

AZOY

"Is that so?"

5777
OCTOBER
2016



UNION for
REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית

SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

The Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel
The Reform Jewish Congregation of Bay County
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HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AT TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

Rabbi Alana Wasserman will lead us in prayer and Daniel Sternlicht will add his voice as soloist for High Holiday services at Temple B'nai Israel.

Rosh Hashanah

Sunday October 2
Monday October 3

| | |
|---|----------|
| <i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i> | 7:00 pm |
| <i>Rosh Hashanah Morning Service</i> | 10:00 am |
| <i>Tashlich Service at St Andrew Marina</i> | 1:30 pm |

followed immediately by lunch at Bangkok Thai Restaurant, Callaway

Yom Kippur

Tuesday October 11
Wednesday October 12

| | |
|---|----------|
| <i>Kol Nidre</i> | 7:00 pm |
| <i>Yom Kippur Morning Service</i> | 10:00 am |
| <i>Children's Yom Kippur Service</i> | 3:00 pm |
| <i>Yizkor & Neilah Service - bring your shofar for the "Big Blow"</i> | 4:00 pm |
| <i>Concluding Service</i> | 5:00 pm |

Break-the-Fast meal to follow services - hosted by the TBI Sisterhood

A suggested donation from non-members of \$50 per holiday is appreciated.

WISHING YOU
AND YOUR
FAMILY A
SWEET AND
HEALTHY NEW
YEAR



❧ The President's Message ❧

As we begin the High Holy Days, I want to wish each of you a very happy, prosperous and healthy New Year. For those who are lacking good health I hope this new year brings healing and renewed strength. For those seeking employment, I hope you find the path to gainful challenging work. For those who are sad or depressed, I hope you find the little things in life to be grateful and glad for. For those who are lonely, I hope you reach out to the hand of a friend. And for those who seek inspiration, I hope you renew your relationship with G-d or the spirit that speaks to you.

We are each only here for a short time. The Holidays give us a new chance to make the most of it. Grab it!

Have a very Sweet Year,

L'shalom - Sarah

OCTOBER CALENDAR

| | | | |
|------|-------|--------------------------------|--|
| SUN | 10/2 | 9:30 am 7:00 pm | No Religious School Erev Rosh Hashanah Service with Rabbi Wasserman |
| MON | 10/3 | 10:00 am 1:00 pm 1:30 pm | Rosh Hashanah Service with Rabbi Wasserman Tashlich at St Andrew Marina: 3151 W 10th St, Panama City Congregational Lunch at Bangkok Thai Restaurant: 307 S Tyndall Pkwy, Callaway |
| SUN | 10/9 | 9:30 am | Religious School |
| TUES | 10/11 | 7:00 pm | Kol Nidre Service with Rabbi Wasserman |
| WED | 10/12 | 10:00 am 3:00 pm 4:00 PM | Yom Kippur Morning Service with Rabbi Wasserman Children's Service Yizkor / Ne'ilah / Concluding Service <i>followed by Break-the-Fast, hosted by the Temple Sisterhood</i> |
| THUR | 10/13 | 6:15 pm | Monthly Temple Board of Directors Meeting: <i>note date and time change</i> |
| SUN | 10/16 | 9:00 am 9:30 am 11:00 am | Build the Sukkah with Nate and crew Religious School "Shakes in the Shack" <i>Making milkshakes to enjoy in the Sukkah</i> |
| WED | 10/19 | 6:30 pm | Sisterhood Meeting |
| SUN | 10/23 | 9:30 am | Religious School |
| TUES | 10/25 | 6:30 pm | Simchat Torah celebrated at TBI |
| SUN | 10/30 | 9:30 am | Religious School |

October Shabbat & Holiday Candle-Lighting Times

Take a break from the hectic work week and mark the Day of Rest – and the Holidays – with lighting of the candles.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 10/02 6:08 pm <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> | 10/14 5:54 pm <i>Shabbat</i> | 10/23 5:45 pm <i>Shemini Atzeret</i> |
| 10/07 6:02 pm <i>Shabbat</i> | 10/16 5:52 pm <i>Sukkot</i> | 10/24 5:43 pm <i>Simchat Torah</i> |
| 10/11 5:58 pm <i>Yom Kippur</i> | 10/21 5:47 pm <i>Shabbat</i> | 10/28 5:40 pm <i>Shabbat</i> |

Topsy Turvy Teshuvah

I used to love to fly as a child. I loved the little bag of peanuts, the little bathrooms, but most of all, I loved the view from the window. Flying over the clouds was such a sight to behold. While I don't love to fly nearly as much now as I did when I was a kid, I still love looking out of the window, and watching the world from above.

