

Temple Israel Bulletin

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September 2017
Elul 5777 / Tishri 5778



*Schedule
of High
Holy Days
services
on p. 2*

Rabbi's programs in 2017-2018

By Rabbi Cohn

New Prayerbook Orientation. I am offering a two-part introduction to the new High Holy Days Prayerbook, *Mishkan Hanefesh*. This two-volume book has been structured very carefully by its editors to preserve the virtues of its predecessors as well as to remedy some of their deficiencies. This program will answer the question, "Why do we need a new prayerbook?" More than that, it will provide a familiarity with the systematic design of *Mishkan Hanefesh* that will make the experience of the High Holy Days more meaningful this year. Get the most out of your worship on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur by attending this program. If you are only able to attend one of the two sessions, it will still be eminently worthwhile. The sessions will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m., and on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 2 p.m.

Yom Kippur Torah Study. How do we help people in our congregational family when they encounter financial hurdles that they are unable to overcome without assistance? The issue here is not only compassion but also justice. At our Yom Kippur Torah study we will reach into our Jewish heritage to explore the ethics and mechanics of our responsibilities to

Rabbi's message

"All endings are new beginnings"

I am always filled to overflowing with powerful thoughts and feelings as I approach the High Holy Days. This year my thoughts and feeling are beyond "overflowing," and a better word would be "flooding."

I have begun my final year as your rabbi, my final year in my profession, and my final year in Charleston. On July 1, 2018, I will retire to the Florida Keys.

The period spanning Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is called in Hebrew Yamim Nora'im, which translates as "Days of Awe." I will share my thoughts and feelings about the meaning of my retirement for you and for me in my sermons over the High Holy Days.

The coming year will be a busy one for me and for the Temple. In no way will it be a year of slowing-down; I don't want to be a rabbi who "retires in-place." On another page in this Bulletin I have detailed some of the programs I will be offering in this year of transition.

Mindful of how this will be a year of transition for you as well as for me, I will be attentive to the unique challenges (and opportunities) presented to you by my departure and your search for a new rabbi. I have assured our Temple leadership that I will be accessible and provide assistance when they want and need me to do so in Temple Israel's pursuit of its own future, but only to help and not to hinder.

I am excited about what my future holds. I grieve the separations that it brings. All beginnings are endings, it is true. But all endings are beginnings, it is also true. As we begin this new year together, let us celebrate the fullness of what the past has been, and what the coming year holds for us, a year we share together, exploring new and deeper connections of growth, wisdom, and love.

Rabbi Jim Cohn

Masthead photo by Louis Davidson

(Continued on page 4)

Schedule of September Shabbat & High Holy Days worship services

Shabbat

(includes Yom Kippur Kol Nidre on Sept. 29)

Friday, Sept. 1	5:30 p.m.	Shabbat service
Friday, Sept. 8	5:30 p.m.	Shabbat service
Saturday, Sept. 9	10:30 a.m.	"First Shabbat" morning service followed by Torah study
Friday, Sept. 15	5:30 p.m.	Shabbat service
Friday, Sept. 22	5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Shuvah
Friday, Sept. 29	7:30 p.m.	Shabbat service (Yom Kippur—Kol Nidrei)

High Holy Days

Wednesday, Sept. 20	7:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Eve service
Thursday, Sept. 21	10:30 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Morning service
Friday, Sept. 22	5:30 p.m.	Shabbat Shuvah service
Friday, Sept. 29	7:30 p.m.	Yom Kippur Evening service (Kol Nidrei)
Saturday, Sept. 30	10:30 a.m.	Yom Kippur Morning service
	1:00 p.m.	Torah study
	2:00 p.m.	Afternoon service
	4:00 p.m.	Family service for all ages
	5:00 p.m.	Memorial (Yizkor) service
	5:30 p.m.	Concluding (Ne'ilah) service
		Break-the-Fast—everyone is invited



Any news?

Do you have news to share about births, weddings, or bereavements in your family? Please email Rabbi Cohn and we will include it in our print bulletin and our email announcements.

Note that we only accept information directly from family members and never from third parties, in keeping with considerations of privacy, accuracy and the Jewish customs of Ethical Speech.

Temple website

The Temple website is undergoing renovation and will be back online soon.

Please check your email for news about specific events, and keep your Bulletin handy.

IN THE EVENT OF SEVERE WEATHER:

Call the Temple at 304-342-5852 and follow the prompts to hear about any cancellations.

