



Sept/Oct — 2013
Av/Elul/Tishrei — 5773/5774

Morgantown, West Virginia

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

RABBI

Joseph Hample

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High Holiday Schedule of Services 2013

Saturday, Aug. 31

S'lichot program

movie ("Walk on Water") and prayer service,
7:00-10:00 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 4

Erev Rosh ha-Shanah

7:30 pm

Oneg after services

Thursday, Sept. 5

Rosh ha-Shanah Morning

Children's service 9:15-10:00 am

Service 10:00 am-12:00 noon

Tashlich 12:30 pm

Friday, Sept. 6

Rosh ha-Shanah Second Day

Service 10:00 am-12:00 noon

Friday, Sept. 13

Kol Nidrei 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 14

Yom Kippur

Children's service 9:15-10:00 am

Morning service begins 10:00 am

Break 12:30 pm

Rabbi's Tish 2:30-3:30 pm

Music & Reading of names/memorial 3:30-4:30 pm

Afternoon Service 4:30 pm

Yizkor 6:00 pm

N'ilah 7:00 pm

Havdalah 7:45 pm

Break-the-Fast after Havdalah



SAVE THE DATE!



TREE OF LIFE SISTERHOOD
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A
BERESHIT BAGEL BRUNCH!
AND SIMCHAT TORAH ART WORKSHOP
FEATURING ARTIST & ILLUSTRATOR
ILENE WINN LEDERER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2013
11:00AM IN THE SOCIAL HALL



Mazal Tov Shabbat

We will honor August/September congregants on September 20th. October recognition will be October 18th. Join us for a festive Oneg with lots of good cheer. Errors? Omissions? Contact Linda: ljacknowitz@frontier.com

August 2013

Shirley and Bill Bellman ; Shirley Bellman
Denise and Al Berrebi ; Al Berrebi
Ilene Blacksberg
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
Bonnie and Steve Sharkey
Ruth Siegel
Leah Stern
Mark Tauger
Max Snider
Maureen Kaddar;Maureen and Yoav Kaddar
Rodney Wright; Daya and Rodney Wright
Rabbi Joseph Hample

September 2013

Anne S. and Nyles Charon
Nyles Charon
Judy Cohen
Margie Goldstein
Monique Gingold
Donna Bolyard
Sharon and Bob Hildebrand
Norman Lass
Joyce Kohan
Neal Newfield
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



**Adam
Rosefsky**

Sometimes it feels like we are on a sled going downhill with no breaks. Religious School immediately followed by construction immediately followed by six B'nai Mitzvah and right on the heels of that we have the High Holidays, Religious school starting, Sukkot and then Hanukkah. It's tiring just typing it.

They say that time flies when you're having fun, and it seems like only yesterday that Rabbi Joe came to Morgantown. I'd say that we are having fun.

We are in solid preparation for our High Holiday celebration, and as always are looking forward to Cantor Daniel joining us again this year. The Ritual Committee, Education Committee the board and Rabbi Joe are working on a schedule that should run smoothly offer an enjoyable series

of worship.

The (now Post) B'nai Mitzvah kids have been working over the summer with Margalit and Sherry Hildebran on creating a Charm Campaign Tapestry to show our fund raising progress. Every little bit helps, if you have given a small (or large) donation already, we can always use more.

Religious School is slated to begin after Rosh Hashanah, and our attendance looks to be up from previous years. We have returning members, new members and some folks who we look forward to welcoming back.

Our Membership packets have all been mailed, and we look forward to receiving your membership pledges back. When you submit your membership pledge, please remember that dues goes towards our operations. The CHARM campaign is completely separate from our dues and operational expenses. Our dues cover all of our bills. The basic bills such as the Gas bill, the Electric Bill, Water Bill, Janitorial, Building security and Dues to URJ are obvious. Some of the other bills we don't always think of are items like Maintenance of the facility, food and

decorations for the Sukkot, the Hanukkah party, the break the fast, paying for Cantor Daniel and most important Rabbi Joe's salary.

