



Volume 20, Issue 8

TEMPLE ISRAEL CHRONICLE

August 2021 ☆ Av/Elul 5781



The Board of Trustees, Clergy & Staff Wish
You and Yours a Happy & Sweet New Year!

High Holiday Services

Shared Selichot Service at Temple B'nai B'rith: August 28th, 8:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashana Day 1: Tuesday, Sept. 7th, (Creative Service) 10:00 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by
Bob Greenwald & Atty. Johanna Gelb

Rosh Hashana Day 2: Wednesday, Sept. 8th, (Traditional Service) 9:30 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by Sara Friedman

Kol Nidre: Wednesday, Sept. 15th, 6:30 p.m. Candle lighting time: 6:55 p.m.

Yom Kippur: Thursday, Sept. 16th, 9:30 a.m.

Maftir Yonah will be chanted by Ted Israel

We look forward to meaningfully reconnecting, in person, in our beautiful synagogue to gather, worship, pray,
share, atone, and celebrate the New Year. Shana Tova!

EARLY REGISTRATION AUG 23RD, REGISTRATION DEADLINE AUG 30TH SEE PAGE 4-5 FOR DETAILS

visit our website at: <http://www.templewb.org>

e-mail us at: office@templewb.org

Rabbi Kaplan



Writes.

Dear Friends,

It feels good to be back in our Chronicle. It has been quite a ride through the ups and downs of Covid, the

changes in how we've been worshipping, totally re-establishing our office staff and administrative support, the challenges of a Sanctuary that is almost 100 years old. And the ride isn't nearly finished. We're still not sure where we'll be for Rosh Hashanah- in our Sanctuary, at the JCC, wearing masks, social distancing, or simply viewing on our ipad, computer, or phone.

I remember getting ready for High Holiday services at the Oxford Circle Jewish Community Center, the Conservative synagogue in Philadelphia where I grew up. I was ten or eleven, had my suit on, picked out a satin yarmulke that matched, and was ready to walk a few blocks to the synagogue. Standing in our kitchen with a blue dial telephone

on the desk near the refrigerator, could I have imagined a day when services would be experienced by looking at that phone? Unimaginable.

When I got to the synagogue around 9:00 a.m. I showed my blue youth ticket to the guard and entered the school wing where the junior congregation services were. But just before 10 a.m. I would walk down the long hall to the main Sanctuary, and was seated in the front row with the other Torah readers. Standing behind that Torah scroll on the Bimah, I looked out over those lucky enough (I didn't realize then that it was more accurate to say "wealthy enough") to be seated in the Sanctuary, and with the rear sliding doors open there were those seated in the Kanefsky Kiddush Room, and its sliding doors opened into the large Lashner-Weiner ballroom. All filled with seats, and most of the seats were filled with congregants, literally as far as the eye could see.

I read my Torah portion which I had pretty much memorized, and went back to Junior Congregation which itself had hundreds of participants. Today that synagogue is an Indian church with a big cross on the side. I wonder if they know that the sanctuary was built in the shape of a huge Jewish star.

But one thing I knew at that young age was that most of the people there did not understand much of that service, and the English in the Machzor wasn't spiritually moving. I had never heard of Abraham Joshua Heschel then, but I'm sure he wouldn't have felt the spark of spirituality there.

I'm not saying that our services, both in our Sanctuary and on Facebook are overflowing with spirituality. But the spark is definitely there. Covid, with all of its sadness and hurt, has helped us to reevaluate how we connect with God. When we're online we almost never are without a minyan, something that was quite difficult to achieve when we were in our chapel. Rosh Hashanah will be wonderful whether we are in our beautiful Sanctuary or if we make a Sanctuary at the Friedman JCC or even if (I pray it won't get this bad) Covid restrictions force us to once again sanctify our online space for our worship. And I'm certainly not looking forward to climbing aboard the back of a flatbed tow truck for Neilah!

However and wherever we gather, we will be together as the Temple Israel family and we will bring in the New Year with spirit and a closeness with God. May it be a year of health and joy for all. L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu!

-Rabbi

Stand with us in front of the Kotel in Jerusalem

ISRAEL TRIP 2022 - First two weeks of March

לשנה הבאה בירושלום!

