

September 2020

Elul 5780 - Tishrei 5781

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

THE SATELL CENTER
FOR JEWISH LIFE ON
THE EASTERN SHORE

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

*Services will be streamed on the TBI
Facebook page until further notice*

Friday, September 4, 6:00 p.m.

Torah Portion: Ki Tavo
Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8
Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22

Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m.

Torah Portion: Nitzavim/Vayeilech
Deuteronomy 29:9-31:30
Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-63:9

Friday, September 18, 6:00 p.m.

Torah Portion: Rosh HaShanah
Genesis 21:1-22:24
Haftarah: I Samuel 1:1-2:10;
Jeremiah 31:2-20

Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m.

Torah Portion: Haazinu
Deuteronomy 32:1-52
Haftarah: Hosea 14:2-10;
Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-27

HIGH HOLIDAYS SERVICES

See p.4

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



Friends,

As the summer departs and we cross the threshold into the month of September with all that it brings, the first thing I want to do is wish for you, yours, and indeed, all of us, a **Shana Tova u'M'tukah** - a good, New Year filled with meaning, joy, continued success, and most especially, health.

This New Year 5781 is like none we have ever experienced. We know this. But, we are prepared and determined to celebrate our sacred Holy Days meaningfully and appropriately. We will live stream all our High Holiday Services. We will, as we always do, conduct a Cemetery Service, this year maintaining proper social distancing between worshippers. We will also, on Rosh HaShana afternoon, conduct our Tashlich Service at the water's edge at the end of Port Street. All necessary and appropriate social distancing practices will be in place for Tashlich as well.

Without question, Covid 19 and the pandemic have caused us to adjust and adapt. We have done so successfully and effectively. The programs organized and arranged by the gifted members of our Lifelong Learning Committee have been excellent. The topics chosen have been timely, interesting, informative, and engaging. These programs have also allowed us to maintain connection to one another and to the Temple. Thank you Lifelong Learning Committee.

Our Religious School will begin the new school year after the High Holidays. Our dedicated teachers, Annie Kruger and Dr. Laurie Lewis, have adjusted the religious school calendar and program to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, our families and our teachers. Adjustments and changes notwithstanding, our commitment to providing our students a strong and meaningful Jewish education cannot be derailed by Covid 19.



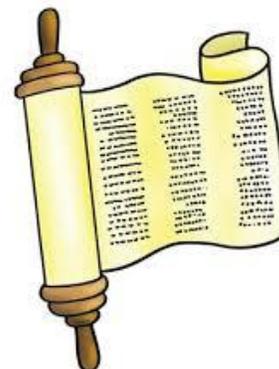
We are seeking to expand our Religious School staff this year. We are looking for a volunteer from the Congregation who will serve as Administrative Assistant to our Religious School. This individual will assist our teachers and help them as they prepare and present the curriculum, The Religious School Administrative Assistant will maintain contact with our parents and

families, strengthening the connection between the Religious School and the Congregation. If you are interested in this opportunity please contact me or our President, Elaine Friedman, or our Executive Director, Lori Ramsey.

Our Rabbis teach us that one of the most important responsibilities placed upon the shoulders of a congregation is the maintenance, upkeep, preservation and protection of our sacred scrolls. We are obligated by halacha (Jewish Law) to make sure our Torah scrolls are in pristine condition, thereby assuring their ritual viability. This practice applies not only to our Torah scrolls. This rabbinic standard applies also to the scrolls we use on Purim, the Megillat Esther.

If you have ever participated in our Purim Megillah reading (which is as fun a religious experience as one can have) you have seen me read from a magnificently calligraphed Megillah scroll. Well, this scroll, our Purim Megillah, needs repair and restoration. To replace our Megillah with one of equal beauty and value would be very costly. Our Megillah scroll does need repair.

When Rabbi Moshe Durin from Sofer On Site visited us several years ago, to repair one of our three Torah scrolls, we had the opportunity to "purchase" a single letter, a word, a sentence, a paragraph, a column or an entire page or more of Torah. By so doing, we contributed to and underwrote the cost of those reparations. Our Megillah scroll really is in need of repair. This is an opportunity to participate in a unique mitzvah - helping repair a sacred scroll. We will acknowledge all those who contribute to the Megillah Repair Project in an appropriate way.



So, as you can see, we are headed into our New Year 5781 with lots to do. Our Temple is strong, vibrant and energetic. My prayer is that our energy, our vision and our dedication will nurture our souls, strengthen our spirits and provide inspiration as we continue into this New Year **m'koach I'koach** - going from strength to strength.

Shana Tova u'M'tukah

Shalom, Rabbi

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope this letter finds you well. Although these strange times have slowed down the days, I am astonished at how quickly the Days of Awe have crept up on us. We are in the midst of trying to dot all our i's and cross all of our t's in preparation for the Zoomed Holy Days Services. Please note that both Tashlich and the Cemetery Service will be in person. Also, please pick up prayer books, if you need them. In case you do not have or get a prayer book, we will be sending a packet before each Holy Day (just like we do for each weekly Shabbat Service), with the text for that Service. Please remember to send in your Roll of Remembrance by September 9.