We want to be able to offer the best events and services we can. Costs for goods and services go up every year. If you are used to putting down the same amount each year in your dues pledge, please consider making an increase. If each member unit increased their dues by only \$10 per month, that would provide additional revenues in our operations budget of almost \$10,000. That would go a long way to ensuring that we are able to continue to offer the high level experience we are all coming to enjoy.

As always, there are lots of things to do at the temple, and we are always looking for volunteers. If you have even a little time, please reach out and volunteer.

On a final note, a special thanks to Gwen Rosenbluth who has volunteered to lead a committee (and thanks from the entire committee) to complete the long awaited Directory.

*Shalom
Adam Rosefsky*

Remembering Our Summer B'nei Mitzvah



Jonathan



Annabel

As we once again extend mazal tov wishes to our teens, let us also congratulate Rabbi Joe who ran the course and finished the marathon with style.





**Rabbi
Hample**

Great Leap Forward

By Rabbi Joe Hample

I've been your rabbi for a year now. I've been privileged to share the full cycle of Jewish holidays with you, six *b'nei mitzvah*, four funerals, dozens of birthdays and anniversaries. I've visited hospitals and nursing homes, met community leaders, been a guest speaker at local events. I've worked with dedicated teachers in presenting an ambitious curriculum to energetic students. It's all been a revelation.

Sometimes I've let you down. Every congregation's unique, and I didn't necessarily know what you expected at High Holidays or Chanukah, Passover or Mazzal Tov Shabbat. Before I was a rabbi, I belonged to inner-city synagogues full of transients and seekers, activists and crackpots. Those institutions were very different from a small-town synagogue serving a stable, family-oriented population. My first full-time rabbinical post was a prison chaplaincy, where my whole flock was adult males, and all were (so to speak) in the same profession. That wasn't the best warmup for a congregation of children and elders, both sexes, many walks of life. I will say, though, that the kooky shuls and the dreary cellblocks were good places to try things out: half-forgotten melodies,

makeshift teaching methods, dubious educational films. If they didn't work, no harm done: but I retired them before I got to you.

I almost feel that 5774 will be my real first year with you: the first year that I know what I'm doing, that is. Now I grasp that Yizkor is the most important part of Yom Kippur, carnival games are an indispensable piece of Purim, and Hebrew is the hardest part of Jewish education. Now I see how to revive neglected holidays (move them to Friday night) and how to prepare for Sunday school art projects (save egg cartons). A priority for the coming year is a new approach to teaching kids Hebrew. The plan is to focus more on vocabulary: phonics and grammar aren't much use if you don't know what the words mean. And it's vital to give the parents continual feedback.

The New Year is a time for celebrating our accomplishments, repenting of our mistakes, and embracing the future. I hope you'll tell me what I've done right or (more important) wrong in the last year. Please accept my apologies for the ways I've disappointed you. My continual prayer is that God will make me the rabbi you need and deserve. I'm guessing 5774 will be a great leap forward toward that goal.

Children's Education

By Rabbi Joe Hample

We expect 25-30 students in the TOL religious school program this year. There will be some new teachers too. Please let us know if your kids would like to participate. Religious school is Sunday mornings, 10:00 –

noon, September 8 through May 18 (with a few Sundays off for holidays). Hebrew school is Sunday afternoons, 1:00 – 2:00, or else Wednesday afternoons, 4:30 – 5:30. (Your choice, but we anticipate most families will prefer Sunday afternoons.)

This year's religious school curriculum will focus on *mitzvot*, interpreting the word in the broadest sense to include commandments, traditions, and good deeds. This year's Hebrew school curriculum will focus on everyday vocabulary, useful both in worship and in conversation. The goal of both the religious school and the Hebrew school is to find the fun in learning. Boredom doesn't make anyone a better Jew.

Adult Education

By Rabbi Joe Hample

We are grateful to Aric Agmon, who has provided the summer's only adult ed, namely the adult Hebrew class on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We're going to give Aric a break until mid-October. The Adult Hebrew class will resume on Oct. 16, and will also meet on Oct. 30, the fifth Wednesday of the month.

