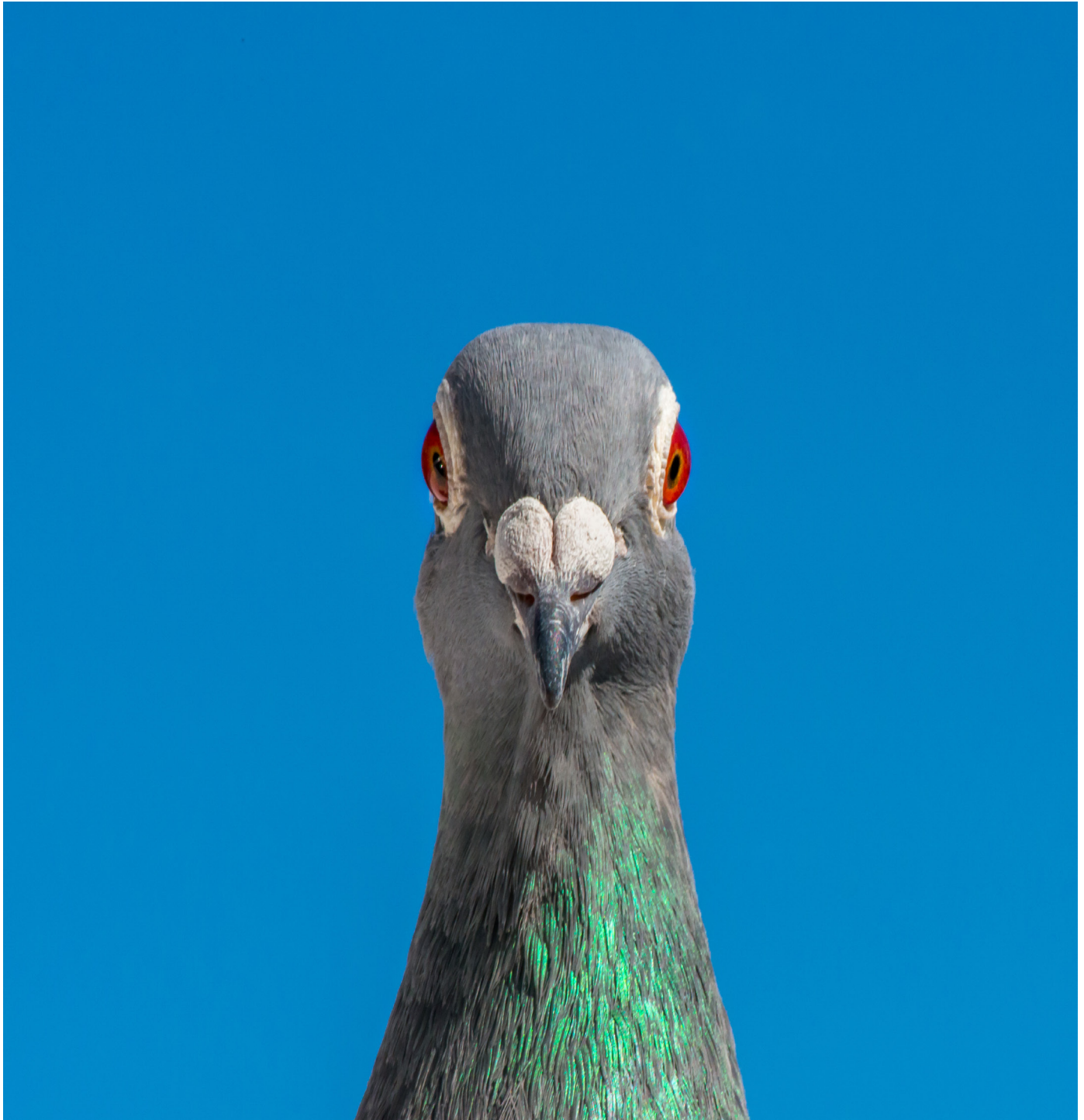


MESSENGER

volume
104

THE SYNAGOGUE | CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH | SEPTEMBER 2020 | PUBLISHED MONTHLY



KIDS AND THE HIGH HOLIDAYS—SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS

MILESTONES

MAZAL TOV

To Elizabeth Wenger, who recently moved to Chicago to begin a year long fellowship with AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps. AVODAH develops lifelong social justice leaders whose work is informed by Jewish values and who inspire the Jewish community to work toward a more just and equitable world.


To the Synagogue | Congregation B'nai Emunah, which once again received accolades on its work in environmental stewardship and sustainability. We're delighted to say that we are leaders in the local faith community thanks to the time and energy we have invested in this work. Details to follow in the October edition of the Messenger. In the meantime, special props to Betty Lehman and Simon Lowen for leading us in this effort.

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Farfel
Mother of Randee Charney

Happie Hoffman

The Synagogue's First
Artist-In-Residence
See page 10 for Details



PANIM EL PANIM
EVERY SHABBAT MORNING AT 10 A.M.

MASTHEAD

Marc B. Fitzerman and Daniel S. Kaiman * Rabbis
 Dr. Elana Newman President
 Dr. John Schumann..... Executive Vice President
 Ross Heyman.....Vice President
 Mark Goldman.....Vice President
 Sally DonaldsonTreasurer
 Nancy Cohen..... Secretary
 Jeremy Rabinowitz Synagogue Foundation President
 Hillary Roubein..... Sisterhood President
 Sara Levitt Director of Jewish Life and Learning
 Betty Lehman and Rick Gratch Administrators
 Shelli Wright Preschool Director
 Simon Lowen.....Program Director
 Happie HoffmanArtist-in-Residence
 Brigid Kelley & Cheryl Myers Co-Staff, Office Wing
 Nancy Cohen..... Sisterhood Gift Shop Chair

*Affiliated with the Rabbinical Assembly of the Conservative Movement

ON THE COVER

Why a pigeon? For many centuries, traditional Jews waved a hen or a rooster over their heads before the High Holidays. They hoped symbolically to transfer their sins and failures to the bodies of these innocent birds and leave themselves clean in the presence of the Holy One.

