and your table, the less likely it is that nutrients will be lost from fresh food.
3. Local food preserves genetic diversity. In the modern agricultural system, plant varieties are chosen for their ability to ripen uniformly, withstand harvesting, survive packing and last on the shelf, so there is limited genetic diversity in large-scale production. Smaller local farms, in contrast, often grow many different varieties to provide a long harvest season, in an array of colors and flavors.
4. Local food is safe. There's a unique kind of assurance that comes from looking a farmer in the eye at farmers market or driving by the fields where your food comes from. Local farmers aren't anonymous and they take their responsibility to the consumer seriously.
5. Local food supports local families. Wholesale prices that farmers get for their products are low, often near the cost of production. Local farmers who sell directly to consumers cut out the middleman and get full retail price for their food, which helps farm families stay on the land.
6. Local food builds community. When you buy direct from a farmer, you are engaging in a time-honored connection between eater and grower. Knowing the farmer gives you insight into the seasons, the land, and your food. It gives you access to a place where your children and grandchildren can go to learn about nature and agriculture.
7. Local food preserves open space. When farmers get paid more for their products by marketing locally, they are less likely to sell their farmland for development. When you buy locally grown food, you are doing something proactive to preserve our agricultural landscape.
8. Local food keeps taxes down. According to several studies, farms contribute more in taxes than they require in services, whereas most other kinds of development contribute less in taxes than the cost of the services they require.
9. Local food benefits the environment and wildlife. Well-managed farms conserve fertile soil and clean water in our communities. The farm environment is a patchwork of fields, meadows, woods, ponds, and buildings that provide habitat for wildlife.
10. Local food is an investment in the future. By supporting local farmers today, you are helping ensure that there will be farms in your community tomorrow.

Source: www.shalomctr.org

To obtain information about farmer’s markets in your area, visit www.localharvest.org.



Amish Grace

Of all the holidays that we celebrate annually, none define the Jewish spirit and soul more than Yom Kippur. Of all the laws and guidance passed to us by GOD, none commands more obedience and fear than Yom Kippur. Of all the religious Holidays that define our heritage, none is more puzzling than Yom Kippur.

Growing up in my father's house, Yom Kippur was the most important day of the year. From the ritual of 'Tarnegul Kaparut', the day before, when Dad would swing a young rooster over our individual heads (and they were many of us), to his giving Mom and all of us kids an individual blessing before leaving for Erev Yom Kippur service. We all stood in front of him, clean and shining, according to our age, his hands on our bowed heads whispering an ancient blessing upon us. One blessing for the boys, another for the girls, and a special one for Mom. There was a tremor in the air, a mixture of awe and an anticipation of what the New Year would bring. We looked at father as our emissary in front of the supreme GOD. We trusted him, with his daily prayers and orthodox ways, as only innocent children can trust an adult, that this ritual would protect us one more year from any harm and misfortune. Yom Kippur was a day of direct communication between us, through our father, to GOD. We had to do right by Him in order to be forgiven, safe, a child for one more year.

I do not remember when and how Yom Kippur lost its 'specialness' in my life, replaced by many questions and doubts. In my logical mind, I could not accept the notion that one day of fasting, praying and asking for forgiveness from Almighty GOD would grant anybody a clean slate of health and prosperity for the next year.



My GOD manifests itself in Mother Nature. I could not worship him in fear.

As life took me out of my father's home, through different posts and different countries, I left behind, for a while, not only my innocent belief in GOD, but my Jewish connection to life. For once it felt good not to be the Rabbi's Daughter any more. No guilt, no obligation to GOD, no rules to follow. Or so I thought. Somehow, come Erev Yom Kippur, I would find myself calling my Dad and asking for his forgiveness and his blessing for the next year. That was one request my Dad could never deny me. For one moment, through his long distance blessing, he was able to restore for me the direct, unbroken line of communication with GOD.