Visit rabbijamescohn.com

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David Shapiro
President
James D. Cohn
Rabbi
Israel B. Koller
Rabbi Emeritus

September yahrzeits

Names are read the Friday evening prior to the yahrzeit date, which is in parenthesis.

September 1st

Robert Sidney Aaron (3)
Beatrice Cohen Binderman (3)
Deidre Eisinger (3)
Mina G. Greenspon (3)
Simon H. Galperin Sr. (5)
Stanley Silverstein (5)
Lena T. Burka (6)
Raymond A. Cohen (7)
Marion Lehman (8)

September 8th

Charles Cohen (9)
Suzanne Silverstein Rice (9)
Anna Rodgin (9)
Herman G. Wells (9)
Max M. Goldfarb (10)
Priscilla Herzbach (12)
Susan Ferrara Bostic (13)
Peter Godfrey (14)
Esther Price (14)

September 15th

Fred Burka (16)
Gussie Kwass (16)
Carol Marks (16)
Joan F. Silverstein (16)
Sylvia M. Kohn Gold (17)

Hildegard Mellman (17)
James Pickus (18)
William R. Wood (18)
Jacob H. Stern (19)
Louis E. Walter (19)
Ruth Goldfarb (20)
Henrietta Kaufman (20)
Margaret Short Lewis (21)
Naomi Ruth Pickus (21)

September 22

Philip Angel Sr. (23)
Robert Weinberger (23)
Nan Hertz (24)
Jean Jubelirer (24)
Abraham Greenberg (25)
Sam Joseph Toovy (25)
Rosa Levine (26)
Dr. Gordon F. Phillips (27)
Alfred H. Schaffner (27)
Bernard Bergen (28)
Richard O. Katz (28)
Ellen Shapiro (28)
Judy Walder (28)
Edna P. Hofmayer (29)
Lawrence C. Kaufman Jr. (29)
Etta Ruda (29)

September 29th

Faye Kantor (Oct. 1)
Nat Spigel (Oct. 2)
Helen Jacobs (Oct. 3)
Lucille Barrett (Oct. 4)
Irma Hallo (Oct. 5)
Betty Levine (Oct. 5)
Geneva Mann Sessions (Oct. 5)
Dottie Greenspon (Oct. 6)
Bertha Sclove (Oct. 6)
Frank B. Wotiz (Oct. 6)

Condolences

Our congregation shares sympathies with Jack and Doris Goldfarb and their family on the recent death of Jack's sister, Lillian Caroline Goldfarb Garner Isis. May her memory serve as an enduring blessing.

URJ info

You can find Torah study materials on the Union for Reform Judaism website at <http://reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study>

Reform Judaism magazine was the official voice of the Union for Reform Judaism, linking the institutions and affiliates of Reform Judaism with every Reform Jew. It ceased publication in 2014. Previous content is available online at <http://reformjudaismmag.org/>

September's "First Shabbat" Torah topic:

**"Still not asking for it" – the Torah confronts forced sex
Saturday, September 9, 2017, 11:15 a.m.**

(Morning Shabbat service will take place at 10:30)

"First Shabbat" is a participatory Torah study session facilitated by Rabbi Cohn on the first Saturday of each month (except this month when we will meet on the second Saturday because of Labor Day).

Torah Portion: Deuteronomy 21:10 - 25:19

For text and commentary, check out

<https://www.sefaria.org/Deuteronomy.21.10-25.19?lang=bi>

<http://reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study/ki-teitzei>

**Or read the Women's Torah Commentary in the Sisterhood Lounge,
starting on page 1165.**

There will be a nosh!

Rabbi's programs in 2017-2018

(Continued from page 1)

and for each other, using as our text Maimonides's Ladder of Tzedakah. Our task is to craft a Temple Israel practice that best meets such needs. Your input is invited! Saturday, Sept. 30 at 1 p.m.

"First Shabbat" is a monthly Shabbat morning service followed by Torah study facilitated by the rabbi. It takes place at 10:30 on the first Saturday morning of each month (except this month when we will meet on the second Saturday because of Labor Day). This month's "First Shabbat" takes place on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 10:30 a.m. See the separate article for details about September's topic.

Adult Confirmation Class begins in November. The class will be held on selected Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. starting on Nov. 1. Confirmation takes place when a person "confirms," as an end-product of a process of careful study and exacting exploration, a commitment to Judaism and to Jewish life. This process will culminate in a special ceremony at the season of Shavuot on Friday night, May 18, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. At that service, students who have attended 75% of the classes will be confirmed as they lead the service and participate in the reading from the Torah. They will also prepare a special project as a group, in keeping with the importance of communal and social action that is at the heart of Reform Judaism. I will provide a complete list of dates and topics in the October Bulletin. While the presentation part of the programs will be open to the congregation and community at large, there will be also periods for conversation that are "confirmands-only."

