

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS VOL. 26 TISHRI 5765--HESHVAN 5766 OCT./NOV. 2005

Greetings from the Rabbi



Beth, Tova, Yael, Ada and I wish everyone at Temple Israel a sweet and purposeful year in 5766. We look forward to another year with the Temple and the exciting possibilities for programs and learning. I hope to personally greet each of you during the High Holidays.

Lshana Tova Tikatevu,

Rabbi Perlman

Katrina Hurricane Assistance

The rabbi is taking up a collection for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi. All donations are being routed through the Red Cross and Federations in the Deep South. Please make your check payable to "Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield."

Another option, should you wish to respond to this disaster through the Jewish community, is to direct your donation to Mazon at www.mazon.org or the United Jewish Communities at www.ujc.org.

High Holiday Food Drive

On Yom Kippur we go without food for a whole day. There are many people in our area that go hungry every day! Please bring a donation of canned or packaged food to the synagogue during

the holidays. The rabbi will personally deliver all food donations to a food pantry in Springfield.

Schedule for the High Holidays

- October 3** Rosh Hashana Evening Services at 7:30 PM
- October 4** Rosh Hashana Morning Services at 9:00 AM
Shofar sounded at 11:00 AM
Junior Congregation Services at 11:30

Tashlikh at the Miller's River 1:00

Rosh Hashana Evening Services-7:30

- October 5** Rosh Hashana Morning Services at 9:00 AM
Shofar sounded at 11:00 AM

- October 12** Yom Kippur evening
Kol Nidre at 6:00 PM

- October 13** Yom Kippur morning
Services at 9:00 AM
Yom Kippur Afternoon
Services at 5:00 PM



Other Dates to Remember:

Sun., Oct. 2 Sweet Beginnings Festival at Yiddish Book Center

Sun. Oct. 16 Sunday School Meeting- 10:30 a.m.

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Thurs., October 20 Sukkot at the Maron's sukkah Begins at 6:00 PM

Wed., October 26 Simchat Torah

Fri. - Sat., November 11-12 Heshvan Shabbaton

Sat., November 12 Mezuzah Family Program

Fri. - Sat. December 2-3 Kislev Shabbaton

Sun., December 11 Hanukah Family Program



Rosh Hashana

Jews celebrate the beginning of the new year every fall with the sounding of a ram's horn, also called the shofar. The shofar is a call to prayer, a call for the renewal of life of everything on earth. Jews believe it is also a time of judgement, a time when the "book of life" is opened and each life is inscribed for another year. The prayers in the synagogue have somber themes about the acknowledgement of God's sovereignty and confrontation with the fragility of life. At Temple Israel, we invite you celebrate the Jewish new year of 5766 with us and share our prayers for a good year ahead. Following the morning service, our congregation will meet at the Miller's River to cast bread (tashlich) as a gesture of purifying our soul's of encrusted sins left over from the past year.

Yom Kippur

The day of Atonement is a serious day for reflection for Jewish people combined with a whole day renunciation of food and drink. The music in the synagogue is somber and reflects the themes of repentance, God's sovereignty and

God's mercy. Yom Kippur repeats many of the themes of Rosh Hashana and gives each Jew one last opportunity ten days after the new year to make a pledge to live a more virtuous life. Through the ritual of the day, Jews atone for the sins they have committed during the old year and ask God to grant them a fresh slate in the new year. At the end of the holiday, the shofar is sounded for one last time representing absolution from sin.



Sukkot

Five days after Yom Kippur, Jews celebrate the bounty of the new year. As the harvest comes to a close, we build a small open air hut (sukkah) in our backyards and revel in the outdoor elements one last time before the winter. A sukkah gives shade from the sun, but light must come through its thatched roof. Families typically take their meals in the sukkah. We wave a bouquet of branches including the palm, myrtle, and willow and hold an etrog (citron) in our left hand in praise of God. The lulav and etrog are also used as ritual beseeching God for good rains during the winter season in Israel.

Simchat-Torah

The coda of Tishri is Simchat Torah. Originally scheduled as the final day of Tishri celebration, with the recurring theme of the days of judgment on Hoshana Rabba (the day before) and a special eighth day of assembly to conclude Sukkot, Simchat Torah has come into its own as the celebration of the reading of the Torah. The

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following Shabbat we start from the beginning of the Torah, the book of Bereshit, Genesis. On

Simchat Torah, we have a ceremonial reading of the last verses of the Torah from the book of Devarim, Deuteronomy. We dance with the Torah, wave flags, and eat sweets for a sweet new year.



Family Programs at Temple Israel

Once again through a generous grant through the Grinspoon Foundation, Temple Israel invites families to learn with their children at special programs scheduled during the year.

On **Saturday night, November 12th** at the Temple, we will learn with family educator Janice Colbert and Rabbi Perlman the meaning of the **Mezuzah in Judaism**. Following Havdalah at 4:00 PM, we will our own mezuzah cases and learn about the mitzvah of affixing the mezuzah to the doors of our homes.

On **Sunday, December 11th**, we will prepare for the upcoming **Hanukah** holiday and create our own dreidels and learn to play. More information will follow.

