

SIM SHALOM

OUR NEWSLETTER

Tishrei-Cheshvan 5771

September 2010

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High Holiday Schedule

WED., SEPT. 8

Rosh Hashanah 7:30 PM

THURS., SEPT. 9

Rosh Hashanah 10 AM

Children's Service: 11 AM in the Temple Library. The service, led by Eryn Jones, is especially for children ages 6 to 10, but all are welcome. Small children, please bring a parent.

FRI., SEPT. 10

Rosh Hashanah 10 AM

SAT., SEPT. 11

Shabbat Shuvah 10 AM

FRI., SEPT. 17

Kol Nidre 7:30 PM

SAT., SEPT. 18

Yom Kippur 10 AM

Afternoon service 3 PM; Yizkor 4:30 PM

Break-the-fast following



From the President

I hope to see and greet you all over the next few weeks at High Holiday services. Thank you to everyone for helping to make this a wonderful congregation.

I would like to wish everyone a good, sweet, and healthy year. May we all be written and inscribed in the Book of Life!

Shanah Tovah!

Laurel Steinberg, President

From the Gabbai

In the Torah portions Nitzavim and Vayyelech, we can find one of the most powerful statements in the Torah about the purpose of life and the existence of free will:

"I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil ... the blessing and the curse. Therefore, choose life that you may live, you and your descendants."

And in Vayyelech, Moshe gives Yehoshua a command/ blessing,

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CALENDAR

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Afternoon service 3 PM
Break-the-fast following

SEPT. 23-29

Sukkot

THURS., SEPT. 30

Simchat Torah service,
7:30 PM

NEWS AND NOTES

Pews and Plaques!**Pews**

\$1,250 each with plaque

Memorial Plaques

\$250 each

Honor a loved one during the High Holiday season!

■ Our first **Island Shabbat** was great fun. Many thanks to the Weisses for providing space for services and discounted rates at their hotel, the Ramada Ltd. on South Padre Island.

■ Two changes for the calendar:

1) There is no school on Sunday, Sept. 19.

2) The Intro to Hebrew for Adults course will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 7-8 p.m. It will meet for 25 hour-long lessons, and will cost \$125 for members/\$200 for nonmembers, including materials. Please contact Fernando if you are interested.

■ Daily services, Monday - Friday, 7:20 a.m., will begin in September, led by Fernando.

FUNDRAISING:

■ Dues letters have gone out for 2010-2011. Please don't delay in starting payments. You can pay a little at a time, and soon it will all be paid. If you have any questions or concerns about your dues bill, please contact Bert Wolf, Laurel Steinberg, or any other board member.

■ Remember your donation to the Yizkor Fund. Please donate at least \$5 for each family name that you would like read at the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur. All of these voluntary donations will be set aside to purchase a new ornament for our Torah.

■ Remember these temple funds when you donate at this High Holiday season: Building Fund, General Fund, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Yizkor Fund, Gabbai Fund.

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Rules for children

We decided to print these again as a reminder, before the High Holiday services:

1. Children will not go on the Bimah except as part of services or other temple business.

2. During services, children younger than six will sit with their parents. If the child needs to get up, a parent or older sibling will accompany him/her.

3. If a child is restless during services, he/she may play quietly on the terrace outside. The school building, usually closed during services, may be open during High Holiday services.

4. There will be no running in the temple or school building.

5. No one will touch the food at the oneg until after the blessings.

6. Children younger than ten will be served by an adult.

Parents are responsible for monitoring the behavior of their children, but any adult should intervene if children are behaving inappropriately.

If your children enter the school building during High Holiday services, please monitor them and be sure to clean up any materials or toys that they use.

NEWS AND NOTES

Hadassah's Check-it-Out

During October and November, the local chapter of Hadassah will be presenting sessions of "Check-it-out," a breast cancer awareness program for high school girls, at area high schools, including the two Harlingen high schools. If you would like to volunteer for two hours on a weekday morning to facilitate one of these presentations, please contact Laurel S. You do not need to be a Hadassah member.

Chanukah Fundraiser

What? Chanukah already! Look for our special Chanukah candle fundraiser after the High Holidays. Contact Janet Wilder for ordering information. Janet also has a catalogue of many beautiful Judaica items, and all profits will benefit Temple Beth Israel.

From the Gabbai

From Page 1

which applies to every Jewish leader: "Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid or feel insecure before them. G-d, your Lord, is the One who is going with you, and He will not fail you nor forsake you."

How important is it in these days leading to Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur for us to remember that our choices lead us and our descendants to life and that when we trust G-d, he will not fail us.

Let's take the opportunity in the coming hours at the Temple to step out of our busy daily routines and meditate on our blessings, on our achievements, on how much the world and those around us would be different if we were not here. Let us meditate on how much our living affects the world with all of the thousands of small acts we do and how those acts make the world a better place.

