



HAKOL

“THE VOICE”
The Temple Newsletter

TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM

41 STORRS AVENUE, BRAINTREE, MA

www.tbsbraintree.com

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER, 2018
ELUL 5778 TISHRI, CHESHVAN & KISLEV, 5779

FALL, 2018

Shabbat Services, Saturday at 9:15 AM

*Cantor Seth Grossman; President Dr. Peter Kurzberg;
Bulletin Editor Judy Karll*

*MAY THE SOUNDING OF THE SHOFAR PROCLAIM A YEAR OF HEALTH,
HAPPINESS AND LASTING PEACE FOR ISRAEL AND ALL HUMANITY.*

L' SHANA TOVA



SEPTEMBER, 2018, ELUL, 5778 TISHRI, 79 *Candle lighting FOR HOLIDAYS AND SHABBAT

When G-d began to create heaven and earth – the earth being unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep and a wind from G-d sweeping over the water – G-d said “Let there be light,” and there was light ..Bereshet – Genesis I: 1-3

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						21 ELUL 1 Parashat Selichot
2	LABOR DAY 	4 STATE PRIMARY GET OUT AND VOTE	5	6	7 *6:49 PM	8 Parashat Nitzavim
9 Grandparents Day *6:45 PM Erev ROSH HASHANAH Service 6:30 pm	1 TISHRI 10 *7:52 PM ROSH HASHANAH Service 9 am	11 ROSH HASHANAH Service 9 am	12 FAST OF GEDALIAH	13	14 *6:36 PM	15 Parashat Vayelech SHABBAT SHUVA
16  HELP THE TEMPLE BUILD THE SUKKAH	17	18 *6:29 PM KOL NIDRE Service 7 pm	19 YOM KIPPUR  Service 9:30 AM Mincha-Neilah 5:30 PM BREAK FAST 7:30 PM	20	21 International Day of Peace *6:24 PM	22 Parashat Ha'azinu Autumnal Equinox 9:54 pm
 EREV SUKKOT	24 SUKKOT	25 SUKKOT	26 SUKKOT	27 SUKKOT	28 SUKKOT *6:12 PM	29 SUKKOT
30 *6:08 pm SUKKOT Hoshanah Rabbah						

OCTOBER, 2018 TISHRI, CHESHVAN 5779

ON THE WINGS OF EAGLES YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT I DID TO THE EGYPTIANS, HOW I BORE YOU ON EAGLES' WINGS AND BROUGHT YOU TO ME. Shemot/Exodus 19:4

*Holiday & Shabbat candle lighting

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	22 Tishri 1 *7:14 pm SHEMINI ATZERET YIZKOR	2 SIMCHAT TORAH	3	4	5 *6:00PM	6 <i>Parashat Bereshit</i>
7	8 COLUMBUS DAY Canadian Thanksgiving	9	1 CHESHVAN 10 Rosh Chodesh	11	12 *5:48 PM	13 <i>Parashat Noach</i>
14 MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST Congregational Meeting	15	16	17	18	19 *5:37 PM	20 <i>Parashat Lech Lecha</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26 *5:26 PM	27 <i>Parashat Vayera</i>
28 SISTERHOOD LUNCHEON	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN			

NOVEMBER, 2018, CHESHVAN, KISLEV, 5779

EMET (Truth) THE ROCK! HIS DEEDS ARE PERFECT. YEA, ALL HIS WAYS ARE JUST; A FAITHFUL G-D NEVER FALSE. TRUE AND UPRIGHT IS HE. DEVARIM/DEUTERONOMY 32:4

*Shabbat candle lighting

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				23 CHESHAVAN 1	2 *5:17 pm	3 Parashat Chayei Sara
4 Daylight Saving Time Ends RUMMAGE SALE	5	6 State Election GET OUT AND VOTE	7	8	1 Kislev 9 Rosh Hodesh *4:09 pm	10 Parashat Toldot
11  VETERAN'S DAY	12 Veteran's Day Celebrated	13	14 TBS BOARD MEETING	15	16 *4:02 pm	17 Parashat Vayetzei
18	19	20	21	22  THANKSGIVING	23 *3:57 pm	24 Parashat Vayishlach
25	26	27	28	29	30 *3:54 pm	

TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM

HIGH HOLIDAYS

PRICE SCHEDULE & SEAT ORDER FORM

TEMPLE MEMBERS & RELATIVES	\$ 75	X	_____ = _____
CHILDREN OF TEMPLE MEMBERS (AGES 7-20)	\$ 35	X	_____ = _____
NON -TEMPLE MEMBERS	\$100	X	_____ = _____
CHILDREN OF NON- TEMPLE MEMBERS (AGES 7-20)	\$ 50	X	_____ = _____
NON -TEMPLE MEMBER SENIORS (65 AND OVER)	\$ 75	X	_____ = _____
TOTAL AMOUNT CHECK:			\$ _____

NAME (S) _____

PHONE _____

CHECK PAYABLE: TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM

MAIL CHECK TO: JUDY FLANAGAN
5 STAITI CIRCLE
CANTON, MA 02021

BREAK FAST RESERVATION

\$10 per person \$ _____

\$25 per family \$ _____

NAME: _____

PHONE _____

CHECK PAYABLE: TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM

DUE: SEPTEMBER 15

MAIL CHECK TO: KAREN KURZBERG
42 HOLLINGSWORTH AVE
BRAINTREE, MA 02184

HIGH HOLIDAY REVISED SCHEDULE

AT

TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM

41 Storrs Avenue, Braintree

ROSH HASHANAH, 5779

Sunday	September 9	Evening Service	6:30 PM
Monday	September 10	Morning	9:00 AM
		Torah Service	10:00 AM
		Shofar Service	11:00 AM
		Sermon	12:00 PM
		TASHLICH	FOLLOWING SERVICES SUNSET LAKE
Tuesday	September 11	Morning	9:00 AM
		Torah Service	10:00 AM
		Shofar Service	11:00 AM
		Sermon	12:00 AM

YOM KIPPUR, 5779

Tuesday	September 18	Evening – Kol Nidre	7:00 PM
Wednesday	September 19	Morning	9:30 AM
		Torah Service	10:30 AM
		Yizkor	11:30 AM
		Sermon	12:00 PM
		Break	2:00 – 5:00 PM
		Mincha – Neilah	5:30 PM
		Shofar *	7:30 PM
		Break Fast **	following Shofar Service

These times are estimated.

Please arrive before your honor.

Schedule changes will be announced each day as needed.

***Bring your Shofar and join in on the conclusion**

**** Please complete form if you plan to join the Temple's Break Fast**

TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM

HIGH HOLIDAYS 2018- 5779

Message from TBS HH Committee Original Message Abbreviated SERVICES WILL BE LEAD BY:

Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands & Cantor Seth Grossman

HONORS DURING SERVICE:

If you are unable to perform the Mitzvah allocated, please notify Janice Fine at jan@janfine.com or 508-230-5074 by September 4th.

When approaching the bimah come up the stairs on the right. When departing use the stairs on the left.

Men should be wearing a head covering and tallit. Women should wear head covering and shoulders should be covered and not bare.

PARKING

In the Temple lot. On the right side of the street only. In the parking lot across the street, parking is only available closest to the playing field.

ENTRANCE TO SANCTUARY

Please be aware that certain portions of the service require that the sanctuary door remain closed. Our ushers will open the door when it is appropriate for you to enter. We ask for your understanding and cooperation.

DOWNSTAIRS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN. PRE-SCHOOL

Children MUST be accompanied by an adult. You may bring quiet toys, but no coloring books, crayons or drawing materials. Refreshments will be provided and in observance of Kashrut please do not bring food into the temple.

DONATION PAGE

DONOR NAME _____ Card to: _____

Street _____ Street _____

City _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ State _____ Zip _____

INSCRIBED BOOK PLATES: () High Holiday Mahzor \$ 20.00

ENGRAVED PLAQUES: () Tree of Life \$ 72.00

() Yahrzeit \$200.00

() Memorial Plaque \$200.00

Wording for High Holiday Mahzor Book Plate:

In Memory of _____ By _____

In Honor of _____ By _____

Other _____

Wording for Tree of Life Leaf:

In Honor of _____ By _____

Other _____

Wording for Yahrzeit Plaques:

Name of Deceased _____

Hebrew Name _____ Ben (son of) _____

Bat (daughter of) _____

Date of Death _____ Time of day _____

Memorial Plaque (non-Jewish)