In September we resume adult ed on diverse topics on the second Wednesday of the month. On Wednesday, Sept. 11, two nights before Yom Kippur, we present "Leap of Faith: What Must a Jew Believe? What If We Can't?" On Wednesday, Oct. 9, we discuss "Kabbalah and the Mystical Tradition."

Second Wednesday adult ed is from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Adult ed classes are enriched by a multitude of viewpoints. Please come share your perspective.



Share Your Bread with the Hungry

Rabbi Joe Hample & Michelle Leversee

On Yom Kippur we fast and read Isaiah 58, where the people complain to God, “Why have we fasted and You have not seen?” And God responds that fasting is futile unless you “share your bread with the hungry.”

With that in mind, please bring nonperishable food donations to TOL’s High Holiday services for the Backpack Snack Program, run by Scott’s Run Settlement House to benefit needy children at Mylan Park Elementary School. SRSR volunteers will pack bags of food for eligible children to take home so that they are sure to have something to eat over the weekend. Bags full of goodies are composed of easy-to-open, easy-to-prepare foods that will provide the children at least two breakfasts, two lunches, two small dinners, and a snack or two each weekend.

Best items: Graham Crackers, Animal Crackers, Whole Grain Cereal Bars, Granola Bars, Individual Cereal Boxes; Spaghetti & Meatballs, Ravioli, String Cheese (Reduced Fat preferred); Canned Fruit (with pop-tops), Fruit Cups, Applesauce Cups, Dried Fruit (Raisins, Plums, Cranberries); Veggies individual snack packs, Canned Veggies (with pop-tops); Pudding Cups (Fat-Free/Sugar-Free preferred), Jello Cups, 100% Juice Boxes, Individual Packs of Snack Crackers.

Or mail your check, payable to SRSR, to Scott’s Run Settlement House, P.O. Box 590, Pursglove, WV 26546. Thanks and *L’shanah Tovah* (Happy New Year).



Tishri Texts: Tweaking Tradition

By Rabbi Joe Hample

Tishri, the Jewish month containing the autumn equinox, is a cascade of holidays. Rosh ha-Shanah and Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah are all crammed into a mere 23 days. One of my mentors joked it’s the final proof of God’s existence, because no human being would have designed the calendar that way.

In antiquity, the priestly sacrifices in the national Temple were the primary holiday rituals. But they were complemented by activities like horn blowing on Rosh ha-Shanah, fasting on Yom Kippur, and the construction of temporary dwellings on Sukkot. With the loss of the Temple, these secondary observances became primary.

Another practice, unknown in the earliest period, was the public recitation of the Scriptures on holidays. This custom was apparently introduced by Ezra the Scribe in the mid-5th century BCE, as told in Nehemiah 8. Over time, tradition established which passages would be declaimed on which occasions. Sometimes the connection between the text and the holiday is obvious – the book of Esther is assigned to Purim, for example – but often it is not so transparent.

If it were up to you to ordain which Biblical chapters we would read on Rosh ha-Shanah or Yom Kippur, Sukkot or Simchat Torah, how would you proceed? Would you find something about a ram’s horn for Rosh ha-Shanah, something about fasting for Yom Kippur? Would you prefer something about temporariness for Sukkot, something about the Torah as a totality for Simchat Torah?

That’s what the rabbis did. For Rosh ha-Shanah they chose Genesis 22, where Isaac is saved by a *ram* caught in the thicket by its *horn*. For Yom Kippur they selected Isaiah 57-58, about a failed fast and how to do it better next time; also the book of Jonah, about the prophet who makes the

sinful Ninevites fast in repentance. For Sukkot they picked the book of Ecclesiastes: “To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.” For Simchat Torah they recommended the end of the Torah (the death of Moses) immediately followed by the beginning of the Torah (the creation of the world). Another moving Tishri text is I Samuel 1-2, where a priest scolds Hannah for praying too quietly, but of course God hears her loud and clear. This teaches us that the main purpose of prayer is to build our relationship with God.