EDUCATION REPORT

The Educational Committee of Temple Israel is pleased to announce that we are having a meeting to discuss our future Sunday School on **Sunday, October 16th at 10:30 at the Temple**. We would really like to see this happen and we know in order to make this happen, we need the ideas and support of parents. Your presence and input are deeply appreciated. Parents of children between the age of five and fourteen are invited and strongly encouraged to come to this meeting. We really hope you can attend so you have the opportunity to discuss all possibilities together as a community.

Thank you so much in advance.

If you can RSVP, call 978-249-7753 for Susan, and/or email TempleIsraelHebrewSchool@Yahoo.com

Also, at the above meeting the dates for five family programs will be announced.

Shabbat classes for children will be continuing during monthly Shabbatons.

RSVP 978-249 -7753
Educational Committee

Sweet Beginnings Festival

A Community Celebration

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to Welcome the New Year

Sunday October 2, 2005

10 am - 4 pm

National Yiddish Book Center

Activities for all ages:

Learn to Blow Shofar

Engage in Holiday Storytelling, Song, and Dance

Make Jewish New Year Cards

Papercutting with Tamar Shadur
Create Synagogue Art

Join an Instant Klezmer Band
Learn to sing with Makhela's Chorus

Bring your own picnic or purchase from
Tambourin Catering

Tour the National Yiddish Book Center.

Rabbi Perlman will be there representing Temple Israel!

Sponsored by Upper Pioneer Valley Synagogues
and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation

Day Tickets: \$5 per adult, \$3 per child, \$18
family (max 6)

3 PM Golem in Concert - New York's acclaimed
hipster Klezmer rock band - \$5 per person

Just A Few Words from the Editor

As I speak to our congregants—young and old—at each monthly Shabbaton, I find that each of them receives so much from Temple Israel. Yet what our shul provides is different for each family. Some love

the chance to worship together on Friday evening or Saturday morning. Others look forward to the Rabbi's stimulating sermons and the Saturday morning and afternoon discussions that flow so naturally from the topic of the sermon. Still others mention our fantastic children's programs—programs which become more numerous and more creative, it seems, every year. You should see for yourself the joy in the eyes of the children and their parents as they share in traditions which go back to long-ago days of our ancestors. Then again, to tell you the truth, some families seem to be attracted just as much to our delicious potluck dinners and our cholant and salad Shabbat luncheons—or is it the warm fellowship that is shared during occasions which move from religious to social and back to religious almost seamlessly. The same warmth, kindness, and generosity that have always characterized Temple Israel are still so clearly seen and commented upon at all Temple functions.

For some, our Temple provides a Jewish voice within the larger communities of Athol, Orange, Petersham, Wendell, Fitchburg—indeed the whole North Quabbin Region! Our Third Yom HaShoah service was very well attended by non-Jewish members of the community, in addition to our own congregants. Everyone always approaches the Rabbi, Myron, or me, remarking on how both enlightened and moved they were by the service. Many in our community have commented on Temple Israel's importance within the Interfaith Clergy Council. Others point to the presence of our wonderful Rabbi Jonathan Perlman at times of mourning and grief, and also at simchas and times of joy.

Are Temple Israel events well-attended? No easy answer there, it varies month to month, but overall---DEFINITELY! Friday evening dinner and services attract anywhere from 18-30 or 35 men, women, and children. While many synagogues of 100-200 congregants have difficulty attracting a minyan on Shabbat morning, Temple Israel's Saturday morning services generally attract anywhere from a dozen to 18 or 20 congregants. Sometimes we find an additional 5 or 6 members who arrive prior to lunch. These innovative and creative services occur every single month—September through the months of winter, spring, and right on through the summer. You should hear the singing after lunch as we all sing favorite Jewish songs or learn and practice new ones! At special family and children's events, our Temple rings

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out with the joyful sounds of a dozen to 15 or 18 children as well as their families.

Temple Israel....it means so much to so many! It is a living, growing community....our Temple! Our Temple continue to be not only a place to gather to pray together, but also an intellectually stimulating discussion forum and a close-knit home where friends and families can gather to socialize. Temple Israel remains a place where people who care about one another can come to be with one another.

As our newsletter frequently says, "There's so much happening these days at Temple Israel -- for adults, for families, for children!" A Happy and Health New Year to all of you and to your families. May the New Year bring peace, health, love, and joy to each of you. And to those whom we do not often see, please visit with us, and share in what so many have called a synagogue and a congregation that have never forgotten how to love one another. We'd love to see you!

Sincerely and warmly,
Mitch Grosky

PLEASE LEND US A HAND!

PLEASE JOIN TEMPLE ISRAEL'S

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN--AN AMBITIOUS
AND IMPORTANT PLAN TO RAISE \$100,000 FOR
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR OUR TEMPLE!

To make a separate Capital Campaign donation for the building, please send a check to

Temple Israel c/o Elice Clark
P.O. Box 2542 Fitchburg, MA 01420

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

For more information, please call Temple Israel in Athol at 978-249-9481. Our new voice mailboxes are now in operation. You may also directly contact President Dr. Myron Maron at 978-724-0238 or Rabbi Jonathan Perlman at 414-736-1033 (home) or 413-739-4715 (work) Ask for Rabbi Perlman.