The Two Rabbis. Following the success of last year's

"Two Rabbis" program, my colleague Rabbi Victor Urecki and I have scheduled two programs for this fall and will schedule additional ones later in the year.

"Shabbat (the Sabbath)" is the topic on Wednesday, Nov. 8 the Temple.

"Kashrut (the Kosher laws)" is the topic on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at B'nai Jacob Synagogue. Both programs will begin at 6 p.m. These programs are part of my Adult Confirmation program described above.



Conversion to Judaism classes. For those who were not born Jewish, but who want to adopt a Jewish identity that is based upon a firm background in Jewish heritage, my Adult Confirmation program described above is the core of the Conversion Course. It will be supplemented by meetings specifically tailored to the subject of conversion. The conversion ceremony will be part of the Confirmation service at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 18, 2018.

Rabbi's Adult Education Series. I am offering a set of individual, self-contained programs each one of which can serve as a complete treatment of one theme or subject. Drop in as a subject interests you. I will provide a complete list of dates and topics in the October Bulletin. These events are – you guessed it – the Adult Confirmation class described above. If you don't want to be part of the Confirmation Class, you may come to any and all of the programs selectively. Come to programs based on the topic, as you choose. To be confirmed, you need to attend 75% of the classes. But "audit students" are welcome. Just let your feet make the choice.

You can help
make Friday
evenings even
more special

Message from the Oneg Shabbat Committee

Summertime is over, so let's visit and have a nosh after Shabbat services. We need members to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat reception: what a special way to honor or remember a birthday, yahrzeit or any other occasion.

Be as creative as you wish, remembering this is a nosh, not a meal. Some ideas include: cakes, cookies and pastries (homemade or from a bakery), dried or fresh fruit, cheese and crackers, vegetables and dips – it's all up to you.

Everything needs to be brought to the Temple as early as possible on Friday to allow time for Mary to prepare and plate as necessary.

If you prefer, the committee will shop for you. The cost is \$35, your check payable to Temple Israel and "Oneg" and the date you are paying for written on the memo line. Please mail checks to the Temple office.

Slots are filling up fast, so hurry to reserve a date. Onegs are available in all months except September, October and May. Call Anne Fishkin, Judy Lundy or Beth Winter to make sure your preferred date is available.

Thank you and shalom.



Flowers on the bimah

If you would like to sponsor Shabbat flowers on the bimah, please contact Betty Stern.

Sisterhood message

College youth mailings, decorating the sukkah and remembering Sisterhood's tzedakah box—need volunteers for Holland Bulb sale—join us for the next Schmooze Sept. 11

After a busy summer, I hope all are ready to come back to Sisterhood meetings and activities. Our first general membership meeting will be held Sunday, Oct. 15. Come at 10 a.m. for our meeting, program and lunch.

The Shabbat covered dish dinners will continue this year under Fran Thalheimer's guidance. They are usually the first Friday of the month and will start after the

5:30 p.m. Shabbat service. Our first one will be Friday, Sept. 8 — bring a dish to share and join us!

Sisterhood Schmooze Time will also continue on the second Monday of each month,

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Come when you can, leave when you must, share your fun with us! Monday, Sept. 11 will be the

first one this fall.

The Sisterhood board will be sponsoring the Rosh Hashanah Reception with the Temple board on Wednesday, Sept. 20. We will also be holding the Break-the-Fast meal after the closing service on Yom Kippur

Day, Saturday, Sept. 30. Please join us for the reception and to break your fast.

We will decorate the sukkah on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. Please come and bring your children or grand-

children! No children? Come anyway! Enjoy pizza and salad for dinner.

Remember our tzedaka box when you come to Temple. It is usually at the information center near the entrance to the Sanctuary. When I think about the tzedaka box, I remember how I learned about it: I was in college and was taking a child development class. Part of the class required that I spend several hours a week with a professor's child. I had not converted to Judaism at this point and this family was Jewish. I saw my first tzedaka box and the four-year old girl I was with explained it to me. I also saw my first Hanukkah menorah.

The Holland Bulb sale will continue under Judy Lundy's leadership. (Thank you, Judy!) If you have time in the spring to help put the mailing together, work on the bulb sale display — a lot of jobs need to be done

then — please offer your help to Judy. The bulbs are delivered to the Temple in the fall and either picked up at the Temple by the purchasers or delivered to those unable to come get their bulbs. Out of state orders need to be mailed. Many jobs, but many hands will help us continue our sale!

