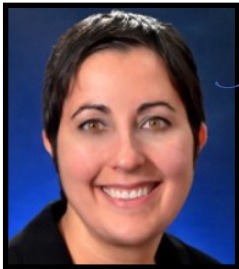


the SHOFAR



TEMPLE BET YAM

OCTOBER 2020 Elul/Tishrei 5781



from the desk of
Rabbi Nadia Siritsky,
LCSW, BCC

This month, we will celebrate the Jewish Festivals of Sukkot and Simchat Torah. The festival of Sukkot enjoins us

to build temporary dwellings, open to the elements, in memory of the Children of Israel who traveled through the desert and wilderness for forty years, escaping slavery in Ancient Egypt. Their escape is not a historic event, rather one that each of us must experience personally. We are commanded to build temporary dwellings and physically experience our vulnerability to the elements and know what it might have felt like to not have a shelter. We are commanded to remember our own temporary nature... our frailty and dependence upon things beyond our control.

This year, we may be especially receptive (or especially resistant) to this particular Torah teaching... our frailty and mortality have confronted us as a society, and we are being forced to face these terrifying lessons... lessons that Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur sought to teach us... but lessons that we too easily forget.

The illusion of comfort, permanence, predictability is truly alluring... But, this year, more than most, we are being reminded that this is an illusion. This realization can cause fear and paralysis, but it is not intended to do so. Our rabbis tell us that we should live with this awareness, so that it can inspire us to live every day to our fullest... to make sure that we leave nothing unsaid and that we have no regrets.

This holiday is immediately followed with the festival of Simchat Torah, where we finish reading the book of Deuteronomy, and we immediately begin once again with Genesis. The deeper lesson is that we are never done learning and that every ending is also a new beginning. Rather than fear endings and transitions, our tradition calls upon us to sanctify them and celebrate them.

The word "Torah" means teaching. We generally use it to mean the scroll of Torah that contains the five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. But Torah is broader than any book that we can write. When we read the written Torah, we recite the blessing "notein hatorah" – we give thanks for the Torah that we are being given, in the present tense.

This brings us to the question: What is the Torah that we are being given in our own present day? What are we learning about how we are supposed to live? Do we fight the lessons that we receive? Do we wish for a past that is no more and refuse to engage the present? Sometimes our most difficult learning is the lesson of acceptance – being able to find joy and blessing, even in the challenges that face us.

Simchat Torah teaches us to see every ending as the doorway to a new beginning. Nothing is ever static. So many of our holidays and rituals are designed to teach us how to move and grow, to transition – to find the sacred in the midst of change. Yet in life, all too often, we fight change. We fear it and allow our fear to define our future, rather than allowing faith and hope to define us.

And so it is that we are commanded to be joyful on Simchat Torah. Sometimes, we need to be

THE SHOFAR

Temple Bet Yam

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pushed into joy, because the well-worn grooves of our psyche have gotten used to worry and grudges. We never know where we will find Torah, but with the right intention, we can learn to find blessings, even in our challenges.

Not too long ago, I was reminded of this lesson by someone that I met, who told me that he is alive today thanks to the screening he received at the state fair, one year ago, which led him to discover life-threatening blockages. He came to the hospital emergently, and underwent extensive surgery.

During this time, his estranged brother came to visit him, and they were able to reconnect. He told me: "This screening for my physical heart gave me back another piece of my heart as well – not only am I alive, but my brother is back in my life too."

He shared how he and his brother had fought many years previously, and by the time they made up, they could barely remember what had happened. They only remembered the different versions of the story that they had told themselves about what had happened. Those stories became larger than the two brothers and louder than reality. Eventually, their stories became what kept them from each other. It took the reminder of life's fragility to finally convince them to let go of the past, and remember that they were family. He told me: "I never thought that almost dying would teach me how to live."

We all have stories that we carry with us, old beliefs, old hurts and old assumptions. How many of these are outdated? Can our biggest challenges also become our biggest teachers? Can we find blessing in the things that seem the hardest to accept? What in our life is pushing us into joy, if only we could allow ourselves to see it?

