



# Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism  
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*Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship*

**SEPTEMBER 2017 / ELUL-TISHREI 5777**



## **Wednesday, September 20**

The High Holy Days begin with a Potluck Dinner at 6:30.

Erev Rosh Hashanah services will begin at 8:00 pm, led by Rabbi Dan Alexander and Cantor Laura Mandeles.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a dessert for the oneg following services.

## **Thursday, September 21**

Rosh Hashanah services will begin at 10:00 am, led by Rabbi Joe Blair and Laura Mandeles.

The Tashlikh service will follow immediately at Gypsy Hill Park duck pond at approximately 1:00 pm, led by Rabbi Joe Blair.

## **Sunday, September 24**

Yizkor service will be held at the cemetery at 3:00 pm led by Rabbi Joe. (inclement weather will move the service to the sanctuary)

## **Friday, September 29**

Erev Kol Nidre services will begin at 8:00 pm, led by Rabbi Joe with Laura Mandeles

## **Saturday, September 30**

Yom Kippur morning services will begin at 10:00 am, led by Rabbi Dan Alexander and Laura Mandeles.

The Afternoon service will begin at 3:00 pm, followed by Minchah, Yizkor, & Neilah  
Our traditional Break the Fast meal will follow services immediately, at approx. 6:00

## **President's Message**

Dear temple members and friends,

As September arrives shortly, I'm not only looking forward to the cooler evening temperatures, but the preparation for our new religious year of services. More importantly, I am grateful for this Jewish community and the many members that pull together to make things happen, from lay-led services this summer, with the deft organization and determination of Ruth Chodrow and Heidi Lasser, to Shabbat Sweets, Songs and Sharing on August 18. This gathering was organized as an opportunity to process and discuss the unfortunate events that unfolded in Charlottesville. Many thanks go out to Ellen Werther and Heidi Lasser for initiating and organizing this very valuable time to be together.

Because we are so small in numbers, I'm always reminded how interconnected and dependent we are. Whether it is having a minyan, attending a social gathering, agreeing to serve on the board, or making plans with the Women's Group, none of this would happen without active participation and commitment to each other. I look forward to this year, not because events are planned and they fit my schedule, but because we get to be together as a community. I hope to see you all Sept 1st for our first service and of course at the temple picnic on Sept 10.

L'Shalom,  
Bonny

## From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

September is here, and with it the time of the High Holy days. Getting here since the last article I wrote has been a very rough ride. Far too much has happened that is distressing, disturbing, and depressing. I intend to address it at the first service of the year on September 1st and also through the High Holy Days. I hope you will come to services on the 1st, both to hear what I have to say, and to say what is on your mind and heart. In part, to make room for that conversation, we will read from the Torah but not from the Haftarah that evening, and abbreviate the service slightly to allow us more time for discussion.

Please remember to invite your friends and neighbors, co-workers and others to the Community Awareness Shabbat on September 15th.

Then join together on Saturday evening, September 16th for Havdalah and Selichot service. Selichot is geared to penitential prayer; I intend to add some more contemporary aspects to the standard liturgy that evening, and would welcome your presence.

Of course, I hope to see you at the High Holy Day services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I am delighted to share the pulpit with, and hope you will offer a very warm welcome to Rabbi Dan Alexander who will be coming to lead the High Holy Day services when I am not present. He is a long-time colleague and friend, and someone whom I respect greatly.

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## Rabbi's Message

"A Question of When to Remember & Acknowledge"

Last month I wrote about the Three Weeks, and how they connect to remembering. The idea of memory is still very much on my mind, brought to the fore not by holidays or special events in the communal calendar, but rather because I was recently reading the notes on my personal calendar.

I have been in the habit of noting significant lifecycle events on my calendar, and displaying them again on the anniversary of that event annually. Things like a wedding, funeral, Brit Milah (circumcisions), Simchat at (welcoming daughters), Pidyon haven (redemption of the first born), or Taharah (ritual purification) were noted when they occurred, and appear on that date in future years. At this point, after more than twenty years in the rabbinate, there are a fair number of these notations, and my calendar has reminders of events scattered across the months and week of each year. It seems that every month has several events. Some weeks show multiple events, and many days show an event. In some instances, a given day lists several, and in a few cases, there are even many events on the same day. Seeing them on the calendar reminds me of the people involved, and helps me to remember (the tie to the article last month).

