

BETH AMI TEMPLE

A Small Temple with a Big Heart

The Megillah

SEPTEMBER 2017

ELUL-TISHREI

ISSUE 30

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Submissions:
The deadline for item submissions to the Newsletter is the **second Friday of the month.**

OPEN HOUSE

6:00 pm/SERVICES 7:30 pm
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

EREV ROSH HASHONA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

7:30 pm

ROSH HASHONA DAY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

10:00 am

YOM KIPPUR EVE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

7:30 pm

YOM KIPPUR DAY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

10:00 am

MEMORIAL/CLOSING SERVICE
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30

4:00 pm

FOLLOWED BY BREAK-THE-FAST

RABBI'S MESSAGE



Hineini, “Here I am.” This is one of the most profound expressions of faith in our heritage, not only because we read it on Rosh Hashanah, but because it conveys our very presence as a Jew. Remarkably, it only appears eight times in Torah, but each time it marks a pivotal moment in the narrative. As I begin my tenure with you as rabbi, I am struck by the importance of this proclamation, “Here I am.”

When we get older, more mature, we begin to grasp the implications of saying – and acting upon – the statement, “Here I am.” It says to G-d that Jewish precepts burn within us, that we are yearning for a life of righteousness, that we will not just answer a call, but we will show up, speak up and act up.

Throughout recordable history there are examples of Jews proclaiming, “Here I am.” When G-d calls upon Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Abraham responds, “Here I am.” When G-d calls to Moses at the burning bush G-d is answered with “Hineini” from Moses. Survivors of the Holocaust share stories of rituals observed in secret during their internment; a bold way to proclaim, “Here I am.” Journalist Daniel Pearl’s last words before he was executed were, “I am a Jew.” This is the same proclamation we all will be reciting on Yom Kippur during the mincha service when our prophet Jonah is confronted with being thrown from the boat: “I am a Jew.”

Too often we enter into the High Holidays with a sense that we are seeking G-d’s proclamation. The Shema Kolenu prayer implores G-d – “Do not take Your holy presence from us. Do not

cast us away as we grow old; do not desert us as our energy wanes.” Essentially, we are asking G-d to tell us “Here I am.” We desire connection with G-d; we want to know G-d’s presence in our lives. Petitional prayers afford us the opportunity to come before G-d and request connection. But the High Holidays offers more than an opportunity to *request* connection. It affords us the opportunity to proclaim, “Here I am;” thereby gaining an even deeper connection to our faith and to G-d.

We are told that on the High Holidays our Jewish souls are revealed. On Yom Kippur we pray five times, this is because there are five levels of the soul, and by the time we reach the closing of Ni’ilah the deepest level of our soul has been revealed. Yom Kippur is the symbolic climbing of the spiritual ladder. Each time we pray, we are climbing a rung of the ladder, with each rung we are proclaiming to G-d, “Here I am.” With each rung, we are a step closer to that connection we seek with G-d.

As we enter into the High Holidays we can strive to answer G-d with, “Here I am” just as we seek G-d’s proclamation to us: “Here I am.” Ultimately though, this proclamation can serve to inform our actions throughout the year. When we proclaim “Hineini” we are fostering connection with our fellow man *and* with The Divine. Let these high Holidays kick off your year of declaring “Here I am.” And as your new rabbi may I be the first to say to you, “Here I am.” I look forward to meeting all of you at the September 8th Shabbat Service.

Rabbi Allison Lawton

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hard to believe another Jewish calendar year has rolled around! I hope the summer was pleasant enough for all, whether in ice-cold California or Colorado, or relaxing in the steam bath of Phoenix.



The summer was certainly exciting enough, and full of changes for Beth Ami Temple. A very warm welcome to Rabbi Allison Lawton and Cantorial Soloist Michael Robbins, two very experienced people who will lead our friendly congregation in prayer and spirit. If you missed reading their backgrounds in our August special edition of the Megillah, please go to our website www.bethamitemple.org and catch up.

This promises to be an exceptional year for the Temple; we look forward to a dynamic and uplifting season, one full of hope and optimism that accompany a positive change in our "small Temple with a big heart".

By now, I'm sure everyone knows the Open House and first service is scheduled for Friday, September 8 at 6PM. Everything possible is being done to publicize the event, and to attract possible new members. This is an important service for many reasons: the introduction of our new rabbi and cantorial soloist, to invite our guests to appreciate the warmth and friendliness of Beth Ami Temple, and to offer them the opportunity to join any of our highly functioning and enjoyable Sallie Terman social groups.

Feel free to invite your unaffiliated or undecided friends, neighbors, and relatives.

Your help is needed in making our guests feel welcome. Please take the time to meet and greet, and if you would like to be an usher for this event, please contact Bobbi Lazarus or me to enlist. It should be a wonderful evening!

