Temple Topics
Deadline
The deadline for Temple Topics is the second Sunday of the preceding month.

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Contact Us

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Sympathy

We send condolences to...

- Diane Browning and Daniel Pleeter, on the loss of their sister, Linda Pleeter Heller
- Julie Rosenbluth, on the loss of her grandmother, Jewell Bernice Zimmerman
- Elaine Weiss, on the loss of her friend, Eric Lynn Balzer
- Mady Stier, on the loss of her brother, Edgar Worton
- The Family of John Lewis, American politician and civil-rights leader
- Rachel Relkin, on the loss of her father, Norman Daniel Alvy
- Daniel Pleeter, on the loss of his mother, Shirley Pleeter
- Todd Brecher, on the loss of his mother, Carol Brecher
- Mark Shainker, on the loss of his friend, Suzanne Tabasky
- Kali Weinstein, on the loss of her grandmother, Ellen Mallette

"May their souls be bound up in the eternal bond"

Mazal Tov

Congratulations to...

- Wedding Anniversaries
  Janice & Warren Agatston (60 years)
  Cantor Randall & Leah Schloss (20 years)
  Joel & Michelle Halperin (10 years)
- Special Birthdays
  Paul Betts, Linda Capozzola, Rachel Davis, Peter Dennin, Joel Finger, Monica Grey, Rhonda Leonard
  Morris Marcus, Anna Weiser
- B’nei Mitzvah
  Louis Fernandez, Henry Meisner. See their bios on p. 13
- Robert & Carol Kurzman, on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Olivia Kurzman. Olivia is the daughter of Gregory & Nicole Kurzman
- Helen & Bernie Miller are celebrating the engagement of their grandson, Derek Miller to Emily Karp.
- Diane Browning, on the birth of her new granddaughter, Ellison Jeanette Browning (Ellie) born May 24th.

Send all your good news to OriettaSchneider@tinr.org

New Members

Welcome!

- Lisa & Aaron Wittenstein
- Leda & Michael Kushner
- Rebecca Halperin & Jerry Chao
This month we will welcome the New Year of 5781. We will enter it holding the challenges of the past months and our hope for a better year to come. For the past 6 months, COVID-19 has impacted every facet of our lives. Throughout these challenging times, Temple Israel of New Rochelle has been guided by the Jewish value of *pikuach nefesh*—putting health and safety first. Our 5781 High Holiday experiences will also adhere to this principle as we will offer a combination of sacred community opportunities to celebrate and observe at home, online, and *panim el panim*—face to face—socially distanced and wearing masks. Be sure to pick up a “High Holidays from Home” kit, enabling us to begin on Rosh Hashanah eve and to conclude with Havdalah, marking the end of Yom Kippur, connected together as one community. Although our primary worship services will be online, we invite all to participate in a variety of *Elul* and High Holiday events and programs that will broaden our Jewish connection to each other, our temple and ourselves.

Wishing you a healthy, safe, and sweet New Year. *L'shanah tovah um'tukah.*

Rabbi Deborah A. Hirsch  
Cantor Randall M. Schloss

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**S'lichot 5780/2020: Seeking Renewal in a Time of Distress**  
Saturday, September 12th, 7:00 pm

*S’lichot (“Forgiveness”) is the prelude to the Season of Awe: it announces (often through music) the key themes of the High Holidays, introspective and inspiring in equal measure, *S’lichot* invites us to take stock of our lives and begin the intensive examination of our souls. Temple Israel of New Rochelle is delighted to team up with Westchester Reform Temple to share in the beauty, awe, and mystery of the season.

Please join us over Zoom for a program during which rabbis and cantors from both congregations will share wisdom, melody, and insightful teaching. After Havdalah, around 8:15/8:30 pm, we will remain online for a contemplative hour of stirring song, poetry, and prayer, featuring an interactive *D'var S'lichot* called “What I learned about repentance, forgiveness, and atonement from a science fiction story.”

**HOPE Community Food Drive**

For many years, TINR and TIFTY have diligently worked to make an impact on food insecurity in New Rochelle by supporting HOPE Community Food Bank through our annual High Holiday Food Drive. The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted HOPE Community’s Food Drive. In order to fulfill both the mitzvah of feeding the hungry and of *pikuach nefesh*—preserving life—we are asking that generous contributions be made directly to HOPE. Perhaps consider contributing an amount equivalent to what you would have spent purchasing food. Donate to fulfill this life-saving mitzvah.

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**Cemetery Memorial Service during the Days of Awe**

While we won’t gather together for our Annual High Holiday Memorial Service at Sharon Gardens, the clergy will provide a self-guided service for those who wish to visit Sharon Gardens or any cemetery where you might honor the memory of loved ones. Cantor Schloss will be posting recordings of memorial music on the temple’s website.

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**Six Word Memoirs**

Six-Word Memoirs enable us to peer into an entire experience with just six words. (e.g. “Thirteenth birthday. I laughed and cried.”) Please share your Six-Word Memoir of either (1) the power and meaning of the High Holidays for you, or (2) what life, post Covid-19 will look like. Your Six-Word Memoirs will be shared during our High Holiday services.

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**'High Holidays From Home' Kit and Prayer Book Pick-Up**

Stop by Temple Israel for a socially-distanced High Holidays greeting and to pick up supplies to help create a sacred space, allowing us to come together in community even from home. Listed are the pick-up times (11 am - 1 pm or 4 - 6 pm on: Thursday, 9/10, Friday, 9/11, Monday, 9/14, or Tuesday, 9/15)

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**Elul Personal Time in the Sanctuary**

Although we won’t be able to physically share in the sacred space of our sanctuary on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, sign-up for an opportunity to spend a few moments (~5 minutes) in the sanctuary before the opened Ark. You might offer prayers of the heart, or we will provide contactless prayers to help usher in the New Year. Sign-up is required.

