

#### Volume 18, Issue 8

Temple Israel, an egalitarian Conservative synagogue rooted in a rich heritage of traditional Jewish values, is committed to enhancing the religious, spiritual, educational and cultural life of its members and the larger Jewish community through a commitment to Torah, our community, and continuity and growth amid change.

#### Staff:

Larry G. Kaplan, Rabbi Ahron Abraham, Cantor Jane Messinger, Executive Director Gerri Kaplan, Principal

Officers: Joe Mitchneck, President Larry S. Keiser, Esq. Chairman of the Board Bedonna Mitchneck

School Board Chair

Schedule of Services Minyan: Monday & Thursday Mornings, 7:15 AM (Other days by arrangement with Cantor Abraham) Sunday Mornings, 8 AM Sunday through Saturday Afternoons, 5:15 P.M.

Shabbat Services: Saturday Morning, 10:00 AM

See Detailed Shabbat Schedule Inside

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Layout design courtesy of Bedwick & Jones Prinitng.

## Annual Dinner & Meeting held in June 2019–2020 Officers and Trustees Installed Isobel & Marvin Slomowitz honored as "Amudei Tzibor"

July/Aug 2019

Our first major event held at the new Friedman JCC was enjoyed by over a hundred people who came to celebrate our Pillars of the Community, Isobel & Marvin Slomowitz, and the installation of new members to the Board of Trustees. See more photos on page 4 from this fabulous event held at the new Friedman JCC







Above: Mark Finkelstein, Rabbi Kaplan, Pres. Joe Mitchneck.

F CONSERVATIVE JU

Sivan/Tamuz/Av 5779



Center Row Above: Isobel & Marvin Slomowitz, Rabbi Kaplan. Bottom Row: Rebecca, Nan and Phyllis Greenwald, Gary Kornfeld.



Center Row Above: Nelson Woehrle, Sam Hymes, Shelley Slomowitz Woehrle, Bob Greenwald, Atty. David Schwager. Bottom Row: Joan Kleinman, Nina Davidowitz, Keith Kleinman

## Rabbi Kaplan





I've finally reached my 60th birthday. I've been waiting for this for a long time. Somehow I've convinced myself that wis-

dom doesn't begin until you've lived half a lifetime. And since we say "AD ME'AH V'ESRIM" at birthdays, (live to be 120 years old!), this is the halfway point. Of course my grandparents on my mother's



side, whose genes I clearly have, only made it to 63, I've been told by my accountant that with all my kids, I can't retire until 10 years after

my death, so I have to stick around for a while. And maybe some of that wisdom will come my way as the time passes.

So at the halfway point I can look back over six decades and consider what I have and have not accomplished, and what I want to do during the next six (months, years, hours, decades?). My Jewish memories go back to my childhood. Junior congregation had a big impact on me, as did Hebrew School three days a week from third grade through high school. Without summers at Camp Ramah I'm pretty sure I'd never have become a rabbi. Being surrounded by Judaism at camp every day, at every meal, in every class, in the sights and sounds of every activity, even if it was only for eight weeks a year during those formative years, cemented my Jewish connection for life.

In college I taught Hebrew school and was a United Synagogue Youth advisor. And I lived for a year in Israel. Where Ramah left off, that junior year in Jerusalem pushed me over the top. It was all Jewish all the time. It led me to the Jewish Theological Seminary where I continued to teach, learn, and to become the quintessential Conservative Jew. That lasted until about two years into my first pulpit, when I realized that no matter what I tried, most of the congregation was not going to show up to Shabbat services. And that has remained a constant theme since then.

Why didn't they show up? I tried different approaches at the four congregations I served through the years. I gave different kinds of sermons, we experimented with music and study sessions, we had various "themes" for Shabbat. In Miami many of the members were involved in the garment business. So we had a special Shabbat where they all participated- we called it "Shmatah Shabbat." Very successful. But why wasn't every Shabbat "Shmatah Shabbat?" And why did they come for Rosh Hashanah, which I always considered to be long and boring, instead of weekly Shabbat services which were much shorter and had food afterwards?

