



## WELCOME BACK!

**Tot Shabbat, BBQ Dinner & Musical Shabbat**  
**Friday, September 5**  
**5:30pm Tot Shabbat, 6:00pm BBQ, 7:00pm Service**

For families with little ones, the evening starts off with a joyous Tot Shabbat service – friends and family are welcome. Then, all are invited to Emanu-El's annual outdoor Shabbat BBQ dinner! Following the al fresco meal, we will come together in the sanctuary for a lively, musical service with the temple band. Dinner cost: \$15/child, \$20/adult or \$60/family max. RSVP information appears in the weekly Emanumail.



**Positive Confessions with Artist Audrey Reich:**  
**Acknowledging What We've Done Right**  
**Friday, September 26, 12:00pm**



Through art, conversation, and reflection, Audrey will guide us in a creative exploration of Vidui—not as a confession of wrongs, but as a celebration of what we've done right.

Together, we will engage in a Positive Vidui—an uplifting acknowledgment of love, kindness, courage, and growth. This unique experience invites us to reflect on the good we've brought into the world as we prepare our hearts and souls for the new year.

As part of the program, we will also visit Audrey's artwork on display in the Joan & Barrie Damson Gallery, where her pieces offer a powerful visual and emotional connection to the themes we'll be discussing. A light lunch will be offered. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

*We also invite you to join us at Audrey's gallery opening reception in the Joan & Barrie Damson Gallery on Friday, September 12 at 7:00pm.*

## High Holy Days

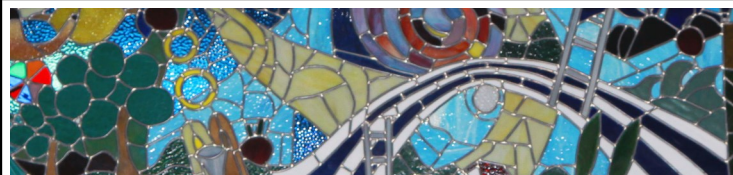
Details on pg. 2

**Sukkot Service and October 7th Memorial**  
**Friday, October 10, 6:00pm**



The sukkah's open roof and fragile walls inspire gratitude for our sturdy homes, yet remind us that the world is not so solid. On Sukkot, we traditionally read Ecclesiastes: "To everything there is a season – a time to

be born and a time to die." At our Shabbat service during Sukkot, October 10th, we will both celebrate the festival and remember the events of October 7th – holding together the joy and the fragility of life that both define this sacred festival.



**Shabbat Dinner & Simchat Torah**  
**Friday, October 17**  
**6:00pm Dinner, 6:45pm Service**

Join us for a delicious Shabbat dinner before we come together for our annual Simchat Torah celebration! Dinner cost: \$15/child, \$20/adult or \$60/family max. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

**Inside Israel with Joel Chasnoff**  
**Sunday, October 19, 10:30am**



Come for an up-close look at what it's really like to live, work, and raise kids in Israel during these challenging times, from the perspective of one who lives there. No Israel-related questions will go unanswered. Joel is a former Lone Soldier, the author of *Israel 201*

(National Jewish Book Award) and is the host of the weekly *Inside Israel* podcast. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

# 2025/5786 High Holy Day Schedule

## **Saturday, September 13**

7:15pm Selichot Program at Westchester Reform Temple (255 Mamaroneck Road in Scarsdale)

## **Monday, September 22**

7:30pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

## **Tuesday, September 23**

10:00am Rosh Hashanah Morning Service  
(reception to follow)

1:45pm Rosh Hashanah Youth Service  
(grades 3-6)

3:00pm Rosh Hashanah Young Families Service

3:30pm Young Families Celebration

## **Wednesday, September 24 (offsite—see below)**

### **At the Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary in Rye**

10:15am Rosh Hashanah Nature Walk

11:00am Tashlich

## **Friday, September 26**

7:30pm Shabbat Shuvah

## **Wednesday, October 1**

7:30pm Kol Nidre (there is one Kol Nidre service)

## **Thursday, October 2**

10:00am Yom Kippur Morning Service

1:15pm Yom Kippur Youth Service (grades 3-6)

2:15pm Yom Kippur Young Families Service

3:00pm Afternoon Service

3:30pm A Healing Service of Music & Meditations

4:00pm Yizkor/Memorial Service

5:00pm N'ilah/Concluding Service

5:45pm Congregational Break Fast

**To submit names for the Yizkor Memorial booklet, request guest tickets, reserve handicapped parking, and submit names of new babies, please visit [tinyurl.com/cewHHD25](https://tinyurl.com/cewHHD25) by Wednesday, September 10.**

**At Home Worship:** For congregants who wish to attend services remotely, we will be providing a professional, high-quality livestream of sanctuary services. If you plan to participate at home, prayer books will be available for pick up during normal business hours. You must contact Dan O'Connor at [doconnor@c-e-w.org](mailto:doconnor@c-e-w.org) or 914-967-4382 x1011 to schedule a pick-up.

## **Rosh Hashanah Nature Walk & Tashlich at the Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary**

### **Wednesday, September 24, 10:15am Nature Walk, 11:00am Tashlich**



It is in the wilderness where our tradition finds its roots, and natural places provide a unique setting to connect to our heritage. The paths of the beautiful Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary provide an ideal location for a 45-minute nature walk to consider the world in which we live as we celebrate creation. This walk is open to all ages and will be a fun, meaningful way to continue the Rosh Hashanah celebration. Please remember to wear walking shoes. Following our walk, we move to the beach for a beautiful Tashlich ceremony. The sanctuary is located at 1 Playland Parkway in Rye.

## Staff Directory

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**Assistive Listening**  
*is now available!*

**LISTEN**  
 TECHNOLOGIES

Emanu-El offers ListenWifi, an innovative Wi-Fi streaming solution for those attending in-person services and events in the sanctuary. This new service enables individuals with hearing devices to easily connect to the audio in the sanctuary via their Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids or ear buds, providing a more seamless and enhanced auditory experience during worship or other activities. It ensures that everyone, including those with hearing challenges, can fully engage with the community experience.

**To use the new streaming system, please follow the steps below:**



**1. Scan the QR code** with the smartphone you will use when at temple.

**2. Install the ListenWifi app** on your smartphone – you must install the app in order to use the technology.

**3. Come to temple to finish set-up!** The staff will assist you in making sure your **Bluetooth hearing aids or ear buds** are connected to the dedicated Wi-Fi in the sanctuary.

To schedule in-person assistance during normal business hours, contact Arnold at 914-967-4382 x1026.

*This technology is generously sponsored by the Jared Dubro Legacy Fund.*

### Be Prepared

With the swirl of news here and abroad, I'm grateful for the chance to turn to eternal themes as we head into the fall and the High Holy Day season. We face real and important issues as the Jewish people, as Americans, as supporters of Israel, as humanists - and in many other ways each of us might name. I will certainly offer some perspectives on those issues in my sermons over the Holy Days. But our time in the weeks leading up to them is primarily devoted to looking inward - contemplating our lives, our morals, our shortcomings, our hopes, our families, and the things over which we have even a small measure of control.