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*All high holiday services and programs require registration.  
Please visit www.tinr.org/HighHolidays to register, or call (914) 235-1800.
High Holiday Service Information

In less than four weeks we will welcome the New Year of 5781. We will enter it holding the challenges of the past months and our hope for a better year to come. For the past 6 months, COVID-19 has impacted every facet of our lives. Throughout these challenging times, Temple Israel of New Rochelle has been guided by the Jewish values of chesed, tikvah, and simchat tevunot—fostering compassion, hope, and joy as we navigate health and safety first. Our 5781 High Holiday experiences will also adhere to this principle as we will offer a combination of sacred community opportunities to celebrate and observe at home, online, and in person—face to face—socially distanced and wearing masks. Be sure to pick up a “High Holiday Kit” enabling us to begin on Rosh Hashanah eve and to conclude with Havdalah, marking the end of Yom Kippur, connected together as one community. Although our primary worship services will be online, we invite all to participate in a variety of Elul and High Holiday events and programs that will broaden our Jewish connection to each other, our temple and ourselves.

Wishing you a healthy, safe, and sweet New Year. L’shana tovah um’tukah.

Rabbi Deborah A. Hirsch
Cantor Randall M. Schloss

*All High Holiday services and programs require registration. Please visit www.tmr.org/HighHolidays to register, or call (914) 235-1800.

Rosh Hashanah / Shabbat Eve
Friday, September 18th
5:45 pm  Families with Young Children Welcome the New Year with Singing, Ages 5 and under (ZOOM)
6:00 pm  Congregational Welcoming of the New Year
Especially during this challenging time, we want to usher in this New Year immersed in both community and family. On Friday evening, Rabbi Hirsch and Cantor Schloss will lead us in kindling the Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah lights and give us a taste of the meaning and melodies of the High Holidays. Following the final blessings of Kiddush and Kiddushin, and the sweetness of apples and honey, we will all sit down to our own tables and enjoy our festive dinner. Those who would like to “dine” with other members will be able to remain on Zoom and enjoy dinner together: ZOOM.

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 / Shabbat
Saturday, September 19th
9:15 am  Tot Service, Ages 5 and under (ZOOM)
10:00 am  Morning Service
Joining together online for one hour with the clergy leading from the sanctuary, all are invited to this special morning service for Rosh Hashanah morning, including the those of Rosh Hashanah and Rabbi Hirsch’s Sermon. LIVE STREAMING
11:15 am  Family Experience
Families are invited to join the clergy and Rebecca Elkus-Ferst for this special, interactive Rosh Hashanah experience through Zoom. The program will include music, a story, and opportunities for creation and reflection. ZOOM

Rosh Hashanah Day 2, Sunday, September 20th
10:00 am  Morning Service
For the traditional second day of Rosh Hashanah, the clergy will lead an abbreviated, online service from our sanctuary. LIVE STREAMING

Torah and Shofar Services
For the second day, we will combine the Torah reading of creation with the blasts of the Shofar. Available online after completion of the 10:00 am Morning Service. LIVE STREAMING

Shofar and Tashlich Services, conducted outdoors on the Temple campus.
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Yom Kippur - Kol Nitzei Sunday, September 27th
7:30 pm  Kol Nitzei Service LIVE STREAMING

Yom Kippur Day
Monday, September 28th
9:15 am  Tot Service, Ages 5 and under (ZOOM)
10:00 am  Morning Service LIVE STREAMING
11:00 am  Rabbi Hirsch’s Sermon
Throughout the High Holidays, Rabbi Hirsch will address the important issues of transition, loss and resilience, anti-Semitism, and racism in our world. Available online after completion of the 10:00 am Morning Service. LIVE STREAMING
11:15 am  Family Experience
Families are invited to join the clergy and Rebecca Elkus-Ferst for this special, interactive Rosh Hashanah experience through Zoom. The program will include music, a story, and opportunities for creation and reflection. ZOOM

12:30 pm  Afternoon Study led by Jason Morris
From Yom Kippur to Purim, Yom hakiPURIM to Yom PURIM, the holiest days in the Jewish calendar. ZOOM

3:00 pm  Healing Service
Yom Kippur is nothing if not a chance for reflection and renewal. This year, perhaps more than ever, this process will include healing of body, mind, and spirit. Rabbi Hirsch and Cantor Schloss will lead us in prayer and song, aiding us in our quest for a sweeter new year. ZOOM

4:00 pm  Reflecting on Our Losses: This Past Year and In Years Past
Prior to our community Yizkor (memorial) service, those who are in any stage of mourning and loss are invited to join together for a Zoom gathering of condolence and consolation. ZOOM

5:30 pm  N’ilah
The gates do not close and the Book of Life is not sealed until the final moments of Yom Kippur. N’ilah offers a powerful conclusion to this holiest of days. Finally, we will share in a final Shofar blast and the sweet senses of Havdalah before we break the fast. ZOOM

Temple Israel uses the Reform Machzor (High Holiday prayer book) Mishkan HaNefesh. The CCAR Press (carpress.org) is now offering a 20% discount on hardcovers. Use code MHN2020.

Sukkot & Simchat Torah details coming soon.