Name of Deceased _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

Rabbi Greenberg Scholarship: Donation amount \$ _____

Hebrew School: Donation amount \$ _____

Kiddush: Donation \$75 – basic Kiddush

Check payable to: Temple B'nai Shalom Mail to: 41 Storrs Ave, Braintree, MA 02184 ATTN: MARYLOU



Message from the Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands

High Holidays 5779

Dear TBS community,

I am full of gratitude for the opportunity to be with you as together we bring in the Jewish new year of 5779; and I am humbled by the awesome responsibility that comes with serving as your guide and your Rabbi through these days of awe.

In an ideal world, well before the High Holy Days, I would be able to sit with each TBS member or family, get to know you a bit, learn what Judaism means to you and listen to ways that you would like Judaism to enhance your lives even more than it already does. Unfortunately, I have not had that opportunity. So, my plan B is to share a bit about myself with you here and let the rest unfold during the many hours of prayer and learning we will shortly be spending together.

I am on a Jewish journey. I always have been and I expect I always will be. What that means to me is that Judaism is integral to my life; to my spiritual, intellectual and emotional well-being. I like the word journey because it feels only moderately structured. My Jewish journey helps me remember to pay attention to the world around me, to be kind to the stranger, to help the needy and to share the many blessings I have. It enables me to be flexible and simultaneously determined to satisfy my need for adventure, nourishing relationships and purpose in my life. I have found Judaism to be an extraordinary GPS in every way. Sharing my journey with people like you, makes me happy. I believe that each one of us has a spark of the Divine within herself. I used to think that my purpose in life was to see that spark in every person. I have come to realize that's not the whole story. My purpose is to help *you* see the spark of the Divine in *yourself*. Do you see yourself as a co-partner in creation with God? What does that mean to you? How does it play out in your everyday life? And perhaps most important, especially at this time of year, are you curious and intrigued by, as yet unknown ways that Judaism can bring you a sense of joy and fulfillment?

Every year on the High Holy Days, new curiosities arise for me about the rituals, the various sections of the service, prayers and the Torah and Haftarah readings. Perhaps, you too, would appreciate new insights; or maybe during our worship together, you will find itches you didn't know you had and we will scratch them together. I will bring stories from rabbinic and contemporary times that will touch you in new ways. I will share bits and pieces of my own theology around the themes of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and about the primary actor on the stage we call life: God. I hope these offerings will catch you by surprise, awaken a new insight of your own or spark a conversation with a loved one.

I look forward to "meeting" each of you. I encourage you to seek me out and to introduce yourselves. (And please, to remind me of your name, the next time we meet!) *You* are Temple B'nai Shalom. *You* created and sustain this sacred and nourishing community including the space for intellectual, spiritual and emotional growth that will assure us a connection with the Creator of all life, and with each other.

My family joins me in wishing that we all be blessed with good health, abundant fulfillment and peace within ourselves and in every corner of the earth.

Shana tova, Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands



Message from the Temple President

Shalom,

I hope this bulletin finds you and your family well. It is that time again for us to celebrate the High Holidays. This year we are very happy to welcome Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands to lead services for us. You learned a little about Rabbi Sands in our last newsletter and can hear directly from her in this newsletter.

Attending services gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the past year, pledge to improve ourselves as human beings, pray for good health, happiness, peace throughout the world, and to be inscribed in the Book of Life. It is also an opportunity to reunite with temple members whom we have known for many years yet do not get to see very often anymore except on the High Holidays. It is something to which all of us can look forward. I hope you will join us, even if you haven't purchased a ticket yet, and have a last-minute urge to attend.

This year we will once again be holding a Break Fast at the temple following the final blowing of the shofar. You should have received a flyer on it. If this is something that would be of interest to you, please send your check for \$10/person, with a \$25 maximum of 3 or more per family, to Karen Kurzberg at 42 Hollingsworth Ave. Braintree, MA 02184. This will be a great way to close out the High Holidays and socialize with temple members.

We have a few events coming up shortly after the High Holy Days. The Men's Club will be holding its first breakfast for the year on October 14. We will also be holding our annual congregational meeting. We will have a very special program that will be of interest to all of you, with details being sent to you at a later date. I hope you will join us. The Sisterhood will be holding its membership lunch on October 28 and rummage on Sunday, November 4. In between Yom Kippur and

rummage, we will be celebrating Sukkoth. It will be a busy fall!!

