

Sim Shalom

September 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL, HARLINGEN TEXAS

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L'SHANAH TOVAH!!



WISHING YOU A HAPPY, HEALTHY,
PROSPEROUS, PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!

— YOUR TEMPLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
& RABBI FRANK JOSEPH

FROM THE PRESIDENT

They say the best gifts come in small boxes. We are a small community, but full of precious gems. As we embark on a new year, I hope we all remember to support and nourish one another. Many in our community

will need our help as the year unfolds. We have those with health issues that we wish well. We have those with personal and financial struggles. I ask each of us this year to reach within ourselves to provide whatever support we can

through monetary donations or service to our community or individually for those in need.

We have lost some of our members to new communities where they commence new phases of their lives. We will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

The congregation is invited to attend the wedding of Dr. Bruce Landsman & Patty Gaytan-Zamaniego.
See Page 7 for details. Mazel tov!

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

11-15 *Rabbi in town*

- 11 Shabbat service 7:30 p.m.
 - 12 Shabbat service 9 a.m., kiddush and discussion following
 - 13 Erev Rosh Hashanah services 7:30 p.m.
 - 14 Rosh Hashanah (first day) 10 a.m.; Children's Service 11 a.m., Tashlich after services
 - 15 Rosh Hashanah (second day) 10 a.m.
 - 18 Shabbat Shuva service 7:30 p.m. **NEW to calendar**
 - 22 Kol Nidre 7:30 p.m.
 - 23 Yom Kippur Morning Service 10 a.m., Afternoon Service 3 p.m., Yizkor Service 4:30 or 5 p.m., Break Fast 6:30 or 7 p.m.
 - 27 Sukkoh Building Day 10 a.m.
- 28-Oct 4 *Sukkot*

OCTOBER

- 2 Shabbat service 7:30 p.m.
 - 5 Shmini Atseret, Erev Simhat Torah, Consecration ceremony
 - 6 Simhat Torah
- 23-25 *Rabbi in town*
- 23 Shabbat service 7:30 p.m.
 - 24 Shabbat service 9 a.m., kiddush and discussion following Havdallah 6:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 6 Shabbat service 7:30 p.m.
- 13-15 *Rabbi in town*
- 13 Shabbat service 7:30 p.m.
 - 14 Shabbat service 9 a.m., kiddush and discussion following
 - 14 Havdallah/Movie Night 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 4-6 *Rabbi in town*
- 4 Shabbat service 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Shabbat service 9 a.m., Ari Holtzman Bar Mitzvah
- 14 Havdallah/Movie Night 6:30 p.m.

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

If you would like an honor in the Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur service, contact Fernando at 970-4005.

Times and dates of the holiday services are:

- Erev Rosh Hashanah: Sunday, Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah (first day), Monday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m.; Children's Service 11 a.m., Tashlich after services
- Rosh Hashanah (second day), Tuesday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m.
- **NEW** Shabbat Shuva service Friday, Sept. 18, at 7:30 p.m.
- Kol Nidre, Tuesday, Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m.
- Yom Kippur, Wednesday, Sept. 23, Morning Service 10 a.m., Afternoon Service 3 p.m., Yizkor Service 4:30 or 5 p.m., Break Fast 6:30 or 7 p.m.

YIZKOR NAMES TO BE READ:

As in the past, we will read names of our departed family members and loved ones during the yizkor service on Yom Kippur. Temple Beth Israel is compiling names to be read during Yizkor service, September 23. There is a list saved from past years, but updates must be made, so please call Alma to make sure all names are on the list. If you would like to add someone to the list, please do so on or before September 20. Please send the names of your family members to the Temple's P.O.Box 3398, Harlingen. Tx 78551

Your donation of \$5.00 per name is appreciated.

RELATIVES FROM THE _____ FAMILY

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

YOM KIPPUR BREAK FAST POTLUCK

After services on Yom Kippur, we will have a potluck break fast supper. Please plan to bring some food (vegetarian or dairy), dessert, drinks, or supplies. Contact Laurel S (550-8530, or wberg@fastmail.fm) for ideas of food or supplies to bring.

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

1702 E. Jackson,
P.O. Box 3398,
Harlingen, TX 78551
(956) 423-2928

Please excuse the absence of our congregant(s)

to attend High Holiday services on these days:

ROSH HASHANAH:

Sunday evening, September 13, 2015

All day Monday-Tuesday, September 14-15, 2015

YOM KIPPUR:

Tuesday evening, September 22, 2015

All day Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Thank you,



Rabbi Frank Joseph

214-293-6515

frank@rabbifrankjoseph.org

DO YOU BUY GROCERIES? DRINK COFFEE? SEE MOVIES?

Help Temple Beth Israel at no additional cost while you do the things you always do.

