



September/October 2011  
Elul/Tishrei 5772

Morgantown, West Virginia

It is a Tree of Life to  
those that hold fast to it.

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David Feder

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# 2011 HOLIDAYS Yamin Noraim Schedule

Saturday, September 24	<b>Selichot</b>	7:00 pm
Wed., September 28	<b>Erev Rosh Hashanah</b> Oneg	7:30 pm after services
Thursday, September 29	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b> Morning Service Children's Service Tashlikh	10:00 am 10:45 am 3:00 pm
Friday, September 30	Second Day Rosh Hashanah	10:00 am
Sunday, October 2	Kever Avot	2:00 pm
Friday, October 7	<b>Kol Nidre</b>	7:30 pm
Saturday, October 8	<b>Yom Kippur</b> Morning Service Children's Service Rabbi's Study Session Music and Meditation Afternoon Service Yizkor Service Neilah Havdalah Break-the-Fast	10:00 am 10:45 am 1:00 pm 2:30 pm 3:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:45 pm after services

**SUKKOT-SIMCHAT TORAH**

Sun., October 9	Sukkah Raising	10:30 am
Wed., October 12	Pizza in the Hut <b>Sukkot</b> Service	6:00 pm 7:00 pm
Thurs., October 13	Sukkat Morning Service	9:00 am
Wed., October 19	<b>Simchat Torah</b>	7:00 pm
Thurs, October 20	Simchat Torah/ Sh'mini Atzeret	9:00 am



**Rabbi  
David  
Feder**

Over the summer I've been reading some of the recent books that have come out concerning the Cairo Genizah. While I knew the broad details of Solomon Schechter's discovery of the significance of the materials that had been stored in the Ben Ezra synagogue for hundreds of years and how the material discovered there continues to inform our understanding of the development of Judaism, there were many elements about which I was simply unaware.

One of the early major finds were passages of a translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek by Aquila. Like much of the material in the Genizah, the translation was a palimpsest, a manuscript in which the earlier material has been scraped off or simply written over. Francis Burkitt published this material in 1897.

Nearly two decades later, Israel Davidson, professor of liturgy at JTS had come across some fragments of piyytim by Yannai in Genizah material that had made its way to New York and published them. Piyyutim are poetic insertions that are either inserted into or substituted for passages within the traditional service. He booked passage to Europe to look for more fragments at Oxford and came back disappointed. Weeks later, someone suggested he look through some of the published material.

In Burkitt's published fragments, atop the Greek, were poem after poem authored by Yannai. They had been sitting, bound in published manuscripts, but no one had noticed them. It took Davidson to shift the attention from the background to the foreground. As we prepare for the Yamim Noraim, in addition to doing the work of digging through our deeds of the past year, we should also not neglect our most

recent acts. Most importantly, we need to see our lives and the lives and actions of those we interact with in context. Let us not just look at what happened or what was said, but also, look at the reasons behind our actions.

May we be inscribed for a good, sweet, happy and healthy new year.

*Rabbi David Feder*

## SELICHOT

Selichot refers to the penitential prayers recited prior to Rosh Hashanah. These prayers are the means by which we prepare ourselves for our journeys through the Days of Awe. It is the beginning of the process of saying "I'm sorry" (selichah) and attempting to transform oneself, in order to do the work of teshuvah or repentance. In the Sephardic tradition, these special prayers are recited at dawn each morning during the month prior to Rosh Hashanah, while in the Ashkenazi tradition; they are recited on the Saturday evening that falls at least four days prior to Rosh Hashanah. Since midnight is considered to be an especially propitious time for prayer, Selichot services have traditionally either begun or ended at midnight.

This late hour however prevents many people in contemporary times from benefiting from this moving and contemplative experience. In an effort to enable more people to prepare for the Yamim Noraim or Days of Awe, we will begin with the Sephardic custom of holding a Rosh Hashanah Seder featuring symbolic foods for the New Year at 7:00 pm, Saturday, September 24th. Each person attending is asked to bring a blessing, prayer or hope for the coming year. Havdalah will follow at 8:00 pm.

Based on short stories by Etgar Keret, \$9.99 is a film utilizing stop motion animation to look inside the life of Dave Peck. Dave is an unemployed, soft-spoken twenty-eight-year-old man who shares an apartment with his father and is desperate to discover the meaning of life. When he comes across a book that claims to contain this

knowledge - "all for the low price of \$9.99" - he rather understandably makes the purchase. Inside the book, Dave finds the answers he is looking for and feels compelled to share his new knowledge with everyone he knows: a widower with a cranky guardian angel; a retired, down-on-his-luck magician; a captivating woman who has strong preferences where men are concerned; a newly single man who befriends a group of hard-partying, two-inch-tall students; and a quietly rebellious little boy. Their stories are woven together, examining hope, love and spirituality.