I never understood why. But over the past few decades I think I've distilled it down to a few points. The Austrian Holocaust survivor and self proclaimed psychologist Bruno Bettelheim wrote a book in 1950 called Love Is Not Enough: The Treatment of Emotionally Disturbed Children which for some reason I had to read for a class at some point. I remember little about the book other than its main premise which was that in order to find a cure for a child's illness, one must study ill children, not well children. If doctors are only taught how the body should work, how could they truly understand illness? We need to focus on what is not working to find out how to fix it. I've looked at why members of Conservative congregations come in droves on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur but aren't coming to shul on Shabbat and holidays. The reason is, they don't want to. That doesn't explain why they do want to come on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, but I think it has something to do with the nature of the holiday and what is expected of Jews at the High Holidays. I mean, it's not that most Jews would rather be in shul on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur than be somewhere else. In Israel most Jews are at the beach on those holidays. And I know why.

In Israel you cannot forget that you



are a Jew. Every day, just like at Camp Ramah, you are reminded throughout the day who you are. You are surrounded by the Hebrew. The menu at McDonald's is written in the exact same language as the Torah. So are the street signs. So are the newspapers that everyone reads. In the bookstore, even the books on atheism are written in the Holy Tongue. You cannot escape being a Jew in Israel. The proof? The post office

is closed on Shabbat and Jewish holidays. Even in completely secular neighborhoods.

Outside of Israel, unless you lead a completely observant Jewish life- and surround yourself only with Jews, the most



we can hope for is being JewISH. Because being a JEW requires immersion in being Jewish. All the time. And outside of Orthodoxy, we simply haven't got that. I'm lucky- I have a profession which generally fills my daily routine with Jewishness. Because of my job and who I represent, I have to think Jewishly most of the time. But if this isn't your profession, how often during each day are you doing/saying/ thinking Jewish? The answer? Not often.

I'm not pointing fingers at you. I think after decades in this line of work I get it. It's not you. People tell me that when Rabbi Barras, of blessed memory, would see them and say "I haven't seen you in services lately" they started to come more often. There was an expectation that coming to shul was the right thing to do. I'm not suggesting that we cancel our services- I'm just saying I don't believe that's the essence of being a Jew. Nor is Kashrut or Tefillin or many of our other rituals. Because Israeli Jews, no matter how secular, can never forget that they are Jews. And the moment they try, some enemy lobs over a rocket to remind them who they are. No Jew in the concentration camps forgot that he or she was a Jew. Not once. Never. Not for a second. But we are lucky if we think about our Jewishness a couple of times a day.

I believe that Judaism, like most other good religions, has the goal of making people better than they naturally are, and especially in Judaism, a goal of making a better society. I'd say that most of us accomplish this in our daily routines, and that many of us do good things that make us better people, and that make a better society, and that we do so religiously- that is, with regularity.

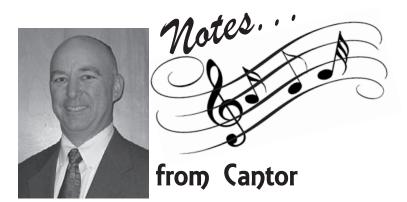
But actively being Jewish all the time would probably make us even more better, and might lead to an even better society. Prayer, done right, is a big part of that. More than any sermon, the prayers we utter, if we really understand them and mean them, and participate in them with spirit and Kavvanah (proper intent) are a major force in that goal.

I hope to spend much of the time God gives me in the future helping us to get closer to Him (sorry for the unegalitarian way that sounds, but it fits here) and closer to the goals He has for us. Prayer, worship, Tefillah, Davvening, spiritually uplifiting and meaningful time together in our beautiful sanctuary is definitely at the top of my list. I hope you'll join me in searching for a way to be inspired.

-Rabbi

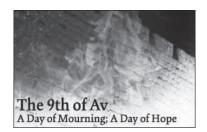


"Eicha" trope and readings to commemorate the day.



The Sinai Desert – a little over a year after the Exodus from Egypt – the Israelites are preparing for the conquest of the Promised Land. They are unsure of themselves; these former slaves have no self confidence or courage, and despite all of the Divine miracles they witnessed, still lack strong faith in God. In an attempt to get the people behind the imminent military

confrontation with the inhabitants of Canaan, Moses sends 12 spies, prominent men from each tribe, to scout the land. Moses apparently hoped the beautiful, fertile land would inspire this group of leaders, but unfortunately all except 2 give a very nega-



tive report and sway the people against Moses. God's response – the slave generation that came out of Egypt is condemned to die in the wilderness. The date of this Divine decree – the 9th of Av.