We've taken that foundation and built another ritual. On the morning of Sunday, September 27, we'll gather at the front door of the Synagogue at 12:30 a.m., wearing masks and standing apart, to release a hundred pigeons into the sky. Our hope is that they will carry our blessings into the heavens and bring healing and good health to all humanity. Please join us as we pray together.

THE MESSENGER
September 2020 - Published Monthly

CONGREGATION B'NAI EMUNAH
1719 South Owasso Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120
Office: (918) 583-7121 School: (918) 585-KIDS
Fax: (918) 747-9696 Website: www.tulsasynagogue.com

THE SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TWO RABBIS AND... | EVERY FRIDAY

Every Friday at 11:00 a.m., Rabbis Fitzerman and Kaiman convene a weekly conversation to reflect on pertinent topics of the day, interview special guests, and talk about ideas relevant to Synagogue life. Check your weekly emails for the latest information on their guest and topic schedules. They hope you'll join them. This month, the sessions will take place on September 4, 11, 18, and 25. Zoom meeting ID: [918-583-7121](tel:918-583-7121).

SHABBAT TOGETHER | FRIDAY EVENINGS

As days and weeks go by, our tradition asks that we take time to pause, reflect, and enjoy time together. Shabbat Together is a short, digital gathering where we take a few moments to pause with community as we enter Shabbat. The content is songs for the Shabbat table and it always starts at 6:00 p.m. We conclude in time for you to enjoy a Shabbat meal at home. The sessions this month are September 4 and 11. Zoom meeting ID: [918-583-7121](tel:918-583-7121).

PANIM EL PANIM | SATURDAY MORNINGS

Our tradition speaks of a special power that exists when a group of people gathers together for prayer. **Panim el Panim** is a live broadcast service led by Rabbis Kaiman and Fitzerman. Rooted in our in-person Shabbat morning service, we spend time singing, reflecting, studying Torah, and connecting. Services begin at 10:00 a.m. This month, the dates are September 5, 12, and 26. Zoom meeting ID: [918-583-7121](tel:918-583-7121).

BAKER'S DOZEN | TUESDAY & THURSDAY

Our cookie-baking program is in full swing, and we need bakers! We're collecting cookies, bars, and other single-serving baked goods every Tuesday and Thursday morning, and delivering them right away to frontline workers around the city. Any donation of baked goods is deeply appreciated; just let us know what works for you, and we'll work you into the schedule as smoothly as we work our pastry dough! All of our recipients have been deeply grateful.

6 PRAIRIE JEWS: TURKEY MOUNTAIN BLUE

Join Simon Lowen on a socially distant hike of Turkey Mountain's most accessible trail. We'll frequently be stopping throughout this gorgeous 1.5-mile loop to dip into Earth-Based Judaism through discussing Heschel's concept of radical amazement, learning some ecology and conser-

vation, and praying a little Shacharit! We'll maintain social distance while stopped, and we'll be spread out on the trail for the vast majority of the experience. To ensure physical distancing, we'll be capping this experience at nine participants, with no more than five separate households. Masks are welcome. Make sure to bring a liter of water and meet us at the lower parking lot bathrooms at 8:00 a.m. Reach out to Simon at slowen@bnaiemunah.com to reserve your spot!

10 BLATT + BLUE

The Synagogue's fourth monthly session of its popular cinema and television series will concentrate on **The Matchmaker**. The film is readily available on Amazon Prime. After watching, join us on Zoom for a spirited discussion of the film. For more information, see page 9. Zoom meeting ID: [918-583-7121](tel:918-583-7121). The program begins at 7:00 p.m.

12 YOU'RE WELCOME DINNER + SELICHOT

The whole community is invited to take part in Selichot, the opening event of the High Holiday season. Join us as we offer gratitude to the paraprofessional volunteers who have devoted many years to conducting services, readying the Synagogue for prayer, and taking care of our ritual affairs. On the same evening, the congregation will officially welcome everyone who has formally joined B'nai Emunah in the last year. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a Selichot Dinner directly in front of the B'nai Emunah building. For more information on this socially distant experience, see page 13.

13 TO+GATHER

Our monthly series for families with young children comes to your home! Each month a ToGather Toolbox will be delivered to your door. It will include recipes, blessings, activity ideas, materials for a project with a link to a demo by our own Morah Tona, and Peninah the Peacock, and much more. We'll also offer ToGather Live for families to come together live for singing and a story online. Can't make it to the scheduled session? No problem! Sessions will be recorded and easily accessible for viewing at a time that is convenient for you. September's Toolbox will be all about Rosh Ha-Shanah. Join us on Sunday, September 13, at 3:00 p.m. for ToGather Live. We hope that this program will give families the tools they need to "do Jewish" at home, connect to other families and their Synagogue community. Please be sure to be in touch with Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com to receive a ToGather Toolbox.

(continued on page 4)

SEPTEMBER [CONTINUED]

(continued from page 3)

14 MILLENIYOGA FOR RENEWAL

As the season of the High Holidays approaches, we settle into moments of reflection and move forward in renewal and restoration. Millennials are invited to come together at 8:00 p.m. to mark these moments of renewal and reflection through Yoga! Our experience will be elevated through song as the Synagogue's Artist-in-Residence, Happie Hoffman, accompanies our practice with musical interludes and inspirational melodies. For questions or to hold your spot, contact Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.

18-20 ROSH HA-SHANAH | THE PORTAL

All are welcome to take part in our joyous holiday celebrations for the Jewish New Year. Familiar music, stories from the tradition, and intentional acts of community bring us together, even if we have to remain physically distant. Services will take place on Zoom. Visit tulsagogue.com for direct links to all services, and keep in mind that digital security protocols will be in place at all times. Please see the article on page 13 for information on our entire suite of High Holiday programming.

