



Temple Beth Israel

A vibrant Jewish community.

3601 W Dempster St Skokie, IL 60076 | p 847.675.0951 | f 847.675.0960 | www.tbiskokie.org

Shabbat Services

SHABBAT **Friday Evening, July 31***

6:05 P.M. – Virtual Kabbalat Shabbat

SHABBAT **Saturday Morning, August 1 at 10:30 A.M.**

Torah Portion “Va’etchanan”
Shabbat Nachamu

SHABBAT **Friday Evening, August 7***

6:05 P.M. – Virtual Kabbalat Shabbat
August Birthday Shabbat

SHABBAT **Saturday Morning, August 8 at 10:30 A.M.**

Torah Portion “Eikev”

SHABBAT **Friday Evening, August 14***

6:05 P.M. – Virtual Kabbalat Shabbat

SHABBAT **Saturday Morning, August 15 at 10:30 A.M.**

Torah Portion “Re’eh”
Bat Mitzvah of Jordan Goldstein, daughter of
Jennifer Allen and Ari Goldstein

SHABBAT **Friday Evening, August 21***

6:05 P.M. – Virtual Kabbalat Shabbat

SHABBAT **Saturday Morning, August 22 at 10:30 A.M.**

Torah Portion “Shoftim”

SHABBAT **Friday Evening, August 28***

6:05 P.M. – Shabbat in your own backyard/green space!

SHABBAT **Saturday Morning, August 29 at 10:30 A.M.**

Torah Portion “Ki Teitzei”

Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Agrest, son of Michelle and Jeff Agrest

*Please note time

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

“Rabbi Shimon taught: There are three crowns: the crown of Torah, the crown of the Priesthood, and the crown of the Monarchy. But the crown of a good name exceeds them all.” Mishnah Avot 4:13

We remember those whom we have loved and lost by mentioning their names and recalling the acts of goodness they performed while they still lived among us. When we publish their names in our annual Book of Remembrance, we pay loving tribute to the reputation that their “good name” has earned, thus ensuring that their memories will continue to abide among us as an inspiration and a blessing. Consider submitting your loved one’s name for this year’s 2020-2021 Book of Remembrance.

LIK RAT SHABBAT

We would like to thank *Carol Barrington* and *Jody Weinberg* who made a donation in honor of Their **August** birthdays.



Rabbi’s Column

Sometimes even simple words, poignantly crafted, can speak volumes. And sometimes, silence can speak even more powerfully. These were among the thoughts shared by members of the Niles Township Clergy Forum, our local interfaith group, last summer as we looked around us and witnessed a world and a society increasingly moving toward rancor, divisiveness, anger and violence. While we knew that we could not change the entire world, we also knew that we could not choose inaction.

Out of this conversation was born the weekly Clergy Forum public silent vigil. Members of the Clergy Forum gather each week, on Wednesday afternoon at 3:00, on the Village Green between Skokie Village Hall and the Skokie Library, and stand together for seven minutes of silent vigil. Here, Rev. Clarence Cranford Jr. reads the introductory words that we share each week at the beginning of our seven-minute silent vigil. In the background you can see the sign that reads: “Niles Township Clergy Forum: Peace. Love. Kindness.”

Here’s what is read each week: *We, members of The Niles Township Clergy Forum, represent many faith traditions. Each of our traditions, though different, beseeches us to seek peace, to share love, and to perform acts of kindness. Humanity at times seems bent on violence, prejudice, and hatred. The mere act of standing together in prayerful solidarity demonstrates our commitment to improving the world for all its inhabitants. We began our seven-minute silent vigils in the summer of 2019. We will continue gathering with an enduring hope that the future will indeed bend toward perfection under the reign of the Almighty God. We invite you to find within your hearts the spirit of peace, love, and kindness, and to share that spirit with the world. Amen.*

I share this with you as an invitation. When we began the vigil last summer, we chose the Village Green because it was a high traffic area. Many people typically walked past and not a few were intrigued and became engaged enough to join with us. Now, because of the pandemic, there is much less foot traffic. Nonetheless we gather, masked and standing at appropriate spacing, to bear witness to our commitment to building a better world and a better society. Now we are expanding the vigil beyond the Clergy. Many of our Skokie civic leaders join when they are able. And now I am inviting you to come stand with us. If you are available on Wednesday afternoon at 3:00, please come to the Village Green (with your face covering) and stand in solidarity for Peace, Love, and Kindness.



Michael A. Weinberg

IN THE TEMPLE FAMILY

MAZEL TOV TO:

Lisa and Steve Friedland on the birth of their granddaughter, *Barbara Seaver* on the birth of her great niece and *Debbie and Chuck Trefz* on the birth of their great niece, *Eloise Jane Wittenberg*, daughter of *Emily and Chris Wittenberg*.

Aviva Goldman on the graduation of her daughter, *Alana Sadkin*, graduated Marion University in Fond Du Lac, WI where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in psychology and Certified Forensic Science Technician

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY:

The following Temple members are recovering from recent illness: *Richard Arons*, *Sandie Rubin*, and *Grace Murphy*. We wish them a speedy recovery.

CONDOLENCES:

We note with sorrow the passing of *Stuart Fishman*^{z"l}, father of *Lorri Fishman*. May his memory be for a blessing.

We note with sorrow the passing of *Sue Baublatt*^{z"l}, mother of *Lori Sagarin*. May her memory be for a blessing.