As Ferris Bueller said (not a rabbi, but certainly worthy of quoting), "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." The High Holy Days are our chance to look around and truly see our lives. While we often think of the High Holy Days as limited to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, our tradition begins this season of reflection a full month earlier on the first day of the Hebrew month of Elul. This year, Elul began at sunset on August 24. While we may have missed the beginning of the month, we still have time for meaningful reflection before we gather in the sanctuary in a couple of weeks. After all, repentance done right is hard work - and a bit of warming up can only help.

Wherever you are in your Jewish journey, these days offer a chance to pause, reflect, and realign your life with your deepest values. Here are some questions that can guide our reflection in the coming weeks:

How have I wronged others?

How have I sinned - in whatever way that word speaks to me?

What can I let go of?

Who am I ready to forgive?

How have I hurt myself?

What belief systems do I hold that no longer serve me?

What walls or barriers have I put up that I can let down?

Who do I need to hold accountable for harm done to me or to others?

What aspects of my life am I ignoring?

What healing can I bring to myself or to those I love?

Clearly these are profound questions. Even with a month of preparation and the Ten Days of Awe, we cannot possibly address them fully. But our tradition does not ask us to solve them. Judaism trusts that the process itself leads to results. Seriously wrestling with these questions inevitably makes us better people - more reflective, more compassionate, more self-aware, more sensitive, more honest. The goal of our upcoming High Holy Days is not to turn us into saints - it is to make us as deeply human as possible. It is to let our armor of arrogance and our shield of vanity fall away. It is to make ourselves vulnerable enough to open our hearts to light, connection, and blessing.

The High Holy Days are also a time to contemplate our mortality. We were reminded of this all too starkly in August, when our devoted facilities team member Wilfredo died suddenly while visiting family in the Dominican Republic. Our congregation also mourned the passing of beloved Rabbi Wolk last summer and longtime facilities team member Oscar Valesquez in the summer of 2022. To these we add our own personal losses and those of people dear to us. Many among us are carrying the weight of grief. As anyone who has walked that path knows, there is no shortcut through the valley of the shadow. Yet taking time during the High Holy Days to remember our loved ones - both recent and long ago - can give us the impetus to make the most of our lives. And, just as we prepare spiritually in the weeks before Rosh Hashanah, we can also use this time to gently remember those who shaped our lives and the legacies they left behind.

When we allow the High Holy Days to be the culmination of a period of reflection rather than isolated moments, their meaning deepens and their impact grows. May these days of Elul and the Holy Days to come be a time of growth and reflection for each of us, for our congregation, and for the worldwide Jewish community. And may we emerge from these High Holy Days a bit more holy and a bit more whole.

Let me be the first to wish you *l'shana tova u'metukah* - a good and sweet new year.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Howard'.

Howard J. Goldsmith, Rabbi



### A Chance Encounter

*At memorial services we traditionally chant the words of Psalm 121: "Esa Einai El Heharim - I lift my eyes to the mountains. From whence will my help come? My help comes from God, maker of heaven and earth."*

*In times of loss and grief our help also comes, of course, from human connection - from family, from friends, and even, sometimes, from strangers.*

The woman and I recognized each other from the local hotel, the Springhill Suites, a few minutes walking distance from UHealth System hospital in Miami. We were both on a brief lunch break from our respective hospital vigils, and ran into one another at a cafe, one of few places near enough to escape the large medical complex. The July humidity was oppressive, but for a moment at least, the heat was a relief from the cumulative chill of long hours in hospital air conditioning.



We introduced ourselves. Her name was Sam, and her husband was being treated for a brain tumor in the Intensive Care Unit. My sister, Teva, was down a long hallway in another unit of the ICU, intubated and sedated as a result of complications from esophageal cancer. This terrible cancer was diagnosed last February, unexpected "fallout" from the radiation and chemo she had received for breast cancer almost 30 years ago.

I stood in the cafe holding my sandwich, wondering if I should be bold and invite this woman to sit with me. She may have been thinking the same, then beckoned me to a small table outside. I was grateful. Sam was in the ICU on her own; she and her husband, who was only 60 years old, had no children. I, on the other hand, was taking turns at Teva's bedside with her sons, Etai and Yoni, their wives Alexandra and Hila (who flew in from Israel) along with my brother and sister-in-law, Warren and Elaine, who also rushed to join us in Florida. Even though only two visitors were allowed in the ICU room at once, we often all crowded in.

Sam seemed to be managing her situation, as was I; in a crisis, you do what you need to do. She told me that she was looking forward to seeing her dog - who

was being driven down from Massachusetts by her sister - and I was glad for her. I realized how fortunate my family was to have one another; we did not have to bear it all by ourselves. We leaned on each other, agonized with each other, comforted one another. We shared hotel rooms and at times laughed together. At one point, I remarked that maybe we were turning into the Bravermans from the TV series, Parenthood. Teva and I had joked that only in a fictional family would everyone drop everything and show up whenever one member was in trouble.

After almost a week of intubation and sedation in the ICU, Teva's ventilator was removed and we got her back for a few days. During that time, we played her nostalgic 1970's Israeli music from her formative years living in Israel, we massaged her head and hands, told stories and sang song after song. She loved hearing some of the heartfelt messages that friends had written in honor of her upcoming 74th birthday, which she would not get to celebrate. She was compromised and not very comfortable; yet she was still herself, chatting it up with the physical therapist as best she could. Toward the end, when Etai asked her what she was doing, she replied that she was waiting. "Waiting for what, Ima?" "Godot," she answered.

When you go through something devastating with your family, a deep, raw intimacy forms. In the midst of pain and fear and uncertainty you are stripped of pretense, and you witness each other's naked emotions in a way that does not usually happen in ordinary circumstances. Our family became more bonded as we somehow held each other up when it felt like everything else was falling apart.

On our eleventh day in the ICU, before Shabbat, Teva was moved upstairs to the hospice floor. I was about to head up when the elevator doors opened - and Sam was coming out. Her husband was being transferred to home hospice and she was leaving. We gave each other a hug, and wished each other well. I noticed on the wall opposite the elevator, a large quote was inscribed:

"Healing is about honoring our very presence, our very being, our connectedness with a person in a given moment." Though Sam and I knew almost nothing about each other, our brief connection was meaningful to me.

(continued on pg. 19)

### Mortal One, Why Do You Sleep?

בן אדם מה לך נרדם – קום קרא תחנונים...

Mortal One, why do you sleep?  
Rise, and cry out in supplication.

These words, which I first heard sung during this time last year, are the opening words of the piyyut, the liturgical poem, Ben Adam



(בן אדם). Traditionally, in Sephardic communities, this piyyut is sung at night from the second day of the month of Elul until Rosh Hashanah. It prepares the soul for the High Holy Days, and it encourages every individual to engage in self-reflection during this coming time of transition.