The quest to find a meaningful understanding and acceptance of Yom Kippur rituals has been accompanying me all of my adult life. At times I wish I had my father's unshakable belief in GOD and HIS commands. It would have been easier for me to accept it. But, whatever worked for my father didn't work for me. There were still too many questions to be answered.

During my 'Studying' I went through many phases of belief, relationships with people, with GOD, and with myself. In Leviticus (23:28, et al), the Torah calls it Yom Kippurim, a Day of Atonement, when one can achieve atonement for many sins on that one day. However, it does not elaborate on the kind of sins we should repent. Surprisingly, GOD commands us to confess and ask for forgiveness of direct transgressions against HIM, not from our fellow man. The long list of transgressions that we recite during the High Holiday service was added to our ritual centuries later. While the list covers almost any transgression imaginable, it still does not mention the need to heal 'soft' offences and injuries in our relationships with each other. Those offences which are not tangible are often forgotten, except for the scars left behind.

I personally find those soft offences are the hardest to accept and forgive. Injuring the soul of a child by a teacher who does not deliver on his promise to teach; a parent who neglects his child; a preacher who misrepresents the law of the land in order to promote hate and destruction; a breach of trust between friends and associates; a leader who does not work for the welfare of his people; all the selfish ones who pursue their ambitions regardless of cost; the self-righteous among us who think that they never do wrong. We are all equally guilty of these offences at one time or another. Me included.

The Mishna teaches, "On Yom Kippur one does not atone until one appeases his neighbors." In Yoma it tells us that before one can be forgiven for a sin committed against another person, such as embarrassing the person, stealing from the person, etc., the "victim" must forgive the person who committed the act against him. Only then will GOD forgive the offender for the disregard of His commands. Our sages have told us that it is easier to be forgiven by GOD than it is to be forgiven by another person. One can say that all of the Yom Kippur service is a guilt driven ritual to appease ourselves.

How does one forgive another? Is it really enough to say out loud 'I forgive you'? Or there should be a kind of ceremony of forgiveness? Although we find so many commands and rituals of Yom Kippur atonement, nothing is said about how to seek forgiveness and above all, how to forgive another person with all our might. Is it our responsibility as Jewish people to forgive another to better the world? Or to better ourselves? Are we allowed to not to forgive, and isn't that a transgression in itself? What about revenge? It certainly can make us feel good. How does one bring oneself to forgive others of painful, thoughtless acts?

In October 2006, a horrific crime took place in rural Pennsylvania. A young man carried his rage into an Amish schoolhouse and shot five innocent girls to death. Five others were seriously wounded. It was one of those senseless crimes that shattered our core mostly because it happened in the peaceful Amish community. In their book, *Amish Grace*, the authors wrote “The Amish certainly didn’t anticipate this horror. They were, however, uncommonly prepared to respond to it with graciousness, forbearance and love.” The book set out to uncover more about their surprising reaction of forgiveness. “What was the cultural soil that nourished this sort of response in the world where vengeance, not forgiveness is so often the order of the day.”

Several days after the shooting, the killer, a neighboring milkman who also killed himself before the police stormed the schoolhouse, was brought to rest. About half of the people who attended the service were Amish. In their own words – it was the right thing to do, understanding that the wife and children of the killer were in mourning too and need support. The same support was extended to his parents and the rest of his family. They did it individually and as community. No priest or other authority figure sent them to act that way. It was a natural reaction of people who, from childhood, were taught to love and forgive. In addition to assisting the killer’s family emotionally by expressing their forgiveness so openly, they made donations and helped in any other ways. In response to the endless questions from the media and the public as to how and why they forgave the killer and his family so graciously, the answer was – “We have to forgive him in order for God to forgive us.” They practiced forgiveness every single day.

The roots of Amish behavior are based on their dedication to the words of the Gospels, mostly Matthew who called on the believers to follow in Christ’s way. “Whoever boasts that he is Christian, must walk as Christ walks.”