We note with sorrow the passing of *Gerald "Jerry" Burkman*^{z"l}, father of *Pam Burkman*. May his memory be for a blessing.

We note with sorrow the passing of *Robert Fineman*^{z"l}, father of *Elyse Fineman*. May his memory be for a blessing.

We note with sorrow the passing of *Shirley Gottlieb*^{z"l}, mother of *Paula Hyman* and grandmother of *Marissa Amstadter*. May her memory be for blessing.

WATCH THIS IMAGE



It takes a village. And it takes a year.

As of July 1, 2021, Rabbi Michael Weinberg will take on a new title: Rabbi Emeritus. He will have been the rabbi of Temple Beth Israel for 34 years so we aren't going to simply wave "so long" on June 30; rather we will spend this year – from now until the end of the next fiscal year – finding ways to let him and his wife, *Jody*, know how much we have appreciated their time with us.

Our Year of Tribute will include amazing events and extraordinary guests, as well as special twists to regular occasions, personal tributes from members and friends of the congregation, and written items in the Bulletin and the E-Blast. The image above will signal an item that is part of our Year of Tribute. We would like to thank *Matthew Arden* for the wonderful creation which he designed as his tribute to Rabbi Weinberg.

Watch this space for more.

Barbara Seaver, Communications Chair
TBI Year of Tribute to Jody and Rabbi Michael Weinberg

HOW DO WE LOVE THEE?

When it comes to Rabbi Weinberg, we cannot count the ways...there are too many! But that does not mean we should not try. The Tribute Committee invites TBI members to send their memories, thoughts, good wishes, pictures, and artwork to express our gratitude for Rabbi's leadership, friendship, and wisdom. We want to make sure everyone gets a chance to let Rabbi Weinberg know how much he means to us. Please send this material to *Nina Henry* at *ninjanina56@aol.com*. Thank you in advance!

FROM THE PRESIDENT



This month I would like to focus on the subject of *Self-Care*, not just during a challenging time that we are currently experiencing, but in our day to day lives.

Self-care is not an indulgence. Self-care is a discipline. It requires a deep and personal understanding of your priorities and a respect for both yourself and the people with whom you choose to spend your life. It is taking care of yourself in a way that does not require you to indulge in order to restore balance. Self-care is a discipline to do things that are good for us instead of what just feels good in the moment. Self-care is a discipline because it is not something that you just do once in awhile.

In their book *The Spiritual Leader's Guide to Self-Care*, authors *Rochelle Melander* and *Harold Eppley* urge each of us to be "creating a vision for your life and then crafting a life that honors that vision."

Many of us are generally very good at "doing". I have several lists that I create and refer to for shopping and gift purchases, things I have to do. What I find difficult to do is just "being" like relaxing while listening to music or just taking a quiet walk without counting "steps". Yet "being" can accomplish a great deal, giving us the tools, the temperament and the spiritual outlook needed to continue our "doing". It is the balance of these things that help us to find the key to balancing the many demands that are placed on us in our daily lives.

In their book *Melander and Eppley* share their daily reminders for "being". Here are several. I have also added a few.

1. Before going to sleep, I am learning to look back and review the events of my day, trying to identify what I learned. Reflecting upon what I have done in the past and what I want to do in the future helps me not just run through life. Otherwise, I will end up someplace and I will not know how I got there.

2. Gratitude is very important and should be present in our daily lives. I value the importance of thanking those who I am closest to, as well as those who may just touch my life for a moment. Being grateful for blessings and gifts engenders a consciousness of being and well-being.

3. Try to just "rest" for a few moments. I often listen to one of my favorite songs or just sit in silence. Resting is not sleeping, but it lets the mind and the heart be clear.

4. Try to take time for thinking. Thinking is good even when it may not be productive. Taking time for "being" is always productive, even when one may not immediately see the results.

Melander and Eppley also reminds us that with all of our planning and progress, the unexpected still occurs. As the Yiddish proverb teaches, "People plan, and God laughs."

On airplanes we are always instructed to put on our own oxygen mask before assisting others. This is a daily reminder that Judaism teaches us to take care of ourselves in order that we can then always be in a place and state of mind to perform acts of *G'milut Chasadim*.

Helene Levine
President, TBI

MAZAL TOV TO THE B'NAI MITZVAHS



Temple Beth Israel wishes mazal tov to *Ryan Agrest* on becoming Bar Mitzvah and being called to the Torah on August 29th, 2020. *Ryan* will be an eighth-grader at *Wilmette Junior High*. He has always been active in sports, playing baseball, basketball and soccer. He played his fourth season of travel baseball this summer and has played

park district basketball since first grade. He went to *OSRUI* for the first time last summer, where he spent two weeks in *Gesher*. *Ryan* also enjoys playing board games and video games, cooking, watching *Marvel* movies, and hanging out with friends. *Ryan* put his love of games to good use for his Mitzvah Initiative. He spent time Sundays with residents at the *Lieberman Center for Health and Rehabilitation* in *Skokie*, talking and playing games such as *Connect Four*, chess and *Monopoly*. *Ryan* is excited to read from the Torah and celebrate his Bar Mitzvah with family and friends.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING



Dear Friends,

As August begins, we are reevaluating the plans on whether to open the school this fall in person and instead what family educational opportunities that we can make available given the current information regarding the pandemic. I so appreciate the input from the leadership in our community among the school parents in helping with this challenging time and decision.