Our thanks to Mariellen Miller for her thoughtfulness and generosity in donating a beautiful Havdalah set for our bimah. As you know, the scent from the spice box is symbolic of a pleasant time to come after a holiday or Shabbat. This will certainly be the case for the Temple this year!

Note: The Board of Trustees has established a Shiva Fund, the purpose of which is to fund and provide a platter to a member's Shiva house. The committee currently consists of Donna Horwitz and Linda Mittelman, who would welcome any assistance. Food items would be purchased and assembled by the committee, rather than having a catering service do this. It would add a warm and personal touch from the congregation.

There will be new envelopes listing the Shiva Fund, and they will be available at every service.

Well, let's get started on the New Year! L'shana tova to one and all! Looking forward to greeting you all on the 8th! See you in shul,

Jerry

Dear G-d, how can I atone for scalping my tickets for the High Holy Days?

BACK HOME



By Stevie Sacks

Well, I exited Israel on June 12th and what an exit it was! I was blessed to have met a number of wonderful caring people who helped me through the time restricted processes that it took to get Sammy P back to the states. In addition to the rides (yes that's multiple trips!) from Ashkelon up to Ashdod to see the Israeli Veterinary Office to sign off on the forms. My friends threw a combination surprise birth and going away party for me! We won't go into the fact I don't like surprises and not birthday parties! I have promised one person I'd get her back at some time in the future! Got to love the English Speakers of Ashkelon and my friends Orli, Jayme and Chana!

I learned a lot of lessons living in a country where people speak multiple languages -- when English is not their native language. Let's take for instance, those two trips to the government office -- that was because the vet's assistant didn't fill in the form correctly because she misunderstood what the form was asking, because it was a U.S. form in English. I can't blame her as I was the only person in five years who had asked her to fill it in! So, I learned to be more patient and not assume "everyone knows English".

I learned that Israel is not the U.S. plunked down in the Middle East, Tel Aviv is not typical of Israel, just like New York City is not typical of Kansas or the U.S.A. I learned that each person's reason for moving to Israel is as diverse as their level of observance. I learned that living in a country is far different from visiting that country; regardless of whether the visit is for a couple of weeks or even six months. You don't really feel the impact until you have to deal with all those situations like getting technical support for your cell phone or cable. Oh, and you know how frustrating those automated telephone systems are -- well try dealing with it in Hebrew (or Russian or Arabic).

Most of all, I learned that we as a people are as diverse as there are grains of sand. I understand that labels such as Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Hasid have totally different meanings to different people depending on where they grew up and their life experiences. I learned that actions taken by the powerful few can affect those across the sea in any one of a number of directions. I learned never to assume you understand people or that the color of the kippah or the length of the skirt makes any difference to how good a human being is or not.

Israel is known for medical innovation, and that is certainly true, BUT, Israel has had universal health care for decades and still has a number of areas that need to be changed; from going to a doctor or going to the hospital. One of the issues is that the Ministry of Health performs those duties similar to the FDA here, but also mandates most of the protocols doctors have to follow; from what tests to order and diagnosis, to what the protocol is for remediation and cure. So, no surprise they do the "If it doesn't kill you it will only make you stronger" theory on allergies -- which is why they feed infants the infamous peanut butter puffs called BAMBA, and why there are only a few "adult" allergists in Israel and they are in Tel Aviv! I was told both allergy tests and allergy shots were too dangerous! Loving my allergist here!

As of this writing, I've been back for almost two months, and I managed to buy two cars and trade-in one. I managed to rent an apartment the first week and will be moving to another come end of September! I've gone through two cell phone companies. I've been able to reconnect with two of my three doctors and will be hoping to meet a new doctor this week. And here too, a wonderful person helped me from day one, and I owe a big debt of gratitude to Joan Lowell, who took my cat and I in after picking us up at the airport, and playing taxi for a couple of days!

All in all, I truly will miss my friends, and will try to make it back there once a year – I'm also hoping to kick off each trip with some type of group tour, maybe by JNF. (Anyone interested?) I will miss the lushness of living near the sea and I will miss having a huge balcony for entertaining and having a 2.5 x 3 meter (about 10x12 ft.) sukkah.

Time will tell where I end up living in the valley and I truly hope to see everyone at the Open House and during the Holidays!



ANNUAL HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Linda Mittelman

To streamline the task, and save a tree, this year the Temple will not hand out paper bags, but instead will **hand out flyers only**, with a suggested list of needed pantry and sundry items. Flyers will be available on Rosh Hashanah morning and Kol Nidre evening after services.

The Paradise Valley Emergency Food Bank has been the recipient of our past food drives and they look forward to our continued generosity. PVEFB is an **emergency** fund and can only be used six times in a calendar year.

Please take a flyer and fill your own bag or box to the brim as your first mitzvah of the New Year.