In the Memorial service on Yom Kippur, we read: "Our life, at its best, is an endless effort for a goal we never attain. . . . Death finally terminates the struggle, and joy and grief, success and failure, all are ended."

But it doesn't need to be like that; the Torah tell us to CHOOSE LIFE. Life is not the goal but the journey. It is in the everyday; it is in the enjoyment of every breath, in every hug, in every sighting. It is in the small things — a cup of coffee, listening to your favorite music, reading a good book, having friends, being able to provide for one's self and

family. Life is in helping others, even in our bad moments that make us realize afterward how many other blessings we have.

So let's step out and think about this during the High Holidays, realize that if we are here, it is because G-d saw we were worth it. He is our partner, and I'm 100 percent sure that if we choose life, we will have a very good New Year.

Shana Tova Umetukah.

In other issues:

■ If you would like to have a special honor or help in any way with the services or the High Holidays, please let me know. Also I will be contacting you to get information about birthdays and anniversaries so we can congratulate you in our Sim Shalom.

■ Alma and I would like to thank everyone for their help and support that allowed us to continue living in the area and for me to become the Temple's official Gabbai. Thanks to those who donated to the Gabbai fund, to those whose financial support and volunteer efforts make possible the nice community we have. Thanks to you all for being our friends. We will try to repay you with our hard work and friendship.

■ We will start our beginner's Hebrew class next Wednesday, September 22 at 7 PM. We will meet for 25 classes. The cost will be \$125 for member and \$200 for nonmembers. Call me if you are interested: (956) 970-4005.

SHALOM,
Fernando A. Russek Jr.

ONEGS

Thank you for participating in our temple onegs. Everyone's contribution is greatly appreciated and enhances our sense of community. If there is a conflict with your scheduled date, please take the well-timed initiative to trade with another member.

Contact Laurel Berg or Veronica Huff if you need a phone number.

The following families are scheduled to sponsor onegs:

September 8
Rosh Hashanah Service
Board of Directors

September 10
*Patti Gaytan
Sheila Greenfeld
Moniel Powell

September 18
Break the Fast Potluck
Please call to coordinate the dinner.
Veronica Huff 499-3808
Alma Russek 970-7722

October 1
Simchat Torah
Open oneg – feel free to bring something if you'd like.

October 22
Leon & Susan Hananel
Robin Clark
* Eileen & John Brown

November 19
*Nivea & Stan Fisch
Judy & Steve Jones
Susie Weisberg & Monica Stewert

December 10
*Janet & Barry Wilder
Susan Ander
Deborah Lozano

Checklist:

- Decaf coffee
- Cream & Sugar
- Decaf cold drinks/juice and ice
- Cups for coffee and drinks
- Plastic ware, napkins, plates
- Kosher wine
- Small wine cups
- Unsliced challah
- Table cloth (if one is used from the Temple, please launder it and return to the Temple as soon as possible)
- Table decoration
- Desserts for approximately 40-50 people (choices of cookies, cakes, nuts, fruit, coffee cakes, or flan)

Hosts are responsible for cleaning up the food and dishes before they leave.

January 21
Potluck Shabbat Dinner – contact Laurel Berg to coordinate (956) 371-8205

February 18
*Charlene & Phil Moskal
Tori & Bert Keys

March 18
*Meredith Linsky
Sofia Shirazi
Jan & Joel Smith

April 15
*Elizabeth & David Goldstein
Olgo Quintero
Robert Alvarado

May 13
*Bert & Jamie Wolf
Jose & Liliana Cohen
David & Lori Suissa

June 10
*Dyan Banks
Shirley Sondock

July 30
*Alma Russek
Myriam Herszage
Veronica & Micheal Freeman

**The Coordinator is responsible for organizing the group and its duties (who brings and does what, when and where).*

DONATIONS

GABBAI FUND

■ **Rollins and Amalie Koppel**

**MEMORIAL FUND/
PLAQUE**

■ **Moniel Powell**, honoring Moses Feuerman

PEWS

■ **Gonzalez Warshowsky Family**, dedicated to Benjamin and Nathan Warshowsky
■ **Huff Family**

YITZKOR NAME

■ **Moniel Powell**, honoring Maxwell Feuerman, Susan Feuerman, Moses Feuerman and Jeanne Field
■ **Ron & Dyan Banks**, honoring Frank Fridkin, Dorothy Fridkin and Fran Bockius

GENERAL FUND

■ **Dr. J. F. Teer**
■ **Gilbert & Susie Weisberg**, for Shabbat Oneg
■ **William & Monica Stewart**, for Shabbat Oneg
■ **Alma and Fernando Russek**, complete and speedy recovery for Mary Wolf, mother of Jamie Wolf
■ **Rick and Judy Berkowitz**, for a speedy release from the hospital for Mary Wolf
■ **Rick and Judy Berkowitz**, in honor of the naming of Aliza Amalie Koppel