22 AN EVENING OF POETRY

In this revealing and inviting conversation about reading poems, we'll focus on what a poet is trying to do at the DNA-level of words and metaphor. Those are the poet's tools of the trade. Using poems by Yehuda Amichai and others, the goal of this 7:00 p.m. class is to empower and entertain you as readers (and even writers) of poetry. This event is for everyone who reads poems, and anyone who wants to. Take an hour to refresh your love for poetry with your Synagogue family and David Bessler. We'll be in our standard Zoom room: 918-583-7121. More information on page 9.

25 BIBI-DIBI

It's our monthly Shabbat gathering for little ones designed to enhance your home-centered experience of Shabbat. We'll begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude in time for you to enjoy a Shabbat meal at home. Our Bibi-Dibi sessions include a particular focus for our toddler cohort, but all are welcome; no toddler necessary! Zoom meeting ID: **918-583-7121**.

(continued on page 6)

TOURO CELEBRATION COMING IN NOVEMBER!

FROM RABBI FITZGERMAN

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE RIGHT NOW

This pandemic is an odd phenomenon. Despite the stab of loss and the climbing death toll, it sometimes feels as if we are suspended between worlds, neither here nor there, but in an indeterminate middle. And sometimes, it feels like an acute condition that has us by the throats and will never let go. I'm having trouble remembering Life Before, when I used to have veggie tacos at the place down the street and do whatever I wanted, as long as it was legal.

The key thing is to keep moving forward and try to figure out how to manage our new realities. As we approach the High Holidays, many of our plans have taken shape, and you will see our progress on other pages of this issue. Overall, it's a mix of live/three-dimensional and digital/virtual. We tried hard to preserve the things that seem to mean the most: color and light and, most especially, the music. How do you approximate five vocalists and four instrumentalists? There's no good way to do it on Zoom because of the pesky problem of "latency." It means that there's a lag time between all the different inputs and no easy way to pull them together. But we found a way forward, and it's the best we can do. An imperfect solution is also a solution.

And that's our mantra for the season ahead. As my beloved colleague, Rabbi Kaiman, likes to say, a religious institution is bound by **values** that require we deal honestly with all of our constituents. So please bear in mind that we will be broadcasting from everywhere and, like every congregation in the country, we'll have to use recorded material. It could be really interesting, or something else. Whatever happens, including the occasional technological glitch, please know that we tried.

The truth is that I have plenty of confidence. One of you recently pooh-poohed my concerns, reminding me that we'll be celebrating this way in 2020, and that next year will all be different. That felt to me like a powerful blessing. All we can do for each other is to try our best.

On a related issue, I wanted to remind one and all that the Synagogue stands ready to help. For the last six months, we've been sending out meals, checking in with hospital patients, helping out with bills, comforting the bereaved, and doing all the things you would want a synagogue to do. If you or anyone else you know has been hammered by the pandemic, please let us know and invite us to help. We can't do everything, but there are plenty of ways to express the core values of our tradition: **chesed** (lovingkindness) and **kevod ha-b'riyot** (the dignity of all living creatures).

The High Holiday Calendar

Selichot I Saturday, September 12, 2020

Recognition Dinner and Shofar Blowing
Outdoors at 6:00 p.m. at the Synagogue Portico

First Night of Rosh Ha-Shanah I Friday, September 18, 2020

Opening Celebration at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom

First Day of Rosh Ha-Shanah I Saturday, September 19, 2020

Morning Service from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Zoom | Sermon at 11 a.m.
Haftarah for the First Day at 5:45 p.m. on Zoom
Evening Service at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom

Second Day of Rosh Ha-Shanah I Sunday, September 20, 2020

Morning Service from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Zoom | Sermon at 11 a.m.
New Baby Blessings at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom
Haftarah for the Second Day at 7:15 p.m. on Zoom
Evening Service at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Tashlich: Down to the Lake to Pray I Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Ceremony of Liberation at Swan Lake (West End) at 5:30 p.m.

Kapparot I Release of the Homing Pigeons I Sunday, September 27, 2020

Outdoors at 12:30 p.m. at the Synagogue Portico
Pre-Yom Kippur Street Picnic at 1:00 p.m. on Seventeenth Street

Eve of Yom Kippur I Sunday, September 27, 2020

Kol Nidray from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Zoom | Sermon at 8:00 p.m.

Yom Kippur Day I Monday, September 28, 2020

Morning Service from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Zoom | Sermon at 11 a.m.
Haftarah for Yom Kippur Day at 1:45 p.m. on Zoom
Yizkor + Afternoon Service at 2 p.m. on Zoom
Ne'ilah (Concluding Service) at 6:15 p.m. on Zoom
Final Shofar Blowing and Break-Fast at 7:30 p.m.

Please watch for the schedule of events for Sukkot soon.
Updates to this calendar will be made in our e-blasts and on the
Synagogue website (tulsagogue.com)

SEPTEMBER [CONCLUDED]

(continued from page 4)

27 KAPPAROT

At Kapparot, our hope for renewal is rekindled as the clear ringing of the Shofar accompanies hundreds of wingbeats of homing pigeons taking off into the sky. We invite you to a powerful, pandemic-responsible ceremony outside the Synagogue at 12:30 p.m. Details on page 13.

27-28 YOM KIPPUR | THE CLIMAX

Wash us clean. Purify our world. We need Yom Kippur now more than ever. Throughout these 25 hours, we thirst for atonement and seek forgiveness. The platform will be Zoom, and we invite you to visit tulsagogue.com to plug into our experiences. For a full explanation of the events that will unfold during this period, please see the detailed guide to the High Holidays on page 13.

29 WELLNESS WITH RAMAH

Our bodies are holy! Whether you're new to the practice of physical fitness or a regular, spending intentional time with our bodies is crucial to the functioning of our minds and hearts. In these monthly 8:00 a.m. sessions, we'll receive patience and care from the fitness staffers of Ramah in the Rockies as they guide us through various activities. This month, get ready for a circuit workout! No prior experience or gear is necessary; just come prepared to start your day with mindfulness and positive energy! Zoom Meeting ID is 918-583-7121.