Following the film we will conclude with a brief Selichot service previewing the themes both musical as well as spiritual for the Yamim Noraim. Please join us for this preparation for the Days of Awe.

## ROSH HASHANAH

Rosh Hashanah, literally the head of the year, is the most important of the four different new years that we have in Jewish tradition. (The others are the first of Nisan, for the reign of kings and for festivals, the first of Elul, for the tithes of cattle, and the 15<sup>th</sup> of Shevat, for trees.) It is on this first day of the seventh month when the calendar moves ahead to the next year. This year Rosh Hashanah begins on Wednesday night, September 28.

The Torah tells us very little about the observance of Rosh Hashanah. In fact, in the Torah the festival is known as Yom Teruah or Yom Zikaron Teruah, the Day of Sounding or the Day of the Remembrance of Sounding. It is only in rabbinic times, when the name Rosh Hashanah is adopted.

The earliest rabbinic layer knows Rosh Hashanah as an annual celebration of God's ascension to the heavenly throne. The themes of which we are most familiar develop out of some of the later rabbinic names.

These other names by which Rosh Hashanah is known, Yom HaDin, Yom HaZikaron, and Yom Teruah teach us

*See Rosh Hashanah Page Four*



**Ed  
Gerson**

## President's Report

Recently the board was sent an email reminder about the Sept 18 URJ Board Workshop. Within 48 hours 10 board members responded their intention to attend. This is well over the URJ 80% participation required to continue these programs, at no cost to us.

Liz Cohen is leaving the board to attend more urgent needs in her immediate family. In the past year Liz has always responded with an energetic thoroughness when researching board issues. We've enjoyed Liz's presence and thank Liz for her dedicated service to TOL

Marty Sippin has been healing up from shoulder surgery and is preparing TOL for High Holy Days. A leak in the roof has been repaired. Marty personally installed a new and improved faucet in our kitchen, and motion-detector light/fan switches in the rest rooms; he also donated additional storage units which greatly organized the utilities area in the basement in memory of those who passed away in 5771.

The Board of Trustees has voted to change yiskor. All the names on the yearzeit tablets will be printed in a booklet for each member; the names of those who have passed away in 5771 will be read during the service. Those who are not memorialized on congregational nameplates here can be memorialized via a modest donation described elsewhere in this newsletter.

With High Holy Days nearing, we have begun our new fiscal year and are beginning our new Religious School year - significant improvements have taken place compared to this time last year Both spiritual and

lay leadership has tackled current problems directly one by one but these efforts are never ending. In the coming months we will continue to stress more organized resources for our current and, in particular, our emerging leadership.

*L'shana tova, Ed Gerson*

**Merle  
Stolzenberg**



## From our Treasurer

As summer draws to a close, your Treasurer becomes much busier. September 1 starts the new fiscal year for Tree of Life. Planning for the High Holidays is a spiritual time but it is also the time when the congregation's annual budget is set and the financial records for the past year are closed.

Tree of Life is a small congregation and we rely on each member's support to ensure that we can keep the doors open, the religious school operating, and the congregational programs continuing. For those of you who are new to the community, Tree of Life uses a self assessed fair share method for dues collection. The actual percentage of income paid by each member unit depends on the unit's income.

Tree of Life relies on each member unit contributing its fair share, based on its income and not the "perceived value" of the membership. In case of hardships, we are happy to work out a dues assessment that may be below the fair share level. Payment plans are flexible. Even though you may not attend religious services regularly, Tree of Life will be there for you when you need rabbinical services, a minyan to commemorate a yearzeit, or just a friendly offer of help or a meal supplied by our Caring Committee.

We rely on donations to help support the day to day operations of the

congregation. Making a donation in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a friend or loved one is a great way to show your support. You can donate either to the General Fund or to a specific area of interest such as the Rabbi Discretionary Fund, Religious School, Library Fund, etc. We also have the beautiful Simcha Tree where a donation of as little as \$250 purchases a leaf on the tree to commemorative events such as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, wedding or birth of a special child. Stones are also available on the tree for a larger donation. If interested in making any type of contribution, contact me and I will be happy to help you find that special commemoration.

Now you are probably asking where your dues dollars are going. Tree of Life is very fortunate to not have a mortgage so the building costs are lower than what you would expect. We try to keep our overhead costs as low as possible. At this time, our only paid staff is our Rabbi and our religious school teachers. All of the clerical work is done by volunteers. Here is a breakdown of the percentage of expenses by budget categories for the last fiscal year.