Buy gift cards for HEB, Wal-Mart, Cinemark, Starbucks, Target etc. before you go, and the Temple will receive a percentage.

Please support our scrip card program!

See Alma Russek or call her at 970-7722.

■ RATES FOR MEMORIAL

PLAQUES: Our rate for a memorial plaque on our memorial wall is \$350. Or you can buy two for \$600. Please contact any board member to purchase a memorial plaque.

■ **HONOR A LOVED ONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION** with an engraved plaque on a Pew. The cost is \$1250. See any board member to make arrangements.

FROM THE TREASURER

As the Treasurer of our Temple Beth Israel, I would like to thank you for the support that you have been giving to our Jewish community. This letter is also to remind you of the importance of that support. It is very costly to maintain our Temple. The combined dues of all our members are not even sufficient to pay for the Rabbi's salary, much less the other expenses needed to merely maintain and run our Temple and Sunday school for the limited ongoing use by our community.

Our community of Temple Beth Israel is the home of our Jewish life here. The synagogue offers a place for prayer and gatherings and is the center that helps us to have a suitable place to live as Jews in Harlingen. Our Temple is the site of lifecycle events where we celebrate births, weddings, and b'nai mitzvot as well as observing our religious holidays. This is where our extended Jewish family takes care and supports each other in our time of need, and where we participate in each other's joys.

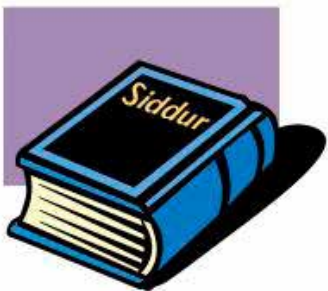
To this day we only have been able to pay our expenses because of the generosity of those who donate above their minimum dues, but it is very important that we all make an effort to contribute. It is a Mitzvah, and our individual and collective responsibility to our own community to support its existence.

Our Jewish year is coming to an end, and soon we will start a New Year, a new cycle. In a few days we will meditate and review our actions of the year that ends, and we will ask G-d for a good year to come.

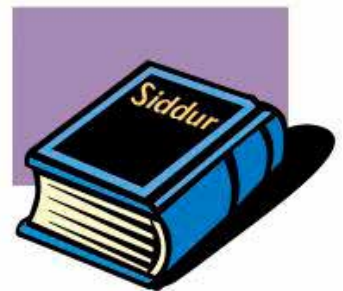
So, besides wishing you a good and happy New Year, full of blessings, it is time for me to send your annual Temple dues statement for 2015-2016. The statement will also reflect any outstanding dues from the current fiscal year that will be concluding.

Our fiscal year runs from September 1 to August 31, and you may pay any time in that period. But if possible, please pay promptly. Our community is small, and we need every dollar to keep the Temple running.

Thank you,
Alma Russek, Treasurer



**What do we need?
New Siddurs!
When do we need them?
Yesterday!**



Announcing a new fund drive for the purchase of siddurs for the Temple. As you may have noticed, many of our prayer books have seen better days (which is good in a way, because it shows we USE them!).

Contact Alma at 956-970-7722/AlmaFRussek3@aol.com to donate whatever you can to help improve our services. THANK YOU!!

Thank You

DONATIONS

SIDDUR FUND

Dr. Stan & Nivia Fisch

in honor of Patty Gaytan's wedding

Alma & Fernando Russek Jr.

in honor of Patty Gaytan's wedding

SHABBAT BREAKFAST

Alma & Fernando Russek Jr.

in honor of Rabbi Frank Joseph's birthday

Abby Warshowsky

Alma & Fernando Russek Jr.

in honor of Dr. Stan Fisch's birthday



Oneg Shabbat

Each member household is asked to host one Shabbat oneg during the year. Remember hosting now involves setting up, cleaning up, and providing challah, Kosher wine, grape juice, paper/plastic goods, coffee and drinks. You can bring other treats you like, but the congregation will share the responsibility of bringing snacks and desserts. If you cannot be a host on the date assigned, please call Laurel Steinberg at 550-9530.

ONEG HOSTS

September 11: Greenfeld, Weiss

September 13: Erev Rosh HaShanah: Warshowsky, Silguero, Goldstein, Russek

September 23: Yom Kippur Break Fast, pot luck supper, please contribute food if you can, contact Laurel S (550-9530, or wberg@fastmail.fm)

October 23: Silguero, Barrios

Flavors of an Indian-Israeli Rosh Hashanah

Shulie Madnick recalls the floral dresses, melodies and sweet tastes of the New Year from her childhood in 1970s Ashdod.