TWO RABBIS AND...

A provocative conversation
between our Rabbis and an invited
guest every Friday in the Synagogue
Zoom Room at 11:00 a.m.

Sign in with this ID: 918 583 7121

YAHRTZEIT SERVICE
EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON AT 5:45 PM
ZOOM ID: 918 583 7121

RABBI KAIMAN

■ FEEDBACK

The High Holidays just in front of us are unlike any we have encountered before. Over the past several months, we have spent many long hours thinking and planning for the experience that is before us. The work has been challenging. And we know our solutions are far from perfect, but I remain optimistic about the days and weeks ahead.

As I prepare for these holidays, I am keenly aware of two challenges that are squarely in front of us. The first is that all of us are experiencing something for the first time. While we introduced online streaming of our services a few years ago, that work was meant to capture and broadcast an event that was happening in three-dimensions. In our new reality, streaming itself becomes the "service." And therein lies something we should consider. Whether we know it or not, we all have different expectations of what constitutes a "service." For some, our ancestors' experiences inform what feels traditional and authentic. For others, spiritual practice is a form of escape and a prompt for imagination. And there are many other ways in which you might answer the question yourself. Because precedent is so disrupted, we have worked hard to create a set of experiences that both soothe and stimulate. We know that plenty will be different. We hope that some will feel familiar.

And that brings me to the second challenge I'm considering as we enter this season. In our new reality, it can sometimes feel like we're all screaming into the wind. We know we're making a sound, but it's impossible to hear, see, or feel how it lands. Yet, a central theme of the High Holidays is connection and repair, communal gathering, and personal responsiveness. All of this is harder this year. And so, as we confront this unique High Holiday experience, I do hope that you consider being intentional with your feedback both to the Synagogue and one another. If there's something you love, say it to a friend. If you experience something jarring, speak that as well. We need one another this year, but this experience of communality will take some effort.

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MORAH SARA LEVITT

■ RESILIENCE

For several years we have marked space in our calendar to recognize our most seasoned congregants through a series we've called Milestone Shabbat. As with so many things this year, it became apparent quickly that a Milestone Shabbat this August required a reimagination to ensure our community's health and safety.

We asked ourselves how we could honor this cohort in a meaningful way? We wondered what folks who had seen so much over their lifetime would think about our world today. We knew they would have much wisdom to share and time to share it. As school rounded out, we were also looking for an opportunity to engage our teen community over the summer in a meaningful way. It seemed like a perfect marriage, an intergenerational opportunity that the Synagogue's staff had been dreaming of for a while.

And so, the Resilience Project was born. This project invited teens to interview some of our wisest members to discover what made them resilient over their lifetime. Our teens wrote biographies of their partners and created a project of their choosing to convey their experience. On August 4, our teens shared their work, their nuggets of wisdom, and their impressions of their partners. We tied a ribbon around the experience with a song by our new Artist-in-Residence, Happie Hoffman, and there was not a dry eye in the Zoom Room!

The result of the Resilience Project highlighted our community's deepest values, lifting the voices of young people, inspiring intergenerational relationships, and sharing stories of strength and hope. At the end of the program, plans for the next installment of The Resilience Project began. We know that so many of our community members have important stories to share and lessons of resilience to teach us all. Many thanks to those who participated, planned, and attended this important program! May the wisdom of our wisest congregants propel us forward in strength.

YIZKOR BOOK NAMES

CALL CHERYL AT 918.583.7121 TO ADD THE NAMES
OF YOUR LOVED ONES.
THE DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 10, 2020.

WITH OUR STUDENTS

■ SOPHIE RASKIN AND ELI ANDERSON

This just in: two of our students have outdone themselves in the areas of leadership and environmental activism. Lianna Rothman, an adult mentor with Hazon, one of the largest faith-based environment organizations in America, has written to commend Sophie Raskin and Eli Anderson on the work they're doing.

Lianna reports that "Sophie and Eli are both on the founding national leadership board of the Jewish Youth Climate Movement and are also members of the Executive Board. Eli is the Director of Partnerships and Sophie is the Director of Recruitment and Chapter Building. Sophie does incredible work on the Communications Team, running the various social media pages and constantly developing creative and relevant content. Eli is on the PR team, thinking strategically about relationship building and growing partnerships to expand and build JYCM. He is also co-captain of the JYCM Hazon 2020 Vision Rides Team, is amazing at keeping morale up and motivating JYCM board members to get outside and log miles.

They are both huge assets to JYCM, and we are so lucky to have them! As we begin to look toward expansion and creating local JYCM chapters around the country, we will be working with Eli and Sophie to integrate JYCM into Tulsa Jewish life!"

The Synagogue is proud to have had a hand in encouraging both Eli and Sophie to explore this interest. We hope to see many young people take an active and transformational role in Jewish life. The dream endures!

NEW MEMBERS

We're so very happy to welcome these people to the B'nai Emunah family. We hope that their affiliation brings them deep satisfaction and abundant joy!

Alana and Rob Gorden

Karen and Jeromy Walsh
(Benjamin)

START THINKING ABOUT BUILDING YOUR
OWN SUKKAH TODAY!

ZOOM

BUDDY BUDDY

So much of our holiday celebration depends on Zoom that we want to make sure that everyone has easy, non-frustrating access. If you need someone to hold your Zoom hand, please write Simon Lowen at slowen@bnaiemunah.com. Simon will make sure that you're partnered up for the whole month so that you can always get online when you want to. That means **not just a one-time tutorial**, but every time you go online. You'll get the hang of it, and then you can be a Zoom Buddy Buddy yourself!

SYNAGOGUE HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER

■ BAKER'S DOZEN CONTINUES

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the more than three dozen congregants who have baked homemade goods throughout June, July, and August. These bakers have enabled us to deliver boxes of goodies to more than eighty different locations around town, including hospitals, fire stations, social services, and many other sites where frontline workers serve the entire community. You all are so deeply appreciated.