Ann Kushner will be sending out mailings to our college students. Please send in this year's college addresses to the Temple office. If it is the same as last year, please let us know that. Your son or daughter will receive greeting cards and gift cards from the Sisterhood and a Jewish calendar and the monthly Temple Israel Bulletin from the Temple.

May this be a good year for our Sisterhood and Temple.

Sue Eisinger, President

September at a glance

Friday, Sept. 1 at 5:30 p.m. — Shabbat service

Monday, Sept. 4 — Temple closed in observance of Labor Day

Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. — New High Holy Days Prayerbook orientation, Session 1 of 2 — see p. 1 for details

Friday, Sept. 8 at 5:30 p.m. — Shabbat service, followed by covered dish dinner — no RSVP required

Saturday, Sept. 9 — Shabbat Morning Service at 10:30 a.m. and "First Shabbat" Torah Study at 11:15 — see p. 3 for details

Sunday, Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. — New High Holy Days Prayerbook orientation, Session 2 of 2 — see p. 1 for details

Monday, Sept. 11, 11:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m. — Sisterhood Schmooze — see p. 5 for details

Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 5:30 p.m. — Temple board meeting

Thursday, Sept. 14 at 11:30 a.m. — Sisterhood board meeting

Friday, Sept. 15 at 5:30 p.m. — Shabbat service

Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m. — Rosh Hashanah Eve service, followed by reception — everyone is invited

Thursday, Sept. 21 at 10:30 a.m. — Rosh Hashanah Morning service followed by Tashlikh

Friday, Sept. 22 at 5:30 p.m. — Shabbat Shuvah service

Friday, Sept. 29 at 7:30 p.m. — Yom Kippur Eve service (Kol Nidrei)

Saturday, Sept. 30 — Yom Kippur services starting at 10:30 a.m. — see p. 2 for complete schedule. Break-the-fast follows closing service — everyone is invited.

Next month

Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. — Sukkah decorating party and pizza dinner — no RSVP necessary

Deadline for the October Bulletin is Sept. 15th.

Our Thoughtful Contributors

If you would like to make a donation to a Temple or Sisterhood fund, please mail your check to Temple Israel and tell us to whom you would like a card to be sent.

Donations to a Sisterhood fund (Care Committee, Floral Fund or Y.E.S. Fund), should be made payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood with a note on the memo line telling us which fund the donation is for.

Donations to the Temple Israel Social Action Fund should be made payable to that fund.

Donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund should be made payable to that fund. If you wish your donation to go toward relief for those with financial hardships, please write this on the memo line on your check: "To help those in need."

Unrestricted donations or those to the Library should be made payable to Temple Israel.

Donations received after the Bulletin deadline will be acknowledged in the next issue.



By Rabbi Cohn

Tashlikh takes place on the afternoon of Rosh Hashanah by a natural source of water, in our case the Kanawha River. It is sufficient to be able to see the source of water, or to stand by water whose flow is connected to a natural source.

In symbolic illustration of the utterance of the Hebrew prophet Micah, "Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea," it is customary to congregate near a running stream and cast bread into the waters. The bread represents our misdeeds over the past year. It is also a delicacy for the

fish, and – most likely, based on past years' experience – the geese as well.

This ritual will take place immediately following our Rosh Hashanah morning service on Thursday, Sept. 21. That service begins at 10:30 a.m.

Why do we need a new prayerbook?

Get the most out of your worship on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur by attending Rabbi Cohn's two-part introduction to the new

High Holy Days prayerbook, *Mishkan Hanefesh*. Even if you are only able to attend one of the two sessions, it will still be eminently worthwhile.

The sessions will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m., and on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. See "Rabbi's Programs 2017-2018" on front page for details.

**New Prayerbook
Orientation Sept. 6 & 10**



The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: what it's for and who it helps, and two current needs

By Rabbi Cohn

I continue to encounter congregants who are unaware of the existence, let alone the purposes, of the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. These are some of the categories of expenditures for which the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is purposed:

- funds to needy congregants and other individuals
- Rabbi's participation in conferences, workshops, and continuing education programs
- honorarium or expenses of a guest speaker or educational program
- Rabbi's expenses to visit congregants who live in different locations
- funds to other nonprofit 501(C)3 or-

ganizations

- books, music, and computer software, hardware, or peripherals

Two particular initiatives are worthy of mention.