The BIGGEST event, however, will be the celebration of our 60th Anniversary in 2019. We have much to celebrate!! Stay tuned for upcoming details.

I can't end this article without making a pitch, again, for attending services, even a few more times than you have this past year, and for volunteering to help out. Our temple can only survive through your financial support AND volunteer efforts. We need help in the kitchen on a few Shabbats during the year. We have many congregants who sponsor a Kiddush for both joyful events and yahrzeits, and we could use more assistance. Join the Men's Club or Sisterhood. Do you have an idea for a Temple program? Mention it or email a board member listed in this bulletin and perhaps it can happen. A new survey will be coming out soon. Please complete it. Check out some of the planned events listed in this newsletter and consider participating. Come join us!

On behalf of the Kurzberg family, I wish you and your family a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Shana Tovah

Shalom,

Peter Kurzberg

Dates to Calendar

Sun PM Sept 9 Erev Rosh Hashanah

Mon & Tue Sept 10 & 11 Rosh Hashanah

Tues PM Sept 18 Kol Nidre

Wed Sept 19 Yom Kippur

Tues PM - Sept 23 - Sept 30 Sukkot

Mon Oct 1 Shmini Atzeret

Tues Oct 2 Simchat Torah

Sun Oct 14 Men's Club Breakfast

Congregational Meeting

Sun Oct 28 Sisterhood Luncheon

Sun Nov 4 Rummage Sale

Sun May 5, 2019 Sisterhood Donor



**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 19TH
10TH OF TISHRI
YOM KIPPUR**

**Join Temple Members
at**

5:30 PM – Mincha - Neliah

BRING YOUR SHOFAR

7:30 PM join the members with your
Shofar to close the service

Immediately following

BREAK the FAST

Send the form at the beginning of the
Bulletin – by September 15

\$10 per person \$25 per family

Payable to: Temple B'nai Shalom

To: **KAREN KURZBERG**

42 HOLLINGSWORTH AVE

BRAINTREE, MA 02184

Temple B'nai Shalom Board

2018-2019

Pres. Dr. Peter Kurzberg pkurzb@beld.net

1st VP Stephen Karll Stephen.karll@verizon.net

2nd VP Michael Caplan gardenlover5@verizon.net

Fin Sec Janice Fine jan@janfine.com

Treas. Paula Goldman paulag@beld.net

Rec Sec. Meryl Smith meryljoys@aol.com

Cor Sec Liz Bloom bobliz@beld.net

Pt Pres Marylou Fishman maryloufishman@comcast.net

Two Year Directors

Sandie Baler-Segal sandiebs@verizon.net

Audrey Mallock audrabm@gmail.com

Barry Rabinovitz Barry@classichomesre.com

Josephine Salloway jsalloway@aol.com

One Year Directors

Cheryl Berman nedcheryl@comcast.net

Gail Lerner gblerner@beld.net

Judy Karll sjkarll@yahoo.com

Richard Salloway rbsalloway@aol.com

Representatives

Sisterhood: Board Representatives

Men's Club Paul Rubin

parsbr@verizon.net

Hebrew School Solomon Borocov

Sol007@yahoo.com

Religious Committee: Michael Caplan

Gardenlovers5@verizon.net

Recent TBS Board Meeting



2018 5779

JEWISH HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAY DATES

***Yizkor**

Rosh Hashanah Sept 10-11

Yom Kippur *Sept 18-19

Sukkot Sept 24-*25

Sept 26-30

Shmini Atzeret *Oct 1

Simchat Torah Oct 2

Chanukah Dec 3-10

Temple B'nai Shalom Congregation
regrets to announce the passing of

BRONIA (BRENDA) WLUKA z”l

In loving memory, mother of our members

David & Nancy Wluka

May her memory be for a blessing

Donations can be made in her memory towards
the restoration and preservation of the Jewish
Cemetery in the Wluka ancestral home of the

