



September/October 0 2012
 Elul/Tishrei/Cheshvan - 5773

Morgantown, West Virginia

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

RABBI

Joseph Hample

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5773 HIGH HOLIDAYS
 Schedule of Services

Sunday evening September 16th

Erev Rosh Hashanah

7:30 pm Service
 9:30 pm Oneg

Monday, September 17th

Rosh Hashanah

9:30-10:00 am Children's Service
 10:00-12:00 noon Service
 12:30 pm Tashlich

2nd Day 10:00-12:00 noon Service

Tuesday evening September 25th

Erev Yom Kippur

7:30 pm Kol Nidre & Service

Wednesday, September 26th

Yom Kippur

10:00 am -12:30 pm Morning Service
 3:00-4:00 pm Rabbi's Tish (Discussion group)
 4:00-4:30 pm Music Meditation
 4:30-5:30 pm Children's Service
 5:30—6:30 pm Mincha
 6:30 pm Yiskor
 7:00 pm Neilah
 7:45 pm Havdalah
 Break-the-Fast after Neilah





**Adam
Rosefsky**

What a month it has been.

Rabbi Joe's inaugural Service on August 3rd was wonderful. While I didn't do a full count, there were definitely over sixty people who attended. I haven't seen the temple that full since Rosh Hashanah services, and I can't remember the last time I enjoyed services so much.

On Aug 9, we had the first of Rabbi Joe's adult education classes. Again, the turnout was beyond my expectations. Over twenty people came to enjoy a delicious potluck and learn. I think that everyone would have gladly stayed for another couple hours to discuss and enjoy the evening.

Many of you might remember several years ago, we had OlinMills (now LifeTouch) come in, create a Photo Directory and provide each member a professional 8x10 portrait along with a copy of the directory. We will be doing that again this year. We have

scheduled October 16th and October 17th as the dates for the photography session (if we get enough people signing up, we might add another day). This will be free for members and there will be a small fee for non-members. Keep an eye out for details in your email, on the Web and on our Facebook page.

The High Holidays are fast approaching and I look forward to seeing you all there. We will be providing child care at the temple on both holidays. Michelle Leverage is organizing some great projects and activities, so if you are interested, please let either of us know.

On another topic, I like many of you have been entranced by the Olympic Games. There are so many incredibly talented people all striving to do their best. While there are several Jews on the US Olympic team (Jason Lezak - Swimming; Anthony Ervin - Swimming; Julie Zeltin - Gymnastics; David Banks - Rowing; Tim Morehouse - Fencing and Yury Gelman - Fencing Coach), the standout in my opinion was Aly Raisman.

None of the Jewish competitors hid their background, but Aly chose to embrace her religion and her culture on the world stage. She said in an inter-

view, "I'm Jewish, so I thought it would be really nice to use Hava Nagila. And it's a song the whole crowd can clap to... All of them clapping is an amazing feeling and it gives me a kind of extra boost of confidence and energy. And I just really like the music a lot."

We have all heard the sad news report that a white supremacist shot up a Sikh Temple because the people were different than him.

I was raised, as were many of you, with the watch words "Never Again." I have always believed that the sentiments behind these words mean that I personally, and we as Jews, will never again let our apathy or indifference allow the persecution of others. It is up to everyone to stand-up against bigotry in any form.

West Virginia has the 7th smallest Jewish Population (per capita) of any state in the US. As Rosh Hashanah approaches, let's make a pledge to follow the example of Aly Raisman and be proud of who we are and proud of others being themselves. It is up to us to make sure that we support our Jewish community and help build up the community and each other.

Shalom.

***When was the last time you or your family had a professional portrait taken?
Have you noticed our directory is hopelessly out of date?***

A solution to both problems is at hand!

Join us at Tree of Life on **October 16th or 17th*** to have a family portrait taken.

Each household will receive a **Free 8x10 portrait as well as a copy of the Directory.**

This is **FREE!** for members and only \$15 for non-members.**

Also, remembrances, messages and advertisements are available for purchase to be in the directory (\$30 for 1/8 page; \$55 for 1/4 page; \$100 for 1/2 page; \$190 for a full page).