With this new finding came some new questions. Isn’t Christianity basically a mirror of Jewish laws and beliefs? Why don’t we have the graciousness of the Amish to forgive all the evil that comes our way? What do we lack in our education, upbringing, and society that prevents us from becoming more forgiving as a people?

This Amish tragedy that turned into a human triumph, touched the core of my Jewish heart. Finally I had found some answers to many of my questions about guilt, forgiveness, repentance and redemption. One key word that fit almost all ~ LOVE. Love of man kind, love of GOD and mostly, love and respect of ourselves as human beings, the same as the guy next door.

I do not suggest or hint here that as a religion Christianity is superior to Judaism. Nor will I convert. The best thing that ever happened in my life was to be born Jewish. This story is about my personal journey as a Jewish Woman. The struggle I face to become a more forgiving person, not only on Yom Kippur. I hope to carry with me the practice and the lessons of Amish Grace as long as I can, until new questions and doubts pop into my mind. I know that my Dad would approve.

On a personal note, I extend much thanks to Lynn Michaels and Bernice Guest for helping me in my research for this article. Special, heartfelt thanks goes to Debi



Feiman who gave me the pages on which I was able to write for you for the last few years. Not only has she waited patiently for my stories way after the deadline, but her hand as editor, along with Nina Levine, was much appreciated. As you know by now, this is last edition of our wonderful, brilliant newsletter as we know it. Debi has decided to take a leave from her position as the editor for now.

Deb, thank you for being my friend. Good Luck in your new path of life. You, and your newsletter will be greatly missed. ~ *Miriam Yekutiel*

Editor’s Note

I first read the following words in the Winter 2005 issue of **A View from the House**, the newsletter published by the Jan Peek House for the Homeless in Peekskill, NY. These words resonated with me and so, at this High Holiday season, I offer them now to my temple family.

Do It Anyway

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered:

forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

give the world your best anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;

it was never between you and them anyway.

~Mother Theresa

1910-1997

May you be inscribed in the book of life, and may you find fulfillment, forgiveness, and peace this year.

L’Shana Tovah

~Debi Feiman



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15 September/15 Elul
Frances A. Axelrod
Sol Sondike

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Tzviya Yekutiell

18 September/Elul 18
Jerry Ryzak
Nettie Toovell

19 September/Elul 19
Arthur Beck
Dave Begler

20 September/Elul 20
Miriam Kaiser
Zelda Kravitz

21 September/Elul 21
Grete Salomon

22 September/Elul 22
Rose Irene Hirsch

26 September/Elul 26
Ida Tuzman

27 September/Elul 27
David Geller
Bernard Terdeman

29 September/Elul 29
Abigail Chacon

30 September/Tishrei 1
David Gold

3 October/Tishrei 4
Theodore Marks

5 October/Tishrei 6
Alice David Mayer
Abraham Rubin

7 October/Tishrei 8
Nathan Grossman

8 October/Tishrei 9
David Lefferman

9 October/Tishrei 10
Bernhard Katzenstein

10 October/Tishrei 11
Emanuel Hirsch
Ethyl Markel
Edith Raskob

11 October/Tishrei 12
Yetta Heitner

12 October/Tishrei 13
Harry Kreiness

13 October/Tishrei 14
Esther Chupper
Rose Blanche Klein

16 October/Tishrei 17
Beatrice Shapiro

17 October/Tishrei 18
Shmuel Ost

20 October/Tishrei 21
Anna Buckvar
Norman Gershman
Rena Sapir

21 October/Tishrei 22
Frances Berliner

23 October/Tishrei 24
Leah Persampieri

27 October/Tishrei 28
Nyra Cohen

28 October/Tishrei 29
Max Fechenbach

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9-11-01

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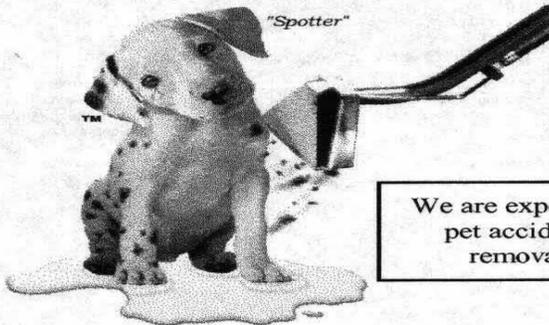