Just as God called Ezekiel during his prophecy, we are called "Mortal One" in the dark of night, and called to enter communication with the Divine through supplicatory prayer. Using God as a "Divine Therapist," we are called to engage with ourselves in self-reflection. It can be difficult, but it is a process that I have found myself looking forward to lately. We can ask ourselves, "In what ways could I have been better?" "Did I shrink back when I would have preferred to march forward?" "Were the paths that I have taken right for me?" These questions can inspire growth within ourselves, but almost comedically, they can also keep us awake. Without a proper outlet, such uncertainty and anxiety can literally prevent us from sleep, as if the call of "Mortal One" was a hostile taunt rather than a summons.

In this moment of vulnerability we can easily fall into a pessimistic spiral. "Our sins were too great," many have cried before, "and the paths not taken are lost to us. Why should we turn back now? Who would accept repentance?" The piyyut firmly states to whom our cries of repentance are heard, crying out

יְנוּדָא דָּל, הַקְדָּצָה

You are the Righteous God

מִיִּנְפָה תִשָּׁב וְנָלוּ

And we are truly humbled.

In voicing our regrets, our shortcomings, we can begin the work to grow from them. The past cannot be changed, but instead our slates can (spiritually) be wiped clean.

On the other hand, supplication to the Divine would be remarkably easier if we actually were called by a Voice, if we knew with certainty what God wanted from us, or that God even is. To this point, I call forward the wisdom of the 19th century Hasidic

masters: A father once came to the Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Hasidism, and told him that his son had broken away from Judaism. "Rebbe," he asked, "What should I do?"

"Do you love your son?" asked the Baal Shem Tov.

"Yes, I do," replied the father.

"Then love him more."

In the absence of Divine answer, or Divine Salvation, the responsibility falls upon us mortals to sit with and uplift one another. As Rabbi Simcha Bunam of Pasischa said, "It is highly necessary for every human being to have at least one sincere friend, one true companion so close to us that we are able to tell them that of which we are ashamed." The human ear is equally valuable to God when we need to get something off of our chests. That "sincere friend" can be a partner, a family member, a therapist, a clergyperson, or someone that we haven't even met yet. There are many who can fill that role for us and, equally, we can fill that role for others. Perhaps this is one of the reasons that Ben Adam is sung in community. The singers, the listeners, and even those dozing off in the back, are all, in that moment, called to not only engage with their own shortcomings, but to hear the supplications of their fellows as well.

We have received the "Heavenly call" of Ben Adam. It is now Elul and Rosh Hashanah is on its way, but the call for self-reflection does not have to be borne alone. We can seek those we can trust for help, and we can offer our strength to others who may not yet have that trusted friend. To close, I quote Rabbi Moshe Lieb, who once said, "If someone comes to you and asks for your help, you shall not turn them away with pious words, saying 'Have faith and take your troubles to God!' You shall act as if there were no God, as if there were only one person in all the world who could help this person - you."

May this season of self-reflection bring us closer to who we wish to be, and may we be confident that that version of ourselves is someone that we can become.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zachary M. Canali".

Zachary Canali, Rabbinic Intern

## STEP-UP & GIVE BACK

### Social Action Collections & Events

We are committed to tikkun olam, repairing our world. Help make our community a better place and participate in the important drives scheduled throughout the year. For more information, contact co-chairs Hedy Cardozo at hedozo@aol.com and Lauren Shalem at lauren.beitman@gmail.com.

#### Volunteer to Teach Adult ESL at the Carver Center in Port Chester

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 - 10:30am**

Volunteers are needed to tutor adult English language learners, no experience necessary, just a passion to help others. Contact the main office to learn more.



#### Midnight Run Collection

**September 2 - September 19**

Help us collect clothing and supplies for our October Midnight Run to Manhattan with donations of the items listed below. Midnight Run coordinates over 1,000 relief missions per year, in which volunteers from churches, synagogues, schools and other civic groups distribute food, clothing, blankets and personal care items to people experiencing homelessness on the streets of New York City.

The late-night relief efforts create a forum for trust, sharing, understanding and affection. That human exchange, rather than the exchange of goods, is the essence of the Midnight Run mission.

Items can be dropped off in the main lobby during normal business hours. Items needed (adult sized clean clothing only; toiletries and personal care items must be unused):

- coats
- boots/sneakers
- jeans
- new underwear
- sweatshirts
- soft luggage
- socks
- new/unused personal care items

### Join the Emanu-El Caring Community

Being there for one another in difficult times is a vital piece of who we are. The Emanu-El Caring Community is a volunteer-run group that makes certain that our congregants experience a sense of support after the loss of a loved one.

We are looking for volunteers to help assemble and deliver bereavement baskets on an as-needed basis. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with the Caring Community, contact Michelle Schwartz at prettypaper1@gmail.com.



#### High Holy Day Food Drive for Feeding Westchester September 23 - October 2

This year we continue the tradition of collecting food for the Feeding Westchester Annual High Holy Day Food Drive. Feeding Westchester is part of a network that expertly sources and distributes food and resources to feed people who are hungry in every town in Westchester.

Paper shopping bags will be available at High Holy Day services. Feeding Westchester's current list of most-needed items includes:

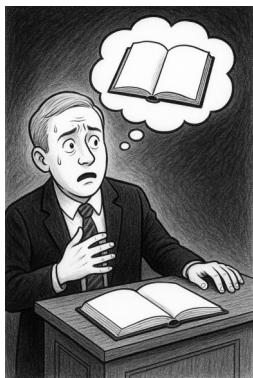
- beans (canned or dry)
- cereals (whole grain)
- canned meat and fish
- milk (shelf stable)
- canned meals (low sodium)
- canned vegetables (low sodium)
- canned and dried fruit
- peanut butter
- pasta & rice

When choosing items for the food drive, please look for labels which read:

- Low Sodium
- Reduced Sodium
- No Salt Added
- 100% Fruit Juice
- No Sugar Added
- Lite
- Unsweetened

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## Rabbi's Ritual Corner: Sermon Dreams



I know the High Holy Days are approaching when I have my first dream – or nightmare – about them. There are two recurring “sermon disaster” versions.

In the first, I stand to give the sermon, look down, and all the pages are blank. “No problem!” I think. “I speak extemporaneously all the time.” But when I open my mouth, nothing comes out.

In the second, the words are there on the page. I begin speaking, and people start getting up and leaving – first one or two, then droves.

Charming dreams, aren't they? When I ask colleagues, it turns out they're pretty common.

Avoiding version #1 is entirely on me (see image above!). But you can help me avoid the mass-exodus version by understanding how I think about High Holy Day sermon topics. I see them as a suite of sermons rather than stand-alone speeches.

Taken together, they cover:

- Transitioning into the High Holy Days
- A topical issue-of-the-day
- Israel
- God
- Memorial

So why the anxiety if I have my rubric? Well – when I give a topical sermon, I inevitably get calls or emails asking why I stray into contemporary issues and share my seemingly center-left views. Those callers urge me to “stick to the spiritual.”