Thus began the history of Tisha B'Av, the saddest day of the entire Jewish year. Both the First and Second Temple were destroyed on that day. In 132CE the Bar Kochba revolt was crushed, ending the last Jewish State until modern times. On the 9th of Av in 1095 Pope Urban II declared the 1st Crusade, which resulted in the death of over 10,000 Jews in Europe. The Jewish community of England was expelled in 1290 by King Edward I, and 2 centuries later in 1492 Ferdinand and Isabella expelled the Jews of Spain. Tisha B'Av also marked the start of WWI, beginning a long period of suffering for our people including pogroms and massacres, culminating in the Holocaust and the destruction of 6 million of our people.

Since the reestablishment of the State of Israel in 1948 there has been much discussion about whether Tisha B'Av should still be observed. This sentiment increased with the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. Should we still be mourning past tragedies when Jerusalem is once again our capitol? Although the new State of Israel has brought a sense of pride to our people unmatched in the past 200 years, there is still a place for Tisha B'Av in Jewish observance. It serves to remind us of the need for moral and ethical living. It focuses attention on the universal aspects of the Messianic hope. Most importantly, it gives us a sense of our most impressive and often tragic history, the sacrifices and sufferings of past generations, and affords us an opportunity to learn from our past in order to preserve our future.

-Cantor

# 2019 ANNUAL DINNER





## River Street Office Clearance Thursday, July 11th 1-4pm

Books and office items leftover at the old office are yours for taking! We will be holding an Open House on Thursday, July 11th, 1pm-4pm at the River Street office for anyone interested in acquiring any of the furniture, books, and miscellaneous items that we no longer need.

## **Address Updates Needed**

Please be sure to update your bank with our new address if you send your payments in directly through your bank:

613 S.J. Strauss Lane, Suite #2, Kingston, PA 18704

## New Phone System Tips

Though our phone number remains the same, the new phone system may take some getting used to-for you and for us! Here are some tips: Once you call in to the main line, you can press the # key to bypass the auto attendant and then enter the individual extension you want to get to, but you need to pause and wait for the prompt after pressing the # key.

When you call the JCC, you can ask to be transferred to any Temple Israel extension!

Rabbi Kaplan- 205 Cantor Abraham - 213 Jane Messinger- 204 Debbie Schonfeld- 207 Linda Israel-209

# SHABBAT SCHEDULE: July/August

#### KORACH Friday July 5

Thady, bury o		
Candle lighting time	8:21	p.m.
Saturday, July 6		•
Minchah		

### СНИКАТ

Friday, July 12	
Candle lighting time	8:18 p.m.
Candle lighting time Saturday, July 13	10:00 a.m.
Minchah	5:15 p.m.

### **BALAK**

Friday, July 19	
Candle lighting time	8:13 p.m.
Saturday, July 20	10:00 a.m.
Minchah	5:15 p.m.

### **PINCHAS**

Friday, July 26	
Candle lighting time	8:07 p.m.
Saturday, July 27	10:00 a.m.
Minchah	5:15 p.m.

### MATOT-MASEI

Friday, August 2	
Candle lighting time	8:00 p.m.
Candle lighting time Saturday, August 3	10:00 a.m.
Minchah	5:15 p.m.

#### DEVARIM SHABBAT CHAZON EREV TISHA B'AV

Friday, August 9	
Candle lighting time	7:51 p.m.
Saturday, August 10	10:00 a.m.
Minchah followed by reading of	
the Book of Lamentations	5:15 pm

### tisha b'av

Sunday, August 11.....8:00 a.m. Special readings and Haftarah chanted in "Eicha" trope

#### VAETCHANAN SHABBAT NACHAMU

Friday August 16

Thay, August 10	
Candle lighting time	
Saturday, August 17	
Minchah	
	Candle lighting time

### EKEV

Friday, August 23	
Candle lighting time	7:31 p.m.
Saturday, August 24	10:00 a.m.
Minchah	5:15 p.m.

#### RE'EH SHARRAT ROSH CHODESH

Friday, August 30	
Candle lighting time	
Saturday, August 31	
Minchah	5:15 p.m.