Elul/Tishrei/Cheshvan 5780-5781
Before writing this column I usually take a moment to review the message shared in this space in prior years. You won’t be surprised to learn that every year at this time the President’s note is devoted to information about, and well wishes for, the High Holidays. In the weeks leading into the Days of Awe our clergy and staff are in a constant state of preparation to ensure we’re ready. This preparation shapes and dominates our agenda.

While preparation for the High Holidays is no less important this year, what’s striking to me is how much other things have demanded our attention. In a year when we’ve had to reinvent our approach to worship and rewrite our script from the ground up, our clergy, staff, and volunteers have simultaneously been forced to retrofit all the rest of our programming while also creating new offerings. Even with our doors partially “closed” we’ve never been so busy.

We were thrilled to be able to open Camp Pinebrook this year. In his column Jesse shares what a welcome respite Camp was for campers and their families. I’ve heard from many parents and know this to be true. However, modesty prevents Jesse from sharing with you the scope of the work required to open under unprecedented circumstances, facing a constantly shifting set of regulatory requirements and the uncertainty we’ve all faced, all while ensuring camp was fun and safe for our youngest community members. Jesse and his staff hit it out of the park.

In these pages our Kehillah School Director, Laurie Thomas, shares with you that we just celebrated our two month Kehillah re-opening anniversary. Laurie has been with us for over 20 years. While she’s an old hand at caring for our children, she too was forced to reinvent herself and our program to serve our Kehillah families and keep our children safe. Almost everything changed: from how the children arrive and are greeted at our doors, to the way they interact with each other, to how we use our space and our staff. What’s remained consistent is the love and passion Laurie and her staff bring to their jobs and our children. While the economics of Kehillah are challenging while operating under COVID restrictions, we remain committed to serving our Kehillah families who have become such an integral part of our community.

Like Camp and Kehillah, our Chavaya program has been completely reimagined, more than once. As New Rochelle has repeatedly changed its plans, so has our Director, Rebecca Elkus-Ferst, been forced to constantly modify the Chavaya program. Many families can’t imagine an additional remote experience in the face of what they’re already navigating through school. Others are concerned about the risks of an in-person experience, even when this is outside. Since bringing our children together in a shared communal setting is at the heart of Chavaya, this dichotomy has created unique challenges for Rebecca. As reflected in her column, I believe she has arrived at a solution that respects our families’ concerns while staying true to our children and the mission and ethos of Chavaya. Doubtlessly the fall will present new challenges, but I feel secure in the knowledge that we have Rebecca to confront them.

In response to the hybrid approach being adopted by many schools, including New Rochelle’s, Temple Israel will be offering fall programming during the day designed to support the remote learning environment. Our goal is to be a resource for our families with children K-12. Envisioning this program, securing the appropriate licensure, designing and staffing it has been the work of a volunteer committee chaired by Jamie Deutsch. I know that the time Jamie and the rest of the volunteers sacrificed away from the diversions of summer will pay off in our ability to make remote learning a little less remote and less isolating, while also allowing parents to return to work.

And of course the work of our congregant volunteers, focused through our social action committee, has only increased. We continue to shop for our at-risk congregants. However, now that we are unable to spare any staff members, all of this work is being done by congregants. Outreach continues, as it has never been more important to check in with, and support, each other. We’ve helped feed and clothe the community and assisted with technological challenges. You have reason to be proud of Temple Israel!

It’s against this backdrop that Rabbi Hirsch and Cantor Schloss have prepared for the High Holidays. They’ve done so while playing roles in all that I’ve just shared with you. In the Temple world the days after the end of school are usually a time to rest and recharge one’s battery. There’s been no such opportunity this year. You’ll read about all that’s being done to ensure you have a rich High Holiday experience. While different than any year before, our clergy has found ways to create the opportunity for a personally meaningful experience. Consider taking advantage of some of the tailored Zoom offerings. This will be a new experience for all of us. I don’t believe it need be a lesser one.

I’m indebted to all of our staff, clergy, and volunteers who have steered us through the past months. Working in partnership with this congregation, they are the reason I’m optimistic about the coming year for Temple Israel.

L'Shanah Tovah,
Rich Alter
President, Temple Israel of New Rochelle
As summer draws to a close, we are just mid-way through our Elul spiritual journey with chai—just eighteen days until we will greet the New Year of 5781. Although we will formally say Shanah Tovah to each other digitally online this year, the various opportunities of in-person gatherings (drop by Temple Israel to pick up machzorim and holiday at-home kits, Shofar service, Tashlich), will have a deeper meaning, as members and staff greet each other, albeit masked, panim el panim—face-to-face. Each time we hear the Shofar blast this month we must heed its call to awaken to more than the weather change in the air. Indeed, Elul is the spiritual roadmap for our transition to a New Year, as well as our personal teshuvah—turning and returning to our better selves, to the paths from which we have strayed, individually and collectively. It is the time to prepare our souls for Yom Kippur—a day of introspection, repentance and, we pray, renewal. Tradition teaches us that one cannot just jump into the High Holidays; rather, one must take the appropriate time to prepare for Yom HaDin—the Day of Judgment.

In many ways Elul is a paradigm for our year of transition at Temple Israel of New Rochelle. Engaging and embracing the congregation’s next spiritual leader involves deep introspection. The process of self-examination began through the community conversations held during the past few months. It was my privilege to meet many of our members during those conversations. More importantly, these conversations served as a path for congregants to meet one another and affirm their connection to the congregation and honor those temple moments that have brought meaning into their lives. The information gleaned helped inform the rabbinic search committee of the congregational values and core needs held precious by its members.