RABBINICAL SERVICES	64%
UTILITIES & BLDG UPKEEP	19%
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	7%
CANTORIAL and RITUAL	3%
PROGRAMMING	3%
POSTAGE, OFFICE SUPPLIES, MISC.	2%
URJ MEMBERSHIP DUES	2%

Questions about the Tree of Life budget and financial operations are welcome. It is important that each of you understands why your contribution is important and why you should pledge your fair share. Please give me a call or email me if you have any questions.

*Merle Stolzenberg, Treasurer*  
(304) 292-6767  
mpstolzen@yahoo.com





### Rosh Hashanah

From Page Two

more about the themes and observance of this holy day."

Yom HaDin, or the Day of Judgment, reminds us that this is the day when we judge our actions over the past year or on which we are judged by God. This theme plays a prominent role in our prayers, especially the hallmark of the Rosh Hashanah Amidah, Unetaneh tokef, "Let us declare the power of this day, it is awesome and full of dread."

Yom HaZikaron, or the Day of Remembrance, reminds us that God always remembers us, even when we forget of the divine element in our own lives. We find this theme recalled in our Torah and Haftarah, of God remembering Abraham and Sarah and remembering Hannah. God's "remembering" is not the opposite or result of God's forgetting, but refers to God engaging with or taking action within the human realm.

Yom Teruah or the Day of Sounding, refers to the shofar which we normally sound on this day. The sounds of the shofar serve as a wake-up call to the spirit.

All of these themes are united to call us to move toward teshuvah (repentance or return), restoring us to wholeness and to the right path. We symbolize our hope for a good and sweet new year by dipping apples or challah into honey and through our greeting, "l'shanah tova tikateivu—May you be inscribed for a good year."

### YOM KIPPUR

The process of teshuvah or repentance which began with the introspection of Selichot and continued with Rosh Hashanah's call to action should be fulfilled on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. For sins against people, we must apologize to the person wronged. For sins against God and our tradition, our desire for change and our actions on Yom Kippur effect atonement and reconciliation.

On Yom Kippur, we forget our reliance upon the physical world and focus upon the world of the spirit. Denying the body through fasting helps us to focus on the prayers of our machzor, as well as the prayers of our hearts. Yom Kippur begins at sunset on Friday, October 7 and concludes with the appearance of three stars in the sky on Saturday, October 8.

We begin with the nullification of those vows we have been unable to keep during the previous year, the haunting melody of Kol Nidre, and we conclude with Havdalah, as we once again blend the sacred and profane.

### SUKKOT

The festival of Sukkot begins on the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei (Wednesday night, October 12) and continues for the next seven days according to the Torah. It is the third and final of the three pilgrimages (the others being Pesach and Shavuot), when families would journey to the Temple in Jerusalem to make offerings. Sukkot was so important that in Rabbinic literature it is referred to simply as HeChag – The Festival.

More than the other pilgrimage festivals, Sukkot has retained its agricultural character. Our building of sukkot and waving of lulav and etrog attest to that.

Sukkot, however, is also the commemoration of our wanderings for forty years through the wilderness and God's protecting shelter, symbolized by our construction of temporary shelters. In addition, Sukkot is also the most universal of our festivals. While the Temple stood, 70 sacrifices were offered on Sukkot, representing the 70 nations of the world. In Zechariah's messianic vision, read on the final day of Sukkot, the nations of the world make pilgrimage to Jerusalem to accept God's unity and God's judgment concerning rain. All nations, great and small, are judged on Sukkot for rainfall for the coming year.

All three pilgrimage festivals are times of rejoicing. Sukkot though is

specifically designated as *Z'man Simchateinu*, the season of our rejoicing. Even while we rejoice, the sukkah's temporary and fragile structure reminds us how precarious life can be.

Through the waving of lulav and etrog, we acknowledge our dependence on God for the food we eat, as well as the importance of sharing our bounty with others.

Please join us beneath the congregational sukkah on the first night of Sukkot, Wednesday evening, October 12, for "Pizza in the Hut" at 6:00 pm prior to our 7:00 pm service. We'll order the pizza, please bring a few dollars to defray the cost of the pizza, as well as either drinks, ice, salad or dessert.

### SIMCHAT TORAH

Simchat Torah (Rejoicing in the Torah) began as the second day of Shemini Atzeret (the Eighth Day of Assembly). In the Torah, Shemini Atzeret appears as an eighth day following Sukkot when pilgrims were to tarry in Jerusalem. In terms of ritual and liturgy, there are very few things which distinguish Shemini Atzeret other than the prayer for rain and the recitation of yizkor.