## 🜣 JULY/AUGUST YAHRZEITS 🌣

Week of July 1 thru July 7 Alvan Baum, Max Bergsmann, Leon Blum, Norman Chariton, Morris Feld, Herman J. Goldberg, Sylvia Heit, Freyda Leah Israel, Leonard Kanner, Isidore Kornzweig, Isador Levin, Michal Libman, Sarra Libman, Paula Newirth, Raymond Oxman, Deborah Pearlman, Vivian Reisman, Joseph Richter, Morris Rosenbaum, Mollie Rosenthal, Saul Rubel, Nathan Shaiman, Lillian Teitelbaum, Harvey Trachtenberg, Jerry Walzer, Anita Weiss, Ruben Witkowski, Charles Wolfe

Week of July 8 thru July 14 Isaac Baicker, Benjamin Bravman, Rose Brown, Robert Capin, Lena Cohen, Lenard Cohen, Morris Cohen, Honnie Duncan, Iosif Elkin, Sophie Friedgood, Betty Frier, Stephen Greenberg, Tillye Greenberg, Abner Grossman, Jacob Kimhi, Merle Klavonski, Douglas Klee, Henry Korn, Cheryl Koval, Robert Kramer, Harold Landau, Joel Levey, Selma Lurie, Saul Mendelssohn, Rose Miller, Sandor Mittleman, Louis Moskowitz, Esther Nakkache, Lillian Poplin, Louis Raker, Peggy Reinstein, Alan J. Rosenberg, Michele Rudnick, Mamie Savitz, Rivkah Scwarzblatt, Joseph Silberman, Howard Ufberg, Anna Waldman, Libby Weisberger, Michael Zachar

#### Week of July 15 thru July 21

Elaine Baron, Shirley Bernson, Simon Coblentz, Hyman Davidowitz, Julius Farber, Louis Feldman, Esther Greenbaum, Norma Greenberg, Rubin Greenberg, Esther Kaufer, Minnie Klein, Gertrude Koff, Sam Kornfeld, Sheldon Mermelstein, Ida Meyer, Arnold Nachlis, Nancy Pascale, Joseph Schoenholtz, Elizabeth Scott, Louis Shaffer, Bertha Siegel, Samuel J. Slomowitz, Mildred Sugarman, Eileen Trompetter, Leah Trompetter, Calvin Ungar, Lisa Volodarsky, James Weiss, Selma Zneimer

#### Week of July 22 thru July 31

Daniel Amdur, Eleanor Barr, Joseph Block, Arthur Burnat, Ruth Cavanaugh, Morris Cutler, Joan Davis, Louis Feldman, Leonard Friedman, Elkin Kaplan, Margaret Karassik, Woodrow Kaufer, Sybil Kenewell, Louise Kupperman, Joseph Leventhal, Sarah Levy, Sylvia Mittleman, Bernard Morris, Jerome Newman, Rose Newsbaum, Ronald Popky, Harry Poplin, Joseph Rabinowitz, Eva Reisman, Fannie Richter, Lottie Rosenthal, Ruth Rothman, Alfred Rothschild, Joseph Savitz, Julius Savitz, Albert Schwager, Irving Shulman, Lena Siegel, Marc Sirota, Leah Ufberg, William J. Weisberger

Week of August 1 thru August 7 Bernard Bartikowsky, M.D. Brandwene, Elizabeth Dattner, Mildred Dattner, Jean Mittleman Epstein, Albert Gelb, Manny Gordon, George Green, Sam Hirshowitz, Morris Israel, Sarah Kanoff, Carol Swit Kaplan, Joseph Kellner, Ella Kluger, Isaac Krasno, Mildred Leventhal, Ned Levey, Frieda Morris, Beverly Morrow Siegel, Dorothy Nachlis, Bessie Naveen, Sidney Newman, Morris Perloff, Philip Plaksin, Tillie Plotkin, Eugene Rosen, Bertha Saidman, Sara Saidman, Jack Schoenfeld, Stephanie Schurak, Charles Shapiro, Juliette Stein Brown, Alfred Stern, Albert Sussman, Edna Turtletaub, Nathan Turtletaub, Louis Unterberger

