

KESHER

Our
Seventy-Eighth
Year!

FROM RABBI SAM

Welcome to Elul

The new moon of Elul (the sixth month of the Hebrew calendar) offered the extremely rare occurrence of a full solar eclipse for a vast portion of the United States. Almost all of the continental states had at least a 50% eclipse. In Eastern Massachusetts and South Eastern New Hampshire this was over 60%. In ancient times, for many cultures, the rare celestial spectacle of a solar eclipse was viewed with awe. It was a time, perhaps, also of foreboding or a view of some sort of omen.

In our days, we like to think of ourselves beyond such superstition irrational behaviors. Certainly, we do not have the idea that God or the gods are directly involved in this event and intend it as a warning. Yet, we can still feel the sense of awe and power in the most explainable of natural events. If you had the opportunity to view the eclipse (safely), you may have a had a moment of such feelings.

Though the eclipse was not timed or pre-planned to arrive during the final month of the Hebrew year 5777, we can still let it give us pause.

Elul is the preparatory time in the year, according to Jewish tradition, for wrapping up the loose ends (especially those that have frayed or need to be removed and discarded) and accepting the challenge of weaving a renewed cloth for the year to come.

Elul traditionally includes the sounding

of the 4 basic notes of the shofar each morning (Sunday to Friday) and the reading each day of Psalm 27. These serve as reminders that we do not have to wait for Yom Kippur to seek and offer forgiveness to ourselves and others. We have 40 days (a full month plus the 10 days of awe) to seek to create new habits, find new paths to replace the no longer useful old ones, and challenge ourselves to new growth and strength.

The Temple Israel community can use the visual symbol of the eclipse to block out the rays of the past that can no longer be held as valid illumination on the road we travel. Even as the invisible sun offered scientists new insights into the celestial mechanics and phenomena, so can we close out the lights of the past chapters of the Temple. The new light of the sun that emerged from the shadow, gave data that can be mined for some time to come. We can use Elul to begin the path that will lead into a brighter future for the Temple and the Reform Jewish community of the New Hampshire Seacoast region.

Psalm 27 opens with the fitting words, "The Eternal is my light and my salvation." In the middle is a stirring verse made into a modern song *Achat Sha'alti* that we will hear on day 2 of Rosh Hashanna. The Psalm closes with, "Trust in the Eternal, have faith, do not despair, trust in the Eternal."

From the Board

When I grew up in the 1950s and 1960s, I knew that I was the third generation of my family to be part of Temple Israel of Greater Miami, the first Reform congregation in South Florida, founded in 1922. Members of my family had been officers of the Temple long before I was born and others still are today. I learned that the synagogue was an institution worth continuing and one that required my support. I still believe that today, although my focus now is on Temple Israel of Dover. Both institutions had their glory years and declines. The Miami congregation again is on the rise, thanks to the many efforts of its sustaining members but also due to the revitalization of downtown Miami. I have a similar hope for our congregation's rise from its decline, as we attempt to widen its zone of appeal.

It's hard to acknowledge decline, whether talking about one's own aging or the aging of an institution, be it a business or a synagogue. In all cases, I feel it is better to be honest with one's assessment, because burying the truth doesn't usually have a happy ending. So let me say what many don't want to hear: *Temple Israel of Dover has been in decline*, due to changing demographics, demands of dual careers, intermarriage, acceleration of lifestyles accompanied by a diminishing of free time (especially to contemplate beyond the current moment), a loss of the merchant class that generously supported the Temple, and a spreading of the Jewish community to the suburbs and exurbs and many of our children to other locales, many in other states, and many other trends and reasons, including rabbinical changes. This is our truth and, at the heart of it, is that we have been trying to cover the increasing costs of running the Temple with a declining number of members.

These changes have been going on for decades. While those who have been part of our congregation for generations might cite what they believe are the pivotal happenings (or mistakes) that caused the decline, it really doesn't make any difference, at least to me, a member since 2009. We are where we are. That is where we start this fiscal year. Change is happening and will continue, as we seek to rise as the only Reform congregation in southeastern NH.