Simchat Torah emerged as a celebration of our relationship to Torah. On Simchat Torah we dance with the Torah scrolls prior to concluding the book of Deuteronomy and then beginning the entire cycle all over again as we read the opening verses of Genesis.

This connection to joyful beginnings is the reason why we mark the formal beginning of a child's Jewish education with Consecration on Simchat Torah. This year Simchat Torah falls on Wednesday night, October 19 and Thursday morning October 20.



### **MUSIC AND MEDITATION**

On Yom Kippur afternoon, we are once again inviting musicians from within our congregation to perform meditative pieces to enable congregants who stay in the building throughout the day to enhance their spiritual reflection. Music is able to reach people on an emotional and spiritual level in ways that words often fail to do so. If you are interested or willing to perform for 15 minutes, or longer please contact Rabbi Feder. We hope that many congregants will take advantage of this unique opportunity for expanding their own spiritual insights.

### **BA'ALEI TEKIAH / SHOFAR SOUNDERS**

The sounding of the shofar has always been a highlight of worship on the Yamim Noraim. Its ancient and primitive tones awake us from our slumber and cause us to begin to consider our actions and their consequences. Many aspects of our observance require special knowledge and study, sounding the shofar merely requires that the individual can reproduce the proper distinctive sounds. If there are any individuals who are interested in sounding the shofar on Rosh Hashanah or at the conclusion of services on Yom Kippur, please contact Rabbi Feder.

### **CHILDCARE FOR THE YAMIM NORAIM**

There will be childcare available for during the following services: Thursday morning, September 29, Rosh Hashanah, from 10:00 am until noon and Saturday morning, October 8, Yom Kippur, from 10:00 am until 12:30 pm.

We will be able to supervise children ages 3 through 11 in the social hall of the synagogue. Toddlers and babies are welcome to join us, but they

will need either their own babysitter or a parent to supervise them. Snacks will be provided.

When you walk your child down to the social hall, please sign them in, introduce yourself and your child/children to the childcare staff, and help your child make a name tag.

If you know child care providers who would be willing to work on those days, please contact Rabbi Feder.

### **KEVER AVOT**

Although visiting the graves of loved ones is considered appropriate throughout the year, it is considered especially appropriate around the time of the Yamim Noraim. Our cemetery service this year will take place on Sunday, October 2, at 2:00 pm at Beverly Hills Memorial Gardens. Please join us in honoring these former members of our community.

### **YAMIM NORAIM FOOD DRIVE**

Isaiah's words challenge us each year when we read the haftarah for Yom Kippur. "Is this the fast I have chosen? A day of self-affliction? ... Is not this the fast I have chosen: to unlock the shackles of injustices, to loosen the ropes of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to tear every yoke apart? Sure it is a time to share your bread with the hungry, and to bring the homeless poor into your house."

This year will add greater meaning to our fasting, by sharing our food with those in need. Please bring good, non-perishable food to the synagogue between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, equivalent to or even greater than the food you would consume on Yom Kippur. Our youth group will coordinate the collection of this food and its distribution to the hungry. Please join helping to satisfy physical as well as spiritual hunger this Yom Kippur.

### **TASHLIKH**

As we move through the period of the Ten Days of Repentance, there is a custom of symbolically casting one's sins upon the water on Rosh Hashanah afternoon. The observance of tashlikh typically involves dropping crumbs into the water as a sign of the signs that one wants to cast off. Join us at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, September 29, on the bridge spanning the confluence of Decker's Creek and the Monongahela River along the rail trail in downtown Morgantown as we sing and celebrate.

### **SUKKAH RAISING**

We will raise our congregational sukkah on Sunday, October 9, beginning at 10:30 am. If you would like to help, please join us in front of the synagogue that morning to help set up the synagogue's sukkah.

### **JUDAISM: THE BASICS (OR WHAT YOU WISHED YOU HAD LEARNED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL)**

For many, Judaism is a jumble of holidays, dates, and personalities that are hard to untangle. People frequently confuse Tu B'Shevat and Shavuot or Maimonides and Nachmanides. Understanding the basics helps one feel comfortable and competent and then able to delve more deeply into personal understanding and practice. To that end, we will explore the basics of Jewish beliefs and practices. The first unit is on Central Jewish Concepts, followed by units on the Life Cycle, Prayer, Holidays, Classic Jewish Texts, and Jewish History. You can concentrate on a single unit or you can attend them all. The class will meet Wednesday evenings, 7:00 pm, beginning September 7<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$100 non-members, free to members

### PRAYER, HUMILITY AND COMPASSION

Each year, as we approach the Yamim Noraim, I typically turn to my copy of Samuel Dresner's Prayer, Humility, and Compassion. Dresner looks to classic texts from Jewish tradition and other traditions on the ways in which God can enter our lives: prayer, our relationship with God, humility, our relationship to ourselves and compassion, our relationship with others. Join us as we explore these significant themes as we prepare for the Days of Awe. The class will meet Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm, beginning on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$25 non-members, free to members.