As we embark upon a New Year, and prepare for Simchat Torah, we have the opportunity to think about which of our own stories are helping us to live with joy and hope in our hearts, and which ones are keeping us from what truly matters. May we, individually and collectively, recognize and celebrate Torah, in all its forms. May this year be a sweet and healthy one, filled with blessing and healing.



from the President Ruth Kurlandsky

It's before Rosh Hashanah as I write this, but by the time you read it, it will be after Yom Kippur and moving along into Sukkot, our holiday not only of harvest, but of remembering the exodus from Egypt and sleeping in temporary shelters. So I thought I would share with you a "treatise" on the rules for building a sukkah. Dr. Suess would be proud:



You can build it very small¹, You can build it very tall²

You can build it very large³, You can build it on a barge

You can build it on a ship⁴, Or on a roof but please don't slip⁵

You can build it in an alley⁶, You shouldn't build it in a valley⁷

You can build it on a wagon⁸, You can build it on a dragon⁹

You can make the scakh of wood¹⁰, Would you, could you, yes you should

Make the skakh from leaves of tree, You shouldn't bend it at the knee¹¹

Build your Sukkah tall or short, No Sukkah is built in the Temple Court

You can build it somewhat soon, You cannot build it in the month of June¹²

If your Sukkah is well made, You'll have the right amount of shade¹³

You can build it very wide, You cannot build it on its side

Build if your name is Jim, Or Bob or Sam or even Tim

Build it if your name is Sue¹⁴, Do you build it, yes you do!

From the Sukkah you can roam, But you should treat it as your home¹⁵

You can invite some special guests, Don't stay in it if there are pests

You can sleep upon some rugs, Don't you build it where there's bugs

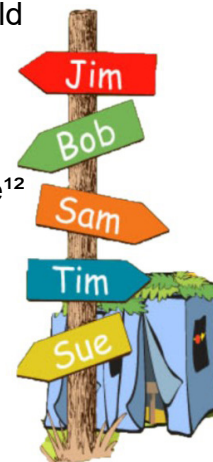
In the Sukkah you should sit, And eat and drink but never...

If in the Sukkah it should rain, To stay there would be such a pain¹⁶

And if it should be very cold, Stay there only if you're bold

So build a Sukkah one and all, Make it large or make it small

Sukkah rules are short and snappy, Enjoy Sukkot, rejoice be happy.



If you want to see a prettier graphic version, and all the footnotes for where to find the rules (really!), click on this link, or copy it into your browser:

<https://www.sukkahworld.com/pages/index.php?title=rules/>

The author is Rabbi Art Gould, who happens to be my brother.
Chag Sukkot Sameach, happy Sukkot holiday.

In Memoriam

October 1st, Martha Savage,
mother of Barry Savage

October 1st, Selma Snyderman Weiss,
mother of Noreen Davis

October 5th, Abraham Garr,
father of Bernice Cruise

October 5th, Sara Molinari,
mother-in-law of Barbara Molinari

October 6th, John Drescher,
father-in-law of Bruce Simon

October 6th, Sylvia Raskind Goldstein,
aunt of Rabbi Fred Raskind

October 6th, Richard Sukel,
father of Debra Morris

October 8th, Bernard Keiser,
father of Maury Keiser

October 9th, Pauline Pecker,
grandmother of Dinah McNamara

October 10th, Harry Kurlandsky,
grandfather of Larry Kurlandsky

October 10th, Samuel Strum,
uncle of Larry Kurlandsky

October 11th, Shirley Scott,
sister-in-law of Marcia Rector

October 12th, Samuel Diamond,
grandfather of Pamela Diamond

October 13th, Jacob Eichner,
great-grandfather of Pamela Diamond

October 14th, Bernice Kurlandsky,
mother of Larry Kurlandsky

October 14th, Frieda Rubner,
grandmother of Jaime Combs

October 15th, Bertha Aranove,
grandmother of Debra Morris

October 15th, Dorothy Kresner,
mother of Terri Beasley

October 15th, Geri Smith Pollock,
mother of Barbara Molinari

October 15th, Dr. Joseph Yampolsky,
grandfather of Earl Brown & great-grandfather
of Emily Brown

October 17th, Tillie Cowell,
mother of Sherry Toy

October 17th, Joseph Marx,
grandfather of Joe Marx

October 18th, Stuart Gladstone,
brother of Marc Gladstone

October 19th, Frank Levy,
father of Don Levy

October 19th, Clara Lustig,
grandmother of Marcia Rector

October 19th, Ruth H. Pilzer,
mother of Shelly Cohen

October 19th, Pauline Sims,
mother of Scott Sims

October 20th, Bertha Patchefsky,
mother of Phyllis Feirman

October 21st, Dr. Earl B. Brown,
father of Earl and grandfather of Emily Brown

October 23rd, Pauline Rosen Yampolsky,
grandmother of Earl & great-grandmother of
Emily Brown

October 24th, Lila Evens,
aunt of Marcia Rector

October 25th, Gussie Kaufman,
mother of Toby Weintraub

October 27th, Simon Seiden,
father of Henry Seiden

October 28th, Lillian Lee Deegan,
mother of Kalmun Lee

October 29th, Bernice Kurlandsky,
mother of Larry Kurlandsky

October 29th, Sarah Garr,
mother of Bernice Cruise

October 30th, Rebecca Eichner,
great grandmother of Pamela Diamond

October 30th, Gerald Hertz,
brother of Rita Saker

October 30th, Max Lustig,
grandfather of Marcia Rector

October 31st, Harry Greenberg,
father of Carol Levy

May their memory be a blessing

Let's Celebrate!