LifeTouch also offers additional photo packages that you can purchase while getting your portrait taken.

If you are interested, please contact Adam Rosefsky (adam.rosefsky@gmail.com).

To follow updates and to schedule your appointment, go to etzheim.org and follow the DIRECTORY link.

* Additional Dates will be added if enough people sign up

** Non-member fees paid will be deducted from membership dues if you chose to join during the fiscal year.



**Rabbi
Hample**

Time Travel

by Rabbi Joe Hample

I heard recently of a protest march where the demonstrators chanted: "What do we want? Time travel! When do we want it? It's irrelevant!"

As Jews, we know all about time travel. We think of it every day, as our prayers invoke creation, revelation, and redemption. We live it every year, as our holidays enact Israel's birth in the Exodus, marriage to God at Sinai, and journey to fulfillment in the Promised Land. Above all, we have Shabbat. Shabbat commemorates creation, because God rested on the seventh day, and liberation, because slaves never have a day of rest. But Shabbat is also said to be a foretaste of the World-to-Come, one-sixtieth of the celestial bliss. Shabbat is a time machine: a domain where the partitions between past, present, and future are dissolved, and we dwell in eternity.

Flashbacks in movies are like time travel. There's even a whiff of time travel when you scroll up or down in a document. Bear in mind that Jews invented the idea of scrolling up. We do it each autumn as we conclude the annual reading of the Torah and start

the scroll over again at the beginning. In a few minutes we zip back from the Iron Age to the Stone Age, from the challenge of Canaan to the pleasure of Eden.

My students often ask me about holidays falling in the wrong part of our Torah calendar. Sukkot is in the fall, but it is in the spring that we read about wandering in the desert. Passover is in the spring, but it is in the early winter that we read about the flight from Egypt. That too is a kind of time travel. I think the reason for this arrangement is that Moses has to die at the High Holidays, to make us feel guilty. The Scriptural readings are rigged to ensure that juxtaposition. If everything else is off schedule, it's just too bad.

At the moment of rewind, it may seem odd to follow the final verse of Deuteronomy with the first verse of Genesis. Imagine doing it with a bedtime story: "And they lived happily ever after. Once upon a time..." It only works if you know the narrative so well that it doesn't confuse you to mix and match. Of course, Jews have been cycling through the Torah for thousands of years: it's second nature to us now. The Torah ends with the word *Yisra'el* (Israel) and begins with the word *B'reshit* (In the beginning). Therefore the last letter of the Torah is *L* and the first letter is *B* or *V* (*B* and *V* are closely related in Hebrew, as in Spanish). Put *L* and *B* (*V*) together and you get *Lev* (Heart). The Jewish heart can cherish ancestors, contemporaries, and posterity at the same moment. Now, that's time travel.

Sisterhood

We are very excited to announce our upcoming Sisterhood Shabbat, the weekend of October 26. We will welcome the wonderful singer/artist Susan Leviton from Harrisburg PA to share her talents for a very special Shabbat. Please mark your calendars...you will not want to miss this. In her own words:

"I describe myself as a Jewish Culture Worker. My life work is bringing Yiddish into peoples' lives through song, and expanding the world of Jewish visual arts with calligraphy and papercut art. I always maintain a commitment to historic forms while seeking the relevant, new, and finely-crafted. My work's been called "exuberant, earthy, touching, and surprising." I will travel to your community to unfurl the world of Jewish arts!"

Susan will sing several songs during the Friday night service and will present a fascinating account of contemporary Judaica at the oneg.

"Contemporary Judaica – How We Got From There to Here"

Take a virtual tour through a Jewish gift shop of the 1950s and move through the decades to the current explosion of fine crafted and meaningful objects of Jewish art and expressions through dance, music, liturgy, literature and architecture – oh, and the kitsch that comes along for the ride. I will highlight the cultural milestones that I believe track the development of finely crafted Jewish ritual art as a parallel to developments in the larger community.