The last several months have been so challenging, so much loss and so little to look forward to. In addition to the losses (and there have been many), I have also found these months instructive. I have learned a lot; about myself, my family, my friends and all of you. It has been an interesting, although at times painful process. Looking for silver linings has been keeping me busy and I would like to identify a few. First and most importantly, the kindness of so many, in thought and deed has given me many moments of joy and gratitude. From neighbors who looked out for us during the shutdown, to the honing of my sourdough baking game, these are all things about which I am grateful. From the joy of seeing so many of you during the cheesecake pick up to my 25th Anniversary parade, reminding me how much each of you mean to me.

Zoom fatigue is real, trust me, but Zoom has afforded us all an opportunity to connect with loved ones near and far, or even local friends from whom we have been socially distanced. We have discovered new and creative ways to “meet” and reconnect. I urge you to find new ways to connect with folks in these summer months. It will reward you in many ways.

One more thing. Remember it is summer. I know it is a strange one, one I am calling the “1950’s Summer”. In my neighborhood we are playing jacks, paper dolls and sidewalk chalk, roller skating and blading. Lots of social distancing appropriate throw backs. Pay attention to the positive things we have been given.....TIME. Take advantage, take time to learn new skills, try new things, and connect.

Missing you all and looking forward to connecting soon,

B’Shalom,
Lori B. Sagarin



Rabbi Weinberg officially begins his first month “headed towards retirement”.

KESHET: A SIGN OF THE TIMES



ALL ARE WELCOME

Thank you to TBI Member, Debbie Berk, for this fantastic design.

I am thrilled that we have a new sign that says, “All Are Welcome”. This new sign is displayed on the north side of the TBI building on Dempster.

In 2019, during afternoon Yom Kippur services, I had the honor of speaking to the congregation about a topic about which I am passionate and personally impacted. I talked about what it is like to be excluded and how being excluded from society and groups within our communities compares to being included, and more importantly, what it feels like to be EXPLICITLY included. I talked about why it is important to explicitly include those who have traditionally been excluded.

When I started my personal self-education and social action about LGBTQ+ human rights back in 1988, we advocated “tolerance”. We wanted to be tolerated; not criminalized, not demoralized, not diagnosed as mentally ill, not attacked.

The conversation has radically shifted as acceptance of diversity and inclusion has evolved. We do not ask to be “tolerated” anymore. We want to be and feel included as full LGBTQ+ members of our Jewish communities. We need signs of inclusiveness; actual signs made of wood on posts and metaphorical signs made of people welcoming us with open arms, open hearts and open minds. We want to contribute and feel fully part of our temple community, our TBI community. Included is how I feel as a proud member of TBI.

The new sign is a physical representation of who we are:

“A vibrant and welcoming presence in Skokie, the North Shore, and beyond, the community of Temple Beth Israel opens our doors and our hearts to a diverse population of Reform Jews and their families. Together we learn and pray, share friendships, celebrate life’s joys, support each other through difficult times, and work to make the world a better place.”

The new sign is a visible signal that All Are Welcome.

Laurie Kimmel

TBI Board Trustee and Keshet LGBTQ+ Committee Member

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CHAI NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



When browsing through social media or reading a friend's post, it is easy to become judgmental. We are often too quick to make a snap decision. Social media for all its benefits, encourages this behavior. We are constantly asked to 'like' a post, to comment, to validate our friends and peers. While there is absolutely nothing wrong with providing validation, or sympathizing with a challenging situation, we can get sucked into a bubble of only like-minded thinking and easily dismiss, or even 'unfriend' those that disagree. It is easy to keep scrolling or stop reading when we come across something that challenges our pre-conceived notions or give in to "news fatigue". Social media can also be a way of bearing witness to one another's lives. It has certainly kept us connected while we are unable to be physically together. With an open heart, we can use social media as a tool to foster empathy and compassion.

In *Teaching Your Children About God: A Modern Jewish Approach*, Rabbi David Wolpe writes: "Where do we teach our children to look for God? There are many places to find God in the world... One of the most important places to look for God is in one another. Since we are the image of God, each person is a reflection of the Divine." Judaism

teaches that we are *B'tzelem Elohim*, or created in God's image, and Midrash reveals that we are vessels that carry the Divine spark, tasked with *Tikkun Olam*, the repair of the world.

When discussing this topic with my children, or our 6th grade students, they believe in the innate humanity in all peoples. Young people often feel a strong sense of what is right, and the injustices of discrimination, poverty, and inequality. They sympathize with injustice and what they see as wrong in the world. As parents and educators, it is our job to teach them to empathize as well. When we sympathize, we share the same feelings. When we empathize, we place ourselves in someone else's shoes.

Researcher Dr. Brené Brown talks about empathy, and its importance in our ability to connect to one another, to hold space for one another, as an essential lesson to teach to our children. This animated short is her illustration of the difference between sympathy and empathy: <https://youtu.be/1Evvgu369Jw>. Just as Dr. Brown describes empathy as a path to connectedness, so too does Judaism recognize that when we see God in one another, we learn to value all people, and we become more connected as a society.

Joy & Blessings,
Marla Aviva Bentley

BROTHERHOOD MATTERS

Summer 2020 – A Season Like No Other



An "abridged" verse from the traditional Passover Seder — appropriate for summer's hazy and crazy days -- could possibly appear this way: *Mah Nishtana II* -- Why is Summer 2020 different from all other summers?