Unfortunately, the holiday program also includes some harsh chapters from the Torah and some ugly visions from the Prophets. Why? Mostly a kind of mechanistic parallelism: Genesis on both days of Rosh ha-Shanah, Leviticus at both morning and afternoon services on Yom Kippur, Ezekiel on all three festivals of pilgrimage (Passover, Shavu’ot, and Sukkot). Reform congregations often replace the less appealing texts with something easier to appreciate. On Yom Kippur morning, for example, many Reform congregations read Deuteronomy 29-30, about free will and the moral power of the individual. On Yom Kippur afternoon, many Reform congregations read the compassionate 19th chapter of Leviticus rather than the painful 18th chapter.

Additional choices can be found in our High Holiday prayerbook, *Gates of Repentance*. One possibility is to use Nehemiah 8, the account of Ezra the Scribe inventing the Torah service, as a reading for Rosh ha-Shanah. Another is to recite Isaiah 55, a poetic list of the delights God reserves for the faithful.

A further complication is that some texts (supplications) are traditionally omitted on Shabbat, like the Thirteen Attributes (Exodus 34:6-7). The Thirteen Attributes, revealed when God forgives us for the golden calf, are the multiple aspects of God’s mercy. The Talmud (Rosh ha-Shanah 17b) says God cannot resist forgiving anyone who repeats the Thirteen Attributes.



Naturally, we recite them at the High Holidays, but Conservative and Orthodox congregations skip them on Shabbat. Yom Kippur falls on Shabbat this year, but many Reform congregations (including TOL) will say the Thirteen Attributes anyway. The same for Avinu Malkenu (“Our Parent, Our Ruler”), a High Holiday prayer attributed to the ancient Rabbi Akiva: Conservative and Orthodox congregations bypass it on Shabbat, but TOL will say it regardless. Admittedly, some congregants might disapprove.

If you’d care to join the Ritual Committee, you can help us decide which sacred texts to read at High Holidays 5775 (2014). In any case, the holidays and the Scriptures belong to us all. You have as much right as any ancient or modern rabbi to determine which passages meet your spiritual needs at the holidays. Keeping Judaism fresh is everyone’s responsibility.

New Teen Program

By Rabbi Joe Hample

In the last year, six of our young scholars turned 13, and TOL celebrated six *b’nei mitzvah* over the summer. These freshly-minted teenagers, along with their older siblings and some adolescents who’ve been teaching in the Sunday school, are the nucleus of our new teen program.

The teen program will meet two Saturday evenings a month. The first Saturday evening of the month will be Teen Shmooze Night, starting with a get-together at Margalit Persing’s home on Sept. 7. The third Saturday evening of the month will be Teen Movie-Pizza Night with the Rabbi, which started with a showing of *The Chosen* on Aug. 17.

Please encourage the teenagers in your life to participate. It’s a chance to socialize and grow toward Jewish adulthood without any particular assignments or expectations. I hope our young adults will take ownership of this project and shape it in a way that works for them.

ROCKING CHAIR

Velveteen Rabbi

aka Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

The exalted throne on high
is a gliding rocker.
God watches us with kind eyes

rejoicing when we figure out
how to fit two pieces together
and create something new

looking on us with compassion
when we struggle for balance
and thirst for what we can't name.

On the birthday of creation
God remembers
every moment of our lives.

The sages of the Talmud knew
more than the wobbly calf wants to suck
the mother yearns to give milk

God is the same way
overflowing with blessings, and yet
we turn our faces away and wail.

When will we learn?
God's lap is always open
all we have to do is return.

