



AS WE DRAW NEAR

to Rosh Hashanah, we look forward to the joyous elements of this wonderful holiday. What is better than celebrating with family and friends, laughing, eating (too much) around a holiday table and joining our sacred community in prayer on these two powerful days?

It's Yom T'ruah, the Day of Sounding the Shofar, and we eagerly anticipate that sound. But it is also Yom Hadin, the Day of Judgement, and that can be nerve-racking. How will be judged, by God, by others and by ourselves? What will this year look like? How will we face the unknown challenges and opportunities before us?

On one hand, the Machzor asks us to put everything in God's hands. On the other hand, we know that as human beings imbued with the gift of free will, we are profoundly responsible for what happens next. On Rosh Hashanah, we pray that God grant us the strength to face whatever will happen in the year to come. We ask God to help us combat and cope with the obstacles before us, and to appreciate and embrace the blessings that envelop us.

But it is not *all* in God's hands. We must take responsibility for our own actions and our own fate. While we cannot control everything that happens, we can, and must, direct our reactions.

This Rosh Hashanah, this Yom Hadin, may we understand that we are responsible for our actions, personally and communally, and that there is deep meaning in all that we do. In the beginning, God created the world from a void. As creatures who are fashioned "b'tzelem Elohim" (in God's image), we are likewise accountable to creating and shaping a world that is in disarray.

Looking forward to coming together in joy for our sacred task.

Wishing you and yours a sweet, happy and healthy new year,
Rabbi David Kalender

WE STAND TOGETHER

each year on Yom Kippur, repentantly and hopefully. The liturgy we recite is reflective: we confess the sins and transgressions that are behind us, and we pledge to be better.

Yet the Machzor is silent on the specific path we are supposed to take in the future. Of course, we know it should be better than last year. Obviously, we should try harder to live a life guided by Torah and Jewish value; we should recognize where we failed and strive to make the world a better place. Each year, Yom Kippur arrives and all of us find our way home: we are pulled by an invisible hand, called by an unheard voice, compelled by nothing more than our conscience and desire to return, to do Teshuvah, and pray that this year we will be better than we were. We stand here at this moment each year, asking God and each other for understanding, mercy, and forgiveness.

We do this because our souls are filled with what the late-great Jim Henson once described as "ridiculous optimism," the belief that what we do in this world, the time and effort, the thought and consideration, are going to help make our lives and the world better. This ridiculous optimism encourages us to keep trying, to keep approaching life in positive and productive ways, because we know that the spiritual work we do on Yom Kippur and throughout the year will and does work.

While ridiculous optimism inspires our prayers and rituals, our actions must be paired with an idea of self-betterment American writer Ken Wilber described as "Transcend and Include." Each year, we must go beyond who we were in the past; but we can only do so by including who we were into who we want to be.

Yom Kippur is not about a 'clean slate.' Neither God nor we forget what happened in the past, but there is a willingness to forgive and move forward. To accomplish this, to do true Teshuvah, repentance, we must incorporate our past into our future. It's not easy; we need ridiculous optimism because it takes time, years, decades even, to improve ourselves in deep and significant ways.

As we begin the New Year of 5780 together, we should be optimistic, perhaps ridiculously so, that it will be a year filled with health, joy, love and growth. It will be a year in which we transcend some of our greatest challenges, a year that includes who we were and who we want to become, and it will be something that we do standing together, just as we have, just as we will, in every year.

Shanah Tovah U'Metukah,
Rabbi Evan Ravski

שנה טובה



A new year. a new name

As 5779 comes to an end, the OT Chorale concludes its 18th year. With 5780 comes a new group name: Shir HaLev, the Community Jewish Chorale of Northern Virginia.

Shir HaLev (song of the heart) aptly describes the heart and soul the singers put into each musical presentation. The group selected its new name to reflect its community focus in both membership and audience.

Under the musical direction of Carol Boyd Leon, Shir HaLev will sing at several Shabbat evening services at Greenspring Village, interfaith concerts in Fairfax and the greater DC area, and community events. The repertoire consists mainly of Jewish liturgical music, with some contemporary Jewish music and secular showtunes as well.

Rehearsals are held at OT on selected Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm. The group holds an annual Chanukah potluck and occasional other informal get-togethers during the year.

To remain viable, the group needs to increase its membership. Male singers are especially needed, but all voice parts are welcomed. Annual dues are \$100. All music is provided.

We invite you to attend a rehearsal or two to see if you find group singing is a good fit for you.

To start the new year off on a musical note, contact Carol at 703-338-7631 or cboydleon@gmail.com.