The first inkling that Rosh Hashanah was approaching when I was growing up was when my mom would come home to our fourth-floor walk up apartment in Ashdod with Lily Pulitzer-like floral fabrics. I dreaded the frocks and matching hair bows that an Indian seamstress would sew us from the textiles. I would walk in the intense heat with my mom and my sister, who is a year younger than I, to the seamstress's home a few neighborhoods over for the measuring and fitting, and again for a second fitting and minor tweaks.

My mom, like other Indian Jewish women, would wear one of her beautifully embroidered, colorful saris for Rosh Hashanah services. My dad, like many Indian men, had tailored shirts and pants made in a yarn shop, owned by a Persian tailor, in the city center. Custom-made clothes for the holidays were the tradition in Mumbai, India, and the Bene Israel Jewish community carried this tradition over to Israel when they immigrated in the 1960s.

The grocery shopping, market hopping, prepping and cooking rituals would commence next.

Mutton – lamb usually, but at times goat – would be pre-ordered at the butcher's. Some years a whole lamb would be ordered from a nearby farm, to be slaughtered and split among a few families. The mutton would be used in the festive biryani, that ornate Indian dish of spiced rice and meat that was the centerpiece of the Indian Rosh Hashanah table.

Apples and honey always graced the table on Rosh Hashanah eve, but that tradition had been picked up in Israel. For a sweet new year, the Bene Israel had their own signature dish, milk halwa. The dish is similar to what we know as the Middle Eastern saheb, only chilled. This turns the thickened warm custard into a wiggly milk Jello pudding. The custard is poured into a large thali – a stainless steel dish – and topped with pistachios and almonds.

All showered and dressed up in our finest garments, and ready for Rosh Hashanah eve services, we'd follow our mother like ducklings to my grandparents' neighborhood, where the high school gym was our temporary synagogue. The Indian melodies of the Mahzor reverberated from the open windows, into the courtyard. Outdoors, chairs were lined up along the exterior gym wall for a makeshift women's section. The men were inside the sweltering gym, where the ceiling fans offered little reprieve from the heat.

By the end of the services, us kids would be super hungry, tugging at my mom so she would stop chatting. We would hastily recite the blessings over the grape juice or wine; in India, the "wine" was made from currants soaked in water due the prohibition on alcohol. We would then devour our purely Indian meal without further ceremony.

READ MORE: <http://www.haaretz.com/life/food-wine/1.675080>

FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

miss very much Phil and Charlene Moskal who have moved to Las Vegas, and Robert and Anne Weiss who will be leaving the Valley after the High Holy Days. Thank you for your contributions to our Temple Beth Israel community. You will be missed.

We have some upcoming projects planned as well as our normal Temple activities. We will be building a more permanent structure between the Temple and the education building to provide more protection outside so that we may utilize that space for Temple activities and lifecycle events. We hosted a blood drive last year, and we would like to make that an annual event. Dues primarily allow us to have a Rabbi and pay the most basic bills for our building. Without dues and donations we would be unable to function. Please send in your dues and volunteer whenever you are able. Our numbers are small, so we need everyone's participation.

Please remember that contributions of others to our community are with some sacrifice of personal comfort either of time or money. One's unwillingness to give merely shifts the burden to those that do.



I wish to share some thoughts of Rabbi Lee Bycel regarding this time of celebration and reflection.

Reassessing the meaning and the direction of our lives requires a determination to learn from our life experience and utilizing those insights to shape our future. When God cried out to Adam in the Garden of Eden, "Where are you?" It is a cry that rings true to each of us now. Where am I? Are my eyes open to the pain of others? Do I help to diminish the loneliness and alienation from which so many of my fellow human beings suffer? Am I willing to risk some of my own personal comfort in devoting time and energy to addressing a world so

much in need of our attention?

What our tradition asks of us at this time of year is not perfection. All human beings fall short of the mark. We all have weaknesses, doubts, insecurities — that is in fact what makes us so very human. Judaism is not about perfection; rather it is about making life sacred. It is about the manner in which we grow, not just about how much we have grown. The teachings of our faith offer us a guide for how to make sense of life, of how not to view life as a mere series of days, weeks and months, but rather as moments filled with opportunity for sacred living, moments in which we feel alive and present, moments in which we can sense the grandeur in the world and can find something precious in every aspect of life. It's a gift the New Year offers us.