When I focus on God and spirituality, others ask why I didn't speak about something more “relevant,” like an issue in the news.

When I preach about Israel, I get two sets of calls – one wondering why I'm not more strongly pro-Israel, the other wondering why I'm so strongly pro-Israel.

Since I'm a people-pleaser (most rabbis are), you can see how the dreams happen.

Here's the irony: I want your calls and emails! I love when a sermon sparks ideas, debate, and conversation. I hope you go home from services talking about what I've said. What I also need – and what this congregation is so good at giving – is a bit of grace and patience as I walk through the minefield of topics that deserve attention while trying to keep everyone “happy.” (And if this is true for me, it's triply true for our rabbinic intern, Zachary Canali!)

So: No, the sermons aren't written yet. Yes, I welcome your feedback and ideas. No, I don't yet know exactly what I'll say. Yes, I'll try to take your perspective into account. No, you won't agree with everything I say. And yes – that's what makes this all so wonderfully engaging, fulfilling, interesting, and Jewish.

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## We Went For Baseball; We Stayed For The War (by Stefanie Kalkut)

“You need to go to Jordan.” “The Embassy is evacuating people.” (They weren't.) “I'm so, so sorry you are stuck there.”

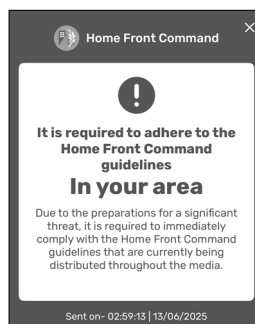
When we found ourselves in Israel as ballistic missiles flew towards us from Iran, these were some of the many texts we received. Our friends were incredibly well meaning, and we love them all. But they had it completely wrong.

“We are so lucky to be here.” “What an incredible privilege it is to be here, now.” That is all that was going through our minds.

Ok, well, that wasn't immediately true, but it quickly came to be the whole truth.

We arrived in Israel on June 5 and planned to stay for 8 weeks as our son, Leo, worked for the Israel Association of Baseball. Being a hypervigilant person, I made sure that we had a bomb shelter in our apartment (a “mamad”) and that we downloaded the Israel Homefront Command App immediately upon

touchdown so that we could receive missile alerts. But these were just belt and suspenders to make a nervous Jewish mom feel better; we never expected to use them. We were thinking: baseball, fresh pita, Kotel, Mediterranean Sea. We were ready for the summer of a lifetime.



Then at 2:59am on June 13, we got a cryptic alert on our phones. “Due to the preparations for a significant threat, it is required to immediately comply with the Home Front Command guidelines.” A quick look on Twitter confirmed that Israel had pre-emptively struck Iran.

That night, nothing fell. The next morning, I read that Iranian missiles were expected in 4 hours and that the government advised having ten days of food and water on hand. I dashed to the

(continued on pg. 19)



### A Year of Meaningful Moments with Hinieni

As summer winds down and the first hints of autumn fill the air, we're gearing up for an exciting new year, and I am absolutely thrilled to welcome our largest Farah Family Hineini Program class yet, with 37 wonderful students! Each of them brings a unique spark—an individual story, a perspective shaped by their own experiences, and an eagerness to learn and grow together. When we bring all those sparks into one room, we create a flame that warms and lights up our entire community.



Even more exciting is that I'll be teaching alongside Rabbinic Intern Zachary Canali, who knows these students well and has been a steady presence in their lives for the past two years. His deep connection with the class, combined with his energy, humor, and passion for teaching, will make this year especially meaningful. Together, we'll be more than instructors—we'll be partners in guiding these students as they discover how Jewish wisdom can shape their choices, deepen their relationships, and inspire their sense of purpose in the world.

We'll be diving into new experiences and creating countless opportunities to engage in mitzvot—acts of kindness, justice, and responsibility—that help us grow not only as individuals, but as a caring, connected community. It's a privilege to help our students take the values they learn and live them out in real, tangible ways.

This year will be filled with powerful, hands-on learning rooted in Jewish tradition. From moments of bold adventure to times of quiet introspection, from service projects to festive celebrations, our Hinieni class will build a foundation of Jewish life that feels vibrant, relevant, and inspiring.

We'll kick things off with Boundless Adventures, a program that pushes us to step outside our comfort zones, take safe risks, and rely on one another for encouragement. It's an ideal way to start the year, setting the tone for teamwork, courage, and trust. When we prepare for Midnight Run, founder Dennis Barton will join us to share his personal story of being unhoused. His words will give students a deeper, more human understanding of the values of chesed (kindness) and tzedek (justice), inspiring them to see that helping others is not just charity—it's justice in action.

Our visit to Sheldrake Environmental Center will open students' eyes to "bal tashchit," our

responsibility to protect and care for the Earth. By seeing nature up close and learning about environmental stewardship, they'll understand that tending to our planet is a sacred obligation, woven into the fabric of Jewish teaching.

Through projects like Family Trees, the Lower East Side trip, and the tour of the Anne Frank Exhibit, students will explore Jewish history, heritage, and identity in personal, engaging ways. They'll see themselves as part of a chain stretching back through generations, one they are now called to carry forward with pride and intention.

Our commitment to community service will continue with the Breast Cancer Walk, regular visits to Edenwald & Pleasantville Cottage School, and a meaningful program at the Hebrew Home. These moments will bring Jewish values like bikur cholim (visiting the sick) and kibud zekanim (honoring the elderly) to life in a way no textbook could match.

In the building, Zach will lead rich, thought-provoking conversations that connect these real-world experiences to Jewish wisdom. From Israel-themed lessons to preparing for Mitzvah Shabbat, our students will learn to see mitzvot not as checklists, but as a way of living with intention and heart.

And yes—there will be joy, laughter, and celebration. From Krav Maga lessons that teach confidence and discipline, to cooking for Chanukah with Cara, to the Purim Carnival, to our lively Monday Night Seder with temple teens and students from the German International School New York, we'll keep joy at the very heart of the journey.

Parents will be part of this adventure too. They'll have opportunities to engage alongside their children, share in their discoveries, and see firsthand the impact of the Hinieni experience. Together, we will show our students that Judaism is not just something to learn—it's something to live, breathe, and share with the world.

Here's to a year of learning, growth, and deep



Jane Dubro, Director of Programming & Engagement

*The Farah Family Hineini Program is generously sponsored by Roger and Vivian Farah.*

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

### Canasta

**Tuesdays, September 2, 9, 16 & 30  
and October 21 & 28, 1:45 - 3:45pm**

Come play on Tuesday afternoons. Friends and family are welcome! RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

**Learn to Play Canasta with Expert Jill Baker  
Tuesdays, October 21 & 28 and November 4 & 18,  
1:45pm (this is a 4-session series)**



Curious about Canasta?

Join Jill for a fun and relaxed four-part series where you'll learn the basics of this classic card game. No experience necessary - just

bring your enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. It's a great way to exercise your mind and enjoy time with others. Cost: \$118/person for the series. Space is limited. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.