The food collected will be delivered to the Food Bank immediately following the Yom Kippur morning service. Drivers will load the bags into their cars in the parking lot.

Please know that a generous check is always welcome:

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PVEFB

PS: LOOKING FOR TWO OR THREE VOLUNTEER DRIVERS TO HELP DELIVER FOOD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE YOM KIPPUR MORNING SERVICE.

Thank you so much.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 / BAT STROLL AND TASHLICH CEREMONY

Organized by: Beth Ami Temple Walking Group

Start the New Year, 5778, with a mellow stroll and a Tashlich ceremony.

We will follow a paved walk around Tempe Town Lake. Along the way we can pick a nice spot to “Throw our sins away” with a short ceremony. I will bring along the Tashlich ceremony, but you will need to bring your favorite bread. If interested, we can all gather for a nice lunch after on Mill?

Walk: As long as you want. The total distance around the lake is about 3 miles (Priest to Mill). Some can do less if wanted as there are many options with benches along the way.

When: September 24th at 9:00 a.m.

Meet: Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W Rio Salado Pkwy, Tempe, AZ 85281

REMEMBER: wear good sturdy shoes, have sunblock, hat, and a minimum of 1 qt. of water.

Please RSVP
Steve & Jan Hertzfeld

TEMPLE GREETERS NEEDED NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY



A GREAT WAY TO MEET YOUR FELLOW
CONGREGANTS AND HELP POTENTIAL
MEMBERS FEEL WELCOME

CALL NANCY STIEGEL

ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS NEEDED 2017 - 2018 SERVICES

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SIGN UP TO
HOST AN ONEG ON THE DATE OF YOUR
CHOICE. THE FOLLOWING DATES ARE
AVAILABLE.

2017

Oct. 13
Nov. 17
Dec. 1
Dec. 15

2018

Jan. 19.
Feb. 16
March 2
March 23
April 13
May 4

For information, and to sign up, please
contact Elyssa Schneider.

THANK YOU, TED KRAVER!

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO TED FOR ONCE AGAIN UPDATING AND MAINTAINING OUR MEMBER'S NAME TAGS.

PICK UP YOUR NAME TAG AT THE GREETER'S TABLE WHEN YOU ARRIVE. BE SURE TO WEAR IT, AND THEN BE SURE TO RETURN IT BEFORE YOU LEAVE TEMPLE.

WELCOME TO BELLE MERWITZER, NEW SUNSHINE COMMITTEE CHAIR

PLEASE BE SURE TO NOTIFY BELLE IF YOU KNOW OF ANY TEMPLE MEMBER WHO IS ILL OR HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL.

BETH AMI TEMPLE HISTORY NEEDED



Goldie Cohen, Beth Ami Temple historian, is always looking for history from the members of our Temple. If you have Beth Ami Temple event pictures or mementos to share, please contact Goldie.

SALLIE TERMAN SOCIAL GROUPS

Thinking about joining one of our special interest groups, please contact the designated leader below.

We look forward to having you as a member.

UPDATED AND CURRENT

Mah Jongg
Ethyle Komie
Book Club
Penny Lutsi 6
Bridge
Anne Chernis
Cultural
Janet Goodsitt
Mariellen Miller
Fressers Dinner Group
Terry Samuels
Movie Group
Judy Beechen
Tennis Group
Arnie Schwartz
Torah Study
Arlene Freedberg
Travelers Group
Donna Horwitz
Walking Group
Jan & Steve Hertzfeld

FRESSERS DINNER GROUP FIRST DINNER OF THE SEASON 6:00 PM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

BUCA DI BEPPO

3828 N. SCOTTSDALE RD.,

RSVP to Terry Samuels. Please RSVP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
Thanks!

YOUR HOSTS ARE: Linda and Jordan Brickman

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Beth Ami gratefully acknowledges the following donations

Anonymous	for the good of the temple
Jordan and Linda Brickman	in memory of Ernest Goldschmidt in memory of mother of Randy Berkowitz
Judith Cohen	in memory of husband, Abraham Cohen
Rosalyn Fischer	in memory of husband, Robert Fischer
Stuart Meckler	in memory of Jack Meckler
Mariellen Miller	in memory of brother, Kenneth E Robinson
Jack and Ruth Poles	in memory of Ellen Gordon in memory of grandfather of Ruth, Louis Tunick in memory of father of Jack, Simon Poles
Arnie Schwartz	in memory of father in law, Abraham Rubin
Louis and Linda Weckstein	in memory of parents of Louis, Samson and Rosalie Weckstein
Lee and Marilyn Wolfson	in memory of father of Marilyn, Philip Marcus
Jerry Zack	in memory of Rose Goldstein

Making a donation to Beth Ami Temple is a thoughtful way to remember your dear ones on their Yahrzeits, honor a friend, or acknowledge a special occasion.