This isn't going to be easy. For many, the changes ahead will be hard, because they have come to define the synagogue as the building that we now call home (or our prior home in downtown Dover). For others, it will be a challenge financially, because as I repeated many times at the annual meeting, "We need more money." Dues went up this year after what probably was a 15-year freeze. If we had raised dues \$25 a year per member/family, maybe we would now be in better shape. For most of us, it is going to be a challenge for our precious personal time. This congregation has survived only because a small group of people have dedicated large portions of their time to the synagogue. Without them, we would have expired years ago. To these folks, we need to say *thank you* again and again. But that is not enough. We each need to help keep the synagogue afloat – in terms of the activities and events and in terms of financial support. We need active members who will support and participate in the congregation's endeavors. The key word is active. We need your involvement and assistance, with openings on the program, ritual and school committees. Please lend a hand.

As co-treasurer, I want to thank all of the members who have paid their dues for this new fiscal year. If you haven't, please do so. If you need paperwork, send me an email at treasurer@dovertemple.org. In addition, I want to thank all of the members who reached into their pocket a little (or a lot) more deeply this year, either by being a Benefactor, by contributing to reduce the balance shortage that has been carried from year to year (which at the annual meeting I called "an addiction"), or by making other monetary contributions at the time of membership renewal. We are not out of the woods, but we still are in business and striving for revitalization.

Revitalization means finding new members. This is a priority for the Board. You will see changes to increase the likelihood of attracting new members. This is necessary even though some of the changes may not be to everyone's liking. Change is inevitable; let's all embrace it.

Please join me and my wife Bev, Rabbi Sam, my hard-working colleagues on the board, and many of the members in working together to make Temple Israel of Dover the obvious destination for the Reform Jews of Southeastern New Hampshire and Maine, (and even MA). Together, we can make this happen. Please join in.

L'shalom for now and the future Mike

Temple Israel Board of Trustees—2017-2018

Ken Litvak, President Melissa Brahms, Carole Krassner, Co-Vice Presidents
Mike Kahn, Stan Robbins, Co-Treasurers Cathi Cherry-Liston, Secretary

Andy Diengott, Peter Pastor,
Nathan Schwadron, Julie Serrano,

Stacey Segil & Karen Mott, Sisterhood Representatives
Nathan Pastor, COASTY Representatives

KESHER

Kesher, Connection,
is the newsletter
of Temple Israel
Dover, NH.

Ideas for submissions
and/or letters to the editor
may be submitted by
members of the Temple
Israel family and all others
who would like to share
news or information with
the Temple community.

All communication with
the Editor should be by e-
mail. Publication of any
flyer or any other article or
submission is limited by
editorial and space consid-
erations.

The deadline for submis-
sion is the twentieth (20th)
of the month for the fol-
lowing month's issue of
Kesher.

email to:
Rabbi Sam Seicol
rabbisam@dovertemple.org

Shabbat @ Temple Israel

Friday evening services 7:00

Saturday mornings 10:30

Please note special programs

Fri Sept 1 6:30 Meat/Veg Pot-luck Dinner

Sat Sept 2 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study

Fri Sept 8 7:00 Shabbat Service

Sat Sept 9 10:30 Shabbat Torah Study

Fri Sept 15 7:00 Service — Last Shabbat of 5777

Sat Sept 16 10:30 Shabbat morning service

Fri Sept 22 4:45 Special Shabbat Program

See Page 4

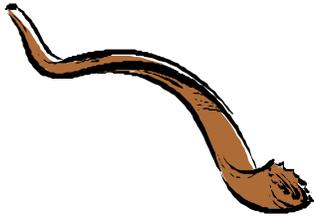
Sat Sept 23 10:30 Shabbat Shuva Torah Study

Fri Sept 29 Yom Kippur/Shabbat

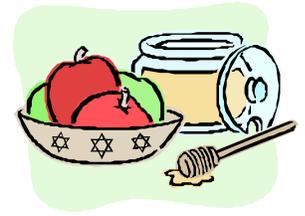
See Page 4

Sat Oct 1 Yom Kippur/Shabbat

See Page 4



Time to think about The High Holy Days



Members in good standing at Temple Israel of Dover receive complimentary attendance tickets for all household members at all High Holy Day services. Members of other URJ Synagogues visiting in Dover may request a reciprocity admission letter, from the home congregation, for complimentary attendance tickets.