During previous summers, we attend ball games, outdoor concerts, arts and crafts fairs, visit beaches and swimming pools, plus regularly see friends and family up close and personal. Also, in past summers, we freely make dinner reservations at our favorite neighborhood eatery and are not concerned with who is sitting at the next table and at what distance from us.

Summer 2020 is vastly different and for good reason. We now comply with sanctioned policies established by the State of Illinois and local municipalities. This includes wearing protective facemasks in public and maintaining a social distance of six feet when interacting with others. Further, in-person trips to beaches and pools are discouraged to avoid the likelihood of coronavirus spread.

Indoor dining at restaurants is tightly controlled with tables further apart and with fewer guests being seated and served at one time. We now settle for curbside meal pick up. Shabbat services and Jewish holiday observances are viewed by TBI congregants through Zoom or YouTube as a way to remain safe but connected and in close proximity "on screen" with our community.

As August 2020 begins, the hazy and crazy days of summer continue. Just five months ago, when we were beginning to wrap our minds around the ramifications of COVID-19, most of us figured the virus conversation would be snuffed out if we followed health and safety protocols and the scientific community devised the appropriate vaccine quickly to protect us from deadly COVID-19 spread.

Today, we all know better. Our lives have forever changed. At bulletin press time, thousands of men, women, and children have passed away from this insidious virus in the U.S. Regrettably, the number of people testing positive for the virus and dying is on the rise. The stresses of daily living are becoming more challenging on all fronts as the pandemic continues and numbers spike, again.

Brotherhood recognizes these are very difficult times, and like the Temple, has come up with innovative and positive ways to further engage our community. This includes creative zoom programming or by finalizing the marketing and distribution plans for a new TBI baseball cap for congregants. The blue teal caps are striking and intended to enhance TBI's overall brand identity, image and spirit.

Review the cap offer online and through eBlasts -- Make the \$15 per cap investment today by credit card or check. The timing could not be better especially as the Cubs and White Sox begin playing an abbreviated 60-game major league baseball schedule. It is also time to "play ball" with Brotherhood and look ahead to its dynamic programming during the remaining weeks of a hot summer.



Upcoming Brotherhood Zoom events include:

- Join us for a one-hour session on Tuesday, August 11 to better understand the importance of taking cyber and data security precautions. TBI's very own Karen Asbra, will present a timely and insightful interactive presentation beginning at 7 pm. There is no cost to attend and all are welcome. Check online for the appropriate zoom link and then complete the pre-registration form.
- Zoom Talk's final session of the four-part series that began in mid-May is scheduled for Thursday, August 13 at 7 pm. We will continue to address coronavirus matters and how we're continuing to cope. Time is also set aside for a discussion on other topics of interest to those connecting through on zoom. The program is open to all congregants and Brotherhood participants.
- Zoom Cooking Classes offered by Zelda's Catering, Skokie, IL with its Executive Chef Jon Hudak. Refer to enclosed insert for details and sign up online. Three sessions are planned: Wednesday, August 19, Tuesday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 pm. The fee is \$18/person for each of the three classes.

There is even a session on cooking for the High Holidays. Chef Hudak will prepare pomegranate chicken and bubbe's best matzah balls. TBI's Adult Education committee is enthusiastically cosponsoring these timely and informative classes. Make sure you join us!

Brotherhood Bytes: A special thanks to *Mick Siegel* for spearheading the summer blood drive held last month in the Temple parking lot ... Mazal Tov to *Matt Mitzen* as he assumes the position of Brotherhood's financial secretary. He will work closely with *Ira Satyr*, our beloved treasurer.

Plan to attend our next board meeting on Sunday, August 9 at 10 am. Check online for the applicable zoom link to connect with us and participate. Your involvement is important to our short and longer-range success.

Norwin Merens & Randall Heman
Brotherhood Co-Presidents

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Among the objectives of Sisterhood TBI is the mandate to give full support to Temple. Sisterhood accomplishes this in a number of ways, through communal worship, education, social action, support of our youth and school, and through raising funds for Temple. The challenge of raising funds in the COVID-19 world has made it clear to us that necessity is the mother of invention.

While our major fundraisers have had to be modified or cancelled, Sisterhood has come up with an idea that should appeal to everyone. We are instituting the Restaurant of the Month, an easy and delicious way to support Sisterhood and by extension the Temple. Our August selection is the locally famous Dengeos on Tuesday, August 11, from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Please notice the Dengeos flyer in this Bulletin. Show the flyer to your order taker as you place your carry-out order. Dengeos will give back 20% of sales to Sisterhood for your lunch or dinner purchase on that day. What could be an easier way to show support and get a break from cooking? Check back with us each month for our restaurant selection. Upcoming dates will be September 9 and October 13.

Another easy way to show support is by participating in the New Year's Greetings. This is especially important since we will not be gathering in person for High Holiday worship. An insert in the September TBI Bulletin will bring your wishes for a L'Shanah Tovah to your TBI friends. We encourage you to participate. See the enclosed flyer for details.

During this summer especially, we are all making efforts to keep connected to our Sisterhood and Temple friends. An unexpected benefit of Zoom is that the names are connected to the faces, and now we know each other better. There is a silver lining after all.