Get ready for the High Holidays

BE AN USHER OR A GREETER

Perform the valuable mitzvah of helping to ensure that our services are pleasant and welcoming. We need greeters to welcome people in the lobby, hand out machzorim and direct people to different service entrances, and ushers to control traffic flow in and out of the services.

To sign up to be a greeter or usher, [CLICK HERE](#).

If you have questions, contact Dan Werbel at dan@werbel.org.

LEARN ABOUT HOLIDAY LITURGY

Wednesdays, September 18 & 25, 7:30pm

Rabbi Kalender's class will consider the first service of Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre, its resonant music and perplexing words and its profound meaning in our liturgy and history.

Rabbi Ravski's class will study the composition, history and meaning behind *Unetaneh Tokef*, recited during the High Holidays.

Choose one class or come to both!



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REFLECTIONS ON A SCHOOL SEMESTER IN ISRAEL

Jonah Werbel

AS A STUDENT AT TICHON RAMAH YERUSHALAYIM (TRY) FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER OF MY SOPHOMORE YEAR, I WAS BEYOND PRIVILEGED TO CALL THE CITY OF JERUSALEM MY HOME AND TO LEARN ABOUT THE STATE OF ISRAEL WITH 31 OF MY NEWEST AND CLOSEST FRIENDS.



A pre-Shabbat photo, making a Magen David together with 5 other boys

This was my second time in Israel (the first being a 2014 family trip led by Rabbi Kalender), and living there as a Jewish teen enabled an even deeper connection to the land. I felt comfortable expressing my Judaism publicly, and I felt at ease when we did tefillot in public areas (including the side of the road in the desert, outside of a museum, and even at an airport). This bond deepened further as I learned more and more about my Jewish heritage and history.

The true cornerstone of the program was the Israel Core Course, or ICC. In this course, we learned Jewish and Israeli history in chronological order, beginning with Abrahamic times (directly from the TaNaKh), all the way through modern-day Israel and politics. The special thing about the course is that, after studying a topic in the classroom, we went to a place relevant to that event, or even where it happened. On one of the first days of TRY, our teacher, Miriam, told us that you don't really learn the history until you walk the land with your two feet, see the sights with your own eyes, smell the smells and, essentially, create connections beyond the limits of a traditional classroom.

One of our most awesome ICC lessons covered the destruction of the Second Temple. We learned the facts in the classroom; then we made the short drive from the Goldstein Youth Village (the campus we lived on in Jerusalem) to the Old City. After davening Shacharit by Robinson's Arch, we walked around the Old City, went to the Kotel, and learned about the Temple's destruction where it actually happened. We saw ruins, considered the experience of one family, and much more. As the day drew to a close, we made our way to the mountain Masada. We followed the Zealots' steps as they fled South, determined to keep Judaism alive despite the holy city's destruction. We hiked Masada the next morning and realized even more about the significance of the mountain while atop it.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

Later in the semester, we traveled to Poland to learn about the Shoah as part of our ICC curriculum. Visiting the camps and mass graves was extremely difficult for everyone. But as we acknowledged what happened, we celebrated our Judaism, rejoiced that we could freely show that we are Jewish. We demonstrated the vibrancy of our Judaism and Jewish teenagers by finding time to sing and dance with other Jewish groups. Some of these groups included people with whom we likely would not interact while in Israel, but whom we found we needed as we discovered our shared history of the Shoah. Those moments of singing in Hebrew with complete strangers, needing to be with both them and my closest friends from TRY, were the times that I've felt most connected to the Jewish community as a whole.

Just a few days after Pesach, TRY experienced four days of IDF Basic Training, in a program called Gadna. After learning about how the IDF works, we traveled to an actual IDF base in the Negev, where we donned our green IDF uniforms and reported to an IDF commander from the Nahal brigade. Throughout the experience, we grew as one unified unit and team, gaining trust in one another as we completed our commander's every task together.

I see the IDF as a unifier for Israel: every adult has worn that olive-green uniform and pledged to defend their country. Even though we weren't actual IDF soldiers, our small taste of the army helped us understand the pride in serving the State of Israel. In our final hours on base, we took part in the base-wide ceremony in commemoration of Yom HaShoah. Standing silently with the rest of the country as the siren blared its screeching tone was one of the most powerful, meaningful, and beautiful moments of TRY.



Me with Tallit and Tefillin in the town of Tarnów, Poland.

I'm standing in front of the bima of the synagogue, the only part of the synagogue left standing after the Nazis rounded up all the Jews.



Me in my IDF uniform at Gadna, standing at attention.

THE FOUR MONTHS I SPENT IN ISRAEL were amazing; every moment was special. If I could relive them, I would.