On Saturday evening we will have a potluck supper followed by Havdala and then a concert recital by Susan, entitled, "Rage Against the Machine." *Rage Against the (Sewing) Machine : March 25, 2011 marked the 100th anniversary of the tragic Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, and we acknowledge that pivotal event in the larger*

See SISTERHOOD next page

Do you need a ride to Shul for services and events?
Can you give someone a ride to Shul?

Please email Adam Rosefsky if you need or can provide a ride. (adam.rosefsky@gmail.com)

Sisterhood

From previous page

history of Jews fighting labor oppression with Yiddish song. The people and music that galvanized the early labor movement will be examined along with historic archival photos and remarkable biographies – and songs, of course. From struggle to triumph – an ongoing process!

Guests are welcome so please spread the word.

Sisterhood will be planning other exciting events for the coming year. Please join us if you haven't yet become a member. We welcome your input and support.

Rosa Becker, co-chair

WHAT'S SO HIGH ABOUT THE HIGH HOLIDAYS?

Last year at this time I was working as a chaplain at a maximum-security prison in California. My felonious congregants were thrilled to hear about the High Holidays. They assumed we were going to get high.

High Holidays is an English idiom. In Hebrew the expression is *Yamim Nora'im*, Awesome Days, or Days of Awe. According to our tradition, the season of judgment begins at the new moon nearest the autumn equinox, and lasts ten days.

Why is there a specific season of judgment? Aren't we judged all the time? This is similar to an academic calendar. We study throughout the year, but the exams come at the end of the term. Suppose we do badly on the exam? If the dean is merciful, there might be a makeup exam the following week. In that case, it is likely that most of us would treat the first exam as a dry run. The makeup is the real deadline.

Why are the High Holidays in Sep-

tember? Sometimes they extend into early October, but no later. Our calendar of festivals is very ancient, and the reason for this timing is unrecorded. But it seems natural to be judged around the equinox, when light and dark -- right and wrong -- are in a delicate balance. And the autumn equinox feels more consequential than the spring equinox. In autumn the harvest is at hand, suggesting that we will reap what we have sown. The winter is coming, prompting us to put our affairs in order before it's too late.

Do Jews believe in sin, and salvation? These words are so closely identified with another faith tradition that Jews may consider them alien. But in fact, the terms originate with Judaism, even if we mostly reserve them for the High Holidays. To the dominant religion, there is really only one sin (think Adam and Eve) and only one salvation (you know it from the bumper stickers). But in Judaism there are many sins and many salvations. We are looking them over at this time of year, trying to be honest about which ones fit us.

No one is perfect, of course. Even if you were pretty good in 5772, you made some mistakes. That's why the confessional prayers are in the *we* form: *We* have offended, *we* have betrayed, *we* have robbed... Why claim a sin that may not be our own? First, to soften the shame of those who may actually need to confess that sin. Second, to acknowledge our subtle complicity in the sins of others: if we were living up to our potential, it would bring out the best in our neighbors. Third, to recall that we are all capable of every sin, at least in our hearts. The Talmud dwells on the multifaceted sin of *ona'ah* (violence), explaining that harsh words are also a kind of violence. Who has never injured an acquaintance, at least verbally? In this sense, we are all criminals.

If we're so terrible, who's to say God will ever forgive us? The answer is that God *likes* to forgive: God positively

revels in it; provided, of course, that we repent. (Prayer and charity help too.) The point is made most vividly by the prophet Micah: "Who is a God like you, forgiving iniquity and remitting transgression ... You will take us back in love ... You will throw all our sins into the depths of the sea!" Micah's word *tashlich* (you will throw) is applied to the Rosh ha-Shanah custom of throwing crumbs, representing sins, into a body of water.

My inmate students were right. We *are* going to get high at the High Holidays: high on spirituality, high on community, high on forgiveness. On Yom Kippur, you may or may not fast in the nutritional sense. But surely you do not pursue all your everyday amusements on Yom Kippur: surely you afflict your soul in one way or another. Self-denial changes your physical and mental state: it makes you light-headed; it produces a kind of altered consciousness. Congratulations! You're groovin' with God.

Rabbi Joe Hample

Hadassah

Shalom y'all. We are looking forward to an exciting year, making new friends, renewing old friendships, and expressing our support for Hadassah and Israel.