<http://velveteenrabbi.blogs.com/blog/new-years-poems.html>

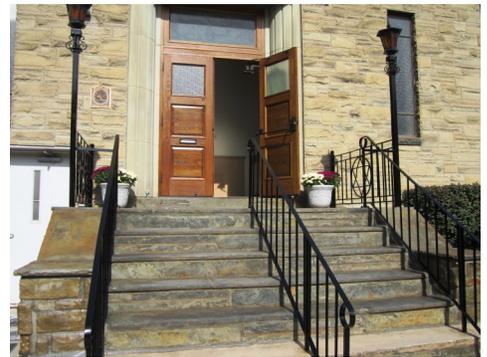


SEPTEMBER 2013			
Date	Day	Event	Time
9/4/13	Wednesday	Sorry, no Adult Hebrew	
9/4/13	Wednesday	Erev Rosh ha-Shanah & kiddush	7:30-9:00 pm
9/5/13	Thursday	Rosh ha-Shanah children's service	9:15-10:00 am
9/5/13	Thursday	Rosh ha-Shanah 1 st day & kiddush	10:00 am-1:00 pm
9/5/13	Thursday	Sorry, no Rabbi's drop-in office hours	
9/6/13	Friday	Rosh ha-Shanah 2 nd day	10:00 am-12:00 noon
9/6/13	Friday	Shabbat Shuvah evening service & oneg	7:30-9:00 pm
9/7/13	Saturday	Shabbat Shuvah morning service	10:00 am-12:00 noon
9/7/13	Saturday	Teen shmooze night at home of Margalit Persing, 816 Grand St., Morgantown	6:00-8:00 pm
9/8/13	Sunday	First day of religious school	10:00 am-12:00 noon
9/8/13	Sunday	First day of Hebrew school (Sunday section)	1:00-2:00 pm
9/11/13	Wednesday	First day of Hebrew school (Wednesday section)	4:30-5:30 pm
9/11/13	Wednesday	Adult ed, "Leap of Faith: What Must a Jew Believe? What If We Don't?"	7:00-9:00 pm
9/12/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
9/13/13	Friday	Kol Nidrei (Erev Yom Kippur)	7:30-9:00 pm
9/14/13	Saturday	Yom Kippur children's service	9:15-10:00 am
9/14/13	Saturday	Yom Kippur	10:00 am-8:00 pm
9/18/13	Wednesday	Sorry, no Adult Hebrew	
9/19/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
9/20/13	Friday	"Pizza in the Hut," interfaith Shabbat Sukkot (& Mazal Tov Shabbat)	6:30-8:00 pm
9/21/13	Saturday	Shabbat Sukkot morning service	10:00 am-12:00 noon
9/21/13	Saturday	Teen movie night with the rabbi: "Ushpizin"	7:00-9:00 pm
9/22/13	Sunday	Sisterhood Simchat Torah multimedia brunch with artist Ilene Winn-Lederer	11:00 am-1:00 pm
9/26/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
9/27/13	Friday	Simchat Torah service & oneg	7:30-9:00 pm
9/28/13	Saturday	Shabbat morning service	10:00 am-12:00 noon
9/29/13	Sunday	Hadassah Welcome Brunch	11 am - 1:00pm



OCTOBER 2013			
Date	Day	Event	Time
10/2/13	Wednesday	Sorry, no Adult Hebrew	
10/3/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
10/4/13	Friday	Family potluck & Shabbat (preschool-kindergarten)	6:00-7:30 pm
10/5/13	Saturday	Shabbat morning service	10:00 am-12:00 noon
10/5/13	Saturday	Teen shmooze night, location TBA	6:00-8:00 pm
10/9/13	Wednesday	Adult ed, "Kabbalah & the Mystical Tradition"	7:00-9:00 pm
10/10/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
10/11/13	Friday	Shabbat Installation evening service & oneg	7:30-9:00 pm
10/12/13	Saturday	Shabbat Installation morning service & kiddush luncheon	10:00 am-1:00 pm
10/16/13	Wednesday	Hebrew for adults	5:30-7:00 pm
10/17/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
10/18/13	Friday	Mazzal Tov Shabbat & oneg	7:30-9:00 pm
10/19/13	Saturday	Shabbat & full Torah service & potluck	10:00 am-1:00 pm
10/19/13	Saturday	Teen movie night with the rabbi: "Fiddler on the Roof"	7:00-9:00 pm
10/24/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
10/25/13	Friday	Wine & cheese Shabbat	6:30-7:30 pm
10/26/13	Saturday	Shabbat morning service	10:00 am-12:00 noon
10/30/13	Wednesday	Hebrew for adults	5:30-7:00 pm
10/31/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm

How To Install
A Rabbi:
With planning,
With joy,
With you.



The door
is open.