In the secular culture, I think many people do this for birthdays. They note the date, and reach out to the person to wish them well, sometimes in person, others by phone or with a card, email (or more currently, I suppose, a Facebook message). I suspect the custom is less observed for anniversaries, but it still exists to some degree, particularly for the earlier anniversaries, and for the "significant" dates such as twenty-five, fifty, sixty, and seventy-five years.

This concept also obviously fits well with the Jewish tradition of the Yahrzeit— anniversary or "year time", the remembrance of the deceased on the anniversary of death. As a practical matter, it also helps to remind us that the mourners of that person may be feeling a bit more tender, and might appreciate a gentle contact to let

## Rabbi's Message (con't)

them know that they are not forgotten and completely alone in recalling their loss as it comes around on the calendar.

One aspect of this remembering, however, is still quite unclear to me, and I don't believe that there is a good answer of how to handle it. I don't know that any one approach is right for all, or even most, times. It is this: after a couple have been married for a time, say for twenty-four years, and one of them dies, or after a marriage of twelve years that ends in divorce. Should you acknowledge the anniversary of their marriage in years following death or divorce, or will that be too painful? Does the answer change with time or the individual? If you do acknowledge it, for how long do you continue to note it—is there a time when it is better to stop noting it? Is it a celebration, or a moment of sadness? Or both? If you do not acknowledge it to avoid causing pain, is there a time after which you can or should begin to do so? And again, is there then a time after which you stop? Is there any event that indicates when you should stop acknowledging an anniversary; for example, if the partner remarries?

There does not seem to be any good answer that is generally applicable. If anyone knows one, and can explain this "new" etiquette to me, I would love to hear from you. Otherwise, I suppose the only answer is to ask in each case and follow the lead of the person.

[I pause to note here that August 30th is Grief Awareness Day. If you know someone who is grieving for any reason, this is a reminder to reach out to them.]

This issue of remembering seems particularly relevant now, following the Three Weeks, as we enter into the days leading to the High Holy days. It is a time when we are strongly encouraged to remember and acknowledge. Not so much remember others specifically, but to remember our self, our own deeds, and our own relationship with G-d, all in the context of acknowledgement of who we have been, and who we would like to be—and how we move from here to there. In the service of that movement, from our present self to our better self, memory is an ally and tool.

May your foray into the realm of memory offer you strength, support, and vision as you seek your best self in the year to come. May we all find ways to make the world a better place and manifest G-d in it, however you wish to define that. I wish you and your loved ones Le'Shanah tovah umetukay tikateivu.

Rabbi Joe Blair

## Contacting the Rabbi

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Please note: Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at  
**RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com.**

(Other email addresses may not reach him in a timely fashion, or at all.). He reads email regularly, except on Jewish Holidays or Shabbat, when he does not use the computer.

**His cell phone number is 925-272-8563 (925-2-RAVJOE).**

Telephone messages left at the Congregation number are only checked sporadically.

PLEASE CALL if you have any urgent messages or in case of an emergency, and please let Rabbi Joe know if you or anyone you know is ill or would want a call or visit for any reason.

You are also invited to contact Rabbi Joe to arrange an appointment to meet. Rabbi Joe will be happy to make an appointment to speak with you, so that he can offer you his full, undivided attention.

## Women's Group

New leadership is still needed! The Women's Group is waiting for a **treasurer and president**—to preside over the next meeting. We need you! Contact Elizabeth S. or Bonny S. for more information and to get their organized notebook of past events and activities. That magic notebook will be a great help for the next person to take on either of these positions to keep us running smoothly.

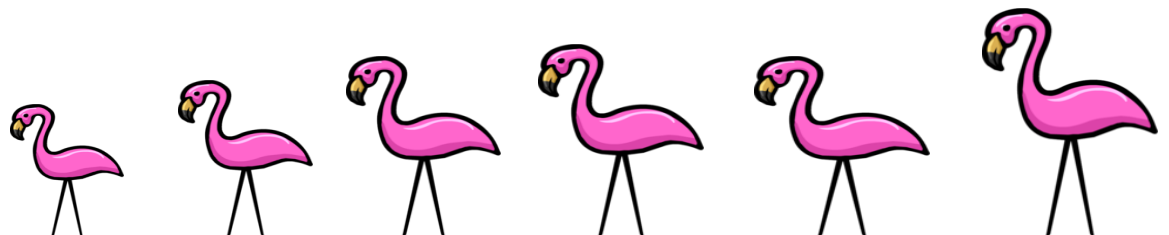
There is a **Erev Rosh Hashonah potluck dinner** flyer attached to this bulletin. The Women's Group will provide drinks (iced tea and cider), ice, a few non-dairy desserts as well as apples and honey.