### Beit Midrash

**Saturdays, September 6 & 27, 9:00am  
Sunday, October 19, 10:30am**

Each week, the Torah connects deeply with Jewish life as we know it today - in our homes, in our communities, and in the rituals we practice. This year in Beit Midrash, we will explore how the weekly portion links to a familiar Jewish custom, holiday observance, or lifecycle ritual. From Kiddush and Shabbat candles to the wedding veil and the Passover seder, each session will bring out the ancient roots of practices that are still vibrant today. We'll draw from a variety of texts and sources - biblical, rabbinic, historical, and contemporary - to uncover meaning and relevance for modern Jewish living. Come every session or just drop in - all are welcome! For more information, contact Rabbi Goldsmith at [hgoldsmith@c-e-w.org](mailto:hgoldsmith@c-e-w.org) or 914-967-4382 x1013.



### Single Malt Torah

**Monday, September 8, 8:00pm**

Men of the congregation join together for fine scotch and Torah learning with Rabbi Goldsmith. Topics range from contemporary questions of Jewish society to issues in Israel to exploration of our sacred texts. Whatever the topic, we enjoy our time together.

### Single Malt Torah: Book Club Edition

***How to Fight Anti-Semitism* by Bari Weiss  
Thursday, October 23, 8:00pm**

They say that Torah, most broadly understood, includes not only the ancient text in the scrolls in the ark, but every piece of text that struggles with ultimate meaning. So, we are expanding Single Malt Torah to include a few contemporary book discussions. Whether you've read the entire book or just the dust jacket, please join us! *How To Fight Anti-Semitism* is a concise, passionate examination of rising antisemitism in America and beyond. Weiss blends personal narrative with analysis and offers a powerful call for Jewish pride and solidarity in the face of growing hate. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

### Next Step

**Sundays, September 14 & October 19, 11:00am**

This group of men meet to discuss personal issues that they face in retirement. The bonds of friendship and a deep sense of trust have allowed this group to continue for many years. Next Step is facilitated by Paul Spindel (retired executive). For more information, contact Paul at 914-632-1264.

**Rosh Hashanah Cooking Class  
with Master Chef Cara Tannenbaum  
Thursday, September 18, 7:00pm**



Start the New Year with delicious dips to begin your holiday meal. We will prepare vegetarian "chopped liver," Muhammara (roasted pepper and walnut dip with pomegranate), and a honeyed ricotta with roasted

butternut squash to sweeten your New Year, all served on challah croutons or with crudite. Whether you're a seasoned cook or a curious beginner, all are welcome! Cost: \$36/person. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



One of the most important rituals of Sukkot is to gather with family and friends to celebrate, specifically to gather in (or around) a sukkah. The medieval mystics believed in “welcoming” great Jews from our past, symbolically welcoming Abraham, Sarah, King David, and the prophetess Deborah. Leaving mysticism behind, here in the earthly realm of Westchester, we have a beautiful Sukkah at the synagogue that is available for any congregant to use during the festival for a lovely al fresco lunch, and the wonderful gatherings below.

### **Sukkot Shabbat & October 7th Memorial Friday, October 10, 6:00pm Service**

The sukkah's open roof and fragile walls inspire gratitude for our sturdy homes, yet remind us that the world is not so solid. On Sukkot, we traditionally read Ecclesiastes: “To everything there is a season – a time to be born and a time to die.” At our Shabbat service during Sukkot, October 10th, we will both celebrate the festival and remember the events of October 7th – holding together the joy and the fragility of life.

### **Women's Study Group Sukkot Lunch Sunday, October 5, 1:00pm**

Enjoy our annual celebration of Sukkot, our festival of gratitude and abundance, with lunch outdoors in the sukkah (weather permitting), along with learning, and the warm company of friends. Cost: \$25/person. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

### **Pre-K & K Sukkot Sunday, October 5, 9:30am**

### **Young Families Sukkot Celebration Sunday, October 5, 10:45am**

Drop off your little ones at pre-k/k for a morning of lulav shaking, crafts, snacks, and stories. Followed by a Young Families Celebration for the whole family! Open to the community. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

### **Sukkot Open House at the Goldsmiths' Sunday, October 5, 4:00pm**

After the seriousness of the High Holy Days, it is great to spend time outside eating and drinking with friends and family. Please join the Goldsmiths in their backyard sukkah. There will be lulavs for shaking, cookies for eating and, of course, wonderful congregants to spend time with. RSVP to Dan at [doconnor@c-e-w.org](mailto:doconnor@c-e-w.org).

### **Docent Tour & Lunch at The Jewish Museum: Ben Shahn *On Nonconformity* Thursday, October 9, 11:30am**



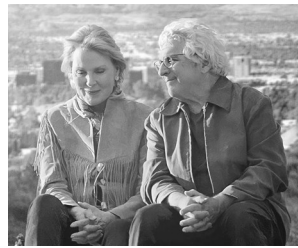
This first U.S. retrospective in nearly 50 years features 175 works that reveal Ben Shahn's commitment to social justice, activism, and Jewish culture from the Great Depression through the Vietnam War. Lunch at the museum will follow the docent tour. Cost (does not include lunch): \$36/person. RSVP information will appear in Emanumail.

### **Shemini Atzeret Yizkor Memorial Service Tuesday, October 14, 7:30am**

Four times a year, we come together as a community to remember our loved ones who have passed away. They live on through our memories bringing blessing to us all.



### **Film: *Our (Almost Completely True) Love Story* Thursday, October 16, 7:00pm**



A heartfelt comedy of love, loss, and second chances. Real-life actors Mariette Hartley and Jerry Sroka play aging performers who stumble into unexpected romance. Slightly autobiographical and full of

Jewish warmth, the film blends humor with poignancy, exploring aging, companionship, and emotional courage. A tender story about the power of connection, even in life's later chapters. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

### **Shabbat Dinner & Simchat Torah Service Friday, October 17, 6:00pm Dinner, 6:45pm Service**



Join us for a delicious Shabbat dinner before we come together for our annual Simchat Torah celebration!

Dinner: \$20/adult, \$15/child, \$60/family max. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

# CONGREGATION EMANU-EL A JEWISH JOURNEY THROUGH AMSTERDAM

April 15 - 20, 2026



DESTINATION  
NETHERLANDS



WHO'S GOING  
OUR  
COMMUNITY



TRIP TYPE  
CONGREGATIONAL



DURATION  
6 DAYS



GROUP SIZE  
20+



PRICE  
FROM \$4,295

## We are going to Amsterdam!

Travel isn't just about the places you visit—it's about the connections you make along the way. Deepen your connection with our congregation, Jewish history and your own Jewish identity on this unforgettable journey!

Embark on a meaningful journey through Amsterdam's rich and complex Jewish history. This carefully curated experience, designed by J<sup>2</sup> – a leading luxury travel brand specializing in Jewish educational and experiential journeys – will take us beyond typical tourist sites, immersing us in a story of resilience, remembrance, and renewal. Along the way, we'll enjoy plenty of Dutch pancakes, tulips, windmills, and cheese!