Although we are still embroiled in a COVID-19 reality, it is my hope that in the coming months, we will be able to implement some programs and structures that reflect the growing needs of the congregation. These are not to be permanent changes, rather, temporary ones that nurture congregational flexibility—changes now that will enable a smoother transition to a new rabbi who will hopefully bring energy to the congregation, and inevitably will introduce change and innovation. These temporary changes must be a collaboration between all congregational stakeholders, and rooted in respect and trust, two critical components that have been sorely missed during the past year.

The High Holidays are both intimately personal and wholly communal. There are personal confessions and prayers we recite as a sacred congregation—al chet shechatanu lifanecha—For the sin we have sinned—for the times we as a congregation didn’t hit the mark. In a year of transition, these words must resound loudly within our hearts. And we also pray Avinu Malkeinu shema koleina-Avinu Malkeinu hear our communal voice. In addition, there are moments of private vidui—individual confession of misdeeds. During the Noraim—Days of Awe—Days of Dread—the individual and community are inextricably linked.

On Yom Kippur day, the Prayer for Our Community includes the following:

“Together we give thanks...for our leaders...for our members...for all who come here, on this holy day of Yom Kippur...May the spirit of peace, dignity, and respect live within these walls, inspiring us to care for one another with compassion; and may we be a source of goodness, light, and healing for the world....Let us renew ourselves for the year ahead. Let us honor the precious legacy that is ours. ”

Keyn Yehi Ratzon—May it be so!

Carole joins me in wishing you a Shanah Tovah!

Rabbi Deborah A. Hirsch
Interim Rabbi, Temple Israel
Temple Israel is Grateful

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Judy & Don Pinals, in memory of Barbara Kantor and Arthur Barr
Elaine Weiss & Bill Weil, in memory of Barbara Kantor; in memory of Eric Lynn Balzer
Carol & Arthur Barr

Carol & Bob Kurzman, in honor of their first great grandchild, Olivia Kurzman
Patricia & David Stiffman, in honor of Ellen Meiner and Sally Meisner for their help
Ellen & Lee Meiner, in honor of Dr. Daniel Pomerantz

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Penny Eickemeyer, best wishes to Rabbi Weiner

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Penny Eickemeyer, best wishes to Rabbi Nichols

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Judy Pinals, in memory of Myrna Schloss
Ellen & Lee Meiner, in memory of Myrna Schloss
Barbara & Frank Axle, in memory of Myrna Schloss
Susan Germaine & Edward Pinals, in memory of Edgar Worton

Camp Pinebrook

Amanda Weiss & Tobey Ritz
Barbara & Lynn ("Butch") Carlton
Barbara C. Carlton & Lynn F. Carlton, Jr., in honor of Rabbi Jesse Gallop to use on extra expenses

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Judy & Don Pinals, with gratitude to our clergy, entire office, and custodial staff
Alan & Elaine Ascher

Music Fund

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Beverly & Howard Hoffmann, in memory of Myrna Schloss
Richard Marx & Deborah Rubin-Marx, in memory of Myrna Schloss
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Linda Samuels, in memory of Myrna Schloss
Janice & Warren Agatston, in memory of Mady Stier's brother, Edgar Worton
Edith Meyers, in memory of Myrna Schloss; in memory of Barbara Kantor
Ruth & Martin Schudroff, in memory of Martin's father, Dave Schudroff, in observance of his 50th Anniversary Yahrzeit

Temple Israel Cares Fund

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Toni & Alan Hoffman, in honor of Len and Berdie Stein's new grandson, Hudson Jacob Stein; in memory of Mady's brother, Edgar Worton; in honor of Amy's being a special friend; in honor of Mia's being a special friend
Beverly & Howard Hoffmann, in memory of Barbara Kantor
Richard Marx & Deborah Rubin-Marx, in honor of the wedding of Josh Warhit & Reut Peleg
Mary Ann DeRosa, in honor of the wedding of Josh Warhit & Reut Peleg

Youth Involvement Fund

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Susan Morgenstein, in honor of the graduation of Stephen Tahbaz; in memory of Stephen Tahbaz's grandfather, Robert Morgenstein

Judy & Don Pinals, with gratitude to our Social Action Committee and its TINR Shops
Rhonda & Bernie Abramowitz, in memory of Larry Kushner, brother of Lynn Fleer
Penny & John Eickemeyer, in appreciation for Social Action Committee's TINR Shops and Amy Ecker, Mia Egelberg, Frank Chavez, Brian Gomez, Eddie Torres, and Brian Reiner
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ASL Interpreting Fund

Ilissa & Paul Warhit, in memory of Norman Alvy

Brotherhood Fund

Michael & May Goldberg, in memory of Michael's grandfather, Harry Kauffman's 50th Anniversary Yahrzeit

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<td>Steven &amp; Jackie Saril</td>
<td>Preston &amp; Valerie Scher</td>
<td>Joshua &amp; Rebecca Schickman</td>
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As a Jewish educator, I am motivated by the Talmudic statement in Shabbat 119b that “the world only exists because of the learning of schoolchildren.” I have dedicated much of my adult life to this value and believed that the Chavaya model exemplifies the very best in Jewish education. To this end, I spent the summer confronting the unique challenges that COVID-19 presents to the structure of Chavaya, our families, and educators. After many hours of consultations with medical professionals, health and safety authorities, colleagues across the country, the Chavaya committee members, and Chavaya families, we have created a plan that draws upon the best medical advice and Jewish values. We continue to be guided by the Jewish principal of Pikuach Nefesh (saving a life). The health and safety of our families remains our top priority.