Please get signed up for the **Greater Augusta Out of the Darkness Walk** on Saturday, **October 21**. In addition to our own efforts, **Team Tikvah** will be the September non-profit recipient of generosity from LTD7. This community minded and award winning business (near Mrs. Rowe's) participates in a 'Round Up' program. When you make a purchase at their awesome shop, you will be asked if you'd like to make a donation by rounding your purchase to the next dollar. At the end of the month, LTD7 will match the amount of money generated by this 'Round Up' program. Please do some gift shopping there and you'll find a fun selection of gift items, jewelry and clothing and amazing employees! Then be sure to tell your friends and neighbors that they can support our efforts to reach our \$1500 goal by shopping there throughout the month of September and saying "Yes!" when asked if they'd like to round up their purchase to support suicide prevention efforts. Call Debbie Jacobs at 540-688-8058 or email her at deb1130@hotmail.com with questions. Register online directly at <https://afsp.donordrive.com/> and look for Team Tikvah.

The **Caring Committee** is once again up and running. We have had many opportunities to bring a smile and care for those in our congregation who needed a little lift. Please contact Ellen Schorsch at ellenschorsch@gmail.com if you know of members the committee should contact.

Thank you to Ellen Werther for creating a healing space at the temple for those seeking a place to join together following the Charlottesville march, recognizing that we are united against evil. Thanks also to Heidi Lasser, Ellen Schorsch and Gail Davis who joined many from the community to light Shabbat candles, enjoy Hebrew songs and prayers and of course, food.

We can gather on **September 10 at 2:00 pm** (our usual day and time) in the social hall, but someone needs to step up and lead the meeting.



A reminder that the flamingoes are available to delight and celebrate a birthday, anniversary or any special occasion for only \$25. Call or email Debbie deb1130@hotmail.com or 540-688-8058.

## News from the Pews

- **Refuah Shelemach:** Wishing and praying for a speedy and full recovery for Leah Farmer, Greg Cizek, Kate Goldenberg after a skateboard accident, Dennis Ward and Rabbi Lynne Landsberg.
- **Prayers for healing and wholeness** to Adam Clark, Jim Clark, and Michelle as well, Nancy Witt, Dianne Mason, Steve Guberman, Sue Solomon, Shirley Brand, Dan Schorsch, David Waterman, Ken Schwartz and Joanne Simons (Carla Donley's aunt) .
- Mazal Tov to another set of **new grandparents ~ Patty and Larry Sutker** whose son and daughter-in-law celebrated the birth of their son, Liam Arran, on August 16 in Israel. Patty and Larry arrived in time!
- Meanwhile, **Debbie and David Jacobs** are thoroughly enjoying their daughter Mara's son Aidan, born July 20. Everyone is adjusting to the "new normal".
- **Todah rabah to the ritual committee** for their work on planning services and High Holy Days: Ruth Chodrow, Larry Sutker, Heidi Lasser, Ellen Werther, Sarah Grove-Humphries and Bonny Strassler.

### September Celebrations

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#### Happy Birthdays

Scott Goldenberg celebrates on September 17  
Zach Pereles on September 18th



#### Happy Anniversary

Beth and Rich Young celebrate on September 20

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### Religious School

#### Religious School is held on Sunday mornings at Beth El in Harrisonburg.

If you know of any new children in grades K-7 interested in joining us for Religious School, or a younger child who is ready for a Parent & Child "pre-school" program, please contact Dara Hall at [mddmhall@verizon.net](mailto:mddmhall@verizon.net).

### SHORTY

If you know of any teens interested in participating in SHORTY—we plan to meet the third Sunday of each month at 12:30 at Beth El. We also plan to have an event one night each month. Please contact Becky Mintzer at [rem82398@aol.com](mailto:rem82398@aol.com).

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### September Yahrzeits

#### We honor the memories of our loved ones at this season

Flossie Cohen	Reuben Harris	Harry Harrison
Henrietta H. Summerfield	Herman Levy	Miriam Loewner
Milton Mann	Julius Margolis	Minnie Patterson
Hermina Printz	Samuel Printz	Connie Rubin
Joseph Ruttenberg	Nathan Schilling	Anna Seltzer
Michael Seltzer	Stephen Shapiro	Samuel Shultz
Bennie Sragovitz	Sadie Witt	

## Board of Directors

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Trustee	Richard Young	885-1481	richardfyoung@gmail.com
Rabbi	Joe Blair	925-272-8573	RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com

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# L'Shanah Tovah

Each seed a wish for a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