If you'd like to get involved, please reach out to Simon Lowen at slowen@bnaiemunah.com. Let's bake our way to a sweeter world!!

■ BLATT + BLUE ON SEPTEMBER 10

The Synagogue's popular project on Jewish cinema and television will focus on **The Matchmaker**. One of several films by this name, this one was originally known as **Pa'am Hayiti (Once I Was)**. It premiered as an official selection at the Toronto International Film Festival, and later the same year won at the Chicago International Film Festival.

The film describes the quirky relationship between young Arik, who spends the summer doing background checks for a local matchmaker, who depends on Arik's skills as an amateur sleuth. The film works on the question of Arik's sexual coming-of-age, and the deeper, more troubled life of his employer. **The Matchmaker** was reviewed in the **New York Times** and garnered an admiring evaluation.



Blatt + Blue spotlights film and television enthusiasts David Blatt and Alice Blue who begin each session with a summary of the featured material. It means that you'll be able to follow the conversation if you have to delay your viewing of the film, itself. For the rest, think Siskel and Ebert and the quick by-play between two movie lovers. After that, it's questions and comments from the Zoom Room audience.

The film is readily available on Amazon Prime Video for those who have already chosen that platform as their primary streaming service. If you do not subscribe to Prime, the video is available for a \$1.99 rental fee. Join us on Zoom for a provocative discussion of the film. Zoom meeting ID: **918-583-7121**. If there is a film you'd like to see in these sessions in the future, reach out to Simon Lowen at slowen@bnaiemunah.com.

■ AN EVENING OF POETRY ON SEPTEMBER 22

Have you ever questioned how your favorite poets whisk you off your feet with such ease? Have you wondered what skills you could focus on as a writer that would lead to marked growth in your style? Whether you're a writer or a reader, a poetry novice or an expert, David Benspiel is here to help! Using poems by Yehuda Amichai, among others, he'll guide us in our journey towards a deeper connection with the written word. We'll meet at 7:00 p.m. in our standard Zoom room (**918-583-7121**) to learn, experience, and grow our appreciation for poetry together.

David Benspiel, a grandson of longtime B'nai Emunah congregant, the late Joe Borg, is a contributing writer at the New Republic and The New Yorker. He is the author of six collections of poetry and four books of nonfiction, including the forthcoming memoir, *A Place of Exodus*. David has taught at Stanford University, George Washington University, and Wake Forest University, in addition to other colleges and universities. He is Poet-in-Residence at Oregon State University.

We are looking forward to seeing you, just as you are – whether that's brimming with questions, simmering with anticipation, or burbling with onomatopoeias!

Have you met someone who is new to the Jewish community of Tulsa? Please write Rabbi Kaiman at rdk@bnaiemunah.com to let us know. We'd love to introduce newcomers to the Synagogue.

NEW FACES AT THE SYNAGOGUE: HAPPIE HOFFMAN

■ HAPPIE HOFFMAN: ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

As synagogues explore new ways of reaching the communities they serve, B'nai Emunah has chosen Happie Hoffman as its first artist-in-residence. The position is another addition to the programming and liturgical staff, reflecting the importance of music-making in the life of the congregation.

Happie has lived in Tulsa for the last several years as one of the first recruits of the Tulsa Tomorrow effort. During that time, she has invested in teaching and helping to build musical communities around the Jewish world. Together with collaborator Eric Hunker, she has served as the Co-Music Director of the BBYO (B'nai B'rith Youth Organization) and appeared at hundreds of events both in the United States and abroad. Many of our young people have encountered Happie at BBYO summer institutes and encampments, along with her soulful musical contributions to *March of the Living* in Poland and Israel.

Happie was raised in Memphis, Tennessee, where she continues to have deep family and congregational ties. She is a beloved contributor to the liturgical life of Temple Israel, the flagship Reform congregation in Memphis, and works closely with its rabbinic staff as cantorial soloist. Under BBYO auspices, Happie and Eric started the first Jewish song leader training seminar in Moscow for teens from across the former Soviet Union.

Happie's work as a performer has garnered enthusiastic notices across the Jewish and general communities. Her 2016 album, *It's Yours* by Eric Hunker and Happie, debuted in the eleventh spot on the iTunes singer-songwriter chart. *Hamavdil*, a Jewish indie-folk album by the duo, was released in 2018. Whether performing at SXSW (South-by-Southwest), Sundance Film Festival, AIPAC, or in the halls of the United Nations, Happie's passion is building community through music.

The Artist-in-Residence program at Congregation B'nai Emunah has been funded by the Synagogue in conjunction with several local philanthropists. Happie's work will include formal and informal musical education, song-leading for young people, concert and recording projects, Shabbat and festival celebrations, new music experiments at Synagogue events, songwriting, and congregational retreats. Happie's tenure at the Synagogue began with her summer performance at Resilience, B'nai Emunah's salute to its elders organized by the young people of the congregation. The Synagogue looks forward to many musical highlights in the months ahead.



SISTERHOOD

■ LOOKING BACK

Here's a shot from 2013. The Woman of Valor event at the end of the programming year honored Jackie Lasky, with Dr. Jill Wenger completing her term in office and Sharon Cash stepping into the role of President. Like all of us, Sisterhood looks forward to the end of the pandemic and the resumption of its regular round of activities.



SYNAGOGUE STUDENTS ON THE HOLIDAYS

■ FIRST DAY ROSH HA-SHANAH | SEPTEMBER 19

Join us on the first day of Rosh Ha-Shanah at 9:00 a.m. for a new Rosh Ha-Shanah experience for families with young children. Listen, watch, move, and sing with us as we celebrate the Jewish New Year. As part of our time together, we will watch the debut performance of the **Peoria Puppet Co.**, telling the story, **Today is the Birthday of the World**. While designed for children in first grade and younger, all are welcomed to join! We'll meet on Zoom and stream to FacebookLive on our B'nai Emunah Schools Page.