The other day, as I flew home from Panama City, the plane took a rather sharp turn. As it turned, I could see the clouds and the horizon moving away, like the world was being turned on its side. Yet, when the turn was complete, everything was back where it was supposed to be, and eventually, we came in for a smooth landing. I couldn't help but think of this as a metaphor for us, especially as we enter into the High Holy Days. The Hebrew word *teshuvah* means "repentance," but it literally means "turn, or return." When we repent, we turn away from our wrongdoing, and return to the path of righteousness. But *teshuvah* doesn't always come easily. In fact, it can be rather difficult. But sometimes, in order for us to set things right, our lives needs to be turned on its side.

Asking for forgiveness can be a difficult and humbling experience all at the same time. It can be scary to admit we made a mistake. It can prove to be a turbulent (airplane pun intended) moment in our lives. However, when we do *teshuvah*, when we complete the turn, then it is smooth sailing (or flying!).

I wish all of you a *Shanah Tovah*, and I look forward to seeing you at High Holy Day services!

L'shalom, **Rabbi Alana Wasserman**



Sunday Shul is now in session! The children engaged with co-teachers Georgie and Daniel.

Leah Wittenberg
ISJL Education Fellow



Last year, a week before the High Holidays began, I found myself at a Jewish back to school BBQ on Tufts' campus. All of the materials to create your own shofar were there, and I figured I would give it a try. With the help of some friends, I sawed the pointy tip off of the ram's horn and

drilled out the inside to make the instrument hollow. It took about an hour and a great deal of concentration and strength, but I had made my own shofar.

The next step was to learn how to blow it, of course. I have never played a wind instrument, nor have I ever had the desire to learn how to blow the shofar, but now that I had my own, it only seemed fit that I learn. Over the next week, I practiced blowing the shofar many times a day. My six non-Jewish housemates put up with the screeching that eventually became stronger sounds.

As I attempted to perfect the shofar blast, I also prepared for the upcoming holidays. As the Vice President of Spiritual and Religious Life at Tufts Hillel, I was in charge of organizing both reform and conservative services for about 500 people. Because of this, the holidays had begun to feel more like a job than a reflective and meaningful experi-

ence for me. But for some reason, when I blew the shofar, it became my own spiritual wake up call.

There are many reasons why hearing the shofar blast is such a powerful aspect of Rosh Hashanah and the High Holidays in general. One is that we are praying not solely with our physical bodies (our throats, tongues, and lips) but rather we are praying with our spiritual beings. Some people say that the shofar makes sounds that we can't physically make with our own bodies. And some even say that the sound of the shofar blast travels further than our words can alone.

So this year, when I hear the shofar, I will be reminded at once of where I was a year ago—in Boston planning the High Holidays for my fellow students—and be appreciative of where I am now—in Jackson, Mississippi, experiencing these days of awe with vibrant Southern Jewish communities.



Left: Rabbi Wasserman's "Tour of the Temple" ended with students designing mezzuzahs; Pearl's design was chosen, making her the "Artist of the Week." Right: Amanda's "Rosh Hashanah Wishes" creation, which included the wish "Have a Wonderful Life," was selected and made her the "Artist of the Week!"