Next Year in Jerusalem!

For more information call the office or email info@templewb.org



Temple Israel Centennial Celebration

The year 2022 we will mark Temple Israel's 100th Anniversary! We are looking for volunteers to serve on a Planning Committee to determine how to best celebrate this landmark occasion.

Please call the office, or contact Jane Messinger at 570-690-1452 or janetemplewb@gmail.com to express your interest to get involved and be a part of this exciting upcoming celebration!



from Cantor

The Yamim Noraim – Days of Awe are upon us! The High Holidays are a time for prayer, introspection and family gatherings, and this year, emerging from the isolation so many endured during the pandemic, the season has even more significance. Originally designed to help our agrarian ancestors prepare spiritually for the Festival of Sukkot, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur now have more religious significance than any other festival. Prayer, both communal and personal, have become our way of connecting with God, and the High Holidays are when our prayers are most intense.

As we work our way through the special High Holiday liturgy, remember those from our history and personal lives that inspired and taught us. As many of you know, I find inspiration in the memory of my grandfather, my greatest cantorial teacher and mentor. I envision him standing beside me every Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as we did in the choir of his synagogue so long ago. This year I will also be thinking of my friend **Debbie Schonfeld**, who for so many years made the holidays and the entire Temple year function so smoothly. We

miss her and many others from our congregation, and it's important to keep them in our minds and hearts.

It has been a long-standing tradition to begin the High Holiday season with a special service called Selichot . According to midrash (rabbinic legend) the composition of the Selichot service dates back to King David. When he asks God how his people will attain forgiveness after the Temple is destroyed, David is told that they should recite Selichot prayers including the 13 Attributes of God and they would be forgiven. Although there is some flexibility to the structure of the service, the 13 Attributes are the central part of the Selichot service to this day. Rabbi Reuven Hammer describes Selichot as "...an oratorio expressing the despair that accompanies separation from God and the desire to change and repent. The self deprecation contained in the words, which express the feeling of life's fleetingness, and the burden of vanity that motivates so much of what one does, all cause us to ponder how we can break the cycle of our lives and change ourselves for the better. The possibility of change and of a better life is inherent in these prayers."

We begin our celebration of the High Holidays with **Selichot, together with Temple B'nai Brith, on August 28 at 8PM**. How appropriate to gather as a community and usher in the holiday season. I encourage you to join us!

Carole and I wish all of you a Good and Sweet New Year.

-Cantor

PIZZA IN THE HUT FALL FEST

 Come celebrate Sukkot
& the start of
Midrasha Religious School!

Sunday, Sept. 19th
JCC Parking Lot
5 PM

GAMES * COTTON CANDY * POPCORN * SNOW CONES

*not under va'ad supervision



HIGH HOLIDAYS SERVICE SCHEDULE

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, September 6
Candle lighting time.....7:10 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH

Tuesday, September 7
(Creative Service)10:00 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by
Bob Greenwald & Atty. Johanna Gelb

Wednesday, September 8th
(Traditional Service)9:30 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by Sara Friedman

KOL NIDRE

Wednesday, September 15th6:30 p.m.
Candle lighting time.....6:55 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Thursday, September 16th6:30 p.m.
Maftir Yonah will be chanted by Ted Israel
More details to follow



New Machzor Dedications

We have hundreds of New Machzors (High Holiday prayer books) awaiting dedications! Submit yours to honor a loved one for memorials, tributes, simchas, any occasion! \$36 each. Visit our website www.templewb.org to submit your info and payment online or send in a check and details to the office.

High Holiday Floral Fund

It's not too late to send in your contributions to the HIGH HOLIDAY FLORAL FUND. Announcements, memorials and simchas are all eligible to be included in your listing that will be distributed on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and published on our website. Minimum contribution: \$25. Submit and pay for your contribution through our secure payment portal on our website or send in your check with your listing info. **Deadline: Monday August 30th.**



2021 TEMPLE ISRAEL SLATE OF OFFICERS

President Jeffrey Yelen, Esq.
V.P. Finance & Development.....Steve Davidowitz
V.P. Religious & Educational Affairs.....Debbie Troy
V.P. Congregational Engagement.....Dan Messinger
V.P. Admin/Secretary.....Joel Zitofsky

Incoming Board Members:

Sally Alinikoff, Mark Finkelstein

Outgoing Board Members:

Rob Friedman

For a complete list of the 2021 Board of Trustees visit our website: templewb.org/welcome/leadership.