This fall we will celebrate both Hadassah's 100th birthday and the start of Sukkot on Sunday evening, Sept 30th at the home of Sara Aronin. Details will follow.

Our Hanukah party plans anticipate a latke supper on Thursday night, December 13th. Multiple menorahs, each with six candles plus the shamas, will make for a dramatic display. Plan to attend and feel free to invite friends, new and old, to participate.

We are starting to plan a Gala Costume Party to celebrate Purim. Expect more information when plans are further along. You also are invited to our annual spring Book Brunch. Look for more details via e-mail.

Shalom, Monique Gingold

Tree of Life Congregation Transition Committee Report to Congregation

September 2012

Our congregation could be greatly pleased by our members who accomplished so much this year; could, yes, but why impose roster limitations? Leadership has many configurations, TC actually had some walk-ons. A healthy mix of inspired disorder and flavor enhancements one might say. But don't quote me. Here's the most recent project:

In preparation for our New Year, members of the TOL congregation volunteered for clean-up duties at the temple. We acknowledge the following members for their valuable contributions and efforts on Monday July 23, Saturday July 29, or Sunday August 5 in organizing and sorting materials throughout the temple: Sherry Hildebrand, Michelle Leverage (lower level classrooms) Lee Kass, Sheryl Grossman, Barry Pallay (upstairs classroom); Monique Gingold, Barbara and Larry Jacowitz (front office); Adam Rosefsky, Rich Cohen, Deva Solomon, Austin Works (Bimah, Rabbi's office); Adam, Rabbi Joe Hample (Kitchen). There is still much to be done. The TC recommends that a permanent committee be formed to oversee this process on a continuous basis throughout the year. If you have time to volunteer for this service please contact TC Chair, Ed Gerson (304.685.2685; gerson1@earthlink.net) or TOL President, Adam Rosefsky (304-942-4856) adam.rosefsky@gmail.com).

"The Committee of Everybody Pitched In" is who we really are. The Board of Trustees, Ritual and Education Committees, the former Search Committee, a new Calling Tree Committee, all are fostering a new Tree of Life dynamic. We all have a voice and can lend a hand and have transitioned Tree of Life into a new spiritual leader relationship with Rabbi Joe Hample; however, the reward of one mitzvah is another mitzvah. What could that be?

It's time now to call upon the Board of Trustees and our Congregants to implement the best changes we have brought about and to foresee needed changes as we enter the year 5773.

*Ed Gerson, Chair
Transition Committee*

DAWN

Moses Ibn Ezra
(ca. 1055-after 1135)

I rose at dawn to praise Thy name,
My sins o'erwhelmed my
soul with shame,
But comfort after penance came,
For all my hopes are set in Thee.

Thou, O Almighty, knowest all
The passions that my heart
enthrall,
Thy many mercies I recall,
And to Thy throne for refuge flee.

No profit unto Thee it were
That I Thy chastening rod
should bear,
Turn then, O Lord, and hear
my prayer
And pardon mine iniquity.

To Thee my hopes, my
longings, rise,
To Thee my soul for succor flies,
And I bewail my sins with sighs,
Like to the moaning of the sea.

Thy name puts all my
cares to flight,
And radiates through my
darkest night.
The thought of Thee is my delight,
And sweet as honey-comb to me.

*Translated by Alice Lucas
from Alice Lucas, The Jewish Year
(New York: Bloch, 1926).
Copyright © Alice Lucas, 1926.*



RITUAL COMMITTEE

Richard Cohen

The Ritual Committee is reforming (no pun intended). We need more members. Specific knowledge and proficiency in Hebrew, in prayers or in Torah is not required. Rather, an interest in assisting the Congregation to create an accessible, interesting and meaningful worship and fellowship experience is helpful.

According to the bylaws of the Tree of Life Congregation the Ritual Committee “shall make policy recommendations to the Board of Trustees and the Rabbi regarding the rituals, practices, and observances in the synagogue and shall meet with the Rabbi to set up the schedule for services, including High Holy Days”.