TRY taught me the best way to learn the history of Judaism, by walking the land, making the land my classroom. I highly recommend TRY as a way to forge countless new connections—with our people, our land, our history, and our culture.

I found a new love and appreciation for Israel, which will enable me to support and advocate for the Jewish state now and in the future. TRY did all of this for me, and it gave me the best semester of my life.

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Around Olam Tikvah

B'nei Mitzvah



Saturday, September 7

Jacob Aron Kaplan,

son of Barbara & Seth and brother of Jonah, is a rising 8th grader at Thoreau Middle School. Jak makes friends wherever he goes! He is an amazing electric guitar player, favoring artists from the 70s and 80s, such as Jimi Hendrix, Guns N' Roses, and Metallica. He is also passionate about exotic sports cars (supercars) and jet planes, hoping one day to pilot one. Jak is excited to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah with his grandparents, Leslie & Samuel Kaplan and Carole & Michael Mendelson, as well as his family and friends from near and far.

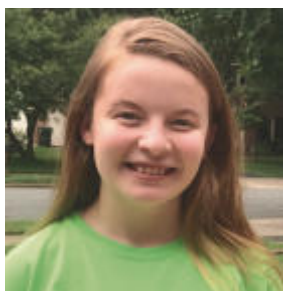
Parashat Shoftim

Saturday, September 14

Selilah Hopkins,

daughter of Elizabeth & Kevin and sister of Amiel and Nesya, is a Thoreau Middle School 8th grader. She graduated from OT Preschool and attended Gesher Jewish Day School and OT Religious School. Selilah is an avid dancer, studying ballet, contemporary, and jazz, as well as competing on a Hip Hop team. In her free time, she loves baking, singing, and socializing with her friends. She was involved with many activities at school, including running club and I Can Shine, a program that teaches special needs kids to ride bicycles. She is looking forward to celebrating her Bat Mitzvah with her friends and family.

Parashat Ki Teitzei



Saturday, September 21

Ainsley Kraus,

daughter of Claudette & Evan and sister of Brennan, David, and Leighton, is a rising 8th grader at Flint Hill Middle School in Oakton. Ainsley is a member of the FHS volleyball, basketball and softball teams. As her mitzvah project, Ainsley is collecting donations of your favorite book—any age, any genre—for her mitzvah book shelf. She will be distributing these books to area shelters, homes, and disaster centers. Ainsley wants to share her love of books and reading to others. We are excited to have so many family and friends joining us for this celebration. Thank you, Grandma and Papa, for helping with everything!

Parashat Ki Tavo

From Our Hearts

Kiddush Sponsors

*Thank you for your donations to the Kiddush Fund,
in honor of your September anniversaries.*

September 1-5

Julie & Eric Akawie; Jeanette & Barry Astrow;
Erica Silverstein & Adam Black; Amy & Michael Friedman;
Jennifer & Alan Gorowitz; Lauren & Daniel Halper;
Margery & Stephen Kraus; Francine & Robert Lasken;
Constance & Lawrence Leibowitz; Jane & Marc Shichman;
Sara & Edward Silverman; Brittanie & Dan Werbel (20)

September 6-12

Clare & Herb Bachner; Ann & Louis Bryan (60);
Wendy & Stuart Hoffman; Gail & Mark Lumer;
Emilee Pressman & Eli Schlam; Sara & Mitchell Schuler (10)

September 13-19

Patricia & Jeffrey Freilich; Debbie & Steven Kirsch (5);
Ilse & Roger Vorchheimer

September 27-30

Dotty & Al Fuchsman

*Thank you to Jane Behrmann, Lynne Dubin, and Linda Meyer,
for making anniversary calls.*

Mazal Tov

We wish a hearty mazal tov to...

Bev & Ron Goldberg, on the birth of their great granddaughter, Emma Renee, daughter of Jessica & David Goldberg,
granddaughter of Mary & Mark Goldberg

Shana Weiss & Coleman Sachs, on the birth of their granddaughter, Lilah Florence, daughter of Shira Sachs & Ben Gold

Amy & Gregory Smolen, on the birth of their son, Henry Joseph

Condolence

We acknowledge the passing of ...