OCTOBER JOYS & REMEMBRANCES

Y A H R Z E I T S - THEIR MEMORIES ARE FOR US A BLESSING

| | |
|-------|---|
| 10/05 | HERMAN MILLER - FATHER OF NATHAN MILLER |
| 10/07 | NICOLE STEWART - DAUGHTER OF NATHAN AND ANNE MILLER |
| 10/18 | HARVEY JAY GLASS - SON OF SONNY & ALMA GLASS |
| 10/29 | RONALD GORDON - HUSBAND OF YVONNE GORDON |

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------|-----------------|
| 10/13 | HELAINÉ NORMAN |
| 10/16 | SARAH FELDSTEIN |
| 10/23 | MARGARET EUZENT |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 10/21 | PETER & PAMELA SOSTHEIM |
| 10/25 | LOIS & JOHN OSWALD |

If your Joy or Remembrance is missing or incorrect please e-mail The AZOY Editors at theazoy@gmail.com

Sunday Shul Update by Georgie Hartzog

THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

On September 11, 2016 Temple B'nai Israel's Sunday Shul (Yiddish for school) began with a bang! Co-Teacher Daniel Sternlicht opened the session with songs, an age appropriate discussion of the 9-11 Remembrance and a very impressive Hebrew review. It was amazing what the students had retained over the summer and a credit to Daniel and his abilities as an instructor.

After a brief nosh, Georgie Hartzog began the religious/cultural lesson. Students were first assigned weekly tasks. Amanda agreed to the task of taking attendance and having everyone sign a Mitzvah card to be sent to a member of the Temple for outstanding contributions. Pearl, our Jr. Sisterhood member, will gather contributions to our Giving Circle and keep tabs on our progress. Lizzy and Jackie will organize materials for weekly lessons and projects. Ari, our only man in the group, will supervise our "Prayer/Flower Circle."

The topic for the first Sunday was "Flowers and Rocks." The Jewish relationship with both items was discussed using story boards. Each student was

given a vase of flowers with a rock in its bottom. When the flowers faded, parents were asked to assist their child in establishing a Sacred Place by placing the vase with rock in their home. Students will add mementoes from future lessons to the vase.

FLOWER BED = PRAYER WALL

During the lesson about Flowers and Rocks, students discussed the Western Wall and its significance as a Sacred Place. Using our own "damaged" flower bed, a "mini" prayer wall was established. Students placed their first prayer requests for the 9-11 victims and prayer commemorations for their grandmothers on the first day of Sunday Shul. We invite all members of the Temple to utilize this most Sacred Place. Cards are available in the foyer of Temple.

SUNDAY SHUL'S NEED FOR SEEDS

For an upcoming Purim project we need apple seeds! During this season of apples and honey, we would really appreciate any seeds you can toss our way. It is important that we use seeds from this Rosh Hashanah.

Look for all the photos of our Sunday Shul students throughout this issue!



Top: Students receive “Flowers and Rocks” along with ideas on establishing a Sacred Place. Bottom: Apple candle holders were given to each student as a memento for Rosh Hashanah.

Sisterhood Snippets by Lisa Rahn, President

The Sisterhood is busy with preparations for the High Holidays, and we need your help! If you have already notified us as to what you'd like to contribute for Break-the-Fast on October 12th, thank you. If not, you may be hearing from us soon. Please see the list of needed items in this issue. It could be as easy as picking up some lox at Sam's Club or slicing tomatoes.

We continue our tzedakah project of community outreach to the Family Service Agency (FSA), and encourage all members of our congregation to bring household items, clothing and shelf-stable food donations to the temple. They are also always in need of pet food so

that a senior does not have to make a choice between feeding themselves (or refilling a prescription) and feeding their companion.

The Sisterhood is seeking new members (and you don't have to be a member of the Temple to join). Dues are only \$36 for the 2016-2017 year, and we are planning some fun activities. You can choose to support us financially and become as involved as you'd like. Junior Sisterhood members are most welcome! A link to the membership form is on the temple's website. Call me at (503) 338-0449 or email me at larahn@gmail.com for more information.



Committee Reports – Where Ideas Meet Action by Sarah Farkas

Caring Committee

The committee continues to reach out to area Jews in need of a friendly voice and touch, to shut-ins and those who are ill. If you or a family member or friend are in need of support, a caring phone call, a friendly visit, a prayer or just a chat with another Jew, please call 850-522-3685 to talk with a member of the committee.

Members of the committee are Nate Mewhinney, Judith Scott, Heather Mewhinney and Mary Starkman. They are ready to hear from you about how to respond to your specific needs and the needs of the Jewish Community.

“The warm hand of a friend can carry us through the hardest of times.”