Historically, most of our work has concerned the High Holidays. We have understood a large part of our mission to work with the Rabbi to formulate the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services time schedule, making recommendations for services content and locating people to read and otherwise participate in the services. We have also worked on thinking about and making recommendations about ritual policy both for Congregation services and functions and for B’nai Mitzvah. Ritual Committee members have also worked with the Rabbi on services planning to ensure that services for Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Purim and the Cooper’s Rock Shabbat have run smoothly. Finally, and by no means of least importance, we have located Congregants to lead services in the Rabbi’s absence and to assist the Rabbi as Gabbai during services, when necessary, and have functioned as shleppers in chief and Shamus to assist the Rabbi and to organize things for services.

Right now we do not expect

a firm commitment of time, nor need you state your personal interests and abilities. Rather, if you think you may be interested and would like to contribute, contact Richard Cohen rpcl16c@netscape.net, or Neal Newfield at neal.newfield@mail.wvu.edu, or Rabbi Joe at rabbi.joe.wv@gmail.com, or just show up at a meeting. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, August 12 at 7pm at Tree of Life. Other meeting notices will be sent by email.

RITUAL POLICY

Over twenty years ago, the Ritual Committee spent months surveying the Congregation and conducting meetings in consultation with the Rabbi to formulate a ritual policy which was adopted by the Board of Trustees. We came up with a compromise policy which harmonized the existing practices of the Congregation with the teachings of Reform Judaism and which we hoped would be a policy which would make most if not all Congregants feel comfortable. Now on the eve of our first High Holiday Services with Rabbi Joe, it is a good time to remind the Congregation of some pertinent highlights of the existing policy.

THE SANCTUARY

We expect all those who enter the sanctuary to respect its purpose as a place of prayer and contemplation. Therefore, no food or drinks are to be taken into the sanctuary and no flash photography is permitted during services.

Because we respect the age old Jewish custom of wearing head coverings and prayer shawls while at prayer we provide these ritual tools at the entrance to the sanctuary and encourage but do not require participants in our services to wear them. We also keep extra prayer shawls on the Bimah so that those coming up on

the Bimah for an honor during services may have one to use if they wish to join us in honoring the custom, even if it is not their usual custom to utilize a prayer shawl during services.

Non-Jewish family members and friends are permitted and encouraged to participate in services including coming up on the Bimah for honors, to the extent they and the Rabbi feel comfortable with their participation. Historically, some non-Jews, who have so desired, have joined in aliyot with Jewish friends or family members and have participated in the passing of the Torah to the B’nai Mitzvah.

THE SOCIAL HALL AND KITCHEN

Our kitchen is not kosher but it has been a trayf free zone. Therefore, we have the policy of having non-meat or vegetarian only potlucks (herring and lox are allowed—some might say encouraged) and while food catered for a B’nai Mitzvah party in the Social Hall may include meat dishes we expect that no trayf will be served (forget the BLTs and pepperoni pizza) and we prefer that non-trayf meat and milk not be mixed.

CHEVRA KADISHA

The Chevra Kadisha, *Sacred Fellowship or Sacred Society* is an organization traditionally composed of volunteers. It is also known as *Holy Society*, *Hevrat Chesed VeEmet* — Kindness and Truth Society, *Hevra Gomelei Hasadim* — Performers of Kindness Society or *Hebra Rodfei Zedek* — Pursuers of Justice Society.

The members of the Sacred Society are responsible for assisting the family of the deceased with all

Continued on next page

RITUAL

Continued from previous page

necessary preparations to ensure a proper funeral. Membership in this organization has been and continues to be considered an honor. Famous rabbis have served in the Chevrah Kadishah and in large cities membership in the Chevra Kadisha is by invitation only.

Most Jewish communities offer the services of a [Chevra Kadisha](#), to wash and prepare the body for burial where that kindness is requested. Men prepare men and women prepare women. Although, at first blush service on the Chevra Kadisha may seem odd, bizarre, depressing, or even macabre, those who have served on this holy society have found it to be a very kind, beautiful, spiritual and uplifting experience very similar to rendering care to a newborn in the form of washing and wrapping.