Edward Goldberg, father of David Goldberg

Jack Klevan, husband of Carol Klevan

Tzedakah

*Thank you for your donations, which were received
by July 31, 2019.*

Annual Campaign

IN MEMORY OF

Richard Cassell, by Rita & James O'Brien; Bella & Judd Fink

Capital Improvement Fund

IN HONOR OF

60th wedding anniversary of Deedy & Ed Eisenson, by Ruth & Ed Diener
George Billinson, for all he does during services, by Ruth & Ed Diener
Rande & Jerry Markowitz, for helping make services warm and friendly,
by Ruth & Ed Diener

IN MEMORY OF

Richard Cassell, by Bonnie & Larry Roffenbender

Comfort and Condolence Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Lena Morrison Rubin, mother of Jeffrey Rubin, by Fraida & Alan Zusman
Richard Cassell, by Ellen Poor

Emanuel Passamaneck Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Sylvia Lederhandler, mother of Merle, by Merle & Michael Toobin
Victor Lederhandler, father of Merle, by Merle & Michael Toobin

Gerald Brissman/Lyle Miller/Carol Samuels Youth & College Fund

IN HONOR OF

60th wedding anniversary of Deedy & Ed Eisenson, by Sue & Ken Cohn
Engagement of Joel Taubman to Marla Wolf, by Sue & Ken Cohn

IN MEMORY OF

Richard Cassell, by Sue & Ken Cohn

R'FUAH SH'LAYMAH

Marie Taubman, by Sue & Ken Cohn
Shula Friedman, by Sue & Ken Cohn

Harold T. Rib Torah & Religious Articles Fund

Thank you to Al Fuchsman for his kindness, by Howard Nachman

Jerry Werbel Memorial Landscape Fund

IN HONOR OF

60th wedding anniversary of Deedy & Ed Eisenson,
by Elizabeth & Peter Maer; Merle & Michael Toobin
Birth of Lior Charlyze Kastner, daughter of Simone & Jason,
granddaughter of Jill & Sam, by Merle & Michael Toobin

IN MEMORY OF

Faye Lieberman, by Joan & Don Sacarob
Irene Walder, by Joan & Don Sacarob

HIGH HOLIDAYS 5780

CLICK HERE olamtikvah.org/highholidays
for High Holiday information.

Erev Rosh Hashanah is Sunday, September 29.

New this year: Due to increased security measures,
no one will be admitted into the building
without a ticket or photo ID.

Rabbi Itzhaq M. Klirs Memorial Adult Education Fund

IN HONOR OF

Birth of my great grandson, Edward Alexander Stern, son of Elizabeth & Morgan, grandson of Heidi & Steve, by Bernice Stern
Engagement of Marla Wolfe to Joel Taubman, by Kitty & Jack Timmes
Naming of Melanie Elise Kirsch, daughter of Debbie & Steven, grand-daughter of Shula & Jack Friedman, by Debbie & Mark Weber

IN MEMORY OF

Adele Grossman, by Sarahbeth Grossman
Elizabeth Lipof, by Sarahbeth Grossman
Irving Greenspon, by Ellen Altman Milhiser
Meyer Fortgang, by Sarahbeth Grossman

R'FUAH SH'LAYMAH

Karen Hemmerdinger, by Debbie & Mark Weber
Lisa Sherwin Wulf, daughter of Maxine & Ron Sherwin,
by Chai Chavurah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

IN HONOR OF

Fred Cooper, by Helen Leiner
Our 20th wedding anniversary, by Linda Halle & Richard Bopp
Rabbi Evan Ravski, by Helen Leiner
Rabbi Kalender; Thank you for the lovely wedding ceremony
for Lisa & Jordan, by Andrea & Jerry Gross
Rabbi Kalender and Rabbi Ravski, by Barbara Holleb

IN MEMORY OF

Jack Klevan, by Eileen & Norman Leshan
Larry Kalender, by Francine & Robert Lasken;
Melissa & Steve Hochberg; Etta Gabel

Robert Natkin Religious School Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Gary Edwin Ackerman, by Traci & Eliot Goldberg

Stahl Family Experience Israel Fund

IN HONOR OF

Marriage of Liliana Gregory & Neal Schneider,
by Merle & Michael Toobin
Engagement of Marla Wolfe to Joel Taubman,
by Merle & Michael Toobin; Rachelle & Joel Palley
Peter Maer being inducted into the Society of Professional Journalists
Hall of Fame, by Merle & Michael Toobin
Peter Maer receiving the Walter Cronkite Faith & Freedom Award,
by Merle & Michael Toobin

IN MEMORY OF

Richard Cassell, by Rachelle & Joel Palley

R'FUAH SH'LAYMAH

Lauren Reisig, by Beth & Barry Reisig

Tzedakah Fund

IN HONOR OF

60th anniversary of Deedy & Ed Eisenson,
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Andi Dorlester's outstanding service as Sisterhood President, 2017-2019,
by Barbara & Jim Finkel
Olam Tikvah, by Elaine Tolk