### JEWS, PROHIBITION AND ORGANIZED CRIME

The HBO drama, "Boardwalk Empire" has revived interest in Arnold Rothstein and the rise of Jewish bootleggers and organized crime during Prohibition. Over the course of 5 weeks we will look at the factors that led to emergence of Prohibition, the impact of Prohibition on the Jewish community, the reasons contributing to the rise of Jews in organized crime and some of the central Jewish personalities. The class will meet Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm, beginning of October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The cost is \$35 non-members, free to members.

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

We are preparing for another exciting year of Religious School. This year the major foci of our curriculum will be Tzedakah and Jewish identity. Specifically, the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade class is going to be looking at what makes us unique as American Jews, the

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade will be emphasizing Jewish values and Jewish role models, while the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade will be concentrating on Israel. Our Kindergarten class will be looking at where we came from (Torah) and many of the things we do (holidays), while our preschool will be exposed to the basics.

Under the direction of Miriam Sokoloff, all of our grades will be embarking upon an expanded approach to Jewish art and the holidays. Each grade will have four major arts projects on the themes of Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim and Pesach leading to lifelong memories of our festival celebrations.

This year we will welcome back Sheryl Grossman, David Levine and Miriam Sokoloff, along with welcoming Melody Kaplan and Julie Winegard as new teachers.

Religious School will begin on August 28 and midweek Hebrew will begin on August 31.

If you know of people in the area who might be interested in our educational program, please forward that information to Rabbi Feder.

### YIZKOR Yizkor Book

During the Yizkor service, it is traditional to remember the names of departed loved ones and special friends in the presence of the assembled congregation. This year, we will begin a new tradition. While all names of those who have died during the previous year will be read aloud, all other names will appear in a **Yizkor Book** available during our Yizkor service. All names on our Yahrzeit Plaques will automatically appear in the booklet, as well as the names of all of who have died during the previous year.

If you have additional loved ones whose names you want memorialized in our Yizkor Book, please send those names to Rabbi Feder (ravdfeder@GMAIL.COM). These names must be received prior to September 20, in order for them to appear in the Yizkor Book. Please be

aware that, because Sylvia is visiting family for Rosh Hashanah, this is an absolute deadline. Names received after the twentieth will appear on an insert, but will not be in the booklet.

A contribution in memory of the departed is traditional. Contributions can be seen as sustaining the memories of our loved ones and keeping those memories alive in our hearts and our community. There is no additional fee for those who are on a memorial plaque or have died during the previous year. For all other names, the contribution is \$10/name for Tree of Life members and \$18/name for non-members. Please mail your contributions, payable to Tree of Life, to Tree of Life Congregation, P O Box 791, Morgantown, WV 26507-0791. Please write "Yizkor" on the memo line. **PLEASE NOTE:** All annual names must be re-submitted.

### MAZAL TOV WISHES

Linda Herbst has designed and hand colored special greeting cards to be used for our new Mazal Tov Wishes project.

On page 12 of this newsletter, and on our web page, [etzheim.org](http://etzheim.org), there are lists of birthday and anniversary celebrants for August, September and October..

For a minimum donation of ten dollars to Tree of Life, we will prepare and mail your personalized message to any or all of the honorees.

Interested? Contact Linda Herbst (leherbst@gmail.com or 304 599 6947) to place your orders. Let your Mazal Tov wishes be a simcha.

In addition, don't forget to come to Mazal Tov Shabbats (September 15th for August and September celebrants/October 20th for October honorees) so you can congratulate them in person ... and share in the delicious cake provided by the TOL Board.



## Community Sharing Page

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### Tzedakah: Charity

צדקה

In this season of Tzedakah—Charity please consider making a donation to Tree of Life.

Information on all synagogue funds can be found online at

<http://www.etzhaim.org/aboutus/temple/>

### CLERGY HOSPITAL VISITATION

The law (HIPPA) prohibits The Temple and our clergy from obtaining clergy sheets and religious census information from hospitals.

#### We need your help!

Please notify **Kathy Abate**, [xuaf@aol.com](mailto:xuaf@aol.com) co-chair of the CARE Committee of any serious sickness in your family

### Help Needed

Donna Bolyard-Gerson

I will be coordinating the Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg on September 28, 2011. Anyone wishing to help may do so in any of the following ways.