The Tree of Life Congregation has had a functioning woman's and a men's Chevra Kaddisha for many years, but our numbers are not large enough to ensure that we can provide care when some members are out of town or otherwise unavailable. Now that we have experienced members who have collected the necessary equipment and instructional materials we are looking to expand our membership so as to always have a full complement of volunteers ready to act when required. No knowledge of the rules and procedures utilized are necessary for new members. You will be taught and mentored.

Chevra Kadishah services can include accompanying and guarding the body from the moment of death until burial, the ritual cleansing of the body and subsequent dressing for burial, and support for families during the [Shivah](#) — the first week of mourning, by arranging meals, prayer services, etc.

If you are interested in learning more or in volunteering contact

Rabbi Joe
rabbi.joe.wv@gmail.com
Ed Gerson
gerson1@earthlink.net or
Daya Solomon
dayasolomon@gmail.com

Mazal Tov Shabbat

On the third Friday of every month, we recognize, honor and bake a cake for all congregants who celebrate a birthday or anniversary in that month. The honorees for August and September will be recognized Friday, September 21st. October's honorees will be honored Friday, October 19th. Their names are below. If anyone has been inadvertently omitted, please contact Linda Jackowitz at ljackowitz@frontier.com.

August 2012

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 Jackowitz
Millie Karlin
Martha Lass
Linda and Art Jackowitz
Lana and Robert Klein
Susan and Neal Newfield
Justin Ludmer
Johnathan Lederman
Ann and Marty Pushkin
Debbi Pariser
Hilda Rosenbaum
Ruth Siegel
Leah Stern
Mark Tauger
Max Snider
Anne Behr
Maureen and Yoav Kaddar

September 2012

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 2012

Linda and Roger Abrahams
Sara Aronin and Michael O'Neal
Anne and Craig Behr
Ilene Blacksberg
Laura Cohen
Denise Berrebi
Roz Becker
Katy Cohen
Lauren Addicks
Jean and Henry Gould
Joshua Green
Lee Kass and Robert Hunt
RD Hart
Emily Layman
Bennett Millstone
Stephanie Pratt
Gwen Rosenbluth
Susan Brown
Sarah Rosefsky
Jackie Stolzenberg
Rita Tanner
Cindy Tanner
Henry Temple
Alana Works





**Merle
Stolzenberg**

As summer draws to a close, it is a very busy time for your Treasurer. This is not only the Jewish New Year time but also the beginning of the Tree of Life fiscal year. I have been busy working on the Tree of Life annual budget as I wrap up the financial records for the past year. As we welcome Rabbi Hample as our new spiritual leader, I hope that a new enthusiasm will infuse the Congregation and that more people will choose to become active members.

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 family 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 can work out a dues assessment that may be below the fair share level. Payment plans are flexible. When you receive the membership package in the mail in the next couple of weeks, please fill out the dues pledge form as soon as possible and mail it in to mailing address shown below. Even if you can't pay your dues pledge at this time, it helps the Board to plan our budget if we know how much dues we will be receiving. If you have been contributing the same amount for years, please consider an increase, even if it is only 10%.

We also 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, Prayer Book Fund, etc. We also have the Simcha Tree where a donation of as little as \$250 purchases a leaf on the tree to commemorate 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, contact either me or Barbara Jacowitz.

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.

I welcome questions about Tree of Life operations. It is important that each of you understands why your contribution is important. Please give me a call or email me if you have any questions.

Merle Stolzenberg, Treasurer
Phone: 304-292-6767
Email: mpstolzen@yahoo.com

NOTE: When mailing payments to Tree of Life, please use the Post Office Box. Do not put the street address on the envelope since sometimes the Postal Service decides to deliver to the street address. It avoids the possibility of checks being lost. I check the PO Box several times a week. Here is the address to use:

Tree of Life Congregation
PO Box 791
Morgantown, WV 26507-0791

If you are at Tree of Life, it is still OK to put checks in the Treasurer's "box" in the office.



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.