Amsterdam has had a profound impact on the Jewish people over the centuries. Once home to a thriving Sephardic and Ashkenazi community, it became a center of learning, culture, and trade. The city also bore witness to one of the darkest chapters in Jewish history during the Holocaust. On this trip, we will explore both aspects of this legacy—celebrating Dutch Jewry's contributions while also honoring the memory of those lost.

### Trip Highlights:

A canal cruise through historic Amsterdam

Visits to the Anne Frank House, Portuguese Synagogue & Jewish Historical Museum

A moving Shabbat experience with a Reform congregation

Engaging conversations with scholars and local experts

A visit to Keukenhof's breathtaking tulip gardens and the UNESCO Kinderdijk windmills

**Interested in learning more? Visit [tinyurl.com/cewamster](https://tinyurl.com/cewamster) or contact Jane at [jdubro@c-e-w.org](mailto:jdubro@c-e-w.org) or 914-967-4382 x1021.**



## MESSAGE FROM JACKIE KURLAND

### Fall Building or A Season of Building

I love back-to-school season.

For me, in my position, this time of year means seeing old students and meeting new ones, reuniting with our returning teachers and madrichim, and welcoming new staff into our CEW community. There's a special kind of buzz in the air during the fall, and it's one of the reasons I love my job. Everyone comes into the school year with stories to tell, new energy, and excitement for what's to come.



This past summer, my husband and I were lucky enough to spend ten days in Greece, where we island hopped, explored lots of beaches, and ate a ton. It was the first time that we truly traveled without our kids since they were born, and it was truly a dream vacation. Having the time to ourselves felt like such a gift, and it also allowed us to reset before diving into a new school year.

Much of my summer is always spent planning for the upcoming Religious School year. I map out and create new curriculum, hire new teachers, prepare classrooms, and dream up program ideas. When that first day finally arrives, it is always exciting to see plans come to fruition. This year is extra special for me, because my older daughter is starting Religious School herself. I can't wait to bring her with me on Sundays and watch her become part of this amazing community.

The fall doesn't just bring the start of school but it also brings with it a season filled with Jewish holidays. One of those is Sukkot, one of our most joyous holidays. Two years ago, my family built a sukkah for the first time, and it has quickly become one of our most beloved traditions. Growing up, I always wanted to have one. My parents talked about it every year, but we never quite got around to building it, and we would go over to friends' houses instead. My husband, though, grew up with a sukkah in his backyard, so when the idea came up in our home, he didn't need much convincing. We agreed that if we were going to get one, we were going to go into it with a "go big or go home" mentality. I wanted a beautiful sukkah, not one with an ugly tarp, where we could fit all of our friends and where we could host all sorts of events, from nights filled with wine and cheese to more of a fall festival vibe for children. We wanted something big and open with a great space for everyone to gather. Since none of our friends had a sukkah in their backyard, we wanted to build one to show everyone that Sukkot truly is a pretty awesome holiday.

And so, we built our sukkah and invited family and friends, including many who had never even heard of the holiday before. It was so fun sharing this new tradition, and we filled our sukkah with cider, donuts, apples, candy sukkahs, hot chocolate, twinkly lights, music, and good company. Sukkot is known as *z'man simchateinu*, the time of our rejoicing, and it really is one of the happiest holidays that we have in Judaism. My daughter loved having a sukkah in our backyard so much that we made a photo book of the experience together, which she proudly brought to school for her "show and share." She couldn't wait to teach her classmates about our new family tradition, and I couldn't help but smile at how quickly it had become special for her.



Back-to-school season and the fall holidays both represent fresh starts, as they present us with chances to start new adventures while also reflecting on the year that's passed. This time of year invites us to set intentions, asking us to focus on who we want to be, what we want to learn, and how we can show up for one another. And just as a sukkah is built piece by piece, a new school year provides students with opportunities to build as well, as they create friendships, gain confidence and knowledge, and make memories. I'm very much looking forward to the year ahead!

I hope this time of year brings you moments to connect, celebrate, and grow. And if you ever want to stop by our sukkah in Stamford, there will always be plenty of room at the table.

Wishing you a wonderful fall!

*Jackie*

Jackie Kurland, Director of Education

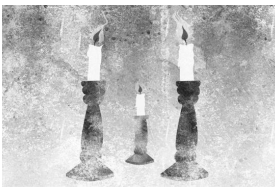


## YOUNG FAMILIES & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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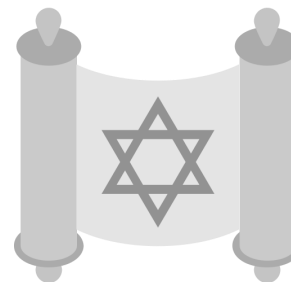
### Tot Shabbat & BBQ Dinner

**Friday, September 5, 5:30pm Service, 6:00pm BBQ**



Welcome Shabbat at these services for little ones filled with songs, stories, and blessings. This service is open to the public, bring your neighbors and friends! Dinner cost: \$15/child, \$20/adult

or \$60/family max. RSVP information will appear in the weekly Emanumail.



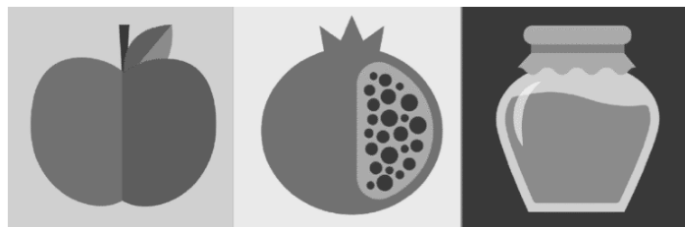
### B'nei Mitzvah Mazel Tov!

We would like to honor the following students who will become B'nei Mitzvah in September & October:

**Hayden Cullagh**

**Mackenzie Newman**

**Benjamin Stergiou**



### High Holy Day Services for Young Children

We invite families with young children to join us for our interactive and music-based High Holy Day prayers and stories. Free and open to the community. RSVP information will appear in the weekly Emanumail.

### Rosh Hashanah Service & Celebration

**Tuesday, September 23, 3:00pm**

### Yom Kippur Service

**Saturday, October 2, 2:15pm**

### Important School Dates for September & October

Families will receive communications and more information on all school-related happenings.

Here's a quick snapshot of some important dates to mark on your calendars.

#### First Session of Boot Camp

Tuesday, September 2, 4:00pm

#### First Session of Academy

Sunday, September 7, 11:00am

#### First Session of Confirmation

Sunday, September 7, 11:00am

#### First Week of Hebrew Tutoring

Monday, September 8 - Thursday, September 11

#### First Day of Religious School

Sunday, September 14, 9:30am

#### First Day of Hineini

Sunday, September 14, 9:30am

### Interested in enrolling your child in our Religious School programs?

There is still time to enroll! If you would like to learn more or enroll your child(ren), contact Jackie at [jkurland@c-e-w.org](mailto:jkurland@c-e-w.org).