Let your home be a meeting place for sages. – Pirkei Avot 1:4

Pirkei Avot, a 2,000 year old compendium of Jewish knowledge, offers us the opportunity to rethink our surroundings, recognizing that there are a multitude of ways for us to learn together. This year we have re-imagined the Chavaya model to include both in-person and online engagement. We empathize with the social isolation our students have faced since March, and believe we can safely offer an engaging outdoor environment for our children to learn together once a week. Relationship building is at the core of what we do, and we want to be able to honor our commitment to this value. We will observe health and safety requirements with distancing of children, as well as wearing masks (our mask policy was communicated to families in August.) If inclement weather is anticipated, we will transition to an online session in lieu of meeting in-person, and families will be notified.

The schedule and opening sessions for Chavaya can be found below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-10:45 am (In-Person)</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Zera’een (K) Oct 4th</td>
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<td>3:30-4:00 pm (Online)</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>4:00-4:45 pm (Online)</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Shorashim (1st &amp; 2nd) Oct 4th</td>
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<td>4:00-4:45 pm (Online)</td>
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<td>11am-12:30pm (In-Person)</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Nitzaneen (3rd &amp; 4th) Oct 4th</td>
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<td>3:30-4:30 pm (Online)</td>
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<td>4:00-5:30 pm (In-Person)</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Aytzoon (7th grade) Sept 15th</td>
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<td>6:30-7:30pm (In-Person)</td>
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<td>6:30-7:30pm (In-Person)</td>
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<td>High School 8th-12th grade Sept 15th</td>
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**Curriculum Enhancements & Programmatic Changes:**
Each summer we look to make modifications to our curriculum so that it encompasses the very best learning strategies, as well as honoring the emotional, social, and spiritual development of our children. This year’s curriculum will be tailored for both in-person outdoor sessions as well as online. We have also made significant changes in our professional development for our educators, Manheegerem (teen facilitators), and Madreecheem (teen volunteers). Our entire team will be trained in using different online learning tools and in-person interactive games, discussions, and projects that promote creativity and learning through social distancing.

In our High School (8th-12th grade) program, we will continue meeting on Tuesday evenings but without gathering for dinner. We know that these dinners have been a highlight for so many of our teens, and hope to be able to resume eating together in the late fall, or early winter. Our fall schedule will include opportunities for each grade to partake in a “Zoom dinner” once a month. Additionally, we are pleased to bring a new curriculum to this group called “Heart to Heart.” The curriculum is part of Moving Traditions, the organization that brings us Rosh Hodesh (It’s a Girl Thing!) and Shevat Achim (The Brotherhood). “Heart to Heart” will provide a safe space for teens to talk about the challenges and pressures of being a teen in a COVID era.

While the 2020-2021 learning plan allows for different engagement opportunities, we are also prepared to return to in-person sessions inside our building, and will evaluate as things continue to evolve. If you are a parent of a Chavaya child or teen and have not yet registered for the year, please do as soon as possible. **We understand that there may be members of our community who are not prepared to return in-person due to personal health concerns. If this applies to anyone in your family and you are considering not reenrolling your child, please speak with me as soon as possible. We want all of our families to remain connected to one another, and be part of our community.**

**Chavaya Families:** Please continue to be on the lookout in your email for information about opening sessions. Information will be communicated the week of September 7th.

As always please do not hesitate to reach out with questions. I look forward to seeing you soon, and wish you continued good health.

*B’chavod* (with tremendous respect and friendship),

Rebecca Elkus-Ferst
Chavaya Director

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As of September 13th it will be Kehillah’s two month anniversary of re-opening after four months of being closed. We have had so many accomplishments, as well as challenges, since reopening Kehillah. We have learned so much about enhanced protocols and safety measures to keep the children and the staff safe. Thus far, we are happy to report that we have had no families screened out at the health screening each morning. We have accepted more students back every week and look forward to welcoming more in September and October.

Kehillah looks different these days. A typical day in Kehillah starts in the lobby, where family’s temperatures are checked, health screening questions are asked, and the parents sign in on a paper sheet instead of a kiosk. Parents say goodbye to their children in the lobby. We have two teachers who serve as “runners.” They are in surgical gowns and take the children to their classrooms after they have been health screened. Every class functions as its own pod and classes no longer commingle. The runner knocks on the door and the classroom teacher comes to the door to receive the child.

Regardless of all these changes, the transition from being home to Kehillah was smooth for the children and the teachers. Even though the teachers are wearing masks all day the children know who they are and are excited to see them every day. The children are back to their usual schedules and are enthusiastic to be here and resume their normal activities. Camp Kehillah also looked different this year because there were no enrichment programs, water play or cooking but that didn’t prevent Kehillah from enjoying the summer. Every week the children had a different theme, with the last theme being super heroes. The teachers asked the children “Who are your superheroes?” and they said their teachers, parents and community helpers like the firefighters, policemen, chefs, janitors, and construction workers.

As we transition into the New Year of 5781 we are focused on *kehilla*, which means community. Judaism is very community oriented. There are many *mitzvot* or commandments about helping members of the community. This includes bringing the community together to pray, mourn or celebrate, looking out for each other, and respecting one another. This is a great value to start off the year with and as a community we pray together, eat together and celebrate together.

This year we may celebrate Rosh Hashanah in a different way – but what really matters is the love, respect and compassion that we show our families and the community around us.