**Share Your Simcha
Buy a Leaf on
THE SIMCHA TREE**
\$250/leaf
\$2500/Small Stone
\$5000/Large Stone
Contact
**Merle Stolzenberg/
Barbara Jacowitz**



BEIT MA'ASEH: THE NEW RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

The traditional Hebrew term for school is *Beit Sefer*, house of the book. Jews have been called the people of the book, and books certainly have their charms. But some individuals are more bookish, others less: and in this fast-paced era, paper-and-ink books may not be as central to education as they once were.

That's why TOL's religious school has the new name of *Beit Ma'aseh*. *Ma'aseh* is a word of many meanings. *Ma'aseh* can mean story: our religious school is a house of Jewish stories, both old and new. *Ma'aseh* can mean practice: our religious school is a chance to try out Jewish behaviors, to refine Jewish enthusiasms. *Ma'aseh* can also mean action: our religious school is a place where Judaism is enacted, made real.

The *Beit Ma'aseh* begins each Sunday morning with a story. In the first semester, the story will come from either the weekly Torah portion or an approaching holiday. In the second semester, as the Torah portions contain fewer stories, we will focus more on stories from Jewish history. All classes bring stories to life through drama, art, games, or singing. There are books too, but books are not enough.

The *Beit Ma'aseh* emphasizes the practice of Judaism at every opportunity. The point is not to impose one style of Jewish living, but to help each student invent an approach that is authentic for them. For example, there are diverse ways to observe any Jewish holiday. Why not discover a way that works for you!

The *Beit Ma'aseh* presents Judaism as something to do, not just talk about. Kids get tired of abstrac-

tions: they want to move, to participate. They're curious to handle a *tallit*, a *m'zuzah*, Shabbat candlesticks. They ought to be developing Jewish habits, Jewish muscles, Jewish reflexes. They need some hands-on Judaism.

In September and October we have many holidays, and our Torah portions introduce the first Biblical families: Adam and Eve, Noah and his brood, Abraham and Sarah. Please talk to your kids about these themes, emphasizing a personal connection. What are your memories of Rosh ha-Shanah or Sukkot? Who does Eve or Abraham remind you of? The story you and your child construct from these Jewish building blocks is the most important story of all. And if you'd like to help out in our religious school with ideas or resources, that would be a great mitzvah.

Hebrew is a specialized skill for the most motivated students, offered at different hours and days. This subject, of course, is learned primarily from books. Hebrew strengthens our bond with Jews in other times and places: the Hebrew Bible and the Hebrew prayerbook are our passports to synagogues of all types, in all lands. If Hebrew literacy boosts our Jewish confidence, so much the better. If not, God understands all languages.

Judaism is a tool for us to use, not a museum piece to avoid touching. The desire to use it comes from finding ourselves in *Ma'aseh*: the story, the practice, the action. Please help us make *Beit Ma'aseh* a success.

Rabbi Hample



Adult Education

Nearly two dozen adult learners showed up for the first installment of "What's So High About the High Holidays?" Energized by our communal pot luck veggie/dairy dinner, we formed an enthusiastic audience for our session on "High Holiday Laws."

If you haven't attended Adult Education before, come on down. You will have a good time, learn a lot and gain greater appreciation for the nuances of our religion. The last two sessions are August 30 (High Holiday Customs) and September 6 (High Holiday Spirituality).

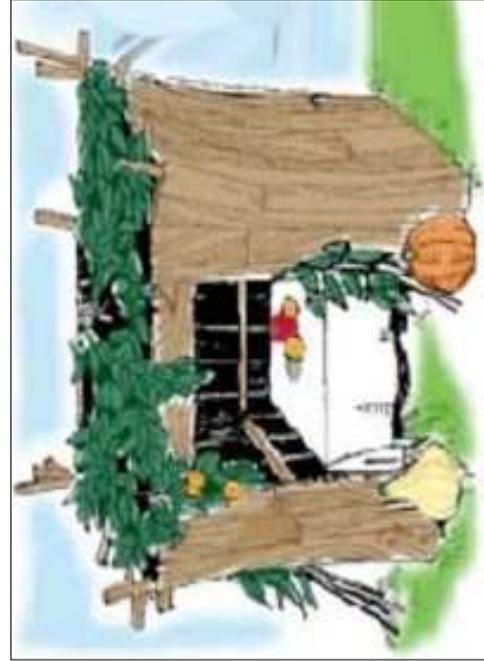
Sylvia





Rabbi Joe's Inaugural Shabbat was very well attended. The Oneg, which was sponsored by the Tree of Life Board was delicious. We kibbitized with old and new friends including some who were visiting after long absence.