#### Provide:

- ◆ fruit tray
- ◆ cheese plate
- ◆ cookies
- ◆ cake that can be eaten with the fingers

#### Help with set up or clean up

Make a **monetary donation** to help with paper goods and other related expenses

I can be reached at [DBolyardge@cs.com](mailto:DBolyardge@cs.com) or 304-599-1253 or 304-906-8817.



### MI SHEBEIRACH / WELLNESS PRAYERS

Please remember to consult with those who are in need of healing, before publicly adding their names to the Mi Shebeirach list. With their permission, we would like to add whatever support we can to their recovery and healing.

*We note with sorrow the passing of Merle Stolzenberg's mother, May her memory be as a blessing*



### LULAV & ETROG SETS

If you want a lulav and etrog set for Sukkot this year, contact Dan Solomon, (304) 657-3660 or [dansolomonphd@gmail.com](mailto:dansolomonphd@gmail.com) by **September 25** to let him know, and mail a check for **\$35** to

118 Meadowlane Ave,  
Fairmont, WV 26554

### Share Your Simcha Buy a Leaf on THE SIMCHA TREE

\$250/leaf  
\$2500/Small Stone  
\$5000/Large Stone  
Contact  
**Merle Stolzenberg/  
Barbara Jacowitz**

Remember a loved one with a **Yahrzeit Plaque**  
\$400 DONATION  
Contact: **Bennett Millstone**



What follows is a poem and its translation by *Isabelle Medina Sandoval*. Medina Sandoval lives, writes, and contemplates her Sephardic heritage in New Mexico. Find out more about Isabelle Medina Sandoval at <http://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/issues/2000/12/ferry2.htm> .

## Teshuvah

Albricias  
Primo Rabi  
sangre de mi sangre de Espana.  
Munchos anos  
mas de cuarenta anos  
vivía mi familia en el desierto de  
Sinai  
sin templo de orar.  
Muchos anos  
mas de cuatrocientos anos  
vivía mi familia en los desiertos de  
Mexico  
sin templo de orar.  
Primo Rabi  
siendo de los anusim  
que es mi camino de teshuvah?  
Necesito templo de orar.  
Munchos anos  
munchos siglos  
han pasado en los desiertos  
sin templo de orar.  
Primo Rabi  
semos de la misma raza. Necesito tus  
consejos.  
Estoy muriendo en este desierto  
eterno de la vida.  
Ay, ay, ay, ay. No comprendo mi  
camino. Necesito llorar

## HADASSAH

*Shalom!* Morgantown Hadassah is busy making plans for the upcoming year. This is a very special year for us since February 2012 will mark Hadassah's 100th Anniversary. National Hadassah is planning a celebration in Israel. If you want to join the festivities there, contact Merle for more information.

Locally, we expect to welcome the year 5772 with our traditional Opening Brunch, followed by a Hanukah Program and our Spring Book Brunch. In addition, we hope to host a special program right here in Morgantown to celebrate 100 years of Hadassah.

Two 100 year "specials" are being offered by National Hadassah. For \$100 you can make yourself, your daughter, daughter-in-law, grand daughter, best friend or even your husband a Life Member. The offer expires December 31st. On January 1st, the price will return to its normal \$360 (or more). In addition, \$100 will purchase the beautiful Centennial Key necklace. All of the purchase price goes to support Hadassah's programs since the designer donated the necklaces. For purchase details, please contact Merle.

## Teshuvah

Glad tidings  
Cousin Rabbi  
blood of my blood of Spain.  
Many years  
more than forty years  
my family lived in the Sinai Desert  
without a temple to pray.  
Many years  
more than four hundred years  
my family lived in the deserts of  
Mexico  
without a temple to pray.  
Cousin Rabbi  
being from the anusim  
what is my road to teshuvah?  
I need a temple to pray.  
Cousin Rabbi  
we are of the same race. I need your  
advice.  
I am dying in this eternal desert of  
life.  
Ay, ay, ay, ay.  
I do not understand my road. I need  
to cry.

## SISTERHOOD

*L'Shannah Tovah.* The Tree of Life Congregation Sisterhood wishes you a Happy healthy New Year filled with joy, health, *mazel* and success. Sisterhood is looking forward to increased activities and dedication to the congregation.

A membership drive is being organized. (a Membership Application can be downloaded at the TOL website: [etzheim.org](http://etzheim.org)) Our goal is to have all women in the Congregation become paid-up active members. Please say yes, when contacted. We are planning a year of fun-filled activities, so join us to make the New Year a successful one.

Officers of the Tree of Life Sisterhood include:

President Barbara Jacowitz  
Vice President Kathy Abate  
Secretary Marty Lass  
Treasurer Eva Segert Tauger

Board members are:

Linda Herbst  
Gwen Rosenbluth  
Judy Cohen  
Laura Cohen  
Zelda Weiss  
Millie Carlin  
K. Territo

The Sisterhood will continue the series of focus groups to encourage activities in the Sisterhood and Congregation. In addition we are planning an open meeting and a paid up member free dessert.