Keep safe and well.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Lavine and Cynthia Miller
Co-Presidents – Sisterhood Temple Beth Israel

SISTERHOOD ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jane and Albert Page	9/3/1967
Karen and Kenneth Weine	9/3/1989
Lauren Kimmel and Johanna Fine	9/3/2016
Marjorie Getz and David Sheftel	9/4/1976
June and Joel Levin	9/4/1955
Laura and David Goone	9/4/1988
Cindy and Steven Franklin	9/5/1976
Beth and Ralph Sair	9/7/1969
Sandie and Joel Rubin	9/8/1985
Jody and Rabbi Michael Weinberg	9/8/1974
Judith and Ernest Simon	9/9/1984
Candy and Fred Siegel	9/12/1971
Ruth and Bill Helgemo	9/16/1990
Faye and Arnold Oskin	9/29/1974

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS (ADDED)

Marie Warshauer	8/2
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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Minna Einhorn	9/1
Judith Gamoran	9/1
Linda Nidetz	9/11
Jeanette Franklin	9/12
Lisa Wynn	9/13
Michelle Dorfman	9/19
Julie Selig	9/19
Penny Block	9/22
Martha Burman	9/22
Gloria Froman	9/24
Abby Murray	9/24
Susan Rubin	9/27
Susan Reisberg	9/30

Would you like to celebrate simchas and benefit Sisterhood TBI? Uniongrams are only \$2.00 each. Contact: Candy Siegel, maltesepeanut-biz@yahoo.com, 847-679-4707.

SISTERHOOD OPEN MEETING PROGRAMS

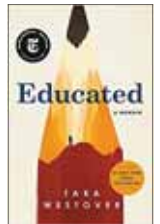
Sisterhood Temple Beth Israel's August 5th Open Program Meeting will take place virtually at the Holocaust Museum. You will have the opportunity to join us on a docent tour of the highly regarded Ruth Bader Ginsburg exhibit at 1:00 pm. Please watch for your Temple and Sisterhood eblasts that will contain instructions on how to register for this program. There will be a nominal charge of \$5.00 per person to view the exhibit. If you have questions please email Laura Cooper, Cooper4449@gmail.com or Jane Page, janepage67@gmail.com.



Sisterhood Temple Beth Israel's September 2nd Open Program Meeting will feature Nancy Marcus, a representative from the League of Women Voters Cook County. She will speak about voting safely during the pandemic and the upcoming Cook County elections. This virtual program will start at 12:45 pm to allow time for a short business meeting. A Zoom link will be included in the Temple and Sisterhood eblasts. If you have any questions please email Laura Cooper, cooper4449@gmail.com or Jane Page, janepage67@gmail.com.

SISTERHOOD BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Sisterhood Book Discussion Group will be meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, August 26th at 7:00 pm. The link will be sent out a week beforehand. We will be reading *Educated, a memoir*, by Tara Westover. The following is a quote from Goodreads:



"Educated is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it."

The book is available at the Public Library. Please RSVP to Jane Page, janepage67@gmail.com or Paula Sabin, paulalsabin@gmail.com.

ATTENTION JOURNALISTS AND ASPIRING JOURNALISTS!