Can't join us at 9:00 a.m.? Not a problem. Check out our Facebook page after the event to enjoy when it works best for your family.

■ SECOND DAY ROSH HA-SHANAH | SEPT. 20

Families with school-aged children are invited to take part in our second day of Rosh Ha-Shanah celebration. Students and parents will meet virtually to sing, reflect, and explore themes of the holiday season. We will spend time investigating the story of creation and the subject of wholeness by learning about and creating nature mandalas. You will only need materials found in your yard.

Our experience will end in time for families to attend Synagogue services. We'll meet on Zoom and stream to FacebookLive on our B'nai Emunah Schools Page. Can't join us at 9:00 a.m.? Not a problem. Check out our Facebook page after the event to enjoy when it works best for your family.

■ THE WOKE SHOFAR | SEPTEMBER 20

The blasts of the Shofar on Rosh Ha-Shanah move us to reflection and inspiration. Synagogue teens in eighth through twelfth grades are invited at 3:00 p.m. on the second day of Rosh Ha-Shanah for a deep dive into the Shofar. We'll explore its historical roots, and what it means for us in our world today. Finding intention in the shofar blasts, we will explore our passions and interests about what we should be "woke" to this year.

Students will create their piece of art in the days in between Rosh Ha-Shanah and Yom Kippur to convey what the Shofar is calling to them this year. On Yom Kippur, we will open our digital museum where student's pieces will be displayed for the community to see. Interested teens should RSVP to Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.

■ YOM KIPPUR | SEPTEMBER 28

Families with school-aged children are invited to join us at 9:00 a.m. on the morning of Yom Kippur. We'll be exploring mirrors as an entrance into conversation about reflection, renewal and repentance. We'll hear some of the familiar liturgy of the holidays, connect with one another and dive into the themes of Yom Kippur. Our experience will take place on Zoom and will be streamed live to Facebook to ensure families can access this experience in real time or at a time that works for them.

Questions or to RSVP, please be in touch with Morah Sara at slevitt@bnaiemunah.com.

LITURGY

■ MI-SHEBAYRACHS

As many of you know, a **mi-shebayrach** is a prayer for someone who is ill. The word itself is drawn from the formula used: "**Mi-shebayrach**...May the One who blessed Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah bless and heal..."

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been reciting this part of the liturgy with special fervor and intentionality. Not only that, but we have added the names of physicians, public servants, agency personnel, and front-line workers for whom we ask God's protective care. There are well over a hundred names on these two lists, and we add to them each week. In the course of our Shabbat morning celebration, they are listed on the viewing screen and, because the setting of the service is Zoom, we invite people to add to the list using the chat function.

If you'd like a loved one to be included in this roster, please call the Synagogue at (918) 583-7121 or write Program Director, Simon Lowen at slowen@bnaiemunah.com. He and Rabbi Fitzerman will be sure to get your name up on the screen.

Please note that the same holds true for the High Holidays. Because we won't be in the Sanctuary, we can't call you forward to the center aisle, but we can make sure to include the names you submit in advance.

WELCOME TO THE 2020 HOLIDAYS AT THE SYNAGOGUE

■ ZOOM

So much of what we do this year over the High Holidays will depend on your comfort with Zoom. It's been a lifeline for many people during the pandemic, and it will continue to be essential during the upcoming celebrations.

If you plan to join us, please take a practice run, especially if you don't yet have much experience. There will be an online tutorial run by Simon Lowen on the morning of Sunday, September 6 at 11:00 a.m. All you have to do to get on is to find your way to the Synagogue website (www.tulsagogue.com), and click on the Zoom Webinar button.

For those who are Masters of Zoom already, the easiest way to join almost anything at the Synagogue is to activate your Zoom platform and use the Synagogue ID: **918 583 7121**.

For those who'd like the simplest High Holiday experience, just go to the Synagogue website (www.tulsagogue.com) and click on the clearly labeled Zoom start button. About four seconds later, you'll be in the B'nai Emunah Zoom Room with the rest of us.

If you'd like to install Zoom on your machine and put yourself on the path to Genuine Zoom Mastery, go to www.zoom.us, click on the "Join Meeting" tab at the right hand top of the screen, close to the middle, and follow the directions from there. Depending on what you've done already, you'll either be guided to the Synagogue Zoom Room or prompted to install the platform.

Confused by the whole darn Zoom thing? As you'll see on page 8, we've organized a new project called **Zoom Buddy**. We're ready to assign anyone who asks a skilled partner who will hold your digital hand and provide any help you need. All you need to do is make contact with Simon Lowen at slowen@bnaiemunah.com. He's standing by even as we speak. As they say in Oklahoma, "We'll get you fixed up in no time!"

A few additional notes: First, your home internet connection is likely to be at least a little bit unstable. If someone else is already on Zoom (or any other internet platform), you may overtax your system if you try to get into a Zoom Room yourself. Take turns or buddy up!

Second, we take the security issue very seriously. Even though we're public about our Zoom ID number in order to lower the barriers to participation, our room is **always, always** monitored and we can shut things down quickly if we encounter an episode of the nasties. We hope for the best and prepare for the worst, but we can promise that you will not experience a crazy pants rant from an unsavory character for more than a second or two. If anything happens, remember that something worse has already happened in the course of our long history as a people.

Finally, there are sometimes technical difficulties, but that applies to our three-dimensional spaces, too. Push comes to shove, we'll re-schedule and start over again. At this point in the pandemic, who isn't feeling philosophical? We just want to make sure that we get as close as possible to a good High Holidays experience. See you in the Synagogue Zoom Room!

■ WHAT YOU'LL SEE

Once you get into the Synagogue Zoom Room, we hope you like what you see. Building on six months of digital Shabbat celebrations, we're going to use most of the screen to display pages from our new digital High Holiday prayerbook (**machzor**). Each section will be color coded and each prayer is separated from the next by a graphic "pause panel," drawn from the image collection of the Synagogue.