Week of August 8 thru August 14 Myron Ball, Irving Baron, Abraham Barras, Mildred Brown, David Clearfield, Adele Coblentz, Max Cohen, Oscar Connor, Manny Cumsky, Joan Betty Fishman, Hyman Goichman, Fannie Goldstein, Lillian Grabar, Herman Greenberg, Sol Gutterman, Minnie Harris, Beatrice Hearst, Harold Hyman, David Jacobs, Ida Levitt, Hannah Mendelssohn, Mervyn Mersay, Charles Nelson, Murray Popky, Aaron Rand, Rose Rinzler, Wayne Robertson, Bette Schecter, Marion Smulyan, Louise Tischler, Rebecca Tishman, Al Ufberg

Week of August 15 thru August 21 Joseph Blum, Irving Brown, Jacob Feldman, Julius Greenberg, Oscar Hacker, Ellen Hersh, Leopold Hochberger, Nathan Iscovitz, Emil Kellner, Irving Kirshner, Benjamin Klavonski, Jacob Klavonski, Shirley Klein, Ruth Korson, Irving Lang, Dora Levinson, David Libenson, Barbara Miller, Max Moskowitz, Sara Newman, Arnold Rifkin, Minna Rosenbaum, Louis Rubel, Ethel Sadock, Michael Salamon, Zelda Salamon, Elsie Salsburg, Arthur Savitz, Harry Savitz, Rosalyn Smulowitz, Mary Waxman, Sol Weiss

Week of August 22 thru August 31 Beth Abrams, Tillie Bell, Jack Bergsmann, Leonard Berman, Howard Biederman, Arnold Bleyer, Marian Blum, Betty Weisberger Bohm, Fae Boxer, Philip Bravman, Clara Brown, Earl Robert Congleton, Marjorie Leila Congleton, Theodore Diamond, Ruth Falk, Lena Fierman, Gary Frank, Harry Frank, Leon Franklin, Sidney Friedman, Adele Gevirtz, Max Goldstein, Frederick Gordon, Ruth Gordon, Sadie Grossman, Joel Hanovice, Samuel Hanovice, Anna Idelchik, Ruth Kluger, Leah Levanthal, Jean Levin, Sara Levinson, Theodore Levinson, Herbert Levy, Jacob Levy, Henry Mermel, Aronita Mitchneck, Harry Mitchneck, Ruth Morris, Abe Naveen, Rose Plessett, Bertha Rappaport, Harry Rifkin, Sarah Robin, Bertha Rosenthal, Irwin Sagenkahn, Michael Schoenholtz, Hilde Schwager, Rosalind Schweiger, Mildred Silberman, Marjorie Slomowitz, William Speizman, Nerver Johnson, Jones Levy, Jacob Levy, Herry Mercer, Berthal, Jones Jones, Jones Jones Jones, Jones J Henry Thalenfeld, Isaac Werner, Milton Wiener, Israel Zager, Barbara Zwirn



## From the President...

*From June 5th Annual Dinner Speech:* Good evening. Rabbi, Cantor, current and past board members, Temple members, friends and family, and especially **Marvin and Isobel Slomowitz**,

who we are honoring as our "Pillars of the Community." The Slomowitz's for many years have been vital financial supporters of our Temple and we can not thank them enough for their generosity. They are very deserving of this award and I am sure that their children and grandchildren who are here tonight are very proud of them.

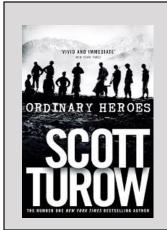
There are many people for me to thank for their leadership during this past year. Thank you **Debbie Schonfeld** for your work at our office and for doing our ad book and the dinner arrangements. You really didn't think you were retiring, did you? Thank you **Alan Hollander** and the Nominating Committee for your work and to **Bob Greenwald** for standing in for Alan tonight, as Alan attends a special family occasion. We look forward to the addition of our new board members and thanks to Evan Kranson who is leaving the board for his participation on the board. Also, many thanks to Jane Messinger, our Executive Director, and our Vice Presidents: Attorney Jeff Yelen, V.P. of Finance and Development; Debbie Troy, V.P. of Religious and Educational Affairs; Dan Messinger, V.P. of Congregational Engagement; and Joel Zitofsky, V.P. of Administration and Recording Secretary. Jane has done an outstanding job in her new position and has overseen the growth of both new and old programs. Our Vice Presidents have helped establish their new roles as their titles have indicated and their help and guidance have made us a very unified team. Another person we need to thank is **Ann Smith**. Ann is responsible for recruiting, training, and scheduling our volunteer ushers, and has also led our very successful Temple Book Club for many years. As an active member of our Security Committee she is helping to redefine the ushers' roles to include security functions. Thank you for all that you do!