Nowy Dwor, Poland:

www.nowydworjewishmemorial.org

Temple B’nai Shalom Congregation
regrets to announce the passing of

ALAN GINDEN z”l

In loving memory, uncle of

Cantor Seth & Jennifer Grossman

May his memory be for a blessing

Temple B’nai Shalom Congregation
Wishes

NANCY RESNICK

A speedy recovery

Temple B’nai Shalom Congregation
Wishes to extend a Mazel Tov

To

STACEY BLOOM

the incoming President of Jewish
Community Relations Council (JCRC)

Helen Warshauer

On the birth of her great grandson

BECK HARRISON WARSHAUER

Temple B’nai Shalom Congregation
Wishes to extend a Mazel Tov

To

Milton & Arlene Wolk

On the marriage of their granddaughter
TSIVYA MILLER & ERIC KIRSCHNER

Temple B’nai Shalom Congregation
Wishes to extend a Mazel Tov

To

ARI GROSSMAN

As the recipient of the
Rabbi Grossman Scholarship

Temple B’nai Shalom Congregation
Wishes to extend a Mazel Tov

To

Braintree High School Senior

ROSE HANSEN

Who will attend

COLORADO UNIVERSITY, BOULDER

Studying Biology and Music

As the recipient of the
Temple B’nai Shalom Braintree High School
Senior’s Scholarship

Temple B’nai Shalom Congregation
Wishes to extend a Mazel Tov

To

DONATIONS

to

TEMPLE B’NAI SHALOM

IN MEMORY

In Memory of
IRVING BLOOM
Peter & Karen Kurzberg

In Memory of
SOLOMON RABINOVITZ
Irving & Wayne Adler

In Memory of
SOLOMON RABINOVITZ
Peter & Karen Kurzberg

In Memory of
BRENDA WLUKA
Enid Lubarsky

In Memory of her son,
DR ERIC LUBOT
Ruth Lubot

In Memory of
ALFRED NEITLICH
Estelle Weinberger

YAHREZIT DONATIONS

In memory of her mother,
MIRIAM BARON
Lynne Baron

In memory of her grandmother
IDA LUBARSKY
Enid Lubarsky

In memory of her sister,
ELISSA SELIG
Janice Fine

In memory of her Aunt
MARY SLAVITT
Steve & Judy Karll

In memory of his mother
REBECCA SPECTOR
Irving Spector

In memory of a friend
RONA SODEKSON
Steve & Judy Karll

In memory of his wife,
MILDRED SAIDEL
Mo Saidel

In memory of his brother,
ALVIN WOLK
Milton & Arlene Wolk

In memory of
ALFRED NEITLICH
Estelle Weinberger

GET WELL WISHES

To NANCY RESNICK
Enid Lubarsky

MAZEL TOV

In Honor of the birth of
Solomon & Anne Borocov's Nephew
Enid Lubarsky

In Honor of Marriage of
Jeff Goldman
Nephew of Paula Goldman & David Flaherty
Enid Lubarsky

In Honor of Marriage of
Tsivya Miller to Eric Kirschner
Granddaughter of Milton & Arlene Wolk
Enid Lubarsky

In Honor of birth of
Beck Harrison Warshauer

great Grandson of Helen Warshauer
Enid Lubarsky

TEMPLE DONATIONS

Dan & Helen Liberman

KIDDUSH SPONSORS

Dan & Helen Liberman

IN HONOR OF their 51st WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Enid Lubarsky

In Memory of her father, Louis Lubarsky

MENDING by Meryl

By Irving Adler

MEMBERSHIP NOTICES

THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN
THE DONATION FOR YAHRZEIT &
MEMORIAL PLAQUES TO \$200

Due to the increase of our cost

As a Member of the Temple, you can be notified of a family member's yahrzeit & the remembrance will also be mentioned at the Shabbat Service prior to the Hebrew anniversary. Please send the following information: Name of Deceased, date of passing as well as the time if known to: Meryl Smith
meryljoys@aol.com



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING
DONATIONS FOR THE
BRAINTREE FOOD PANTRY AT
MARGE CRISPAN
EACH TIME YOU VISIT THE TEMPLE**

T B S

MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST

9:15 AM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

FOLLOWED BY

THE

**TEMPLE CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

SPONSOR a KIDDUSH



***Remember with TBS: a graduation,
wedding, anniversary, birthday, Mitzvah,
anniversary, Yahrzeit or something special
to you.***

\$75 for a basic Kiddush or embellished for an additional fee. To sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush contact either:

Janice @ 508-230-5074 jan@janfine.com OR
Marylou @ 617-921-0368
maryloufishman@comcast.net

SUPPORT THE TEMPLE BUY SCRIP

As an ongoing fund raiser, The Temple sells Stop & Shop and Roche Bros. gift cards in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations.