Happy New Year, *Barbara*







Clearly Tree of Life members are a hardy lot. To escape from town, we had to persist through total "WVU Move-In" gridlock. Then, when we got to the top of the mountain, there was thunder and lightning. The rain was so heavy windshield wipers could not cope. Surely few would be so foolish as to come under such circumstances. Surprise! The shelter was full. The food both abundant and delicious. Thanks to Marty, who thought to bring a load of firewood, we had a roaring fire to warm us up. See you next year when, maybe, the weather will be better.

### **MEDITATION FOR THOSE UNABLE TO FAST ON YOM KIPPUR**

There are many individuals who are unable to fast on Yom Kippur for a variety of reasons. Please consider the following meditation to add meaning to your day if you must eat.

Meditation before Yom Kippur for One who Cannot Fast  
Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, LMSW © 2005/5765

Ribbono shel Olam/Master of the Universe;  
Creator of All, Source of All Life,  
Who Knows What is Deep in Human Hearts,  
Who Nurtures Every Living Being:  
As You know, dear God,  
Yom Kippur is fast approaching, and because of my condition,  
I am not able to keep the traditional fast –  
I cannot abstain totally from eating.  
On this Day of Atonement, this Sabbath of Sabbaths,  
this year and every year,  
it is so central to join the people of Israel  
in denying ourselves food and drink for one day  
so that we focus on correcting our misdeeds,  
on knowing our mortality;  
on reaching for a life of Torah, mitzvot, and lovingkindness;  
on You.

You know, dear God, that it is not my intent  
to be apart from our people and our tradition.  
My current state of health makes it unsuitable for me to fast  
So, dear God, I turn to You now in sincerity and openness:  
Help me in the coming year to do my best in guarding my health.  
Help us, Your children, learn how to protect our bodies from harm.  
Help us support others in caring for their tzelem Elokim, their Image of God.  
Teach us to help one another grow and thrive in Body, Mind, and Spirit.  
Guide caring family and health care professionals in their partnering with you  
to bring healing if not cure, support and strength if not an end to symptoms.  
And if there is an opportunity for me to help others who suffer  
by doing something they need or by being attentive company –  
Grant me the ability to do this mitzvah with love and devotion.  
Rofeh khol basar/Healer of all living creatures:  
I thank You for the breath that is in me  
for the community of Israel that lives  
for the possibilities of today and tomorrow.  
May my eating be as a fast;  
May it be dedicated to You, to T'shuvah –




# Calendars

OCTOBER 2011				
Date	Day	Event	Time	
October 1	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am	
October 2	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am	
		Ke'ver Avot	2:00 pm	
		Jews & Prohibition	7:00 pm	
October 5	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm	
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm	
October 7	Friday	Kol Nidre	7:30 pm	
October 8	Saturday	Yom Kippur Morning	10:00 am	
		Family Service	10:45 am	
		Study Session	1:00 pm	
		Music & Meditation	2:30 pm	
		Afternoon Service	3:30 pm	
		Yizkor	5:00 pm	
		Neilah	6:00 pm	
		Havdalah	7:00 pm	
October 9	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am	
		Jews & Prohibition	7:00 pm	
October 12	Wednesday	Erev Sukkot		
		Pizza in the Hut	6:00 pm	
		Sukkot Family Service	7:00 pm	
October 13	Thursday	Sukkot Morning Service	9:00 am	
October 14	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm	
October 15	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am	
October 16	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am	
		Jews & Prohibition	7:00 pm	
October 19	Wednesday	Erev Sh'mini Atzeret /	7:00 pm	
		Simchat Torah		
October 20	Thursday	Sh'mini Atzeret/ Simchat Torah Morning	9:00 am	
October 21	Friday	Mazal Tov Shabbat	7:30 pm	
October 22	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am	
October 23	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am	
		Jews & Prohibition	7:00 pm	
October 26	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm	
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm	
October 28	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm	
October 29	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am	
October 30	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am	
		Jews & Prohibition	7:00 pm	