September/October 2012				
Date	Day	Event	Time	
Sept. 28	Friday	Shabbat evening service	7:30 pm	
Sept. 29	Saturday	Shabbat morning service	10 am	
Sept. 30	Sunday	Religious school	10 am	
		Sukkah raising		
Oct. 5	Friday	Pizza in the sukkah	6 pm	
Oct. 5	Friday	Shabbat Sukkot evening service	7:30 pm	
Oct. 6	Saturday	Shabbat Sukkot morning service	10:00 am	
Oct. 7	Sunday	Religious school celebrates Simchat Torah	10 am	
Oct. 12	Friday	Shabbat evening service	7:30 pm	
Oct. 13	Saturday	Shabbat morning service	10 am	
Oct. 14	Sunday	Religious school	10 am	
Oct. 19	Friday	Mazal Tov Shabbat	7:30 pm	
Oct. 20	Saturday	Shabbat morning service	10 am	
Oct. 21	Sunday	Religious school	10 am	
Oct. 26	Friday	Shabbat evening service	7:30 pm	
Oct. 27	Saturday	Shabbat morning service	10 am	
Oct. 28	Sunday	Religious school	10 am	



Pizza in the Sukkah—6 pm, Friday, October 5th

September 2012			
Date	Day	Event	Time
Sept. 1	Saturday	Shabbat morning service	10 am
Sept. 6	Thursday	High Holiday Spirituality class	7 pm
Sept. 7	Friday	Shabbat evening service	7:30 pm
Sept. 8	Saturday	Shabbat morning service	10 am
Sept. 9	Sunday	First day of religious school	10 am
Sept. 14	Friday	Shabbat evening service	7:30 pm
Sept. 15	Saturday	Shabbat morning service	10 am
Sept. 16	Sunday	No religious school	
		Erev Rosh ha-Shanah service	7:30 pm
Sept. 17	Monday	Rosh ha-Shanah children's service	9:30 am
		Rosh ha-Shanah first day service	10 am
Sept. 18	Tuesday	Rosh ha-Shanah second day service	10 am
Sept. 21	Friday	Mazal Tov Shabbat Shabbat Shuvah service	7:30 pm
Sept. 22	Saturday	Shabbat Shuvah morning service	10 am
Sept. 23	Sunday	Religious school	10 am
Sept. 25	Tuesday	Kol Nidrei (Erev Yom Kippur) service	7:30 pm
Sept. 26	Wednesday	Yom Kippur morning service	10 am
		Yom Kippur discussion: book of Jonah	3 pm
		Yom Kippur music & quiet reflection	4 pm
		Yom Kippur children's service	4:30 pm
		Yom Kippur afternoon service	5:30 pm
		Yom Kippur Yizkor (memorial) service	6:30 pm
		Yom Kippur N'ilah (closing) service	7:15 pm
		Break-the-Fast	after N'ilah

Tree of Life Congregation
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



SAVE the DATE:

Pittsburgh will host the 15th Conference of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs
April 26-29, 2013

A Yiddishe Seude: A Feast of Yiddish Language and Culture

The theme is FOOD and invited keynote speakers include:

Joan Nathan, cookbook author
Dr. Ruth Wisse, professor of Yiddish at Harvard
Naftali Edelman, founder of the Yiddish Farm in New York

Our own Rabbi Joe Hample has been invited to present a dvar Torah about Yiddishkeit and food, a favorite topic of our community!

The conference will take place at the Doubletree Hotel in Greentree, just south of Pittsburgh.

Please pass this information on to any friends/ family who may be interested in attending.
For more information, see www.IAYCPittsburgh.org or contact Rosa Becker
co-chair: rebrosalin@gmail.com

Visit <http://etzheim.org>