This gift of a new opportunity is one of the major themes of the High Holy Days as expressed in the concept of teshuvah — repentance, turning in a new direction, changing, admitting our shortcomings. Real change necessitates vigilance in our commitment to live in a manner which reflects the best of Jewish ethical, social and personal values. Teshuvah is not easy, as it asks each of us to make our own inner assessment of how things are going: do I complain too much, do I never pick up the telephone myself but always gripe that others don't call me? Do I remember to say thank you? Do I think about the feelings of others and the loneliness or pain they might be feeling? Do I forget that other people also have powerful stories to tell and mine isn't the only interesting one? Do I dwell on the past and the misfortunes that have befallen me, or do I go on, realizing that other people are doing their own teshuvah, in their own way? Perhaps we should spend less time worrying about the shortcomings of others and how much they need to change and focus more on our personal shortcomings and the changes we each need

to make. The High Holy Days are the time to prepare the tax returns of our souls and hearts and actions.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver offers a great insight into our ability to change: "A person is not forever doomed to the error and the consequences of his past conduct ... Repentance means the opportunity of a new start, the chance to correct what each of us has left crooked, to fill that which is wanting in one's life."

We can't change so many aspects of our lives. We can't bring back a loved one or wish away an illness. We can't stop the emergence of modern day Hamans. Yet we can strive to change ourselves, never to surrender our ideals, our hopes and how we can better live a life of human value.

As we enter this New Year; may we cultivate the gardens of lives with memories to inspire us, with eyes to see not just the curses which abound but also the blessings which wait to be. May we ascend this year higher than ever before — seeing new vistas, making each day count so that next year when we gently land in the branches of the tree and look around us, and see the distance we have traveled, we will know how we have enhanced the quality and meaning of our lives.

As the psalmist said: "Teach us to number our days." It is my prayer that we will teach ourselves to number them with hope, courage, perspective, as well as a passionate desire for growth. Let us soar into the New Year uplifted by those around us and inspired to embrace the precious life we have been granted.



L'shana Tova! May the joyful sound of the shofar welcome in a New Year of health, happiness, laughter and love!

— Abby Warshowsky

Submitted by Patty and Bruce:



With Great Joy and Gratitude to Hashem
We Would Like to Cordially Invite You to the Wedding of

Dr. Bruce Landsman & Patty Gaytan-Zamaniego

Saturday, September 12, 2015

at 8:00 p.m.

At the PROMENADE

2323 E. Tyler St. Harlingen, TX. 78550

Kiddush & Dinner Following at the Same Location

We will look forward to seeing all of you!

* About Our Wishes ... Help us to make a Mitzvah!

It would be appreciated that rather than gifts, please consider a donation to Temple Beth Israel's New Siddur Fund (New Prayer Books) P.O. Box 3398 Harlingen, Texas, 78551. Thank you.

With Love,

Patty and Bruce

Shalom Aleichem

L'Shanah Tovah

To All The Jewish Communities around the Río Grande Valley of Texas

Submitted by Alma Russek:

Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum
Rio Grande Valley Museum Association



"Voices of the Holocaust"

The one word that best describes the experience of this exhibit is *respect*. Seliger's camera treated the survivors with respect, visitors spoke in respectful low voices and the tour guides treated the subject of the Holocaust with respect. The Museum had the most tours ever for an exhibit. 73 guided tours were conducted in April & May, mostly school children, who seemed genuinely interested. Lois Day, Carol Stockholm and Chris Johnston guided most of the tours, but Mary Torres and Pat Clark also filled in. Many thanks to all of you. The Museum broke another record from March to May. We had 3,600 visitors. This exhibit was made possible by local underwriters: The Rollins M. & Amalie L. Koppel Foundation, David Q. & Lois Day, Alan & Elizabeth Johnson, Temple Beth Israel Harlingen, Michael & Erika Mascha, Marlou P. Levine, Temple Beth-El Brownsville, and the RGV Museum Association.

The three pictures on the left of the JROTC from the Edcouch-Elsa School District, taken in May, is the perfect illustration of the respect the schoolkids had for this exhibit. Their instructor, Sgt. First Class (Retired) Vidal Moreno of the U.S. Army, wrote the Museum a touching thank-you letter to the Museum and explained that a salute is the most important sign of respect. His cadets are saluting those who survived and especially those who did not.



Rabbi Asher Hecht & the Chabad of the Rio Grande Valley



Visitors enjoyed the reference books on loan from the Temple Beth Israel in Harlingen.



Tour Guide Lois Day



Tour Guide Carol Stockholm



Early College High School of Harlingen, TX
Advanced Placement World History
Mr. Charles Eubanks, instructor

Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

9/4 Christine Newman
9/7 Isaiah Newman
9/14 Mary Warshowsky
9/20 Ronald Banks
10/1 Dyan Banks
10/1 Lewis Levine
10/2 Sheila Greenfeld
10/7 Kendra Newman
10/9 Richard Newman

10/12 Brittany Stewart
10/16 Yafah Tziporah Russek
10/23 Olga Quintero
10/25 Roman Newman

ANNIVERSARIES

10/1 Dan & Renata Simha Sobelman

Did we miss you?

Please send changes and updates to laurie.b.joseph@gmail.com.