### Pre-K & Kindergarten Sukkot Program

**Sunday, October 5, 9:30am**

Drop off your little ones for a morning of lulav shaking, crafts, snacks, and stories. Sessions are followed by Young Family Celebrations at the temple (see below) - fun for the whole family. Free and open to the community. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

### Young Families Sukkot Celebration

**Sunday, October 5, 10:45am**

Bring your little ones to Emanu-El to discover the joy of Jewish life through holiday celebrations. All Young Families events are free and open to the community and are appropriate for ages 6 months through 2nd grade. RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### **Our community offers our deepest condolences to**

The Cruz Family on the death of Wilfredo Cruz  
MJ Wolff on the death of her husband, Rick Wolff  
Will Wolff on the death of his father, Rick Wolff

### **Yahrzeit Remembrances for the Memorial Fund**

#### **In memory of:**

Morris Adler  
Louis M. Barkan  
Helen Belilovsky  
Herbert Chestler  
Barbara Hirsch  
Toby Joseph  
Robert Karasik  
Barbara Karp  
Janie Lewis  
Andrew J. Nathanson  
Alma H. Oppenheimer  
Alan H. Salzman  
Irwin Schechter  
Milton Schlackman  
Robert Segal  
Carolyn Sheer  
Carolyn Sheer  
Bernice Rhoda Tepper  
Rose Terdiman

#### **Remembered by:**

John & Amy Tanenbaum  
Jacqueline Stuart  
Boris & Eugene Belilovsky  
The Chestler Family  
The Grundman Family  
Ruth J. Weinstein  
Steve, Ilyssa, Eli, Ben & Irene Karasik  
Jim & Jane Stern  
Robin Neimark Seegal  
Elyse, Brian, Alison & Kevin Nathanson  
Jim & Jane Stern  
Sherry Salzman  
Jason, Michelle, Lindsay, Lex & Lara Schechter  
Helene, Marc & Jonathan Rod  
Lilian Sicular  
Ben, Carlen, Spencer & Eli Sheer  
Seth Sheer  
Elyse Tepper Nathanson  
JoAnn Terdiman

### **Memorial Fund Donation**

Denise & Nathan Eisler in memory of Teva Stone Benshlomo  
Doreen Kushel in memory of Teva Stone Benshlomo  
Jane Schaiman in memory of David S. Schaiman  
Maj Wickstrom in memory of Teva Stone Benshlomo

Donations processed after August 18 will appear in the November/December bulletin.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## **Annual Fund: Community Support**

Michael & Arleen Cohen  
Cliff Gevirtz & Alison Lazarus  
Matt & Jill Kunkes  
Evan & Lindsay Weinberg

## **Annual Fund: High Holy Day Appeal**

Danny & Rhonda Chestler  
Jason Schechter & Michelle Wallach

## **Garden of Gratitude Fund**

Jewel Kahn in honor of Bonnie Shyer's birthday  
Tom & Peggy LoCastro in memory  
of David Schaiman  
Tom & Peggy LoCastro in memory  
of Teva Stone Benshlomo  
Tom & Peggy LoCastro in memory  
of Wilfredo Cruz  
Sherry Salzman in honor of Bonnie Shyer  
Jill Sheppard in memory  
of Teva Stone Benshlomo  
Carol & Lenny Turk in honor of Bonnie Shyer

## **High Holy Day Yizkor Memorial Book Donation**

Tim & Phyllis Alexander  
Danny & Rhonda Chestler  
Edgar & Margie Masinter  
Jason & Jessica Riesel  
Linda Salamon  
Jason Schechter & Michelle Wallach  
Judy & David Schustack  
Ilene Schwartz

## **Rabbi Goldsmith's Discretionary Fund**

Barbara Benerofe  
Denver & Alison Brown in appreciation of  
Rabbi Goldsmith's guidance and support throughout  
their children's b'nei mitzvah journey, from early  
learning through two meaningful services  
Larry & Julie Kirshner in appreciation for officiating at  
Jake Kirshner & Taylor Gorman's wedding

## **Music Fund**

Bill & Hinda Bodinger in memory  
of Teva Stone Benshlomo  
Larry & Debra Cohen in memory  
of Teva Stone Benshlomo  
Richard & Emily Cohen in memory  
of Teva Stone Benshlomo  
Lisa Cummins in memory of Sheila Perl  
Sandy Grundman in memory  
of Teva Stone Benshlomo  
Rich & Arline Josephberg in memory  
of Teva Stone Benshlomo  
Marcelo & Marcy Modica in memory  
of Teva Stone BenShlomo  
Steven Shapiro & Susan Amkraut in memory  
of Teva Stone Benshlomo  
JoAnn Terdiman in memory  
of Teva Stone Benshlomo

## **Sisterhood**

Paul & Ann Spindel  
Rick & MJ Wolff

## **Social Action Fund**

Marcie Aiuvalasit in support of Mitzvah Shabbat  
Dana Anesi & Renee Smookler  
Larry & Debra Cohen in memory  
of Michael A. Cardozo  
Denise & Nathan Eisler in memory  
of Michael A. Cardozo  
Marcelo & Marcy Modica in memory  
of Michael A. Cardozo  
Lauren & Etan Shalem in memory  
of Michael A. Cardozo  
Paul & Ann Spindel  
John & Amy Tanenbaum in memory  
of Michael A. Cardozo  
JoAnn Terdiman  
Rick & MJ Wolff in memory  
of Michael A. Cardozo

# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Temple Office Closed for Labor Day  <i>Labor Day</i>	2 1:45pm Games  4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	3	4	5 5:30pm Tot Shabbat  6:00pm BBQ Dinner  7:00pm Shabbat Service	6 9:00am Beit Midrash  11:00am Hayden Cullagh Bat Mitzvah
7 10:00am Madrichim Orientation  11:00am Academy  11:00am Confirmation	8 8:00pm Single Malt Torah	9 1:45pm Games  3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom  4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp  7:30pm Board Meeting	10	11 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	12 7:00pm Gallery Opening: Audrey Reich  7:30pm Shabbat Service	13 7:15pm Selichot Service at WRT
14 9:30 - 11:45am First Session of Religious School  11:00am Next Step	15	16 1:45pm Games  3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom  4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	17	18 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom  7:00pm Cooking Class	19 6:00pm Early Service	20
21 9:30 - 11:45am Religious School  9:30 - 10:30am Academy  10:45 - 11:45am Confirmation	22 7:30pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service  <i>Erev            Rosh Hashanah</i>	23 High Holy Day Schedule on pg. 2  Office Closed for Rosh Hashanah  <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	24 Rosh Hashanah Schedule on pg. 2  Office Closed for Rosh Hashanah  <i>Rosh Hashanah            Day 2</i>	25 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	26 12:00pm Positive Confessions with Artist Audrey Reich  7:30pm Shabbat Shuva	27 9:00am Beit Midrash
28 9:30 - 11:45am Religious School	29	30 1:45pm Games  3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom  4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp				