Join the
celebration

Friday,
October 13
through
Saturday,
October 14

Details page 13

Book Burial

By Rabbi Joe Hample

On Sunday, July 28, at Lee Petsonk and Susan Brown's farm in Mt. Morris, PA, we buried several armloads of expired Hebrew books and papers. We even held a funeral for our dear departed documents with about 30 mourners. Then we adjourned for a potluck and pool party.

Why did we bury the books? The Torah forbids us to disrespect the name of God (Exodus 20:7). In antiquity, God's personal name *YHVH* was uttered only by the High Priest, only in the Holy of Holies, and only on Yom Kippur (Mishnah Yoma 3:8). Since the destruction of the Temple, the name is not said at all, and no one knows the original pronunciation. If the name, in Hebrew, is written in a book or on a piece of paper, that document is not supposed to be casually discarded.

When these items have outlived their usefulness, they are buried in a grave called a *g'nizah*. A famous old *g'nizah* in Cairo, Egypt, opened by archaeologists in the 1890s, dramatically expanded our knowledge of medieval Jewish life.

How did we bury the books? Margalit Persing and Andrea Works helped plan the occasion. Jacob Lemoff, who is accumulating community service hours for a Boy Scout badge, shlepped the documents from TOL to the farm. Meanwhile, Lee Petsonk used a tractor to scrape off the topsoil, then dug a hole with a hand shovel. The first hole, in the valley, filled with water and had to be abandoned. The second hole, on a hilltop, proved more suitable. We gathered around and read Torah verses about burial and holy ground. Jacob invalidated an old *tallit* by cutting off the tassels, and we wrapped the documents in it. We put the documents in the hole

and recited rabbinic texts and modern poems about our reverence for books. Each mourner threw a bit of earth into the hole, using the back of the shovel as custom prescribes, to show reluctance. Then I chanted *El Malé Rachamim* (the prayer consigning our loved ones to God's protection) and we recited the Mourner's *Kaddish*.

The traditional *s'uddat havra'ah* (meal of consolation) was held immediately afterward with support from Susan Brown. We lunched on picnic tables in front of the farmhouse as the dogs and chickens looked on enviously. What's a book burial without baked brie, black-eyed-pea hummus, quinoa sloppy joes? The kids amused themselves with swings, bocce ball, and swimming. Everyone said they'd never been to anything quite like it before. In the past, TOL has buried expired Hebrew documents without fanfare: it's a new twist to make an event of it. I assume God approved, as the weather was perfect.



From the Cairo g'nizah



Thank you to
Lee Petsonk
and
Michelle
Leversee
for the photos.



**Merle
Stolzenberg**

I wish everyone L'Shanah Tova! As this summer draws to a close, I am closing out last fiscal year and preparing for a new year – both spiritually and fiscally! This past year has been a very busy one. Rabbi Hample has brought to Tree of Life new enthusiasm as our spiritual leader. And the Board of Trustees has enthusiastically renovated our spiritual home with a new roof, new air conditioning system and improvements to our social hall. It is now time for everyone to make a new commitment to the financial stability of Tree of Life.

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. You have all received the membership package in the mail (earlier than usual because of how early the High Holidays fall this year) and many of you have already responded. If you have not yet responded, please fill out the dues pledge form as soon as possible and mail it in to mailing ad-

dress 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%.

If you have not yet made a pledge to the CHARM campaign, we encourage you to please pledge as generously as possible. Pledges to this campaign can be made over time. Although a large donation may appear daunting, a \$50 a month donation (easily set up if you do online banking!) may be affordable and over 36 months equals an \$1,800 donation. We also rely on donations to help support the day to day operations and special programs 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's 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 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, please contact me.

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. Your dues dol-

lars go towards the Rabbi's salary, utilities and upkeep on our building, and programs.

I welcome questions about Tree of Life finances. 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 (evenings and weekends)
Email: mpstolzen@yahoo.com

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

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

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

**SAVE THE
DATE**

Morgantown Hadassah

Welcome Back
Pot Luck Brunch

Sunday
September 29
11 am—1 pm

Location & Program
A work in progress!