Sellers include: Nancy Resnick and Janice Fine.
Arrangements can be made for home delivery by
contacting one of the sellers or Marylou @ 617-
921-0368



THEY ARE BACK IN THE KITCHEN

PREPARING

SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP DINNER

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 28

The in-house dining event of the year...

**Invitations will be mailed, feel free to
bring a new member.**

Questions: contact Karen Kurzberg
kkurzb@beld.net

THIS TABLE PICTURE WAS MISSING FROM THE LAST BULLETIN FROM TBS SISTERHOOD DONOR DINNER



RUMMAGE

NOV 4

Temple's Fall Fundraiser

Someone's recyclables are someone else's good fortune

DONATE YOUR ITEMS

But PLEASE – NO:

Large household items, underwear, pantyhose, used socks, worn shoes, stuffed animals.

Nothing heavier than you can personally lift!

All items will be sold in plastic bags for one cost.

Except

New & household items, which will be priced separately.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Nov 3 Saturday – Set up 5 PM

Nov 4 Sunday – Sale 10 AM – 3 PM

Nov 5 Monday – 9:30 AM - 2 PM

6 PM-7 PM

7 PM – Clean-up!!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Alba Caplan

617-759-5252

JUDAIC ITEMS

Check out the Judaic items on the
Hadassah Re-Sale Shop Table
At the Temple



2 Mezuzah Scrolls are available at
\$18 each.

For additional information contact
Marylou Fishman

Maryloufishman@comcast.net

617-921-0368



visit **bjff.org**

To see the upcoming movies
in the area.



**CONTINUE TO BRING YOUR
CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS
AND LEAVE IN THE TEMPLE
CONTAINER IN THE LOBBY – TO
ASSIST THE DISABLED VETERANS
PROGRAM**



**JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND**

Your Voice in Israel

JNF TREES

**If you are interested in
purchasing
JNF Trees in Israel through
Hadassah –
Contact: Carol Savas
781-344-9377
carolsavas@yahoo.com**

**If you wish to contribute
toward
Temple B'nai Shalom's
Israeli Bond
Please contact Paula
Goldman at
Paulag@beld.net**

**[DO YOU OR ANY OF YOU FAMILY
SHOP ON AMAZON.COM](#)**

Thanks to congregants who shop on
AMAZON.COM, Temple B'nai Shalom
receives a check for a percentage of their
sales each month from Amazon.

Next time you have something to order:

Go to The Temple's Website:
www.tbsbraintree.com

Click on: [GIVING](#)

Click on: [SHOPPING
OPPORTUNITIES](#)





SHANAH
TOVAH best
wishes
for a
peaceful
new
year

6 THINGS TO UNDERSTAND THE HIGH HOLIDAYS¹

September 9 in the evening marks the beginning of the most sacred annual period in Judaism — the 10 days between the holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The two holidays, and often the intervening period more informally, are known as the High Holidays Days within Judaism.

For many secular Jews, the period is an opportunity to reconnect with family members or get in touch with cultural traditions — they're by far the best-attended holidays at most synagogues. But the theological import of the holiday and the different ways it has changed or solidified over time can tell us a lot about the development of Jewish culture and values: the story of a group of people for whom the tension between assimilation and preserving tradition has long been a major part of their culture. Whether you grew up in a Jewish household or have never even attended a Seder, here are six things you might not know about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the High Holidays.

1) Rosh Hashanah is the “Jewish New Year,” but it’s not the only Jewish New Year. And the story behind it says a lot about Jewish identity.

Erev Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of Rosh Hashanah (“head of the year”), which is the traditional start of the Jewish New Year. This Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of

the year 5779 according to the Hebrew calendar, which represents the number of years since God’s creation of the heavens and the earth.