TZEDAKAH, *Continued from page 6***IN MEMORY OF**

Abraham Lachovitzky, by Hemda Gold
 Adeline Rosenthal, by Jane Behrmann
 Aida Bicher, by Nogah & Robert Helfant
 Albert Cohen, by Barbara & Robert Cohen
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 Anna Bernstein, by Florence & Alvin Bernstein
 Aylin Schluskel, by Neil Schluskel
 Barbara Albers, by Martha & Paul Hill
 Bella Greenberg, by Morey Greenberg
 Benjamin Stein, by Debra & Herman Stein
 Dave Schwartz, by Sid Schwartz
 David Greenbaum, by Robert Greenbaum
 Dorothy Werber, by Elaine Tolk
 Eleanor Metz, by Edward Diener
 Estelle Foss, by Rhoda & Mark Miller
 Ethal Goldberg,
 by Betsy & Joseph Goldberg
 Eva F.S. Ellis, by Raymond Ellis
 Frances Brosh Leventhal,
 by Lynne & Elliott Dubin

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 by Florence & Alvin Bernstein
 Ira Westreich, by Joan & Steve Heller
 Irving Bernstein,
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 Jack Lerner, by Fredda Lerner
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 Jules Redler, by Beverly & Barry Redler
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 Lilla Wolfman,
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 Mark Goldberg, by Frances & Charles Lehrhaupt

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 Nessie Schwartz, by Sid Schwartz
 Ori Cherin, by Michelle Avda
 Pearl Waxman, by Jerome Stein
 Phyllis Ann Silberman,
 by Jacqueline & Jon Silberman
 Raymond Lubing, by Lael Lubing
 Richard Cassell, by Doris Lewis
 Ronald Rubin, by Bruce Rubin
 Rosanne Goldgell, by Marsha Feldman
 Rose Halper Tebeleff, by Beverly Polmar
 Roslyn Sobel, by Beverly & Barry Redler
 Reuben Drzen, by Judy & Stan Schretter
 Rusty Glazer, by Rita Glazer
 Selma Bubel, by Donna & Jeffrey Ackerman
 Sergio Marten, by Rachel Rothberg
 Sipora Shiff, by Allon Shiff
 William Gilbert, by Alan Gilbert
R'FUAH SH'LAYMAH
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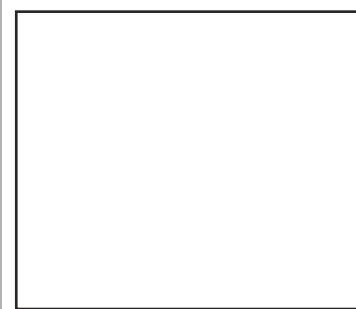
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September-October 2019 Calendar Highlights

SEPTEMBER 2019

MON	2	11:00am	Labor Day Picnic
SUN	8	9:00am	First Day of OTRS
SUN	15	9:45am	Sisterhood Fall Brunch
SUN	15	12:00pm	Grand Slam Sunday
SUN	15	7:00pm	ABBA and Men's Club Bowling Night
SAT	21	8:00pm	Slichot Film and Service
SUN	22	10:00am	Young Families Sukkot Workshop
SUN	29	6:45pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
MON	30	9:00am	Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Sanctuary Service
MON	30	10:00am	Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Social Hall Service
MON	30	6:30pm	Tashlich
MON	30	7:35pm	Ma'ariv

OCTOBER 2019

TUE	1	9:00am	Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Service
TUE	1	7:35pm	Ma'ariv
TUE	8	6:30pm	Kol Nidre
WED	9	9:00am	Yom Kippur Sanctuary Service
WED	9	10:00am	Yom Kippur Social Hall Service
WED	9	5:00pm	Mincha, Neila, Ma'ariv, Shofar
SUN	13	6:15pm	Erev Sukkot Ma'ariv
MON	14	9:30am	Sukkot Day 1 Service
MON	14	7:15pm	Ma'ariv
TUE	15	9:30am	Sukkot Day 2 Service
TUE	15	7:15pm	Ma'ariv
WED	16	12:00pm	HAZAK Lunch in the Sukkah
WED	16	7:00pm	Men's Club Beer in the Sukkah
SUN	20	8:30am	Hoshanah Raba
SUN	20	6:00pm	Erev Shmini Atzeret Service
MON	21	9:30am	Shmini Atzeret Service, including Yizkor
MON	21	7:00pm	Erev Simchat Torah, Ma'ariv and Hakafot
TUE	22	9:30am	Simchat Torah Service
TUE	22	7:00pm	Ma'ariv
SUN	27	9:45am	Men's Club Election Brunch