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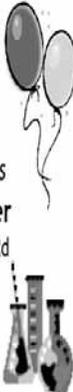
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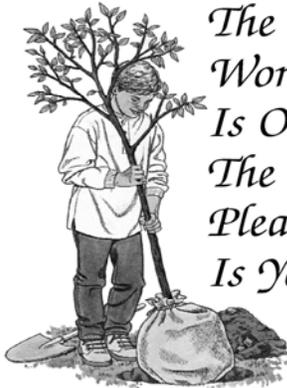
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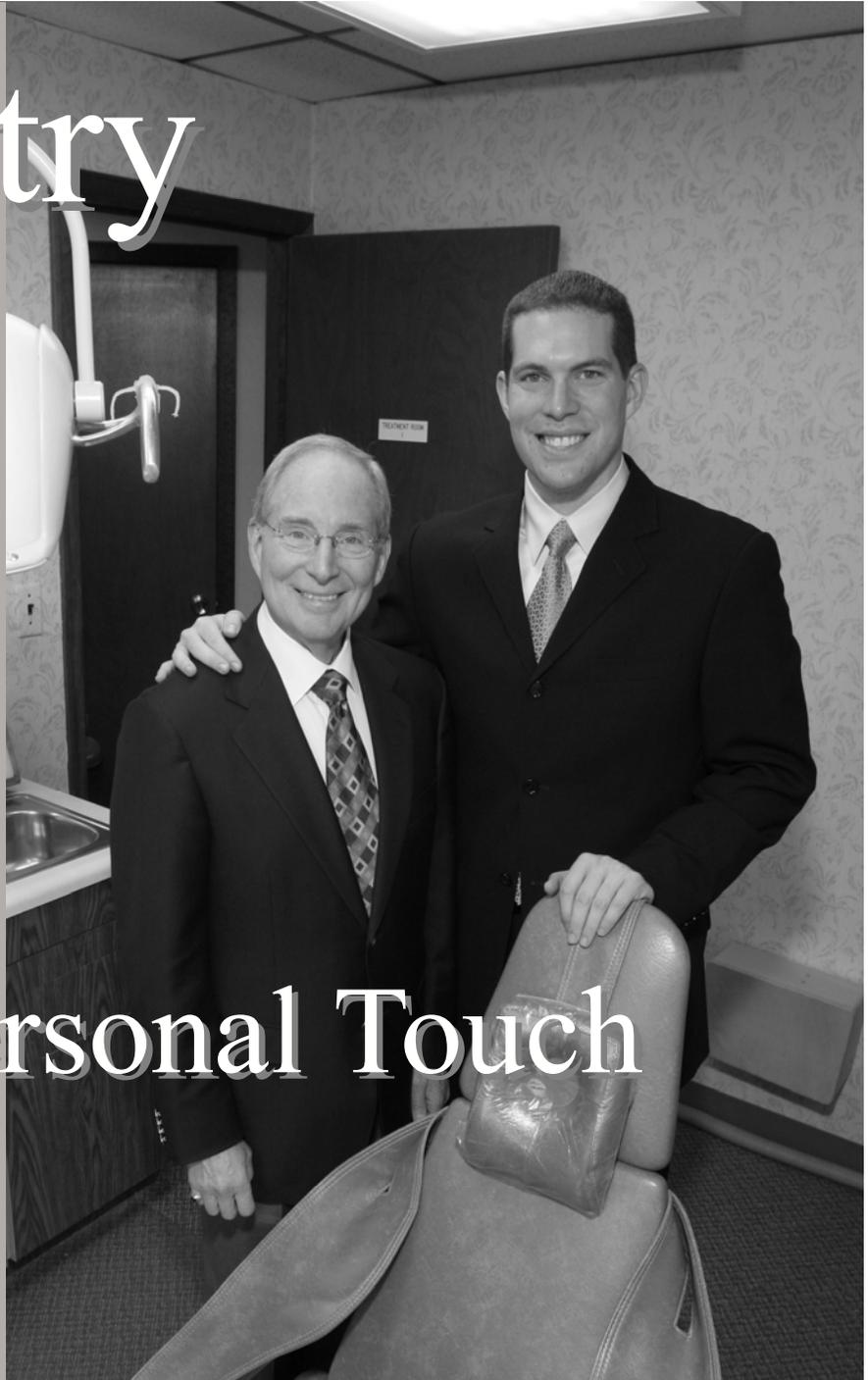