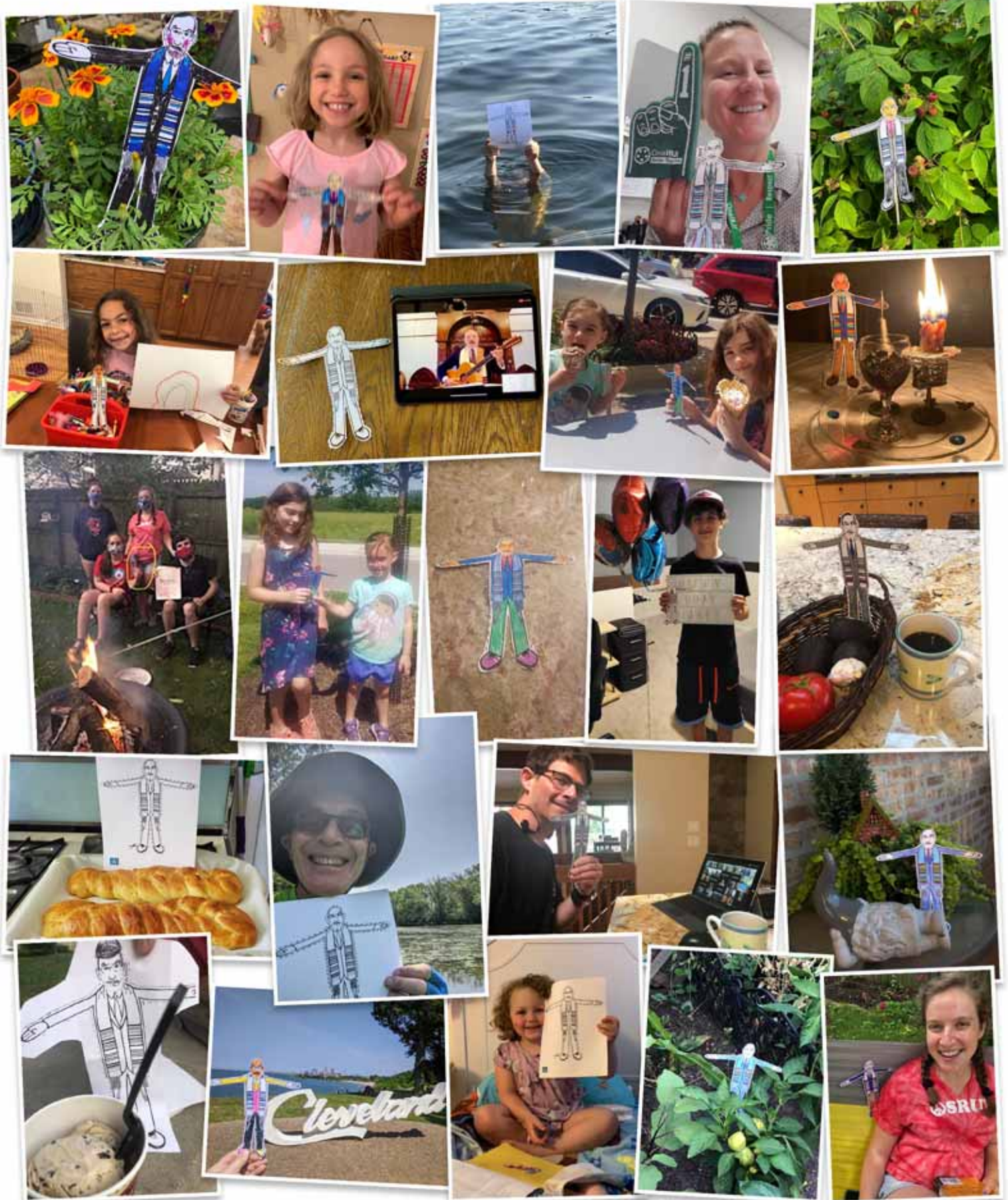


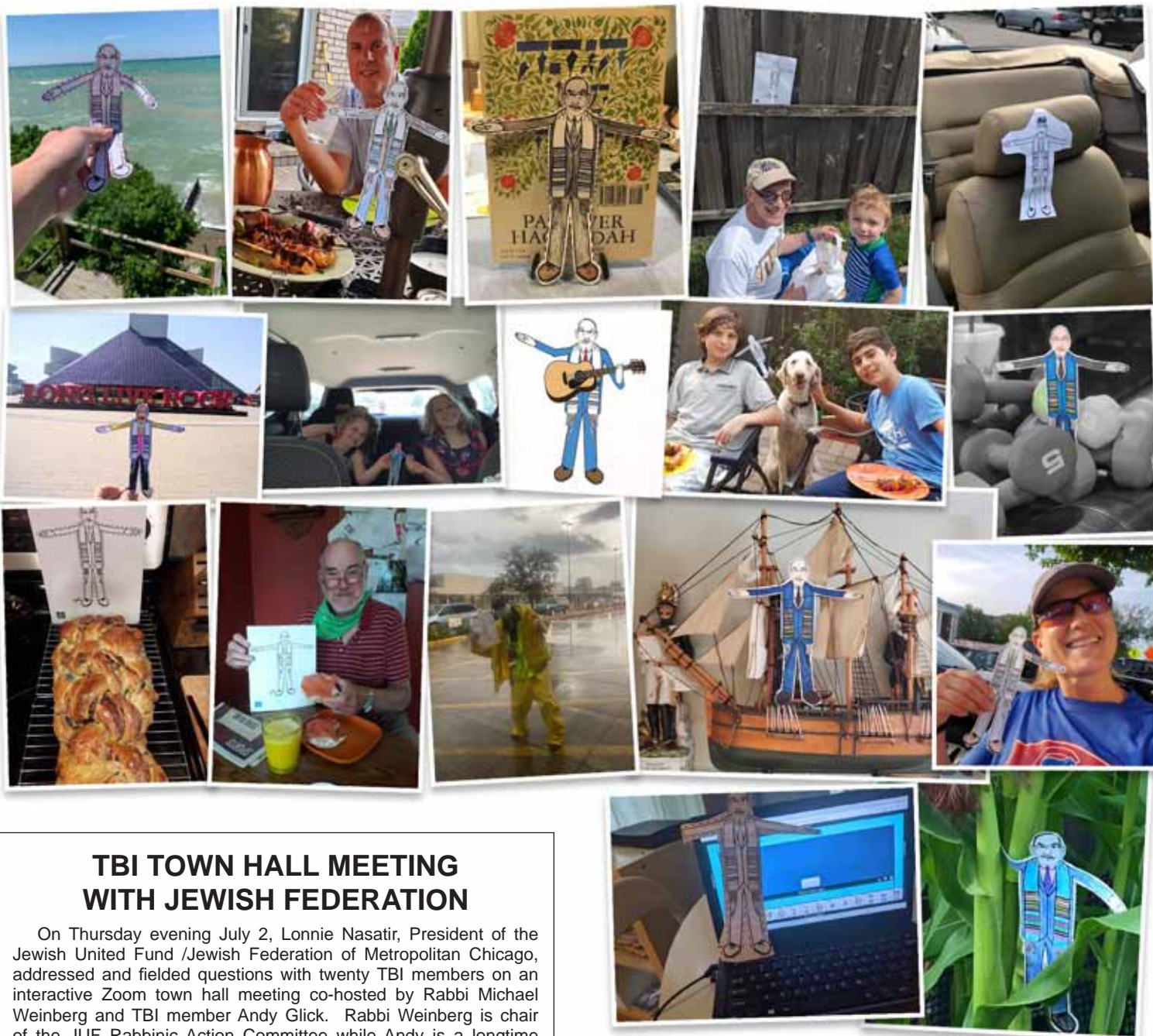
Reminder: Material for the bulletin is due electronically to the Bulletin Editor at Bulletin@TBISkokie.org on the 10th of the month prior to publication. If you do not have access to a computer, please submit paper copy to the Temple office by the 7th of the month prior to publication so that it can be transcribed and sent by the 10th. The deadline for the September bulletin is **August 10th**. Have an idea for an article? Send it in!



OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

Flat Rabbi Michael Weinberg has gone on so many adventures! How did he get "flat"? Uncle Louie was experimenting with making giant latkes. Rabbi Weinberg made a surprise visit to Uncle Louie. When Rabbi walked through the front door, lo and behold Uncle Louie's stack of giant latkes fell right on top of Rabbi Weinberg. Now, Rabbi is flat and having the time of his life! Have YOU seen him lately? Keep sending your pictures in!





TBI TOWN HALL MEETING WITH JEWISH FEDERATION

On Thursday evening July 2, Lonnie Nasatir, President of the Jewish United Fund /Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, addressed and fielded questions with twenty TBI members on an interactive Zoom town hall meeting co-hosted by Rabbi Michael Weinberg and TBI member Andy Glick. Rabbi Weinberg is chair of the JUF Rabbinic Action Committee while Andy is a longtime member of the JUF/Federation Board of Directors.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Jewish institutions and individuals has ranged from harsh to devastating. Beginning in March, the Federation surveyed 300 organizations to learn their most urgent needs, and ultimately raised \$26,000,000 for emergency response independent of the annual campaign, in an initiative that is the nation's second largest after New York's. Emergency funds raised are being disbursed along four priorities: cash assistance, food assistance, health and safety, and communal stability. Notably, cash has gone to agencies and to Rabbis' discretionary funds, while \$1,000,000 of the total has gone to ten Jewish camps, to include OSRUJ.

In discussion, President Nasatir noted the unique capabilities in communal awareness, organization, fundraising and engagement that the Federation has developed over the course of a century, and how woven together their effective deployment so visibly validates the Federation's communal model. In response to the pandemic and to the parallel resurgence of antisemitism, Lonnie sees a resurgence of Jewish connection. Federation is with us to help. Anyone seeking assistance, whether financial, physical or emotional, is encouraged to call Federation's JCFS emergency hot line 1-800-ASK-JCFS (1-800-275-5237). For opportunities to volunteer, see <https://www.juf.org/tov/volunteer.aspx>.

See your personalized brick here on your way in to TBI!

tbi
Walk of Honor

**STRENGTHENING OUR FOUNDATION
ONE BRICK AT A TIME**

Purchase your brick today!
Prices start at \$378 for a 4 x 8 brick

To purchase, log in to your Shulcloud account.
For more information:
<https://templebethisraelskokie.shulcloud.com/walkofhonor>

B'RUCHIM HABA'IM - WELCOME! JOINING THE TBI FAMILY

Our coverage of new Temple Beth Israel members continues. We are delighted to welcome the following TBI households who have discovered just how friendly, supportive, and inclusive our community is. As it begins its second century, TBI offers a vibrant and welcoming presence in Skokie, the North Shore, and beyond.



Deanne & Bernie Losoff • Des Plaines, IL

It has been observed, "the more things change, and the more they are likely to stay the same." That in a nutshell describes the wonderful life story and marriage of our friends, Deanne & Bernie Losoff, spanning seven decades. The Losoff's rejoined the ranks of Temple Beth

Israel's membership earlier this year after being away for many years.

As Deanne recounted, "My family moved to Chicago's Albany Park neighborhood when I was 10 years old. My sister and I were enrolled in Sunday School at TBI. We sang in the junior choir and became active in the Temple's outstanding youth group ... It was all very inspiring."

It just so happens there was a young man who lived two doors away from Deanne and her family on Bernard Street, close to Temple. His name was Bernie Losoff. One winter day, he was able to get Deanne's attention by tossing a snowball in her direction. She was 16 and he was 18 years of age when they met and fell in love. Two years later, Deanne Levine married Bernie at a wedding ceremony officiated by Rabbi Ernst M. Lorge, z"l, on June 26, 1955 at TBI in Chicago.

First Impressions: The Losoff's returned as TBI members after Deanne met Roslyne Heimann at a local aerobics class. Roz encouraged her friend (Deanne) to consider attending the Temple for Shabbat services on the first and third Fridays of the month and at other times, too. For Deanne, it didn't take long before she reconnected with Beth Israel and ultimately joined this past February. Deanne adds that she and Bernie are very pleased to be part of such a welcoming and supportive Jewish community. Years of being away from TBI are now a distant memory.

Deanne now attends Shabbat services regularly on Friday evenings by zoom. Still, she and Bernie are looking forward to the day, hopefully soon, when they can be together with Temple members in person and continuing to make new friends.

Getting to Know You: The Losoffs enjoy spending quality time with their growing family, which includes their adult sons and daughter: Michael, Randee and Robert, their spouses, seven grandchildren and just recently, a great granddaughter, Madison Rose. The couple also enjoys traveling as the times warrant.



Zhanna & Mark Soloveychik • Children: Yoni, 12, Daniella, 10 and Lina, 9 • Skokie, IL

TBI is also delighted to welcome the Soloveychik's of Skokie among its newest member families. Like so many congregational households, the Skokie family longs for the time when daily living returns to "normal" following the onset of COVID-19. This

includes becoming more acclimated to TBI and learning/enjoying all that it offers in person: culturally, socially and spiritually.