Laurie Thomas
Kehillah School Director

Danielle Cohen
Assistant Kehillah School Director
B'nei Mitzvah!
Blessings During COVID

Hannah Klupt, May 16
Gabby Fishbein, June 13
Abigail Rittenberg, May 30
Marnie Silverman, June 20
Danica Frey, June 6

*Facebook Live Photos. Visit www.facebook.com/watch/TempleIsraelNR for other service and Daily Clergy Check-Ins
My name is Louis Fernandez and I will celebrate becoming a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, September 12th. I will be chanting from Vayeilech in the book of Deuteronomy. I belong to Temple Israel with my mother, Sarah, and my sister, Isabela. My father Salvador and sister Sabina will also be joining in the service. I am in 8th grade at Albert Leonard Middle School. Outside of school, I play basketball and go to swim meets and practices. I love to play video games with my friends. For my Mitzvah Project, I went to the temple and helped with the kindergarteners before the quarantine. This project is important to me because I enjoyed helping teach Judaism and develop a community. I look forward to connecting with you at my Bar Mitzvah service when I am called to the Torah.

My name is Henry Meisner, and I will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 24th. I will be chanting from Lech L’cha in the book of Genesis. I belong to Temple Israel with my parents, Sally & Steven Meisner, and my big brother, Sam. I am in the 8th grade at Albert Leonard Middle School. Outside of school I like to practice drumming, draw, and skateboard. For my Mitzvah Project I am volunteering with HOPE Kitchen. This project is important to me because I am aware that many people in New Rochelle are food insecure, now more than ever, and I want to help change that in my community. I look forward to connecting with you at my Bar Mitzvah service when I am called to the Torah.

Summer 2020 was an amazing experience for our 77 campers. Camp Pinebrook opened safely and gave children a summer of friendship, fun, Judaism, and community. While our staff wore masks, campers got to be children. Some of our activities were modified, but the true spirit of camp was present. Campers were in bunks of 10 and got to experience swim, sports, dance, art, yoga, martial arts, science, and nature. Parents shared how Camp Pinebrook not only gave their children a safe place to be, but helped them overcome anxiety and regain connections to their peers. We were blessed to have 11 staff members who are teens from Temple Israel of New Rochelle.

Having camp during COVID-19 was challenging, and many families and staff decided that this summer wasn't right for them. But for those who came, we were a refuge during a difficult time. We look forward to next summer, hoping that Camp Pinebrook will be able to run under normal conditions.

I would like to express gratitude for the support of Temple Israel’s Board of Trustees. The leadership and staff have been incredibly helpful making sure safety was our number one priority. And camp would not be possible without all of our wonderful staff. Thank you for all who supported our efforts this summer!

Jesse Gallop
Camp Pinebrook Director
The Social Action Committee (SAC) is grateful for the generosity and the support of our temple community. Being put on PAUSE in March did not slow down our volunteers! Since the middle of March, over 30 volunteers have reached out to congregants to check in to see how they are faring during this time. Many volunteers have stayed in touch and some have made new friends within the temple!

While we are all eager to get back to life as we knew it pre-COVID-19, the SAC continues to try and find ways to give back to our community, locally and within the temple. Through Temple Israel Shops and SAC donations, over $600 has been donated to HOPE Community Services since March and leftover Camp Pinebrook food was delivered daily by volunteers. Marilyn Morris is also leading an effort to have members cook or purchase fresh fruit and vegetables that she will deliver to HOPE.

Temple Israel Shops was established in April 2020 to provide congregants with an additional way to access groceries during the COVID-19 pandemic. The service continues to be offered to congregants who are 65 and older, immunocompromised, homebound, or self-quarantined. TI Shops started on April 7, 2020 and has made over 100 deliveries to date. Our incredible shopping team consisted of Frank Chavez, Brian Gomez and Brian Reiner who shopped at DeCicco’s in Pelham weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays. Frank, Brian and Brian went above and beyond in their efforts to support our community.

Beginning on Tuesday, June 30th, we transitioned to congregant volunteer shoppers. These volunteers include Deborah Blatt, Jamie Deutsch, Beth Feldman, Jill Frey, Marilyn Morris, Elijah Pomerantz and Debby Rubin-Marx.

Thank you to our HOPE food delivery volunteers: Carol Balik, Jamie Deutsch, Zoey Deutsch, Ethan Frey, Jill Frey, Diane Luftig and Mara Roberge!

We encourage you to visit https://hopecommunityservices.org/donate/ to learn about the multiple ways you are able to donate to HOPE. HOPE has played an even larger role in the lives of so many since the onset of COVID. The support of the community is essential in allowing them to continue to provide for those in need.

To sign up individual names, please follow links for opportunities below by visiting:
https://www.tinr.org/spotlight/community-outreach/

HOPE volunteer signups
Food Delivery to Seniors
Mobile Food Pantry
Food Pantry Receiving Team
Food Pantry Packing & Distribution Team
New Rochelle Community Action Partnership (CAP)

We welcome new volunteers, new ideas, feedback, and anyone interested in learning more about a leadership role in the SAC. Thank you for all that you have helped accomplish over the past six months.

Thank you to all those who donated books for The Sharing Shelf. This year 1,500 backpacks will receive a package of books in addition to their school supplies. Thank you to our volunteer packers. We sorted and packaged over 1,000 books.

Thank you to all who donated books for The Sharing Shelf. This year 1,500 backpacks will receive a package of books in addition to their school supplies. Thank you to our volunteer packers. We sorted and packaged over 1,000 books.