Once again, thank you to the Lifelong Learning Committee for all the programs they have arranged for us. If the three that we have had are any indication of the quality, we have a great deal to look forward to!

In the spirit of the holiday, if I have wronged any of you, please forgive me. Please also let me know because as Maimonides says, we cannot change unless we know that we have transgressed.

I wish all of you, our community—and indeed the world—a *Shanah Tovah*. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a happy, healthy, peaceful, prosperous, safe, secure, and spiritually rewarding New Year.

Shalom, Elaine

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Temple B'nai Israel Members,

This is my second year celebrating the High Holy Days with you, and it's quite a different preparation process this year as compared to last. While the High Holy Days prayer books have been taken out of storage, security has been hired and planning is equally as rigorous, it will be strange to not have the parking lot full and the lobby a buzz with members greeting each other during services.

Rabbi Hyman, Marcia Shapiro, Rob Styles and I have been working together to bring you a meaningful virtual High Holy Days experience. My role has mainly been one of logistics of security, purchasing video equipment (on Rob's advisement), live streaming rehearsals and making sure our Cantorial Soloist has a place to lay his head down at night.

Logistics is a large part of my job in a variety of areas; whether it's managing our building and grounds, working with our Engage! Lifelong Learning Committee to promote and produce their high-quality virtual programming, or supporting the Board and Rabbi Hyman in their work. I'm fortunate to have a job that is varied in its work and never boring!

I look forward to next year, when I hope to say L'Shana Tova to you all in person.

Shalom, Lori

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We warmly welcome the newest members of our Temple Family

Pamela and David Bernstein, from St. Michaels

*Lori Morris (Anita Morris's daughter) and husband
Mark Pelavin, from St. Michaels*

High Holy Days Services 5781/2020

Selichot

Saturday, September 12th

9:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 18th

7:30 p.m.

Morning Service

Saturday, September 19th

10:00 a.m.

Tashlich Service (Easton Point Marina on Port Street)

Saturday, September 19th

2:00 p.m.



Cemetery Service at Oxford Cemetery

Wednesday, September 23rd

10:30 a.m.

Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre

Sunday, September 27th

7:30 p.m.

Morning Service

Monday, September 28th

10:00 a.m.

Afternoon Service

Monday, September 28th

4:00 p.m.

Sukkot

Friday, October 2nd

7:30 p.m.

Simchat Torah Yizkor/Havdalah

Saturday October 10th

7:30 p.m.

Holiday of the Month - Selichot

The High Holiday season begins with Rosh Hashanah and the start of the new month of *Tishrei*. Jewish tradition, however, teaches that the preceding month of *Elul* is a time of soul-searching and reflection to prepare oneself for the magnitude of the Days of Awe. It is during this time that we observe Selichot.



Selichot are penitential prayers said before and during the High Holidays and other fast days throughout the year. In Hebrew, *selichot* translates to “forgiveness,” and indeed there is an emphasis in these prayers on the merciful attributes with which God is said to govern the world. In many ways, the prayers which make up the *Selichot* service mirror what we find on the Day of Atonement which follows soon after. The language of these qualities should sound familiar to anyone who has recited the liturgy throughout Yom Kippur when we speak about God’s ability to forgive “transgression, iniquity, and sin.” We begin and end the season of repentance with the same words, calling out to the compassionate God who we hope will accept our prayers. Prayers are read and meditations considered as individuals are encouraged to reflect on the past year and the changes they wish to make in the upcoming one.

Prayer for the Start of a Pandemic School Year



Mishebeirach doroteinu, may the one who blessed the generations before, bless us — students, parents, teachers, administrators, and staff — as we begin this strange school year.

May we be blessed with fast Internet connections and access to functional technology.

May we be blessed with fast friendships and well-earned learning.

May we be blessed with muscle memory for curiosity and collaboration.

May we be blessed with muscle memory for compassion and cooperation.

May we be blessed with excitement over seeing familiar faces and reconnecting with friends.

May we be blessed with the excitement over meeting new friends and teachers.

May we be blessed with patience, for slow internet speeds and frozen Zoom screens.

May we be blessed with patience, for teachers, friends, and parents learning new technologies and new concepts.

Above all, may we be blessed with the ability to make connections and community, growing as teachers and learners — no matter our role or title.

Rabbi Sari Laufer

kveller.com



To Help Lighten Things Up

This one is not meant to be political!



Kamala Harris married Jewish lawyer Douglas Emhoff in 2014. In a January 2019 talk about her book, *The Truths We Hold*, she told the story of her first meeting with her future Jewish mother-in-law.

Click on the image

The Rabbi, Shofar and the Dog

When the Rabbi hosted a workshop on the upcoming Jewish New Year, a passerby decided to join in and add its voice to the mix.

Click on the image or copy this link into your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00vFNzIXmNU>



Try this sing-along to a very familiar tune. We're not going to name the tune, but after the first few stanzas you'll know it!