Donations Made in June/July/Early August 2013

Note: CHARM Campaign donations and Yizkor/High Holiday donations will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Richard Gutmann in honor of Elana's Bat Mitzvah
Julie Penn and Mark Brazaitis in honor of Annabel's Bat Mitzvah
Bonnie and Dan Snider in honor of Sam's Bar Mitzvah
Deborah and Joseph Jones in memory of Hilda Rosenbaum
Sylvia L. Cooper and family with gratitude for all you did

The Religious School Fund

Michelle Leverage and David Lederman in honor of Sam Snider's Bar Mitzvah

Donations In Memory of Barry Cooper

Monique and Harry Gingold
Lee Kass and Bob Hunt
Michelle Leverage and David Lederman
Susan and Neal Newfield
Daya and Dan Solomon

Thank you. Your donations are appreciated.

Exciting News!

While we are delighted that our congregation is growing, we also recognize that many congregants can no longer connect names and faces. The Tree of Life Congregation is preparing to complete a project that was started last fall and will result in a new congregation directory that we believe will help us make those connections.

We have scheduled a Monday, September 9th photo session with Life Touch at Tree of Life for those congregants who were unable to participate last fall. Of course, the photos taken last fall will be included in this directory and do not need to be retaken. By participating, each family (household) receives a complimentary 8X10 portrait and free directory that can include names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Any TOL member who wants to add a second phone number OR a second e-mail address in the new TOL Directory may do so by sending the information to Gwen Rosenbluth's e-mail address rosenbluthg@aol.com or calling 304-598-3432. There is no charge for this addition.

Please help us make this new directory a major success by scheduling your photo appointment when you are contacted by a directory committee member. Photos will be taken at the synagogue from 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Sept. 9th. We look forward to working with you.

If you have any questions, please contact Gwen Rosenbluth at 304-598-3432 or rosenbluthg@aol.com.



*Best wishes,
Tree of Life Directory Committee*

Mazal Tov to

**(Robert)
Bob Cohen**

Who was recently confirmed by the Senate to a second term as Commissioner on the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

**CHARM
CAMPAIGN**

Tree of Life
Building for our Future
Please join the effort

Send your
Pledge/donation
To our treasurer
Merle Stolzenberg

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



Thank You!

I would like to take a moment and offer a special note of gratitude to everyone who attended and made Sarah's Bat Mitzvah a wonderful and special event.

I'd especially like to thank Michelle Leversee, Julie Penn and Rich Guttman and everyone else who helped them for setting up and running the Friday night oneg.

Thanks to Steve and Bonnie Sharkey for the Saturday morning oneg.

Thanks to Rabbi Joe for his tireless efforts in training Sarah (and the other B'nai Mitzvah kids) and providing a fantastic service.

And finally a special thank you to Margalit for helping Sarah and her class to truly appreciate what it is to be a Jew and to enjoy the Jewish experience.

Thank you all
from
Linda, Adam and Sarah
Rosefsky

*We note with sorrow
the passing of
Hilda
Rosenbaum*

*May her memory
be a blessing*



**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.

Send information to Rabbi Joe or Margalit at
nmpersing@yahoo.com

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

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

**TOL offers many
donation
opportunities.**

For a complete listing
please visit

[http://www.etzhaim.org/
aboutus/temple/](http://www.etzhaim.org/aboutus/temple/)

Remember a loved one
with a
YAZHREIT PLAQUE
\$400 DONATION
Contact: Bennett Millstone



Go Forth to an Installation!

Rabbinical Installation of Rabbi Joseph Hample Weekend of October 11-12, 2013

On Shabbat Lech L'cha ("Go Forth!"), October 11-12, the Jewish people will read about the covenant that Abraham and Sarah established with God. Come join us as we celebrate the Tree of Life Congregation's covenant with Rabbi Joseph Hample and formally install him as our spiritual leader. This is a joyous occasion in the life of our congregation as we reflect on our collective history and what the future holds for us as a community. We have a three-part celebration planned for the weekend, and would love for you to join us for one or all of these events.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service on Friday, October 11 at 7:30 pm
with an *oneg rav* (major celebration) following in the social hall.

