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## High Holidays schedule, Page 2



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

The High Holy Days are just around the corner; think about this and answer to yourself and no one else: “Did I make the best out of the year that is about to end?”

We all begin the year feeling renewed and eager to do great and fitting acts that will help us and others in our journey on this place we call Earth. We really, really, really go through a grueling personal process of purification we call *Teshuva* to feel lighter and free from blemishes that weighted us down through the year.

Are you ready to face yourself in the mirror and say, “This year is going to be my best year yet!” because you know your intentions are good? Let’s keep those good intentions, good feelings, and good actions alive and achievable by looking for the support of those who can help us stand proud: our family, our friends, and our community.

I am eager to initiate the new year

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### FROM THE RABBI

Shalom,

On Sunday evening, Sept. 29, Jewish people all over the world will begin celebrating *Yamin Nora'im*, The Days of Awe — the 10 days that begin on Rosh Hashanah and culminate on Yom Kippur, the Holy of Holies of Jewish time.

As Rabbi Wayne Dosick says, “Some cultures and societies greet a new year with parties, loud music and raucous behavior, attempting to blot out the past in order to begin the future with a clean, blank slate.” Judaism greets its new year with serious introspection, self-evaluation and prayer, a personal and collective *cheshbon hanefesh* — an “inventory” of the soul. In this way, the future can be shaped by assessing the successes and failures of the past.

The synagogue prayers for Rosh Hashanah and the next eight days revolve around evaluation of behavior in the year just ended,

*Continued on Page 4*

# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

- 27-Oct. 1 *Rabbi in town*  
 27 Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.  
 28 Shabbat service, 9 a.m. with breakfast and discussion following; Havdallah and discussion, 7 p.m.  
 29 Erev Rosh Hashanah service, 7:30 p.m.  
 30 Rosh Hashanah service, 10 a.m.

## OCTOBER

- 1 Rosh Hashanah service, 10 a.m.  
 2 Fast of Tzom Gedaliah  
 4 Shabbat Shuvah service, 7:30 p.m.  
 8-13 *Rabbi in town*  
 8 Kol Nidre service, 7:30 p.m.  
 9 Yom Kippur morning/afternoon Services, 10 a.m.; 3:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m.  
 11 Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.  
 12 Shabbat service, 9 a.m. with breakfast and discussion following; Havdallah and discussion, 7 p.m.  
 13 Sukkoh Decorating Day  
 13-20 Sukkot  
 18 Service and sukkah potluck, 6:30 p.m.  
 21 Shmini Atseret, Erev Simhat Torah/Consecration Ceremony  
 22 Simhat Torah

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.  
 22-24 *Rabbi in town*  
 22 Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.  
 23 Shabbat service, 9 a.m. with breakfast and discussion following; Movie Night, 7 p.m.

## DECEMBER

- 6 Shabbat service  
 13-15 *Rabbi in town*  
 13 Shabbat service, 7:30 p.m.  
 14 Shabbat service, 9 a.m. with breakfast and discussion following; Havdallah and discussion, 7 p.m.  
 22 Erev Chanukah, first candle  
 23-30 Chanukah  
 27 Shabbat Chanukah Service  
 29 Chanukah party

## High Holiday Schedule

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

Times and dates of the holiday services are:

- Erev Rosh Hashanah: Sunday, Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah (first day), Monday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.; Children's Service 11 a.m.; Tashlich after services
- Rosh Hashanah (second day), Tuesday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m.
- Shabbat Shuvah service Friday, Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m.
- Kol Nidre, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m.
- Yom Kippur, Wednesday, Oct. 9, Morning Service 10 a.m., Afternoon Service 3:30 p.m., Yizkor Service about 5 p.m., Break-fast about 7:30 p.m.

## Yahrzeits

*We ask that you consider a \$5 donation per name to the Temple's general fund to have your family names read at the memorial service on Yom Kippur.*

## 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 HOST FAMILIES

**Sept 27:** Sheila Greenfeld, Becky Dicus

**Oct 11:** Patty & Bruce Landsman, Barrios Family

**Nov 22:** Richard Fourzan

**Dec 13:** Russek Family, Abby and Mary Warshowsky

**Jan 24:** Pot-Luck Shabbat Dinner - Coordinator: Laurel Steinberg

**Feb 14:** TBA

**Mar 6:** Silguero Family, Ramos Family

**Apr 10:** Patty & Bruce Landsman, TBA

**May 22:** TBA

**June 12:** Richard Fourzan

# Celebrations

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 8/14 Gilbert & Susy Weisberg  
 8/19 Luis Gonzalez &  
 Abby Warshowsky  
 8/25 Rabbi Frank & Laurie Joseph  
 11/7 Gerald & Shirley Sondock  
 11/20 David & Elizabeth Goldstein  
 12/16 Fernando & Alma Russek