Operation Isaiah 5782

Please support Sara's Table at the Kraus Chaiken Food Pantry by bringing non-perishable food donations to Kol Nidre services. You can also drop them off at our administrative offices at the Friedman JCC anytime between Rosh Hashanah and Kol Nidre. Monetary contributions are also welcome.

Book of Memory

Honor the memory of your loved ones in our Book of Remembrance. Seeing their names in this special tribute always makes the High Holidays more meaningful for everyone. This will be the last year you will have to provide all of the names you've been sending us for years to include in The Book of Memory. Each year, you will only need to add any new names you would like to include.

Please submit your list of names by August 23rd via email to info@templewb.org, by mail, or our website.

YOUR HIGH HOLIDAY QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS?

We mailed out a High Holiday Info packet on July 30th, If you did not receive, please contact the office. Or visit our website for all the details.

WILL HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES BE HELD IN THE SYNAGOGUE?

Yes, unless unforeseen circumstances force us to change our plans. If the plaster restoration and roof repairs are not complete, we will hold services at the Friedman JCC. If COVID concerns lead us to cancel in-person services, we will cancel in-person services and only broadcast services live via our facebook page and website. We have to plan for all three possibilities, which is why we are asking for early registrations. Getting an idea of how many people intend to attend, we can better plan. Reserve as many seats as you think you might need and if some don't actually attend, we will gladly refund you afterwards.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF IN PERSON SERVICES ARE MOVED TO THE JCC OR CANCELLED?

We will keep you informed in our weekly email notifications, on our website, and by updating the voice message at the office if we change locations to the JCC or if we cancel in-person services. If your circumstances require that you need a phone call to stay informed, just let us know. We appreciate your cooperation, patience and understanding. We are looking for volunteers to participate in a phone tree. Call or text Gerri Kaplan at 570-357-5357 to let her know you can help!

CAN I WATCH HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES ONLINE?

Yes! Regardless of whether we hold in-person services at the synagogue or at the Friedman JCC, we will broadcast live services on our facebook page (facebook.com/temple-wb) and on our website (templewb.org). If you need help learning how to access online services email info@templewb.org and a member of our Technology Committee will be happy to help.

DO I NEED A TICKET?

No! But you must register and pay for attendance and provide Proof of Covid vaccination in advance. Early Bird Registration deadline is August 23rd. Final registration deadline is August 30th. Last minute reservations will only be considered under extreme unforeseen circumstances. Please plan accordingly. Everyone will have to check in to synagogue upon arrival to services.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Register online at templewb.org and pay via secure online portal at templewb.org

Mail payment to office or drop off at Temple Office at Friedman JCC

Call the office to RSVP, provide credit card information, or to request other financial arrangements

Email your registration details to info@templewb.org

HOW MUCH DO HIGH HOLIDAY TICKETS COST?

Registration by August 23rd: \$65 for all members excluding TNG members \$100 for non-members

Registration after August 23rd: \$150 for members excluding TNG members \$200 for non-members

Payments are due by August 30th unless other financial arrangements* have been made.

*Please note: If you are experiencing financial difficulties, complimentary admission can be arranged. We want everyone to feel welcome. Please contact Jane Messinger directly at 570-690-1452 or jane@templewb.org.

WHAT IS A TNG MEMBERSHIP?

This is the most asked question since the High Holiday Info packets were mailed! TNG memberships are the Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond Memberships created under "The Next Generation" membership category. These members have committed to donate higher amounts of dues ranging from \$1500 to \$10,000 annually, and their High Holiday attendance is complimentary. The funds from these memberships have helped ensure our ability to provide all the benefits that otherwise we could not afford, especially considering the harsh reality that our membership, like nearly all Conservative synagogues across the country, continues to decline. Thank you to all of our TNG Members!