To help congregants in financial need, in the memo line of your check, write "To help those in need."

I have been accepted into a highly selective week-long writing conference in January. To help defray my expenses in attending, in the memo line of your check, write "Workshop."

You may make your check out to the Temple Israel Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and send it to the office. All contributions are tax-deductible.

From the Kollers

Rabbi and Peggy Koller want to thank the congregation for the generous and thoughtful Rabbi Emeritus gift they received over the summer. They appreciate it very much.

The Kollers also would like to wish the congregation and all their friends in Charleston "Shanah tovah," a good New Year of health and peace.

Mazel tov

Trish Weisberg, daughter of Liz and Louis Weisberg, was graduated from Southern Methodist University with a B.B.A. in Real Estate Finance. She will be working in consulting and attending Temple Emanuel in Dallas, Texas.

Social Action Committee report**New project: Helping children to eat so they can learn and thrive. Donations needed for refugee resettlement. Food pantry looking for volunteers.**

In addition to our other initiatives, the Social Action Committee will work to create a school pantry for children who come to school hungry and go home to a place without meals. Hunger renders children unable to learn and to thrive. We will also consider supplying toiletries.

At press time, the Social Action Committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 11:30 a.m. with Tom Bloom, one of the creators of The Pantry Plus More in Morgantown, to learn how that group serves elementary and middle school children with basic food and hygiene needs. There is no requirement necessary for access to the food and toiletries.

Our plan is in its beginning stages and we will define and refine our mission, goals and plans to achieve results. Nourish and nurture! We will keep everyone informed as we progress.

Gayle Twigger-Shaw, chair

Food pantry needs volunteers

Temple members Betty Stern, Ann Kushner and Anne Fishkin are among the long-term volunteers

who staff the Covenant House food pantry. We're looking for more volunteers from the congregation.

Volunteers greet shoppers and help them select items, bag groceries and stock shelves. The pantry is open five mornings a week from 9–12, and three afternoons, 1–3. If you can spare two or three hours once a week, every other week, or even one day a month, please contact Anne Fishkin, or the pantry's

volunteer coordinator, Robin Snyder.

The pantry continues to need cereal, canned pasta or soup, and canned meat.

Anne Fishkin

Household items and clothing needed for WVIRM and Covenant House

WV Interfaith Refugee Ministry (WVIRM), the interfaith refugee resettlement group in Charleston, is seeking household items for refugee families. WVIRM's resettlement plan was approved by the US State Department in January.

The group now has an executive director, Antigona Mehani, and an office at St. John's Episcopal Church.

If you're planning to give away household items, please consider donating them to the resettlement project. WVIRM is accepting donations of furniture, furnishings and other household items. Donations intended for refugees that are made primarily of cloth – towels, sheets, mattresses or clothing – should be new.

WVIRM is storing donated items at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 36 Norwood Road in Charleston. Donors are encouraged to drop off goods at the site. Contact Antigona Mehani to coordinate delivery: amehani@wvirm.com or 304-807-4985.

Covenant House Clothing Closet needs: men's shoes, underwear, socks, blue jeans, black pants, and khaki pants; Ladies underwear and socks; children's shoes and clothes. Towels, wash cloths, sheets and blankets are also welcome. Many thanks for your support of Covenant House!

Anne Fishkin

Let us celebrate your simchas!

Coming from the Hebrew word sameyach meaning glad or happy, the Temple and Rabbi Cohn want to acknowledge and celebrate significant (multiples of 5, such as 30, 45, 60, etc.) birthdays and anniversaries of our members.

Some time ago the Sisterhood asked members for birth and anniversary dates. That information is used to have their significant simchas acknowledged by Uniongrams. We are using the Sisterhood Uniongram list so that the Rabbi can send a letter on behalf of the Congregation expressing his and our congratulations. The letter will also ask if you want your simcha acknowledged and celebrated at our Shabbat service. If you don't, we understand and will honor your wishes. But, if you do, Rabbi will talk with you about how that can be done.

If members who are not on the Uniongram list want their significant simchas acknowledged, please provide the information on your birth or anniversary date, or both, to Betty Stern. As many of you know, Betty is the keeper of the Uniongram information and she has agreed to be the repository for this information. Understand that Betty will not add you to the Uniongram list, unless that is what you want.

Leora May Book Club to meet Sept. 13 at Edgewood Summit

The next meeting of the Leora May Book Club will be held at our usual location, Edgewood Summit, on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. We're reading *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue. I understand it is available in paperback.

Happy reading!

Amy Shapiro

