

In Pursuit

TZEDEK COMMITTEE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2023



ROSH HASHANAH

Friday, September 15 to
Sunday, September 17

YOM KIPPUR

Sunday, September 24

[Celebrate the High Holy Days
with TBA!](#)

SUKKOT

Friday, September 29 to
Friday, October 6

SHEMINI ATZERET AND SIMCHAT TORAH

Friday, October 6 to Sunday,
October 8

צדק צדק תרדוף
Justice, justice shall you pursue.

LOOKING AHEAD

October includes Breast Cancer Awareness and ADD/ADHD Month. On the Jewish calendar, we can look forward to Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

PLUS: Make sure to read page 3 of this newsletter for our new monthly social justice column.

Affordable Housing in Nashua

Congratulations to a coalition of community groups for the Planning Board's decision not to authorize an asphalt plant in Nashua where it would harm the health and wellbeing of a neighborhood where people of color and low-income people would be disproportionately harmed.

If you are interested in being on the Greater Nashua Interfaith Housing Justice Group's contact list for opportunities to support affordable housing in our region or to help raise the issue at campaign events before this fall's local elections, e-mail Rabbi (rabbijon@tbanashua.org).



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

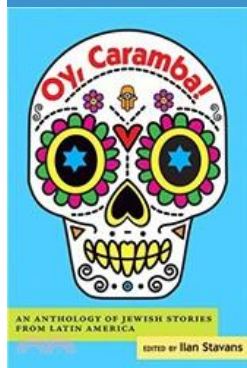
Beginning in 1968, Hispanic Heritage Month was originally observed as "Hispanic Heritage Week", but it was later extended to a month in 1988. Since then, HHM has been celebrated nationwide through festivals, art shows, conferences, community gatherings, and much more. The month also celebrates the independence days of several Latin American countries, including: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15th, Mexico on September 16th, and Chile on September 18th. They also include holidays that recognize Hispanic contributions such as Virgin Islands-Puerto Rico Friendship Day that is celebrated in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

This year's theme is Building Prosperous and Healthy Communities. [Find resources here.](#)

Word of the Month: Bigot

A person who is obstinately devoted to their own opinions and prejudices and is intolerant towards other diverse social groups.

TZEDEK FOR THE SOUL: BOOK CLUB



[Oy, Caramba!: An Anthology of Jewish Stories from Latin America by Ilan Stavans](#)

Jewish identity and magical realism are the themes of the tales of adventure and cultural alienation collected here by the leading authority on Jewish Latin American literature. First published in 1994 as *Tropical Synagogues: Short Stories by Jewish-Latin American Writers*, Ilan Stavans's classic anthology is expanded and updated in this new edition.

Stavans's introduction alone, placing each writer in their historical and geographical context, makes the anthology a critical sourcebook. But the stories them-selves demon-strate a range of vitality and power that is truly eye-opening.

Happiness Is Being Able to Read

By Debra Lynn Carp

For many of us, September is the time of year for high holiday preparations and back-to-school. Beginning a new year and returning to school offers us a sense of renewal. School brings the opportunity for the younger members of our society to take their first steps toward literacy—but being able to read, write, and understand is not just for children.

Strikingly, far too many adults lack the ability to read. Perhaps they never had the opportunity or resources to achieve that competency and may even be ashamed or burdened with the stigma of illiteracy; however, there are solutions.

You can encourage those who lack solid reading skills by using empathy and being a role model. For example, children who come from families with access to books and often see their parents reading are far more likely to become good readers. And friends who constantly see friends with a book become curious as a result.

Through books, people can experience unimaginable drama, hysterical comedy, amazing facts, and places we could never go. Books can make us think, laugh, and cry. They may even expand our worlds.

Our very own shul has a well-stocked library of Jewish books from early learning picture books to adult level materials for congregants to borrow at no cost. The books are mainly housed in the Education Center (in addition to some in the synagogue). To schedule a time to stop and browse the collection, e-mail Temple Board member Ellie Schwartz.

Other wonderful resources for kiddies include [PJ Library](#), an engagement and literacy program offering free books for Jewish children and their families, and [United Way of Greater Nashua](#), which offers tutoring for children.

Further, adults can join The Beth Abraham Book Klub Association (BABKA), which meets the first Wednesday of every month at 8:00p.m. to discuss books by Jewish authors or on Jewish themes. Books are available to attendees.

Here in Nashua, highly rated [Literacy Learning Solutions](#) makes help available in the form of tutoring and training for all ages with various reading challenges and [New Hampshire Humanities - Connections Adult Literacy](#) supports a culture of reading for more than 400 adult learners across the state of New Hampshire each year. Specifically, there are local opportunities for tutoring where a few of our congregants already volunteer, such as the [Adult Learning Center in Nashua](#), which has a large number of students, many of whom are immigrants. Also, [How to teach literacy skills to adults](#) is just one of many websites supporting educators.

More broadly there are several local and state libraries that offer a wide variety of programs and lend thousands of books in various formats (hard copy, large print, electronic, and audio). [The Center for the Book](#) is hosted by the state of New Hampshire in Peterborough.

Some local libraries to note are the [Nashua Public Library](#), [George H. & Ella M. Rodgers Memorial Library](#), [Pelham Public Library](#), [Aaron Cutler Memorial Library](#), [Hollis Social Library](#), and [Leach Library](#).

By utilizing these and other resources, we can all support literacy in our own areas and beyond.

אושר הוא היכולת לקרוא.

(Happiness is being able to read.)