More specifically, “Rosh Hashanah” refers to the first two days of the month of Tishri, one of the 12 months (usually 12 — sometimes there are “leap months”) that comprise the Hebrew calendar. Because of the lunisolar nature of the Hebrew calendar, the precise dates of Tishri, Rosh Hashanah, and the High Holidays vary each year but tend to take place in September or October.

But the beginning of Tishri wasn’t always the beginning of the Jewish New Year. Throughout the Torah — the most important Hebrew Scriptures — we find references to the start of the year in the spring, in the month of Nisan. Only in later rabbinic literature, known as the Mishnah, which dates back to the second century CE, do we find the idea that the start of the year should be counted from Tishri, and that this should be considered a religious holiday.

So why the change? The answer, drawing on the work of some 20th-century scholars like **Norman Snaith**, could lie in the experience of the Israelites in exile in Babylon, a foundational time in the history of Judaism as we know it today. Before the destruction of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, worshipping the God of Israel (also known as “Yahweh”) was part of a conflation of ethnic and religious identity common in the ancient Near East. The Babylonians worshipped Baal and Marduk, Sumerians worshipped Annat and Asherah, and so forth.

If a population was taken over or defeated in battle, their gods were often wiped out from history or, alternatively, would become combined in pantheons with the gods of the conquerors. (Fun fact: In some areas where there was Canaanite/Israelite overlap, Asherah was worshipped as **Yahweh’s wife**.)

So, when most Israelites were exiled to Babylon after being conquered by King Nebuchadnezzar in the late sixth century BCE, it would stand to reason that Yahweh would have vanished from history, just as, ultimately, Baal and Marduk did. That the worship of

Yahweh survived — through first Judaism and then Christianity — is something of a historical miracle. But the Israelites were able to hold on to their traditions and beliefs, sometimes through insularity (the Hebrew Bible is full of passages condemning people who worshipped other cultures' gods) but sometimes through compromise.

Moving new year celebrations could have been one such compromise. While most ancient biblical history is contested by various scholars, as rabbi and legal affairs columnist Jay Michaelson **writes at the Daily Beast**, the Jews of Babylon may well have been influenced by religious practices in Babylon itself: The naming of the month of Tishri may derive from the Akkadian word “tirshritu,” or “beginning,” and Rosh Hashanah may have been influenced by the Babylonian akitu religious new year's festival, which seems to have taken place in **both the spring and fall**.

This is significant because, as Michaelson notes, we have a tendency to think of the history of Judaism — and, particularly, of the Jewish God — as static: a god who has been worshipped in the same way by the same people through millennia. The history of Rosh Hashanah, by contrast, shows us that the Jewish religion as we know it today was likely influenced by a number of other ancient traditions.

As Michaelson writes, “[T]he very occasion of the ‘Jewish New Year’ is a result of the Jews’ experiences as immigrants to Babylonian society, and their blending of Jewish and Babylonian traditions. Ancient Judaism was not nearly as insular and fearful of ‘foreign’ influences as some Biblical texts suggest.”

2) Jews celebrate the High Holidays with both religious and familial rituals

One of the most recognizable indications of the Rosh Hashanah celebrations is the repeated blowing of the shofar, or horn, at the synagogue to herald the coming of the new year. This is done on both mornings of Rosh Hashanah, unless the first morning falls on Shabbat, or Sabbath, in which case the shofar is blown on one day only. Hearing the shofar is a mitzvah, or divine commandment, for all adult Jewish men.

In some traditions, worshippers will perform tashlich, the symbolic casting out and “washing off” of misdeeds at a body of water, reflecting the holiday's tradition as a time of repentance, reflections, and renewal.

Families also celebrate by lighting candles at home, and by eating a traditional Rosh Hashanah meal, which usually includes apples and honey: sweet foods to welcome the sweetness of the year ahead. Additional common foods served on the holiday include the head of either a ram or a fish (reflecting a proverbial injunction to be “the head and not the tail”), pomegranate seeds, and a round challah bread, the circle reflecting the eternity of life. You can also expect to hear exhortations to have “*l'shanah tovah*,” or “good year!”

However, not all Jewish movements celebrate the High Holiday in precisely the same way. Orthodox Jews typically attend longer synagogue services that are primarily in Hebrew, while Reform Jews often attend shorter, English-language services. Reform Jews may also only celebrate the first day of Rosh Hashanah, rather than attending services on both days.