Apart from this, you'll see small images of Rabbis Fitzerman and Kaiman, Cantor Dworsky, and anyone else who has a role in the service. For much of the time, they will be off to the side so that they don't interfere with the image of the page.

Each page, itself, is divided into three parts. At the top of most panels, you'll see the traditional Hebrew text, printed in Hebrew letters. Below that, in the middle of the panel, there will be a transliteration (Hebrew in English letters). At the bottom of the panel you'll see a translation of the Hebrew into English. For the most part, we've decided to use literal translations this year. Occasionally, you'll see a poetic restatement or, particularly during Musaf (the Additional Service), new liturgy in English. Those who have been at B'nai Emunah for services before will recognize these texts from previous years. Please note that each service will be a mix of live and recorded elements so that we can offer the best experience within the limits of our technology.

Note, also, that because you'll see our machzor on the screen, you will not need to have a prayerbook with you. However, we would be glad to loan out copies of our High Holiday prayerbooks to any member of the congregation. If you'd like to claim a copy for the duration, please contact Rick Gratch, our new Administrator, at (918) 583-7121 or rgratch@bnaiemunah.com

■ TIMING

There are real limits to what you can accomplish on Zoom and how much time anyone can spend before a screen. For that reason, no unit of celebration for adults or children will run more than an hour and forty-five minutes. That's about the length of many feature films, and it marks the upper limit for most people when it comes to attention space and **zitzfleisch**.

The result is that services will run more quickly than before. In order to accomplish that, we've had to subdivide our planned

(continued on following page)

2020 HOLIDAYS AT THE SYNAGOGUE

(continued from previous page)

experience into many more modules than before. To take one example, Yizkor (our Memorial Service) will now take place as a free-standing service at 2:00 p.m. on the afternoon of Yom Kippur. Similarly, we have re-configured our **haftorahs** (excerpts from the Prophets) so that they will be "broadcast" at the end of each day. There is a draft calendar of this approach on page 5 of this edition, but please be alert to changes. We're working to get this right, but it's slow going.

■ HOSPITALITY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Prayer and penitence are part of the equation, but so are the pleasures of beautiful food, an abundant table, friends, and family. It will be hard to achieve all of this during the Year of the Pandemic, but the Synagogue will be trying its best.

On Saturday evening, September 12, we invite the whole community to take part in **Selichot**, the opening event of the High Holiday season. On that evening, the congregation will offer gratitude to the paraprofessional volunteers who have devoted many years to conducting services, readying the Synagogue for prayer, and taking care of our ritual affairs. These include Brian Brouse, Dennis Johnson, Sam Peled, Harris Prescott, Greg Raskin, and Robert Smith. On the same evening, the congregation will officially welcome everyone who has formally joined B'nai Emunah in the last year. Each new member brings the blessing of new ideas, new energy, and unique life experience.

The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a **Selichot Dinner** directly in front of the B'nai Emunah building. Participants may call or sign up at the website (tulsagogue.com) for a catered picnic basket dinner by Chef James Shrader of the Palace Café, or bring a dairy/vegetarian meal with them when they arrive. Complimentary beverages will be available. Participants will be seated in household groups at socially distanced tables, and the meal will end with the tribute to our volunteers, new members, and Havdalah. Immediately after, the first shofar notes will be blown for the season.

On the **Eve of Rosh Ha-Shanah**, September 18, we will act the part of community caterer. Roasted chicken and holiday brisket by Chef Jeff Marlow will be available for curbside pick-up between noon and 2:00 p.m. Please call in advance or visit our website (tulsagogue.com) to reserve your main dish, together with a pan of fall vegetables ready for roasting. Prices are listed; all you need to do is to choose the chicken or the beef.

Kapparot, our annual celebration of new resolutions and release from sorrow, will take place on Sunday, September 27, at 12:30 p.m. directly in front of the Synagogue's front door. Participants will gather in masks and stand in a socially distanced array to release one hundred homing pigeons into the Oklahoma sky. There will be no charge for this event,

and all are invited to enjoy complimentary box lunches from Queenies at 12:45 p.m. Please bring a picnic blanket so that you and those closest to you can spread out on the grass in front of the building. Please call or register at our website (tulsagogue.com) and choose either egg salad or tuna on toasted wheat. A box with your name on it will be waiting when you arrive.

Thanks to the generosity of the Sharna and Irvin Frank Foundation, a full break-fast prepared by Fountain's Catering will be available for pick-up at the front door of the Synagogue in advance of Yom Kippur on Sunday, September 27, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Distribution will continue until 3:00 p.m. Please do us the favor of calling or registering online at tulsagogue.com for you and the members of your household. That will allow us to prepare your order and bring it to your car. All you'll need to have ready at home is a beverage.

Sukkot Dinner on Friday, October 2, will take the form of a ShalomFresh holiday meal. Raw materials for this meal will be available for pick-up on that Friday afternoon, beginning at noon and ending at 2:00 p.m. At 3:00 p.m., Rabbi Kaiman will take to Zoom (ID: **918 583 7121**), to lead in preparing ricotta gnocchi with a delicious array of accompaniments. You should be able to finish your work on this Shabbat/Sukkot Dinner no later than 4:15 p.m. Please call or check the Synagogue website (tulsagogue.com) for ShalomFresh prices and to make reservations.

The fall holiday season will close on Sunday, October 11, with **Simchat Torah Lunch**. The morning service will end that day at approximately 11:45 a.m. Thanks to the Zarrow Foundations, celebrants will be able to pick up a holiday meal-to-go beginning at noon. On the menu will be our traditional meal of salmon en croute, seasoned rice salad, and apple turnovers. All you need to do is to reserve your meal in advance by calling (918) 583-7121 or going to our website at tulsagogue.com.

Great Holiday Meals at the Synagogue!