## BIRTHDAYS

- 8/1 Rachel Russek  
 8/8 Harold Fisch  
 8/8 Nathan Fisch  
 8/10 Marina Wise-Herring  
 8/12 Rory Minck  
 8/12 Abby Warshowsky  
 8/20 Stan Fisch  
 8/25 Isaac Newman  
 8/30 Braulio Natanael Gaytan  
 8/30 Elizabeth Goldstein  
 8/31 Tonatiuh Gonzalez  
 9/4 Christine Newman  
 9/7 Isaiah Newman  
 9/14 Mary Warshowsky  
 9/20 Ronald Banks  
 10/1 Dyan Banks  
 10/1 Samuel Barrios  
 10/2 Sheila Greenfeld  
 10/7 Kendra Newman  
 10/9 Richard Newman  
 10/12 Brittany Stewart James  
 10/16 Yafah Tziporah Russek  
 10/23 Olga Quintero  
 10/23 Richard Fourzan  
 10/25 Roman Newman  
 11/6 Susy Weisberg  
 11/11 Luis Gonzalez  
 11/12 Jacquelyn Stewart  
 11/13 Benjamin M. Yudesis  
 11/14 Monica Stewart Weisberg  
 11/20 Deborah Shoshana Russek  
 11/27 Renata Sobelman  
 12/4 Ivan Shirazi  
 12/7 Liliana Cohen  
 12/10 Lori Suissa  
 12/17 David Goldstein  
 12/20 Jose Cohen  
 12/21 Jacquelyn Goldstein

## FROM THE TREASURER

I want to take this opportunity to thank the community of Temple Beth Israel for their trust in having me as the Treasurer and for the financial support they give to keep our Temple open, vibrant and with our great Rabbi Frank Joseph. I also want to wish everybody a Shana Tovah Umetukah 5780.

May we all have a year full of blessings, happiness and tzedakah.

— *Alma Russek*

## FROM THE GABBAI

We are about to start another year in our Sunday School, following the pillar of law and Jewish tradition of teaching our children and like it is written in the Shema, "You shall love Hashem your G-d, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your resources. Let these matters that I command you today be upon your heart. Teach them thoroughly to your children."

All of our teachers and parents are doing a great mitzvah by teaching our children.

Also, Alma and I would like to wish all of the community a great Rosh Hashana and a Shana Tova full of blessings, achievements, joys and tzedakah!

— *Fernando A. Russek*

## NEWS AND NOTES

■ MAZEL TOV to Gilbert and Susy Weisberg on their 60th Wedding Anniversary!

■ BEST WISHES to Hunter Woodman (Dicus), who awaits approval on his Eagle Scout project of building benches for Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. He has filled out paperwork, come up with a plan for building, taken pictures of the areas where they will be placed and prepared a budget all to be approved by the Scout council. He is hoping to get this done in October. Good luck, Hunter!

■ MAZEL TOV to Susan Ander, who writes that she is teaching Sunday school and volunteer counseling at a free community agency in Florida. She sends regards to all!

■ (*From Richard Fourzan*) MANY THANKS to Javier Oliva who has been diligently working at cleaning the outside of the synagogue. I especially want to thank him for painting the yellow lines in both parking lots. Must have been a lot of work. The pressure-washing of all the outside looks great!! Thank you Javier, keep up the good work!!!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Continued from Page 1*

counting on the people I always lean on when I feel the need for strength, my relatives, my friends, and the community of Temple Beth Israel. Thank you all for always being available to me when I come calling to have a cup of coffee or to have a venting session.

Let's make this year the best year yet in terms of togetherness, solidarity, and conviviality. See you at the High Holy Day services, SHANA TOVAH!!!!

— *Richard Fourzan*

# Thank You

## GENERAL FUND

Richard Fourzan	Two donations for synagogue honors
Helen Marcus	In honor of my brother Bill Berg's special birthday this year
Julian Reyes	Donation
Joe Garza	Donation
Tom and Pamela A Griggs	Donation
Judy and Victor DeLeon	In honor of Fernando and Alma Russek for making the First Friday Challah and Breakfast Brunch
Gisela Ramos	For the blood drive
Sharon Rudesal	For a memorial plaque for Herschel Zinn
Abby Warshowsky	Three donations
William Berg & Laurel Steinberg	In honor of Yafah Russek and Issac Newman's confirmation and Rebekah Russek and Issac Newman's high school graduation
Rabbi Frank & Laurie Joseph	In memory of Joel Smith
Buck Ashcraft Funeral Home	For Jewish calendars 2019-2020
Jesus and Angela Silguero	Donation
Javier Oliva	Donation
Jose E Garza	Donation
Fernando & Alma Russek	In loving memory of Nivia Fisch

## TORAH FUND

(For reading of family names during the High Holiday Yizkor service)

Abby Warshowsky  
Sheryl Levine Guterman  
Fernando & Alma Russek

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Roy Holbert

## FROM THE RABBI

*Continued from Page 1*

repentance for transgressions and seeking forgiveness from fellow human beings and from G-d. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks says, "Properly entered into, this is a potentially life-changing experience. It forces us to ask the most fateful questions we will ever ask — Who am I? Why am I here? How shall I live? How have I lived up until now? How have I used G-d's greatest gift, time? Who have I wronged, and how can I make it right? Where have I failed, and how shall I overcome my failures? What is broken in my life, and what needs mending? What chapter will I write in the Book of Life?"