October Birthdays

October 1st, Max Sherman, 15th birthday
October 2nd, Emily Brown
October 2nd, Alexander Toro
October 3rd, Rhona Botnick
October 5th, Zoraya Hermans-Sharp, 7th birthday
October 7th, Lisa Black
October 7th, Scott Sims
October 10th Phyllis Greenfield
October 13th Richard Zicht
October 14th Babs Kushner
October 19th, Bev Darkatsh
October 21st, Adam Soroka, 18th birthday
October 21st, Lili Soroka, 18th birthday
October 22nd, Janice Angorn
October 24th, Elizabeth Feldman
October 30th, Phyllis Keiser
October 30th, Jane Lynn

October Anniversaries

October 1st, Jane Lynn & George Stern, 10th anniversary
October 12th, Karen Selig & Jack Merwin, 45th anniversary
October 14th, Colleen & Ron Banat, 19th anniversary
October 17th, Lisa & Robert Black, 28th anniversary
October 26th, Heather & Chris Chupella, 3rd anniversary
October 29th, Robert & MaryAnn Chupella, 43rd anniversary

Donations Made To Temple Bet Yam

General Fund:

Jackie Witte - In memory of my friends Joyce Tumolo & Joe Lombardo

Jewish Federation & Foundation of NE Florida - 2020 Campaign allocation

Shelly & Marty Cohen - In memory of Benita Sirkin; with thanks for all the prayers and thoughts for Shelly's recovery; a special thank you to Lisa Black while Shelly was in the hospital; In honor of Jane Seiden & Leah Black for receiving the Menorah Award

Sue and Frank Kinkela - Get well soon, Shelly Cohen

Phyllis & Paul Greenfield - Stay well wishes to Shelly Cohen. We're glad you're back.

Ellen & Myron Mensh - In memory of Myron's brother David Mensh

Dorit Cohen

Nancy Sorkin - In honor of Bev Darkatsh for many years of dedication, hard work, and creativity producing the Shofar; In honor of Jen Sherman for her willingness to take on the Shofar responsibility. Thank you so much.

Gail Goldstein

Religious School Fund:

Jackie Witte - In honor of the teachers in TBY's Religious School for their wonderful work

Sue and Frank Kinkela - In honor of Skyler Kaplan's Bar Mitzvah

Ron Rich - In memory of my mother, Florence Davis Rich

Murray Weiss Memorial Fund:

Molly Grossholz - In memory of Peter Jensen, Michael Stern, & Dr. Meryl Goldman

Mitzvah Fund:

Renee & Michael Speisman - Dining with Dignity

Education Tuition Fund:

Jenna Abell

Member High Holiday:

Phyllis & Paul Greenfield

Barbara Stafford

Roberta Feldman

Nancy Sorkin

Non Member High Holiday:

Susan Gottesmann

Adele Paul

Stuart & Catherine Klein

Gale Ulmer

Stephen & Joann Leimberg

Carolyn & Douglas Greene

Sanctuary Fund:

Sue & Frank Kinkela - In memory of Sue's father Max Pearce

Rabbi Discretionary Fund:

Shelly & Marty Cohen - with much appreciation and thanks to Rabbi Nadia

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RABBINIC LEADERSHIP FUND	_____
TOTAL TBY CONTRIBUTION	_____
*RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	_____

**NOTE: A SEPARATE CHECK IS REQUIRED FOR THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND.*

PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO TEMPLE BET YAM, WITH NAME OF FUND ON THE MEMO LINE. THANK YOU.

For Your Information

The Sunshine Committee sends cards or gifts to TBY members or family members who are ill or have had a death in the family. If you know of such a situation, please notify Patty Savage at (904) 940-9604 or pattysavage645@gmail.com.

The Mitzvah Mob offers assistance, such as car rides, to any TBY member in need. If you need assistance or are willing to join the Mitzvah Mob as a volunteer, please contact Patty Savage at the addresses shown above.