.....
Please check out our list and choose
the experience that appeals to you.
Sign up, and we'll handle the rest!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SYNAGOGUE

Altamont Bakery Fund
Harold and Sheryl Springer

Chevra Kadisha Fund
Harold and Sheryl Springer

Dave Sylvan Joyful Music Fund
Dr. Sheldon and Molly Berger
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**Scott Sanditen
Community Service Fund**
Laurie and Bob Berman
Harold and Sheryl Springer

Synagogue General Fund
Drs. Ernest and Ellen Kornmehl
Cheryl and Haran Levy and family

In Memory Of
Celia Kirsch Adler
Beverly Axelrod
Kenneth Axelrod
Joseph E. Borg
Barry Davis
Karen Davis
Sam Brenner
Barbara Farfel
Leah Borg Friedman
Helen Kirsch
Rose Schlanger
Jack Schlanger
Benjamin Schlanger
Ezzie Springer
Dave Sylvan
Hanna Ungerman
Maynard Ungerman
Gertrude Weisman
Melissa Weiss

In Honor Of
The Fitzerman, Blue, and Sterba Families
on the birth of **Nino Gabriel Gomez**
Rabbi Daniel S. Kaiman and Rachel Gold,
on the birth of **Millie Faye**
Dr. Jan Finer
Micah Pierandri

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DEBUT PERFORMANCE ON THE FIRST DAY OF ROSH HA-SHANAH
AT 9 O'CLOCK. SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS

THE SYNAGOGUE

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YAHRTZEIT CALENDAR — 12 ELUL THROUGH 12 TISHRAY

Tuesday, September 1 - 12 Elul

Lionel E.Z. Aaronson
O.G. Bortel
Dudley Gottehrer
Sophia Marks
Lilian Moran
Harry Robbin
Chaya Schwartzblatt
Harry J. Weiner

Wednesday, September 2 - 13 Elul

Dorothy Kaset
Lillian Rubin
Barry Saveth

Thursday, September 3 - 14 Elul

Jack I. Brown
Catherine B. Campbell
Sarah Roberts Kauffman
Fannie Marks
Allen Politzer
Aaron Rabinovitz
Simon Selinger

Friday, September 4 - 15 Elul

Abe Charney
Frank Goodman
Larry Levy
Sarah Magoon
Nancy Sue Polishuk
Ben Prezma
Mike Robinowitz
Evelyn Wolf

Saturday, September 5 - 16 Elul

Israel Friedberg
Fannie A. Mizel Stockfish
Louis Weiss
Samuel Zolt

Sunday, September 6 - 17 Elul

Martin R. Abrams
Rose Blacher Weinstein

Monday, September 7 - 18 Elul

Harold Guller
Luie Kurtz

Pearl Myers
Herman Sternfield

Tuesday, September 8 - 19 Elul

Samuel M. Kantor
Abraham Krasne
Jean Sanditen

Wednesday, September 9 - 20 Elul

Harold Charney
Chaim Plost
Max Samuel
Morton Solomon
Eva Spector Wittels
Mary Louise (White) Young

Thursday, September 10 - 21 Elul

Celia Annette Albert
Shirley Alcouloumre
Miriam Davis
Bluma (Lovie) Jacobson

Friday, September 11 - 22 Elul

Robert James Darby
Tybie Mary Shavlow
Herman Paul Taubman
Nathan Tugenberg

Saturday, September 12 - 23 Elul

Mary Fedman
Dorothy Teichman

Sunday, September 13 - 24 Elul

Celia Kirsh Adler
Myra Gock
Louis Kerbel
Charles Israel Lebow
Leah Singer
Janice Taubman
Gertrude (Gete) Weisman

Monday, September 14 - 25 Elul

Herbert Berger
Pauline Dubin
Harold Ingle Josey
Elsie Sternfield
Maurice Arthur Weinstein

Tuesday, September 15 - 26 Elul

Rose Brown
Michael Carson
Israel Prescott

Wednesday, September 16 - 27 Elul

Herman Appleman
Jacqueline Devries Huddle
Ferd Falk

Thursday, September 17 - 28 Elul

Sidney L. Frieden
Helen Morrison

Friday, September 18 - 29 Elul

Florence S. Andelman
Ben Budowsky
Pessa Dittman
Allen Galerston
Leo Kopp
Julian Rothbaum
Louis Smith
Milton Wolff

Saturday, September 19 - 1 Tishray

Esther Greenberg
Paul Hayes
Frieda Lasky
Max Meyer
Lena Mizel
Jack Williamson

Sunday, September 20 - 2 Tishray

Louis Mandel

Monday, September 21 - 3 Tishray

Felix Aaronson
Sam Marks
Sadye Rubinstein
Anna Shapiro

Tuesday, September 22 - 4 Tishray

Bertha Berelowitz
Jim Glass
Harry Guterman

Wednesday, September 23 - 5 Tishray

Etta Waldinger Borg
Freda Krawitz
Esther Pastor
Harry H. Rozen

Thursday, September 24 - 6 Tishray

Miriam Cohn Phillips
Joseph Grossbard
Vicki Walzer

Friday, September 25 - 7 Tishray

Alvin Glass
Brenda Magoon
Louis Mizel
Hilde Theresa Roubal
Isaac Aaron Schuman

Saturday, September 26 - 8 Tishray

Sylvia Alexander
Bertha Ettleman
Phillip Fischbein
Alexander Meyer
Betty Newman

Sunday, September 27 - 9 Tishray

Leah Katz
Morgan Skyler
Shiphrah Stockfish West

Monday, September 28 - 10 Tishray

Jacob Chekofsky
Raphael Donde
Alvin Dundee
Ann B. Freed
Philip Trommer

Tuesday, September 29 - 11 Tishray

Elana Wexberg Haas Horska
Fanny Kaiser
Bertha Winer

Wednesday, September 30 - 12 Tishray

Yvonne Davis Beard
Eleanor Cohen
Simon Kaiser
Walter Loftis

May their souls be bound up in the bond of life everlasting. Please note that each yahrtzeit begins at sunset on the day before the date listed.