First Impressions: According to Zhanna, she first became aware of the Temple last year from Nina Henry, who she knew from her work as a social worker. Once Zhanna heard about TBI, it didn't take long before the family came for several visits.

"We attended Friday night services, a B'nai Mitzvah seminar (facilitated by Lori Sagarin) and the Purim holiday events in the building. What touched us most was the incredible warmth we sensed at TBI. Everyone we met was friendly, smiling and welcoming," Zhanna added.

The family's eldest child, Yoni, began Hebrew school a short time later. He has been enjoying it albeit classroom instruction is currently available solely on zoom since COVID-19 began in mid-March.

Getting to Know You: Mark and Zhanna are both from Russia originally. They met online years ago when he lived in Chicago and she was based in Jerusalem. By profession, Mark is an IT manager. He enjoys woodworking, and can build just about anything from scratch.

Zhanna is a superb baker and finds baking both therapeutic and relaxing following a hectic workday. The close-knit family of five enjoys life's simple pleasures: biking, campfires, cooking, crafting, music and spending time together.

Yoni is an avid Chicago Blackhawks' hockey fan and into Stars Wars videos. Daughters Daniella and Lina are engaged in arts/crafts and dancing, respectively.

The family keeps Jewish traditions and incorporates such beliefs and customs into their daily lives. They have lived in the Chicago area since 2007 and believe they have now found a second home at TBI.

*Prepared by Norwin Merens,
TBI Membership Committee*

FOUR-DOLLAR FLOWERS

Each week since the COVID pandemic started, I buy flowers for my dining room table. I splurge on \$4 flowers at the grocery store. I am not normally a "flowers on the table" kind of gal, but something pushed me to splurge. Initially, I bought them for the Passover table. If we were going to be home by ourselves, we were going to create a space that warranted celebration and stories. That meant I needed flowers. Then, the flowers became my "new normal". Flowers magically land in my shopping cart each time I brave the grocery store.

New and normal are two words when combined cause us to seize up; to stop; to wonder what exactly that means. The flowers on my table have given me a shift in my mindset. If we were going to be at home, we were going to need to create a space that warranted us enjoying that space. Through this shift, I have found that this "new normal" does not have to be a negative. I have worked hard to shift my mindset (and that of my family) that new does not necessarily mean loss.

Loss has run rampant in the last few months. We have lost time together. We have lost special events because they had to be canceled for our collective health. What has hit us the hardest may be that we have lost the security of our "normal". Not knowing what is coming around the bend each day is like living in our own personal horror movie. It plants an insecurity in us down to the core. Living in limbo is untenable, so we need a shift in mindset.

As we shift our mindset, I try to consider this: what have we gained in the last few months? I have gained precious family time through dinners at home together and endless board games. I have gained a new appreciation for my community. Watching people make a conscious choice to benefit someone else has reinforced my willingness to do the

same. I have gained a new appreciation for my health. I have aches and pains, but not I do not live in fear of this disease. I am so grateful that I am able to protect others simply by wearing a mask especially because they do live in fear. I have gained an appreciation for slowing down and teaching my kids that boredom is a good thing. In our "old normal", every minute of every day was booked or scheduled. Now, boredom has inspired my children to design a restaurant, to write a play (the Techno Goldilocks ... it is in production right now), and to remember they can play without a screen. I have gained a new appreciation for Shabbat. In my old normal, it meant Friday night services and Thai food, and then waiting till our Sunday morning alarm went off. In our "new normal" it means walks together, lazy afternoons in the backyard, eating meals together at the table, and being present for each day (endless as they may seem some days). Shabbat offers us all the chance to reset and shift our mindset back to "it will be ok" even after the worst week.

Do not misunderstand me. I miss our old life. I miss greeting people at Kabbalat Shabbat. I miss hugs of hello. I miss leaving the house without a mask. However, if our "new normal" will ever offer the security of normal, we must shift our mindset and manage our expectations. I will look forward to picking out my \$4 flowers. I look will forward to bike rides to the Farmers market with my kids and my husband. I will look forward to when we all can be together again, and we can genuinely appreciate how wonderful it is that we are able to be together. I wish you peace in the chaos, a deep refreshing breath that Shabbat provides, and a moment or two to pick out your own \$4 flowers.

*Amber Wood
Director of Operations*

CONTRIBUTIONS

A minimum contribution of \$15.00 (unless otherwise noted) for donation to be acknowledged with a card and published in the bulletin.

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HIGH HOLY DAYS ARE COMING

SAVE THE DATES

On the days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we will have online worship for adults, young families and for families with school-age children.

Selichot:

Saturday, September 12 - 9:30 pm Study Session; 10:45 pm Service

ROSH HASHANAH:

Friday, September 18 - 8 pm Service*

Saturday, September 19 - 9 am Young Family Service; 10 am Adult Service*; 1 pm Family Service*

Sunday, September 20 - 10 am Service

YOM KIPPUR:

Sunday, September 27 - 8 pm Service*

Monday, September 28 - 9 am Young Family Service; 10 am Adult Service*; 1 pm Family Service*
2 pm & 3pm Study Sessions; 4:30 pm Yizkor & Neilah Service

The High Holy Days tickets and detailed information will be mailed in mid-August.

*Note: A Virtual Lobby will be open for 30 minutes before and after each service.