WHAT COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS MUST I FOLLOW TO ATTEND:

Children under 12 can attend but must wear a mask.

All attendees 12yrs. or older must be vaccinated and provide advance proof of vaccination by August 30th.

Masks must be worn by all attendees.

WHAT ABOUT PARKING?

Parking passes to be displayed in your windshield will be provided. We have secured parking across from the synagogue in the Wilkes University lot, and you will not need to put money in meters on certain streets around the synagogue.

Book Club hits Milestone

Book Club has been reading, meeting and discussing books for nineteen years. Last month they celebrated the completion of their 100th Book! If you're interested in joining the Book Club please contact Ann Smith, Chair, annsmith126pa@gmail.com or call the Temple Office.

Next Meeting: Monday, Oct. 18th, 6:00 p.m.

Where: Theo's Metro, Luzerne

Book Selection: *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

Synopsis: *The Midnight Library* is about Nora, a thirty-something woman who is regretful about her life and feels alienated and unneeded in this world. In the depths of her wallowing, she comes across the Midnight Library. In it, each

book represents a portal into another variation of what her life could have been. As she reads the volumes, they allow her access different versions of her life -- relationships she could have stuck with, careers she could have pursued and so on.

As she jumps in and out of these alternate realities, Nora's journey of self-discovery results in a life-affirming and reflective story about the choices we make, the paths we've chosen and each of our places in this world.



Seated left to right: Maxine Libenson, Janet Finkelstein, Bedonna Mitchneck, Rhoda Tillman

Standing left to right: Karen Armstrong, Nancy Messinger, Ann Smith, Lee Estep, Susan Bell, Marsha Levenson, Barbara Cohen, Janet Hoffman, Suzy Weiss

Absent from photo: Jeff Lubin

Midrasha Happenings

Midrasha had a great year despite the very unusual covid circumstances. All of our teachers and Rabbi and Gerri did a wonderful job keeping the children motivated and learning through virtual classes. Preparations have begun for the coming year with classes starting again in early September. Thursday classes will be virtual and Sunday will be in-person. We are looking forward to another great year. Parents, if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Gerri or Rabbi Mollo. Everyone at Midrasha wishes the congregation a healthy and happy New Year.

-Bedonna Mitchneck
School Board Chair



MAZEL TOVS, CONDOLENCES, Yahrzeits & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the coming year we will once again include listing these in The Chronicle and on our website. We are looking for volunteers who can give a few hours each month to help gather this information. Please email Sally sally@templewb.org or call the office for more information.

Ushers Needed!

Currently, we are in need of additional volunteers to join our team of Ushers.

Please email Ann Smith at annsmith126pa@gmail.com or call the Temple Office to learn more and express your interest.



Tune in to all of our live streaming services, events and programs at facebook.com/templewb. Be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW our page!



From the President...

Even with Covid, I could not have foreseen all the challenges we faced this past year. As everyone patiently

waited for a vaccine and some return to normalcy, the Board of Trustees had to deal with a lot of unexpected twists. From the plaster falling from our ceiling, to the passing of our beloved Debbie, to the roof leaks, to the re-opening of in person services, to more plaster falling from the ceiling, to the closing of the building again, the Board has been called on again and again to devote many hours to fixing all the problems while still moving us forward.

As always, **thanks to Rabbi and Cantor** for their continued guidance through it all. Our video services and content have kept us connected. Those who sign on to our streaming services will regularly see a large on-line crowd, including people who have temporarily or permanently left our area. We will continue to broadcast all services on line even when we return to in person services. If you haven't yet, I invite each of you to sign on, participate virtually, and try to commit to signing on to a service periodically. I think you will find it very fulfilling.

Many of you are aware that **Jane Messinger** immediately offered to help with the office upon Debbie's passing. Jane helped get our day-to-day operations caught up (which was no small feat), continued on to help train our newest office member, **Sally**, and has continued part time helping to support the office. I know first-hand that without her, our operations would have come to a halt. I cannot thank her enough.