SEPTEMBER 2011				
Date	Day	Event	Time	
September 2	Friday	Family Shabbat Service	6:30 pm	
September 3	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am	
September 4	Sunday	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL		
September 7	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm	
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm	
September 9	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm	
September 10	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am	
September 11	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am	
		Prayer, Humility, & Compassion	7:00 pm	
September 14	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm	
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm	
September 16	Friday	Mazal Tov Shabbat	7:30 pm	
September 17	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am	
September 18	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am	
		Prayer, Humility, & Compassion	7:00 pm	
September 21	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm	
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm	
September 23	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm	
September 24	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am	
		Selichot	7:00 pm	
September 25	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am	
		Prayer, Humility, & Compassion	7:00 pm	
September 28	Wednesday	Erev Rosh Hashanah	7:30 pm	
September 29	Thursday	Rosh Hashanah	10:00 am	
		Children's Service	10:45 am	
		Tashlikh	3:00 pm	
September 30	Friday	Rosh Hashanah II	10:00 am	
		Erev Shabbat Service	7:30 pm	

**Elul** **Rosh Hashanah** **Yom Kippur**



**Simchat Torah** **Sukkot**



**Tree of Life Congregation**  
PO Box 791  
Morgantown, WV 26507-0791  
(304) 292-7029  
<http://etzhaim.org>

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



### Mazal Tov Lists

**Honorees from August and September will be recognized on Sept 16th**

#### August Honorees

Shirley and Bill Bellman  
Denise and Al Berrebi  
Shirley Bellman  
Al Berrebi  
Ilene Blacksberg  
Becky Cohen  
Nina Becker  
Amy Gutmann  
Laurie Gutmann  
Henry Gould  
Erik Edwards  
Elliott Edwards  
Debbi Hart  
Linda Jacknowitz  
Millie Karlin  
Martha Lass  
Linda and Art Jacknowitz  
Lana and Robert Klein  
Susan and Neal Newfield  
Justin Ludmer

Johnathan Lederman  
Ann and Marty Pushkin  
Debbi Pariser  
Hilda Rosenbaum  
Rita and Stephen Tanner  
Ruth Siegel  
Leah Stern  
Mark Tauger  
Max Snider

#### September Honorees

Anne S. and Nyles Charon  
Nyles Charon  
Judy Cohen  
Bennie Becker  
Margie Goldstein  
Monique Gingold  
Donna Bolyard  
Sharon and Bob Hildebrand  
Norman Lass  
Joyce Kohan  
Stephanie Pratt and Alex Lubman  
Neal Newfield  
Hannah Lubman  
Lisa and Michael Stern  
Paul Siegel  
Sheila Wexler and John Fuller

**October honorees will be recognized on October 21st**

#### October Honorees

Linda and Roger Abrahams  
Ilene Blacksberg  
Laura Cohen  
Denise Berrebi  
Roz Becker  
Katy Abate  
Lauren Addicks  
Jean and Henry Gould  
Ari Feder  
Orli Feder  
Joshua Green  
Lee Kass and Robert Hunt  
RD Hart  
Bennett Millstone  
Stephanie Pratt  
Gwen Rosenbluth  
Susan Brown  
Sarah Rosefsky  
Jackie Stolzenberg  
Rita Tanner  
Cindy Tanner  
Henry Temple  
Zelda Weiss  
Alana Works

## Choose Your Oneg!

### "...call the Sabbath a delight" Isaiah 58:13

In Hebrew, *Oneg Shabbat*, the tradition of joining in refreshments and camaraderie after Friday evening worship, means *Sabbath delight*. In our TOL community, congregants volunteer to host these weekly events. Whether this is a long time personal commitment or your \*first such effort, please share in this important community mitzvah.

**\*Circle date(s) below to serve as volunteer host.** Complete the form and send it to:

Linda Jacknowitz, 329 Wagner Road, 26501-6465  
or [ljacknowitz@frontier.com](mailto:ljacknowitz@frontier.com)

**Linda will confirm your date(s).**

**September 2011 2 9 23 30	**October 2011 14 28	**November 2011 11 25
**December 2011 9 23 30	**January 2012 13 27	**February 2012 10 24
**March 2012 9 23	**April 2012 13 27	**May 2012 11 25
**June 2012 8 22 29		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Does this Oneg Shabbat honor a special event? \_\_\_\_\_

**Guidance:** Hosts decide how simple or elaborate to make things; finger foods work well. For an ordinary Shabbat, plan on around 15 congregants. The kitchen stocks: plastic table cloth, basic paper goods, tea, decaf coffee, sugar, and creamer. There is an electric kettle and drip coffee pot.

While it is the Host's responsibility set up and clean up, often times others are happy to help. Leftovers can be put in the refrigerator for Sunday School. The Synagogue is open approximately 20 minutes before services begin. If you need earlier access, please coordinate with Rabbi Feder.

\* A brief kitchen orientation is available by request.

\*\* For most months, the 1st Friday of the month is hosted by the Religious School.  
The 3rd Friday of the month is hosted by the TOL Board in honor of that month's Mazal Tov celebrants.