Shabbat Morning Service with formal installation ceremony at 10:00 am followed by a delicious Kiddush luncheon catered by Steve and Bonnie Sharkey and sponsored by the Sisterhood and the Tree of Life. Rabbi Lisa Edwards, a mentor and former teacher of Rabbi Joe's at the Hebrew Union College will travel from Temple Beth Chayim Chadashim in Los Angeles to assist in the ceremony. Community leaders and Rabbis from West Virginia have been invited to attend, and many of Rabbi Joe's family members will also be here to mark this special moment in his career with him.

The party continues with a sumptuous Havdalah dinner at
Mother India Restaurant,
40 S. High St. #109 at 7 pm.

This fulfills the commandment to have three full meals on Shabbat (*shalosh s'uddot*).

- The cost for the dinner is \$25.00 per person.
- We need your response by September 15.
- To make a reservation, please contact Michelle Leverage (mleverage@hotmail.com), 304-685-4003.
- Please make checks out to Tree of Life and send them to TOL Treasurer Merle Stoltzenberg at Tree of Life, PO Box 791, Morgantown, WV 26507-0791.

Volunteer Opportunities!!! We are looking for a coordinator for the Friday night Oneg. If interested, contact one of the Transition Committee members. (See below.) Also, if you have a musical talent that you would like to share, please let us know. There are several opportunities to perform!

Rabbi Joe has delighted us during his first year as our rabbi. Upon his arrival here, he immediately began planning our 2012 High Holiday services, and he hasn't stopped since. We celebrated a record number of b'nai mitzvah and other life cycle events this year, our religious school is growing in both numbers and reputation, adult education has been reinvigorated, and most importantly participation is up at every service and event. **We would be delighted if you choose to make a charitable contribution to the synagogue in honor of Rabbi Hample's Installation.** Jewish tradition encourages the giving of tzedakah in honor of such lifecycle events. It is traditional to donate in multiples of 18, e.g. \$18, \$36, \$54, or whatever you can afford. Donations will be acknowledged in the newsletter. Your gift helps ensure the future of our community.

For questions, or to volunteer, contact any Transition Committee member:

Michelle Leverage (mleverage@hotmail.com), 304-685-4003

Judy Cohen judycohenwv@hotmail.com)

Ed Gerson (gerson1@earthlink.net)

Lee Kass (lbk7@cornell.edu)

Daya Solomon (dayasolomon@gmail.com)



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Erev Rosh Hashana Oneg
Wednesday, 4 September 2013
BREAK-THE-FAST
Saturday, 14 September 2013

TOL members, Lee Kass and Julie Penn have volunteered to coordinate the **Erev Rosh Hashana Oneg** and **Break-the-Fast**.

Lee Kass will coordinate the Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg . You are invited to help with: apples & honey, challah, fruit tray, cheese plate, cookies, cake that can be eaten with the fingers, drinks, help with set up or clean up, OR make a monetary donation to help with paper goods and other related expenses. Please let Lee know as soon as possible, **preferably before August 28**, how you will contribute to this special TOL High Holiday event. **Contact Oneg Coordinator**, Lee Kass at (lbk7@cornell.edu; 304-816-4787) to tell her what you will be bringing. If calling her, call before 10:00pm. Send monetary donations to Lee at 1822 Pleasant Valley Road, Fairmont, WV 26554

Julie Penn will be coordinating the **Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast**. You are invited to assist with: **GENEROUS amounts of one of the following: Bagels/breads; kugels/main dishes; fruit, salads and vegetables, desserts**, help with set up or clean up, OR make a monetary donation to help with paper goods and other related expenses. Please help Julie by letting know as soon as possible, **preferably before September 7**, how you will contribute to this special TOL High Holiday event. **Contact Break-the-Fast Coordinator**, Julie Penn at (julietspenn@gmail.com or 304-296-8723) to tell her what you will be bringing. Send monetary donations to Julie at 734 Courtney Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26501.

Thank you for your help and your continued support of Tree of Life Congregation.

Shana Tova Umetukah (A Good and Sweet Year).
Lee B. Kass & Julie Penn

Visit <http://etzheim.org>