Our worship committee has been very busy. Led by **Debbie Troy**, the committee has met extensively to discuss our services and the re-opening to in person services. I can't imagine any year where this committee has needed to meet more frequently, constantly adjusting to the new findings and regulations regarding Covid, and preparing for in person services. We intend to have in person services for the High Holidays, but since the current Covid-protocols that we've implemented can change at anytime, please continue to look for updates as we get closer.

Unfortunately, our building faces serious breakdown issues at this time. The roof and exterior masonry can no longer be just patched up. The Board has voted to do a much needed extensive, and expensive, repair that will deplete our funds significantly. In the upcoming weeks you will see the scaffolding on the exterior. When the roof repairs are complete, we expect that all those leaks we have seen will go away, and the exterior will look like new and keep us protected for years to come.

The integrity of the interior plaster on the ceiling has been an ongoing issue and continues to worsen. As the first piece fell, we all hoped that it was just an isolated problem. As the second piece fell, and the ceiling showed signs of further cracking and paint peeling, it is clear that the ceiling problem is all over. We

believe that the little leaks particularly have weakened the plaster over time. Our experts do not believe that it is safe to use the sanctuary for fear of another piece of plaster falling. The Board has reviewed our options and decided to hire a company with significant experience stabilizing plaster throughout the country. The entire ceiling will undergo this restorative process. It will give us the peace of mind that the entire ceiling is stable and safe and that there are no hidden dangers. We all feel very lucky that no one was in the sanctuary when the other pieces fell.

Many thanks to **Joel Zitofsky**. As head of our building committee, he does most of the work to evaluate all the building issues and find the right people to fix the issues. Due to his ability to get the projects moving quickly, we are still hopeful that we can have the roof stabilized in time for the High Holidays. That is an unbelievable possibility considering that just a few weeks ago, we didn't even realize we had this problem.

In looking toward the High Holidays, we are hopeful to be ready to use our Temple. However, we are making contingency plans just in case. The JCC has emphatically welcomed us with open arms to do anything needed to make their facility available to us in case we need it. Thank you to Gary Bernstein and everyone involved for all you do for us. We continue to expand our partnerships with them, and it has proven to be a huge benefit to our Temple.

With less than a month until the High Holidays, it is unthinkable that we still have so many uncertainties.

Ideally, we will be in person at our Temple, but at any point we may need to change locations to the JCC or if Covid takes a wrong turn, cancel in person services all together. We appreciate your understanding and encourage you to keep looking for updates even within the week before services. If you haven't already, please sign up to receive our email notifications. You can also check the website or call the office.

Now it is your turn to help. For the High Holidays, we are requiring reservations and proof of vaccination in advance of attendance. Please, please (please, please...) make your reservations as early as possible to help us with planning, set-up and logistics.

And as every good President should ask, should you find a few extra dollars in your bank account this year please send it our way because now is a time that your spiritual home needs it most.

To end on a lighter note, in looking ahead to the new year, once we get the building repaired, and hopefully have the most serious times of Covid behind us, we will be getting ready for a long awaited get together to celebrate our 100th anniversary next year. See you all there.

Jeffrey Yelen

Funding Available for Jewish Studies

Limited financial aid and funding is available through our endowments for approved Jewish summer programs, camps, college courses, and educational trips to Israel. Assistance is based on both financial need and merit. For more information, email info@templewb.org or call the Temple office.



Temple Israel
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 Kingston, PA 18704
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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
 Sally Strayhall
 Linda Israel

Jeffrey Yelen, President

Schedule of Services
 Daily Minyan:
5:15 PM



Shabbat Services:
Saturday, 10:00 AM

Layout Design courtesy of
 Bedwick & Jones Printing.

YOUR DONATIONS TO TEMPLE ISRAEL ENDOWMENTS AND FUNDS ARE APPRECIATED!

Whether earmarked for “area of greatest need” or any of the endowments and funds listed below, contributions can be made for any occasion, such as memorials, simchas, recoveries, etc. and acknowledgement notices will be sent out to recipients. For decades our minimum contribution has been and remains \$5 (unless otherwise noted with the listing), however, with rising costs we hope you will consider making minimum contributions of \$10. Donations can be made through our secure online merchant portal on our website: templewb.org or by mailing your payment and donation details to the office. Thank you!

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