Temple Bet Yam Cemetery – TBY has consecrated a portion of the Craig Memorial Park on Old Moultrie Road. All Temple members are eligible to purchase burial plots in this section for themselves, their spouses, partners, children and parents. Following Reform Jewish philosophy, there are no restrictions concerning burial of non-Jewish family members adjacent to their loved ones.

Those interested in purchasing burial plots as part of their preplanning should contact Craig Memorial Park directly at (904) 824-1672. For further information or questions, contact Marty Cohen at shelmar826@gmail.com.

Lifelong Learning Jewish online Recommendations

The following list contains some recommended Jewish online sites that may be of interest during these times. Each site is in blue and has a brief description. You may click on each link to connect you to the website. If you have other suggestions, recommendations, or topics, please contact Larry Kurlandsky at lekurlandsky@yahoo.com.

myjewishlearning.com

A go-to source for Jewish holidays, rituals, celebrations, recipes, Torah, history, and more.

milkenarchive.org

The Milken Archive of Jewish music is the largest collection documenting the American Jewish musical experience with recordings, videos, photos, articles, essays and oral histories.

rabbisacks.org

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks was once the Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth. He is a rabbi, philosopher, theologian, author, and politician. His website has many aspects including a weekly “Covenant and Conversation” – his sermon on the weekly Torah portion, which includes a separate family edition. His sermons often complement Rabbi Nadia’s sermons. He also has a new book coming out September 1 – “Morality: restoring the common good in divided times.”

kulanu.org

An organization supporting isolated, emerging, and returning Jewish communities around the globe.

Upcoming Events for October

Mark your calendar!



Please note all services and functions will be via Zoom until further notice.

Sunday, October 4th, 9:00am Religious School

Tuesday, October 6th, 6:30pm, Board Meeting

Friday, October 9th, 6:30pm, Sukkot/Simcha Torah Family Service

Wednesday, October 14th, 1:00pm, Sisterhood Book Club: *My Grandmother Told Me To Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman, discussion led by Jackie Witte

Sunday, October 18th, 9:00am, Religious School

Monday, October 19th, 5:00pm, Dining with Dignity

Wednesday, October 21st, 1:00pm, Sisterhood Art Project led by Carol Levy

Friday, October 23rd, 6:30pm, Yahrzeit Service

Friday, October 23rd, 7:30pm, Shabbat Service

Sunday, October 25th, 9:00am, Religious School

Tuesday, October 27th, 5:00pm, Executive Committee Meeting



More Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar!

November Sisterhood Book Club: *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict, discussion led by Renee Speisman

Look for eBlasts and flyers in your email for these & other events.

Donations

The custom of making donations as an expression of prayer traces back to Biblical times and has always been a practice of congregations. The amount given is less important than the deed. At TBY, we have a number of offerings for you to consider when making donations. Here is an explanation of a few of them. Additional funds are listed on our Contribution Form.

Memorial Board Plaques – When you purchase a plaque for your loved ones, you memorialize them on our memorial board in the sanctuary, as well as in the Book of Remembrance. All names on the Memorial Board are recognized during the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur. See the Donation form on our web site, TempleBetYam.org or contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Celebratory Wall – Celebrate a simcha in your family or honor a TBY member by purchasing a plaque for our commemorative garden wall. For additional information and order forms, please contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Murray Weiss Memorial Fund – In the spirit of Tzedakah, this fund helps congregants in need. Past gifts have helped pay for dental surgery, medications, enrollment for children in a Jewish summer camp, and past due mortgage payments. Requests are held in the strictest of confidence. For more information, contact Mimi Selig at (904) 461-4316. To make donations, see the Contribution Form.



Trees For Israel



We are enjoying huge success with our Trees for Israel. Every tree purchased is not only recognition of some significant event in your life or in the life of someone close to you but is also a mitzvah for Israel and contributes to our Temple fundraising effort. Please use this very important program as a memorial to a friend or loved one or in celebration of a happy occasion for someone dear to you.

Israel's forests are not only a valuable source for water preservation, but are a source for boosting the morale of Israel's citizens by providing a haven in which to put aside the pressures of living in a nation under siege.

JNF will acknowledge every donation with a receipt to the donor and a certificate to the recipient of the honor. Your donation will also benefit Temple Bet Yam with a portion of the donation amount. It is a double Mitzvah.

Trees may be ordered by contacting Toby Weintraub at 904-471-0418. Please provide Toby with your name, address, phone number, the name and address of the person being honored and the name and address of the person you want to receive acknowledgment.

Donations for Trees for Israel are \$18.00 per tree.
Checks should be made out to Temple Bet Yam.



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