Ritual Committee

Members of the Ritual Committee are working through the busiest time of the year, with the High Holi-

days, Sukkot and Simchat Torah right around the corner. If anyone would like to lend us a hand and a blender for Sukkot, we'll be serving made-to-order milkshakes in the Sukkah on Sunday, October 16.

We also still need folks to volunteer to do a lay-led Shabbat Service. Mary and Mike Starkman are here to help anyone plan and deliver the service. The sign-up sheet is in the entryway to the shul.

Education Committee

School has begun! Ms. Georgie and Mr. Dan have organized lessons and projects, as well as noshes for every Sunday Shul class. Come and visit to see what's up. And take a look at some school photos throughout this Holiday issue of *The AZOY*.

Building Committee

Nate and his crew have been sprucing up the building for the holidays. Aside from the sparkly new Rhino-

Shield exterior, each of the light fixtures has been cleaned and replaced. No more graveyard for lizards and bugs. Thank him when you see him.

Website/Public Relations Committee

Check us out at www.templebnaiisraelpc.org to get the latest on what's happening at our shul. Bob Goetz continues to perfect the site. Any ideas should be forwarded to him.

Rules and Policies Committee

One policy is written and approved and involves conversion to Judaism. Rabbi Wasserman, Lisa Rahn, Nate Mewhinney and Sarah Farkas will be adding more proposed policies concerning use of the temple, firearms on the premises, food and use of the kitchen, etc. All approved rules/policies will be made available to the membership.

We Need Your Help!

Our Board has determined that TBI needs a written “Disaster Plan.” After the recent threat of Hurricane Hermine, it became clear that we need to have a clear plan for securing important ritual objects in the shul – like the two Torahs, among other things. Two Board members have volunteered to put a plan together and they would like a third person from the congregation to work with them. Please call Nate Mewhinney or Mike Starkman to volunteer. Thanks.

As we start a new year, we'd like to remind you that there are multiple ways to support TBI. These include, but are not limited to, a donation for the Honors, payment for attending

the HDD services as a non-member (this includes the non-member spouse of a member), for listing the names in the Yizkor Book, remembering departed family members

monthly, Chai Cards (traditionally a multiple of chai), and a general donation to the congregation. Donation of your time, and support for activities, are also greatly appreciated.



Our Sunday Shul students and teacher place prayer requests at our new Sacred Place, the Flower/Prayer Bed.

CONTACT US

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IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO HELP US BREAK-THE-FAST!

The High Holidays are once again almost here. In preparation for our annual Break-the-Fast, we're asking everyone to pitch in. Below you will find a list of items that were donated in the past. Please call one of us to let us know what you would like to bring. Please contact us ASAP so that planning can proceed. Thanks.

Lisa Rahn, Sisterhood President, and Judith Scott, Sisterhood Vice-President

Please do not bring bagels and cream cheese; these will be provided.

Please feel free to bring more than one dish! Remember: There is no such thing as too much food!

Salads: Each dish should be enough to feed 8-12 people

Tuna: 1 _____ Tuna: 2 _____ Tuna: 3 _____
Tuna: 4 _____
Egg: 1 _____ Egg: 2 _____ Egg: 3 _____
Deviled Eggs: 2 dozen 1 _____ 2 _____
Mixed Salad: 1 _____ 2 _____
Fruit Salad: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

Misc. Salads: green bean/pea/potato/hummas/tabuli, etc, enough to feed 12 people

Green Bean Salad _____
Smoked Tuna _____
Chick Pea Salad _____
Corn Casserole _____
Slaw _____

Herring: 3 large jars (2 jars cream/1 jar wine) _____

Condiments: Onions: 3 sliced large onions _____ Tomatoes: 50 slices _____

Lox: enough to feed 12-16 people

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Kugels: 9x13 pan size please (or 2 small ones), enough to feed 12 people

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Dessert: enough to feed 12 people

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Ice: 1 _____ 2 _____

Anything else you want to bring:

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

Please bring your dishes table-ready. Our kitchen is small and services will be going on. This way you can bring it in the door and directly to the table! No fuss, no muss! And we can keep the noise to a minimum.

Thank you very much!

Lisa Rahn 503-338-0449 larahn@gmail.com
Judith Scott 507-779-9804 farcott@gmail.com