The unexamined life is not worth living. No one who has genuinely experienced Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur lives an unexamined life. These are days of introspection when we stand in the presence of G-d, knowing how vulnerable we are and how little time we have here on Earth. This can and should be a life-changing experience.

No people has believed as lucidly and long as have Jews that life has a purpose, that this world is an arena of justice and human dignity, that we are each of us free and responsible, capable of shaping our lives in accordance with our highest ideals. We are here for a reason. We were created in love and forgiveness by G-d, who asks us to love and forgive. However many times we may have failed to live up to our aspirations, G-d always gives us the chance to begin again.

On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the holiest days of a holy people, G-d summons us to greatness. Since honest

personal evaluation and self-assessment is not an easy task, preparations for Rosh Hashanah begin far in advance of the actual holiday. In the month of Elul, the month preceding the new year, special prayers and rituals are added to the daily worship services to prepare the worshippers for the job of repentance.

On the Saturday evening before Rosh Hashanah, the *selichot* (forgiveness service) is held. This service sets the mood and the tone for the prayers that will be recited on Rosh Hashanah.

Though the Rosh Hashanah prayers are solemn, they are also filled with joy and hope. Judaism teaches that G-d is ready and very willing to forgive the transgressions of those who come in sincere repentance. Ezekiel 18:31 promises us that we can obtain a new heart and a new spirit. Rosh Hashanah is the delivery date for that promise. The communal outpouring of identification and participation and the gathering of friends and family to celebrate the holiday infuses Rosh Hashanah with importance, gladness and the spirit of renewal.

In conclusion, as Rabbi Sacks teaches, God asks us during the High Holy Days to take up life itself, to make of it something holy by honoring God and his image on Earth — humankind — for we defeat death not by living forever but by living the values that live forever and by creating blessings that will live on after us.

Laurie and I wish everyone a wonderful, happy, healthy, prosperous, peaceful, fulfilling 5780.

*Shana tovah,  
Rabbi Frank Joseph*





**SAT. 09.21.19**

*Latin Night*

**HOT LATIN MUSIC BY  
THE SON MONTUNO LATIN ORCHESTRA**

**FREE CLASS BY  
OMAR OROPEZA**

**FROM 7 P.M. TO 8 P.M.**

**MUSIC STARTS: 8 P.M. TO 11 P.M.**

**FREE WINE, CHEESE, AND FRUIT PLATTER**

**\$20.00  
PER PERSON**

**TEMPLE BETH-EL - 24 COVEWAY, BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS  
INFORMATION CONTACT: (956) 343-8446**



Latin Night  
fundraiser at  
Temple Beth El  
in Brownsville  
— FUN!

## First day of Sunday School 2019-2020 and Temple Board meeting lunch



### What's in a calendar?

Happy New Year! The Jewish calendar is based on time-reckoning efforts dating back to ancient times. Both Israelite and Babylonian influences played an important role in its development. According to the account of Persian astronomer al-Khwarizmi (c. 780-850 CE), most of the features of its modern-day version were in place by the 9th century CE.

Like the modern Islamic calendar, the timing of the months in the early forms of the Jewish calendar depended on actual sightings of the Crescent Moon. However, this practice was gradually changed, and by 1178 CE the calculation of the beginning of a new calendar month had been fully replaced by the mathematical approximation of the moment the Crescent Moon begins to appear (Molad) rather than actual sightings.

Jewish time reckoning is lunisolar, which means that the calendar keeps in sync with the natural cycles of both the Sun and the Moon. The Hebrew calendar is a compara-

tively imprecise system for measuring a solar year. A year in the Hebrew calendar can be 353, 354, 355, 383, 384, or 385 days long.

Regular common years have 12 months with a total of 354 days. Leap years have 13 months and are 384 days long. Months with uneven numbers usually have 30 days, while months with even numbers have 29 days.

In addition to these regular (kesidrah) year lengths, both common and leap years can be a day shorter (cheserah or deficient year with 353/383 days) or a day longer (shlemah or complete year with 355/385 days).

These alterations are designed to prevent Rosh Hashana and other holidays from falling on certain days of the week. In practice, a day is added to the 8th month (Marcheshvan) or subtracted from the 9th month (Kislev).

In civil contexts, a new year in the Jewish calendar begins on Rosh Hashana on Tishrei 1. However, for religious purposes, the year begins on Nisan 1.

— [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)