Speaking about security, one unexpected challenge over this past year has been the need to create beefed-up security protocols. The horrific killing of innocent people at the Tree of Life Synagogue at Pittsburgh was a wake-up call for synagogues across the United States. The challenge for us is to provide a safe, secure place for us to meet, pray, and socialize while at the same time presenting a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Who could have predicted that we would be keeping all our synagogue doors locked and have an armed security person greeting our Shabbat attendees? Our Security Committee has inspected our building and is formulating additional ways to protect our safety and we are indebted for their help. Thank you **Dan Messinger** and **Hal Levine** for chairing this very important committee. Throughout this year we have encouraged increased participation in Temple activities. We realize that not everyone joins a synagogue to nurture traditional religious beliefs and therefore we have tried to make our services more innovative with the addition of more music, also sponsoring cultural and educational activities, and encouraging increased community engagement. For example, last month Temple had a Friday Night Shabbat Dinner, Law Day Shabbat Service, a private Sordoni Art Gallery Tour, Women's Shabbat, a Groh Minyan Breakfast, and a Sunday morning minyan followed by a Yoga class. Many thanks to our members who oversaw these very successful events. Hopefully many of you here tonight were in attendance.

Dr. Ron Wolfson, in his book titled "Relational Judaism," talks about using the power of relationships to transform the Jewish Community. I quote the following from his book: "The goal is not to shape a Conservative Jew, not a secular Jew, not a JCC Jew, not a Federation Jew, not a social justice Jew. The goal is to become a RELATIONAL JEW, a Jew who views Judaism as impacting our relationships. Jewish identity is not measured by how many services we attend a month, or how much money I give, or whether I light Shabbat candles. These are all indicators of Jewish IDENTIFICATION. Internal Jewish IDENTITY is shaped by the relationships in our lives," end quote. As we are all aware, membership in our Jewish organizations has fallen. Our UHI Day School is gone. Federation campaigns are flat. Young Jewish adults are unengaged with their Judaism and Baby Boomers are disengaged. Therefore, the trend in many communities is to form small groups to meet in social settings to discuss how to bring people away from being "Just Jewish." USCJ (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism) has some programs that we at Temple Israel need to utilize to help rebuild these relationships to maintain a vital and meaningful congregation. Please step forward when asked to help support this process. We will ALL benefit from this undertaking.

As you can see, we have worked hard to expand our Temple experience, but still have much to accomplish. I look forward to having much more to share with you at this time next year.

-Joe Mitchneck



AUGUST BOOK CLUB

Sunday, Aug 18th at Theo's Metro, Luzerne

6:00 p.m. Dinner (Optional) 7:00 p.m. Discussion

July 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	Shabbat Services 6 10:00 a.m.
7	8	Executive 9 Committee Meeting 7:15 p.m.	10	WB Office Clearance 1 Open House 1-4:00 p.m. Midrasha Board at TBB 6:00 p.m.	12	Shabbat Services 13 10:00 a.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19	Shabbat Services 20 10:00 a.m.
21	Worship 22 Committee Meeting 5:40 p.m.	23	24	25	26	Shabbat Services 27 10:00 a.m.
Bible & Bagels 28 8:30 a.m	29	Usher Meeting 30 6:00 p.m	31			

# August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	Shabbat Services 3 10:00 a.m.
4	5	Board Meeting 6 7:30 p.m.	7	Midrasha Board 8 Meeting at TBB 6:00 p.m.	9	Shabbat Services 10 10:00 a.m. SHABBAT CHAZON EREV TISHA B'AV
TISHA B'AV 11 Shacharit Service 8:00 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16	Shabbat Services 17 10:00 a.m. SHABBAT NACHAMU
Book Club 18 Dinner 6:00 p.m. Discussion 7:00 p.m.	19	20	21	22	23	Shabbat Services 24 10:00 a.m.
25	26	27	28	Executive 29 Committee Meeting 7:15 p.m.	30	31