Please feel free to reach out:
Amy Ecker: amybros@gmail.com or (917) 348-2301 or Mia Egelberg: miaegeberg@gmail.com or (914) 629-2794 or SocialActionTINR@gmail.com

Thank you to all those who donated books for The Sharing Shelf. This year 1,500 backpacks will receive a package of books in addition to their school supplies. Thank you to our volunteer packers. We sorted and packaged over 1,000 books.
Gowns4GOOD

If you are looking for a meaningful second life for your commencement gown, you can donate it to serve as protective wear on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization Gowns4Good will upcycle the gowns as Personal Protective Equipment medical care workers. “Graduation gowns are more effective than other PPE alternatives given their length, sleeves, and easy zippered access,” reads the organization’s website.

The initiative reached the New Rochelle community thanks to Volunteer New York! and Daniel Ostrager, a rising junior at New Rochelle High School and temple member who brought the Gowns4Good initiative to New Rochelle. Daniel discovered the local effort when he was told about it by an out-of-state friend.

A box is set up at New Rochelle City Hall to drop off the gowns. To find out if you have the type of gown that is eligible for donation and for instructions on cleaning your gown to ensure it will meet the standards for use as PPE, Volunteer New York! asks you opt-in here //www.volunteernewyork.org/newrochelle to express interest. The organization asks that donors do not drop off gowns without registering first.

Thanks, Daniel, for bringing us this initiative to share with the Temple Israel community.

ICNAW UPDATE

The SIV (Special Immigrant Visa) families supported by ICNAW (Interfaith Council for New Americans Westchester) are all doing well. The Islah family welcomed a new baby girl into this world on July 11. She is an American citizen, and mother and daughter are healthy. Mr. Islah has a new job working at a Westchester country club as a groundskeeper. Considering the high unemployment rate in the country he is lucky to have the new job, and the support and guidance of dedicated volunteers.

ICNAW’s newest family, is also making good progress. Father H.G. is close to obtaining employment in Westchester with a security firm, and he is studying for his driver’s license. Day trips and events have been arranged for the children by our team of volunteers led by Jane Dixon. If H.G. can obtain this new job the family will be well on their way towards financial independence.

ICNAW’s first family continues to do well. Mahnaz Ghafoor passed her driving test in July. This is a milestone! In Afghanistan women are not allowed to go on a bus without a man by their side, driving a car is forbidden. Education for most women is severely limited. When Mahnaz first came to this country she would not go on a bus alone for fear she would be shunned; she and Fardin hesitated to walk the streets near their apartment for fear of being attacked. She was cautious when looking at a man in the eye. Two years later, this amazing, determined, bright, courageous individual is not only a loving wife, mother of three wonderful children, but a businesswoman with a thriving catering business, and now an independent woman who can drive her own car and control her own life.

Thank you for all you have done to support ICNAW and the work they are doing.

ICNAW Families Giving Back

Neighbors for Refugees has a mask-making initiative. The initiative has been going strong since March, and thanks to generous financial support, it has managed to pay the refugee seamstresses over $12,000 and they have made thousands of masks. This work means a lot to the hard workers, many of whom have not worked before or face language barriers here in the U.S. This is their foot in the door, so to speak.

Mahnaz Ghafoor is one of the 8 sewists who have collectively made thousands of masks for hospitals, shelters, nursing homes, medical centers, and the most vulnerable populations in the Tri-State area, and as far as Nebraska and Minnesota. Mahnaz along with her newly arrived sister-in-law, H.G. are some of the groups most prolific sewists. Neighbors for Refugees tries hard to pay them for their efforts through fundraising, but when money dries up, the two women insist on continuing to make them. Masks were recently sent to HOPE Community Services, Apple Preschool, a school in Queens for children with developmental disabilities, a hospital in Michigan, a school in Newburgh, Astoria Mutual Aid, The Bowery Mission, and Norwegian Christian Nursing Home.

How can you help? Fund our seamstresses’ work by putting them to work with a donation at neighborsforrefugees.org. Your donation pays for their labor AND helps protect the many vulnerable populations receiving them. Be sure to write “for masks” in the notes section.

To donate, make all checks out to Beth El Synagogue Center. Write “ICNAW” in the memo section. Mail to Beth El Synagogue, or visit www.tinyurl.com/SupportLocalRefugees to donate online.

Social Action continued on p. 16
Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe how long it has been since we last got together. We had already bought the food and rented the bouncy games for the Purim Carnival when the Pandemic began. Of course, we were forced to cancel that event, as well as Bourbon & Bible, several breakfasts, BH night out, BH/SH Shabbat Dinner, and the Golf Outing. Six months later and we are still limited in what we can do. However, during the summer BH members started cleaning headstones and footstones at our two Temple cemeteries (see below). After the High Holidays we are planning a socially distanced Pizza & Booze get-together. Hopefully this will be just the beginning of events BH hosts this year.

If you have any suggestions for events we can do this year please contact us. Of course if you need the assistance of a BH member, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Have a Happy New Year

Good Health, Joy, Fun, and Prosperity!

Because of the world closing down due to the Pandemic, Sisterhood had to cancel the fun programming we had scheduled for Spring 2020.

Hopefully, we will find our way out of this crisis soon. When that time comes, we are so looking forward to having some great events and being together again.

The Sisterhood Board wants to wish Temple Israel families a New Year filled with good health, joy, fun, and prosperity. (The coming year has to be better than last year!)

All the best,

Janet Frey
janetdubielfrey@gmail.com
Sisterhood Co-President

Jennifer Herbst
jsherbst@yahoo.com
Sisterhood Co-President

Social Action continued from p. 15

The COOK FOR A CAUSE

Marilyn Morris continues The Cook for a Cause program and coordinates with volunteers to cook meals monthly for Community Service Associates (CSA). Volunteers cook a course in their own homes and bring to Marilyn for delivery.