There are also minor differences in custom between Jews hailing from different parts of the world. For example, Ashkenazi Jews, who hail from Eastern Europe, often wear a symbolic takhrikh — a death shroud — on Yom Kippur and, more rarely, on Rosh Hashanah to signify atonement, while Sephardic Jews, who generally hail from North Africa or Spain, simply wear white.

3) The High Holy Days are a theologically important time of repentance and renewal

The period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is known as the “Ten Days of Repentance” (“Aseret Yemei Teshuvah”). According to traditional Jewish teaching, God opens the Book of Life each year on Rosh Hashanah to inscribe a person's fate for the coming year, but does not seal that fate until Yom Kippur, the “Day of Atonement.” The Days of Repentance thus offer an observant Jew the opportunity to atone for past misdeeds, seek forgiveness, and mend his or her behavior through the practice of teshuvah, or “return.” Thus, a popular form of well-wishing

throughout the holiday period is to wish that somebody be “written in the Book of Life.”

Prayers on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as well as the intervening period, often take the form of recognizing and confessing past deeds. For example, the shorter Vidui **Ashamnu** (“we are guilty”) prayer is recited or sung repeatedly throughout the period, while the longer Al-Cheyt is sung only on Yom Kippur itself.

4) Yom Kippur is a much more somber day than Rosh Hashanah. And its defining prayer has been controversial.

While Rosh Hashanah tends to be a day of celebration, Yom Kippur is a far more somber holiday.

Traditionally, the Yom Kippur services begin at sundown with the “Kol Nidre” prayer, an affirmation in ancient Aramaic that “all vows” (or “kol nidre”) made to God in the coming year are null and void. The idea behind this annulment is to prevent a religious Jew from making an overly optimistic promise to God he or she cannot keep by recognizing that human beings are fallible, and that nobody, however well intentioned, can guarantee perfect behavior. (Some scholars have **also interpreted** the Kol Nidre as a preemptive strike against the common medieval practice of forced conversion to Christianity or Islam, although the Kol Nidre seems to predate such practices.)

Throughout history, however, the Kol Nidre has been somewhat controversial. Anti-Semites from the medieval era through the 20th century have used the Kol Nidre as “evidence” that Jews could not be trusted to keep their word, even though the Kol Nidre refers only to pacts between the individual and God. As a result, the Jewish Reform Movement **briefly suspended** the practice, only for it to return to common usage in 1961. The haunting and distinctive **melody** of the Kol Nidre is one of the best-known melodies within the Jewish tradition: something that has contributed to its lasting appeal.

Like the date of the new year, therefore, the debate over Kol Nidre — and whether its spiritual significance outweighed its outsize negative influence on anti-Semitic groups —

reflects perennial questions in Jewish history about balancing tradition, culture, assimilation, and identity.

The Kol Nidre is followed by a day’s worth of services at the synagogue, the precise hours of which vary from denomination to denomination. Traditionally, worshippers (excepting children, the infirm, and pregnant women) abstain from food, drink, and sex for a 25-hour period — from just before sunset on the 10th day of Tishri (September 29 this year) to just after sunset the following day.

5) Be prepared to buy a ticket for the service

While levels of observance vary among Jews, the High Holidays services are often attended by Jews who do not otherwise consider themselves observant but wish to keep in touch with familial traditions — much in the same vein as Christians who go to church only on Christmas and Easter.

This has led to controversial practices like the selling of often-expensive **tickets** to nonmembers (members, by contrast, traditionally pay annual dues to their local synagogue) for services at crowded synagogues, which often rely on the funds to subsidize practices for the rest of the year. At expensive synagogues, such as New York City’s Temple Emanu-El, prices for the top High Holiday seats **can reach \$2,970**.

Some denominations, such as the Hasidic Chabad-Lubavitch movement, sharply decry the practice and do not charge for admission.

6) Rosh Hashanah in the White House

Since the early days of the Obama presidency, it has been customary for representatives of the major Jewish traditions, including Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox movements, to speak with the president (as well as, during the 2012 elections, the opposing candidate) to exchange good wishes and to discuss issues of concern to the Jewish community. Last year, however, four representatives of Reform, Reconstructionist, and Conservative synagogues declined to speak with President Trump, **citing concerns** over his handling of the violence at a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.