

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

VOLUME TWO

ELUL 5762--TISHRI 5763

SEPTEMBER, 2002



Co-presidents Mitchell Grosky (center) and Dr. Myron Maron (right) of Temple Israel welcome the synagogue's new rabbi, Jonathan Perlman of Springfield.

A LETTER FROM OUR RABBI

Shalom! Shalom!

On behalf of my family and myself, I want to wish everyone at Temple Israel a happy new year. Although I have just stepped over the threshold as the synagogue rabbi, I am looking forward to getting to know each of you during the year to come. I am most impressed with my new community. I am glad to be your new rabbi.

Are we permitted to wish each other “happy new year” on Rosh Hashanah? I guess any prayer or wish for something happy or new is appreciated as we turn the page to another year, but the Jewish new year is different. Entering the year is not necessarily a “happy” experience. In fact, the tenor is quite solemn. There is nothing particularly “new” about the year; in fact, the mishnah counts Rosh Hashanah as one of four “heads” of the year (the tax year, the seasonal year, and the royal year being the other three). The fact that we

have just completed another 365 day cycle may be a mundane event, not necessarily something

new. So what is Rosh Hashanah? The proper salutation is “Shana Tova Tikvatanu,” literally “a good year and may you be written in the book of life.” “Good” is different than “happy.” “Good” can mean that we should be blessed with goodness for ourselves, for our families, for the world. The way to goodness may not always be a happy one. Learning a hard lesson, a collapsed marriage, an illness, the death of a loved one ... all can be a test, and often an unhappy test, of who we are as spiritual beings. If we grow as a result, if we realize our purpose in this world, if we come closer to God or find our place, we discover “goodness.” Another way of thinking of the word “tov” (as in *Shana Tova*) or “good” is completeness. We are incomplete beings and the challenge of Rosh Hashanah is to continue forward with the *completion of self*.

May we all strive towards a year of becoming complete. May we know integrity, our core values, and have the strength of our convictions. May we continue to learn from each other. This is my prayer.

On behalf of my wife Beth and my two daughters Tova and Yael, we wish everyone a “Shana Tova Tikvatenu.”

Rabbi Jonathan Perlman



Renew your spirit during
Rosh Hashanah

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A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR HELPERS

We have so many people to thank for all the work that has been done in the past month at Temple Israel. Just a few of the recent projects include the following: cleaning the basement, cleaning the coatroom, cleaning the third classroom and the office to prepare these rooms for the rabbi's quarters, changing the curtains and the covers for the Torah, doing assorted yardwork, painting the third classroom, hanging artwork, furnishing rooms, and sorting through old notes and papers which are part of our synagogue's history. There was enough trash to fill more than half a large dumpster. Many tasks seemed to take forever. Even switching over our books involved hours of sorting old Adler's New Year and Atonement books, placing aside those which are functional and those which may need to be buried at a future date.

For all of these tasks—and many more—we wish to thank Mark Dembek, Peter George (and his sons, Ari and Jeremiah) Nansi Glick, Mitch Grosky (and his son, Joshua), Emily Koester, Myron Maron, Louis Plotkin, and Jeff Plotkin. Thanks also to Anne Grosky for her generous and delicious lunches, and Dick Coleman for not only his usual custodial duties, but also for coming in to help out with facilities planning. We also had a lovely visit from Rabbi Perlman and his family. A special treat was the opportunity to roll the Torah with Rabbi Perlman and to exchange ideas.

Although we have worked for over three long, very full days thus far, we are more aware than ever of how much remains to be done in order to restore our Temple to a condition that is worthy of its fine congregation and the love which members hold for the building and our community. As a result, we want to make a proposal for monthly community workdays to be focused on specific projects. Some potential projects include the following: library

organization, painting of all ceilings and walls, burial of out-of-date/discarded books, fencing the property where needed, yardwork and landscaping, and checking and replacing mezzuot, as needed. We strongly urge every able-bodied adult or older child to lend us some time at these work sessions. Along with a great deal of work being accomplished, a secondary benefit is the chance to get to know and appreciate fellow community members in a whole new way and on a very different level.

Our first workday will be on Sunday, October 27 from 11:00 to 4:00. Lunch will be provided. This workday will be preceded (as will many others) by a board meeting from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M. Bagels ensure that we start off on the usual positive note.



A SPECIAL SUCCOT INVITATION

On Monday, September 23, there will be a special Succot dinner and service hosted by the Marons, Myron and Suri, at their home on 32 North Main Street in Petersham. We would really love to see a great turn-out for this event, so get it onto your calendars right now! The dinner will be a “dairy-vegetarian” pot-luck. Please call Suri Maron at 978-724-0238 to give her an idea of what you are planning to bring.

We also need some adult and older children volunteers who would be willing to assist with

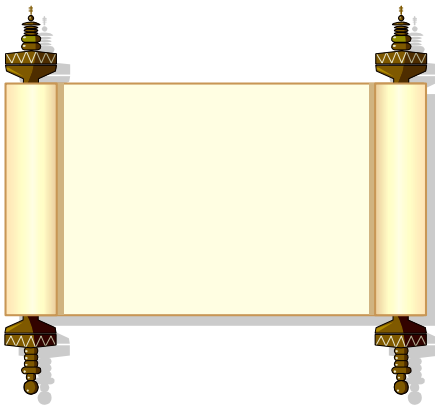
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the building and decorating of the Succah at Dr. and Mrs. Maron's home. The work (fun?) will be done on Thursday evening at 5:00 P.M. Decorations such as gourds, pumpkins, and cornstalks are needed, as well as such tools as hammers, screwguns, and screwdrivers. If you are able to come to help out, please call Myron at 978-724-0238. Dr. Maron would also like to invite community members to use the succah for a home service or picnic. Again, if interested, please just give him a call.



SHABBAT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES SET FOR OCTOBER 4 AND 5

The first of our very special opportunities to enjoy the Shabbat as a community comes on the evening of Friday, October 4 and on the Saturday, October 5. On Friday evening, we will have a pot-luck dinner at 6:30, followed by our Shabbat service at 7:30. Then on Saturday morning, the Shabbat service will be from 10:00 to 12:00 with a special lunch at noon. The afternoon will be filled with learning and fellowship. You may join us in singing or learning some traditional Shabbat songs, if you like. We will conclude with a lovely Havdalah service, beginning at approximately 6:00 P.M. Please feel free to attend any or all of the components of this wonderful Shabbat!

IMPORTANT TEMPLE ISRAEL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

As you can see from both our first newsletter (which we hope you received just a few days ago) and this special supplementary newsletter, we have an incredibly exciting variety of services and activities planned for this year. We sincerely hope that you will plan to be a part of our community and congregation by becoming a member of Temple Israel.

Family Membership: \$200 dollars (with \$500 to \$1000 recommended if you are able)

Single Membership: \$100 dollars (with \$250 to \$500 recommended if you are able)

New Family Membership: \$100 dollars (with additional at new member's discretion)

Please make checks payable to Temple Israel and send to the following address:

Temple Israel
c/o David Koester
245 Gale Road,
Warwick, MA 01378

We are delighted that so many of you are planning to join us for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. As we are a small (but vibrant) congregation, we would request of each non-family guest who attends our High Holy Days services a donation of \$50-\$100 dollars per person for up to the entire 3 days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, a fee which helps us to continue to provide these services to the community. Once again, payment of this fee can be sent to the address above.

HOPING TO SEE MANY OF YOU AT HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICES BEGINNING AT 7:30 P.M. ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6!

Questions??? Call us at 978-249-9481

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