# October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30pm Kol Nidre  <i>Kol Nidre</i>	2 Yom Kippur Schedule on pg. 2  Office Closed for Yom Kippur	3 Office Closed 6:00pm Early Shabbat Service	4
59:30 - 11:45am Religious School  9:30 - 10:45am Pre-k/K Sukkot  10:45 - 11:30am Young Families Sukkot Celebration  1:00pm Women's Study Group Sukkot Lunch  4:00pm Sukkot Open House at The Goldsmiths'	6	7  Office Closed for Sukkot  No Games  3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom  4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp  7:00pm Board Meeting  <i>Sukkot</i>	8	9  11:30am Jewish Museum Trip: Ben Shahn Collection  3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	10  6:00pm Outdoor Sukkot Service & Oct. 7th Memorial	11
12	13  Office Closed for Indigenous People & Columbus Day  <i>Indigenous People &amp; Columbus Day</i>	14  7:30am Shemini Atzeret Yizkor  3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom  No Games or Boot Camp  Office Closed for Shemini Atzeret	15	16  3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom  7:00pm Film: <i>Our (Almost) Love Story</i>	17  6:00pm Shabbat Dinner  6:45pm Simchat Torah	18  11:00am Benjamin Stergiou Bar Mitzvah  5:00pm Mackenzie Newman Bat Mitzvah
19  9:30 - 11:45am Religious School  9:30 - 10:30am Academy & Confirmation  10:30am Joel Chasoff: Israel Today  11:00am Next Step	20	21  1:45pm Games  1:45pm Learn Canasta  3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom  4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp  6:00pm Committee Night	22	23  3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom  8:00pm Single Malt Torah: Book Club Edition	24  7:30pm Shabbat Service	25
26  9:30am 4th Grade B'nei Mitzvah Date Meeting  9:30 - 11:45am Religious School	27	28  1:45pm Games & Learn to Play Cansta  3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom  4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	29  11:00am - 5:00pm Sisterhood Boutique	30  3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	31  6:00pm Early Shabbat: Demons and Angels and Golems, Oh My!	



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(continued from pg. 5)

That Shabbat evening, as the sun set, we sang our songs and recited Shema. We think that Teva heard us. She died with family never leaving her side.

Some time after, I texted Sam and told her that, though we were strangers, I was grateful we could share our experience. In her reply she wrote, "I suppose, technically, we are strangers, but it doesn't feel that way. I was comforted by your company and support." Her husband, Lee, died a week later.

The ache of losing a loved one is hard to bear - but a little less hard when it can be shared.



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(continued from pg. 8)



supermarket to find no shopping carts and a 2-hour wait to check out. I passed the time talking to the woman in front of me who had 18 year-old twins in the IDF. When I was finally 3<sup>rd</sup> from the front, a buzz spread through the store as the local news apps reported that missiles were coming in about 30 minutes. I calculated that I was

one minute from my car, seven minutes from my apartment (if I didn't get lost) and two minutes up to my actual flat. Surely that added up to more than 30 minutes. I just could not stay. And then the woman in front of me said, "You can't leave after all this. Go ahead of me."

When bombs started falling that night, she texted to make sure I was in my mamad, to explain the different levels of alerts, to elucidate the difference between a Houthi missile (don't even get out of bed) and an Iranian one. She continued to check on me for three days. I didn't even know her name. That is Israel.

Our mamad was a 5'x 9' room with a desk, a fluorescent light, and the required steel door with hermetic seal. When the first alert finally came on our phone, we calmly closed the special door latch and hunkered down with our food, water and cellphone chargers. But, inside, I was shaking. We were launching into a great unknown.

For close to two hours, we sat in eerie silence broken only by the sounds of David's Sling interceptions over our heads. It's an odd experience to sit in a windowless and mostly soundproof room with nothing but Hebrew twitter to guide you. Especially when you don't actually know Hebrew.

That first night, I was scared. I texted my brother to tell him where my will was, the names of my mom's doctors and bankers. He told me, "Don't worry, most people in

war zones don't die. You'll be fine." He was right, but it was cold comfort.

Something changes in you after you survive your first night with missiles falling around you. You realize why you came to Israel and what an incredible miracle it is - even with its many imperfections. You realize it in your bones, in a part of you that you didn't know was there. Fear, while never totally gone, shrinks and recedes behind pride, fight, perseverance and love.

Now, don't get me wrong. I am American. A month in Israel only served to prove to me how very American I am. Even in these relentless times, this is the greatest country on earth. Plus, for me, customer service is to help the customer, cheese doodles should not be peanut flavored, and weekends are two days long.

But, I also love Israel as if it were a dearest friend and not just a country. Joe Biden said, "Were there no Israel, no Jew in the world would be ultimately safe," and I agree. Sitting in our mamad, it was impossible not to reflect that I was far from the first person on my family tree to be in grave danger simply for being Jewish. But, I was definitely the first to be under attack simply for being Jewish while also being protected by the Israeli Air Force. To paraphrase a t-shirt I have seen many times on college campuses, I was my ancestors' wildest dreams.



This was our infinitesimal contribution to the fight of the Jewish people for the right simply to exist. Israelis fight this fight every day and with every action, whether it's in Gaza or in celebrating a wedding or choosing to start a family. The least we could do was stay and be with them in this difficult time. We were not going to Jordan; we were right where we were supposed to be.

**Name**  
**Street Address**  
**City, State Zip Code**

## SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER SHABBAT SERVICES

### September 5

5:30pm Tot Shabbat  
6:00pm BBQ Shabbat Dinner  
7:00pm Shabbat Service 🎵😊

### September 12

7:00pm Gallery Opening: Audrey Reich  
7:30pm Shabbat Service

### September 19

6:00pm Early Shabbat

### September 26

6:00pm Shabbat Shuva

### October 3

6:00pm Early Shabbat

### October 10

6:00pm Sukkot Service and October 7th Memorial 😊

### October 17

6:00pm Shabbat Dinner  
6:45pm Simchat Torah 🎵😊

### October 24

7:30pm Shabbat Service

### October 31

6:00pm Early Shabbat: Demons and Angels  
and Golems, Oh My!

**Key:** 🎵 Band 😊 Especially Family Friendly

### Sisterhood Boutique

**Wednesday, October 29, 11:00am - 5:00pm**



accessories, and beautiful handmade goods.

Our annual Sisterhood Boutique returns this year with offerings both big and small! This year's boutique will have all kinds of gifts and goodies for Chanukah (or any occasion): jewelry, clothing, artwork, stationery,



### Early Shabbat: Demons and Angels and Golems, Oh My!

**Friday, October 31, 6:00pm**

Step into a spooky, magical Shabbat where ancient Jewish legends come to life! A spirited evening of mystical tales about demons, angels, and golems awaits - followed by a candy-laden oneg to sweeten the night.

### Assistive Listening Available in the Sanctuary



Enjoy crystal-clear audio by streaming directly from your smartphone to your Bluetooth enabled hearing aids and earbuds during in-person sanctuary services. Details on pg. 3.