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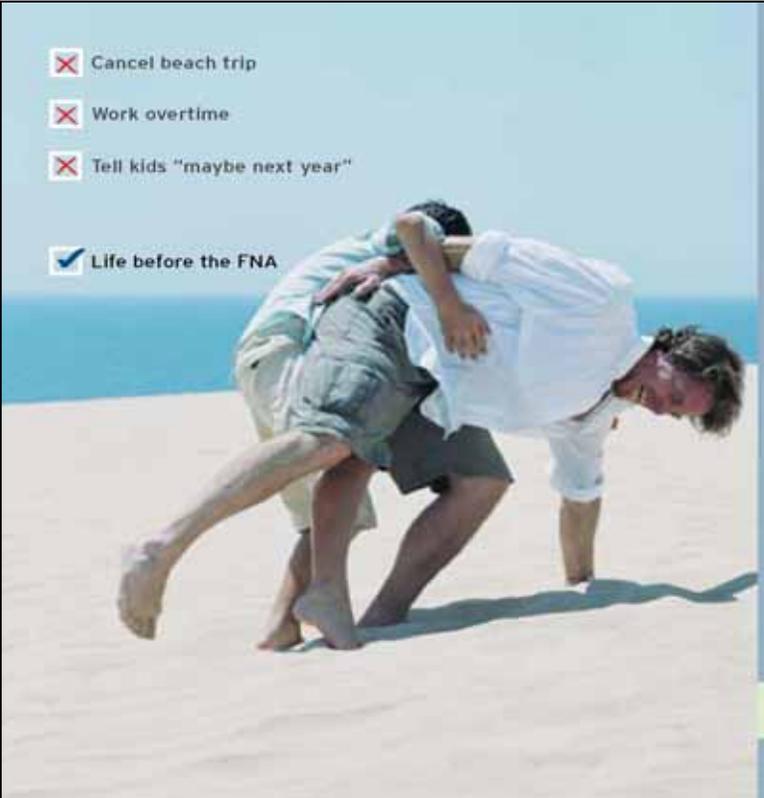
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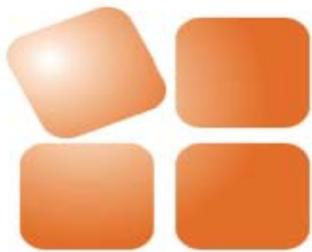


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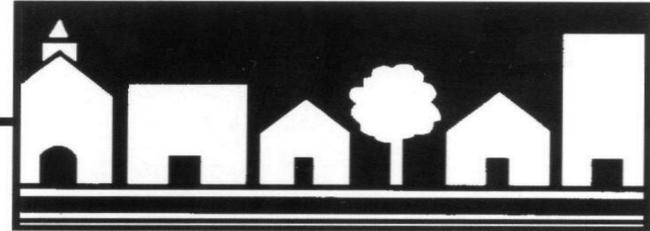
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