* Marilyn is currently coordinating meals for HOPE Community Services during the COVID-19 pandemic. HOPE has seen a 600% increase in demand and welcomes prepared meals, non-perishables as well as financial donations.

Community Service Associates (CSA)

CSA is another free meal program that our congregation supports. They are reopening on September 8th. You can visit https://csasoupkitchen.org/ to learn about how to donate or volunteer.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Temple Israel has learned that the National Guard will soon be leaving New Rochelle and that there will be an immediate need for volunteers. The National Guard has
been supporting several social service agencies since March and now a number of these agencies are desperate to secure weekly volunteers moving forward to enable them to serve those in need. Agencies are seeing a significant increase in demand and can’t manage their operations without the help of regularly/weekly committed volunteers.

Per Tali Strom, UJA’s Senior Westchester Community Mobilizer, “Volunteer sign-ups for two agencies in New Rochelle have immediately been created by Volunteer New York! to help make this an easy process for the volunteer. Please see on each link the volunteer days/times/responsibilities.”

If you are aware of Spanish speakers in your community, there is a real need in the community. There are opportunities for small groups to sign up together for a weekly opportunity. As always, each organization follows all safety guidelines for volunteers. These organizations are finding themselves having to shift quickly and are not getting the volunteer response they need in this moment.”

Watch for these new adult books coming in September/October:
The Tunnel, by A.B. Yehoshua
A Richie Boy, by Linda Kass
Eli's Promise, by Ronald Balson
The Most Precious of Cargoes, by Jean Claud Grumberg
The Lost Shtetl, by Max Gross
Shelter in Place, by David Leavitt

Please note:
The Edith H. Handelman Library Remains Closed. Books returning to our library will be held in quarantine until they can be safely added for circulation.

Our primary concern is the safely and well-being of our patrons and as such we remain closed until further notice. We are continuing to update our collection weekly so that when we are able to open you will have access to all the best Jewish books available. You can find some these acquisitions in the Virtual Library located on the Temple Israel of New Rochelle website (in the Spotlight section) or you can see our complete updated collection on our Temple library website using the link below. If you would like to reserve one of these books you can submit your request on the Handelman Library link: https://www.librarycat.org/lib/HandelmanLibraryTINR

You will be notified when the book will be available for pickup at the front desk.
List of Funds

Support Temple Israel

Please support Temple Israel!

Annual pledged membership contributions and tuition fees cover only a portion of the actual cost of Temple Israel’s wide range of ritual, educational, and social activities. We depend on your support.

To facilitate the act of Tzedakah (in Jewish charitable giving, typically seen as a moral obligation) Temple Israel provides an on-line form to make giving easy. Visit www.tinr.org, and click on “Donate” on the upper right hand corner.

Simply choose the amount you want to give and for what purpose. If you wish to give to several funds, we will apportion your donation as you wish: evenly to multiple funds or you may type in a specific amount for each fund in the space provided. A list of funds is found below, and to the right of the list, you may include a dedication(s) for each fund. When making a donation “in honor” or “in memory” of someone, those honored will be promptly informed of your thoughtfulness. Donations “in honor” or “in memory” of someone are also acknowledged right here in Temple Topics. We are happy to facilitate anonymous donations at your request.

Once you have completed the on-line donation form, please click the “submit” button. Your wishes will immediately be sent to us and we will contact you regarding the preferred payment method (check or credit card), if there are questions. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and American Express.

Thank you for supporting Temple Israel!

Gladys & Murray Goldstein Cultural Center Fund – Enables the Temple to present exhibits and improve the Cultural Center

Hospitality Fund – For the holding of Kiddush and Oneg Shabbat receptions

Kehillah School Childhood Program Fund – To support Kehillah programs

Sidney & Ruth Lapidus Fund – For adult education funding

Music Fund – To support musical programs and cultural life of the Temple

Prayer Book Fund – To enable the Temple to purchase prayer books

Radio Fund – To enable us to present radio broadcasts that we bring to the congregation and the larger public

Joan Sanders Transportation Fund – To enable congregants who do not drive to get to services

Sisterhood Fund – Temple Israel of New Rochelle Sisterhood brings together all generations of women within our synagogue to serve our congregation. Our Sisterhood sponsors a variety of social, religious, and community activities throughout the year.

Social Action Fund – To support social action projects in our synagogue and neighborhood communities

Temple Israel Cares – Enables the committee to provide meals for congregants who have been hospitalized or are recovering from illness and to provide Shiva baskets

Youth Involvement Fund – Enhances youth programs

Clergy Discretionary Funds – These funds allow our clergy to support a wide variety of charitable causes.

Did You Know?

You can pay Temple dues or make donations to the Temple with appreciated stock?

If you would like to do so, please follow the directions below:
Janney Montgomery Scott LLC #00374
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Physical Certificates: Janney Montgomery Scott LLC
26 Broadway 9th Floor Mezzanine New York, NY 10004
Account Registration: Temple Israel of New Rochelle (Operations)
Account Number: 6286-6155

Temple Israel of New Rochelle also gratefully accepts donations of real property. Please contact Anita Aronoff, Executive Director, to discuss in confidence and advise her of your donation at (914) 235-1800.
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We are a community that adds meaning and purpose to modern lives through an inclusive approach to Judaism. We live our Jewish values in our worship, celebration, lifelong learning and Tikkun Olam — the repair of the world.