Happy New Year, in September
Rosh Hashanah-na na-na na na

Mom says come, or it will end her
Rosh Hashanah-na na-na na na

Dip the apples in the honey
Rosh Hasha-nah-na-na na na na



Uncle David's jokes aren't funny
Rosh Hashanah-na na-na na na!

Shanah Tovah / Happy New Year!
Rosh Hashanah-na na-na na na

Took off work so I could be here
Rosh Hashanah-na na-na na na

Toss our sins into the water
Rosh Hasha-nah-na-na na na na

Patiently forgive your daughter
Rosh Hashanah-na na-na na na!

Got here late, but it's still going
Rosh Hashanah-na na-na na na

Favorite part's the Shofar blowing
Rosh Hashanah-na na-na na na

Hebrew's tough, what is that letter?
Rosh Hasha-nah-na-na na na na

Surely, next year I'll do better
Rosh Haggadah-da da-da da da!
-Lyrics by Clay Brown, Jewbelong.com





The How, When, Where of Voting this November on the Eastern Shore

The 2020 Presidential Election is upon us and the buzz is getting louder. Do you feel confused and anxious about being certain your vote will count this year?

GET THE FACTS!

Temple B'nai Israel is proud to present a learning opportunity for our members, friends, and their families. The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy. You want your vote to be counted.

Thursday, September 3 from 4:30-5:30 PM, the Lifelong Learning Committee presents a free Zoom meeting hosted by Jeri Cook, Election Director for the Talbot County Board of Elections. Mara Abrams will be moderating the discussion.

Jeri Cook is the "go to person" on the Eastern Shore for understanding the process and answering all your questions. This comprehensive meeting will include the following:

- How to know if you are registered
- How to vote by mail or in person
- Where and when to vote
- In person, mail in, provisional ballots
- Deadlines for ballots
- Q&A session

Registration Required





A Journey Through Sephardic History, Culture and Cuisine

As part of our *Lifelong Learning ENGAGE!* series, join Chef Susan Barocas for a fascinating journey through Sephardic history, culture and cuisine. Over three programs, we'll learn, cook and enjoy gathering together virtually as Chef Susan—whose ancestors fled the Inquisition finding new homes in the Ottoman Empire—shares her knowledge, recipes and personal stories. All registered participants will receive a copy of Susan's recipes from the series.

Thursday, October 1, 7-8:30

Tastes Across Centuries: The Enduring Influence of Foods from Spain's Sephardic Jews

Follow the food trail of Sephardic Jews from 2nd century BCE through the 15th century Inquisition and into modern history and onto our tables today. Chef Susan will take us on a fascinating journey that reveals the surprising influence Sephardic cuisine has had on many cuisines around the world.

Saturday, October 10, 4:00-6:30 pm

Sephardic Cooking Demo and Cook-along

Cook-along with Chef Susan as she prepares a meal full of Sephardic flavors or you can choose to sit back and just enjoy the cooking presentation. In advance of class, all registrants will receive the menu and list of ingredients and equipment along with preparation instructions so everyone who wants to cook together will be ready to prepare a special, delicious meal to enjoy for dinner after the program.



Saturday, October 17, 6:30-7:30 pm

Havdalah and Tastes of Turkish Coffee and Sephardic Sweets

*"The heart seeks neither the coffee or the coffee house. The heart seeks a friend.
The coffee house is just an excuse."* (Turkish proverb)

Come together with Rabbi Hyman to mark the end of Shabbat with a beautiful Havdalah service followed by our own virtual coffee house. Chef Susan will talk about traditions and tastes of Sephardic sweets and Turkish coffee, and demonstrate preparation of the coffee followed by some fortunetelling with the tradition of reading fortunes in grinds left in the cups.



Susan Barocas is a writer, chef, teacher and speaker with a passion for healthy cooking and Jewish history and food, especially Sephardic cuisines. Founding director of the innovative Jewish Food Experience, she served as guest chef for three Seders in the Obama White House. Susan is a member of Les Dames d'Escoffier International culinary society.

FEE: JUST \$36 per registrant, includes all 3 sessions

Look for future communications detailing the registration process.

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:30 am Advancement Committee Meeting	3	4 7:11 pm candle lighting Shabbat/Birthday Service Live Streaming 6:00-7:00 pm	5
6	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 Executive Committee Meeting	9	10	11 7:00 pm candle lighting	12 Shabbat Service Live Streaming 10:00-11:00 am Selichot Service Live Streaming 8:30-9:30 pm
13 Board Meeting 10:00 am Via ZOOM	14	15	16	17	18 6:48 pm candle lighting Shabbat Service Live Streaming 6:00-7:00 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 7:30 pm Live Streaming	19 Rosh Hashanah Service Live Streaming 10:00 am Tashlich Service 2:00 pm
20	21	22	23 Cemetery Service Oxford 10:30-11:30	24	25 6:37 pm candle lighting	26 Shabbat Service Live Streaming 10:00-11:00 am
27 Kol Nidre Service 7:30-8:30 pm Live Streaming	28 Yom Kippur Office Closed Yom Kippur Service 10:00 am Live Streaming	29	30	1	2 6:25 pm candle lighting	3

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