Associate and non-members are welcome to attend—see the website flyer for donation prices.

College students are welcome to attend at no charge (donation of \$18 or more is appreciated).

No one is turned away for financial reasons. If there are financial concerns, please contact the Finance Committee Chair for a confidential arrangement.

For more information please call (603) 742-3976, email templeoffice@dovertemple.org, or write us at PO Box 254 Dover, NH 03820.

5778 High Holy Day Services September 2017

Donations to the High Holy Day Music Fund welcome

Rosh HaShannah

- 20** 8:00 Rosh Hashanna Evening Service
Rosh Hashanna Oneg – sponsored by the Temple Board
- 21** 10:00 Rosh Hashanna Morning Service
12:15 Rosh Hashanna Tashlich at the pond
- 22** 11:00 2nd Day Rosh Hashanna: Meditation, Music, and Healing Service
12:00 Rosh Hashanna pot luck brunch
4:15 Family Tashlich at the pond
4:45 Kabbalat Shabbat at the pond

Shabbat Shuvah

- 23** 10:30 Shabbat Shuvah Torah Study
- 24** 10:00 - Somersworth 11:00 - Dover High Holy Day Cemetery Services

Yom Kippur

- 29** 8:00 Yom Kippur Evening Service – Kol Nidre
- 30** 10:00 Yom Kippur Morning Service
1:30 Yom Kippur Family Service
3:00 Yom Kippur Study Program
4:00 Yom Kippur Afternoon / Yizkor / Concluding Services

*Pot-Luck Break the Fast following the Concluding Service – coordinated by the Sisterhood
Please volunteer to set up and/or clean up;*

Or bring a non-meat main dish, non-meat casserole, dessert, or drinks

THANK YOU ONEG HOSTS

September

- 1 Pot-Luck Dinner
- 8 Nancy & Mort Cherim
- 15 Cathi Cherry-Liston
- 20 Rosh Hashanna - Temple Board
- 22 Tashlich / Kabbalat Shabbat
- 29 Kol Nidrei - No Oneg

October

- 6 Pot-luck - Sukka Service
- 13 DeeDee & David Goldstein
- 20 Lynne DeSantis
Joel Lafargue
- 27 Rita & Stan Robbins

ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS

If you are unable to host the Oneg Shabbat on the night assigned to you, please find a substitute by trading with another family from the membership directory. If you need to change your assigned date, please notify:

Cathi Cherry-Liston
603-312-0152, 603-269-4888,
ccherryliston@yahoo.com



Please consider marking special occasions and milestones along the path of life for you or your family by purchasing a leaf, stone, or acorn on the Tree of Life.

Plaques in the Sanctuary honor the memory of a loved one.

For more information, contact: Tammy Fascetta in the Temple office.
templeoffice@



Mazal Tov

to our members who are celebrating happy occasions in September!

**Join us at Friday Dinner
September 1 at 6:30 PM
as we offer our wishes for
your special day.**

Birthdays

- James Lieberman (2), Joshua Harris (4), Stan Robbins (6), Pamela Giguere (7), Tali Cherim (7), Lilah Cherim (7), Liza Behrendt (9), Edward Lieberman (15), Juliette Diengott (19), Jill Schoonmaker (19), Matthew Segil (22), Mike Robbins (24), Michael Krassner (28), Molly Flagg (28),

Anniversaries

- Stan & Rita Robbins (4), Jill & William Schoonmaker (6), Zachariah & Kristen Nobel (28)

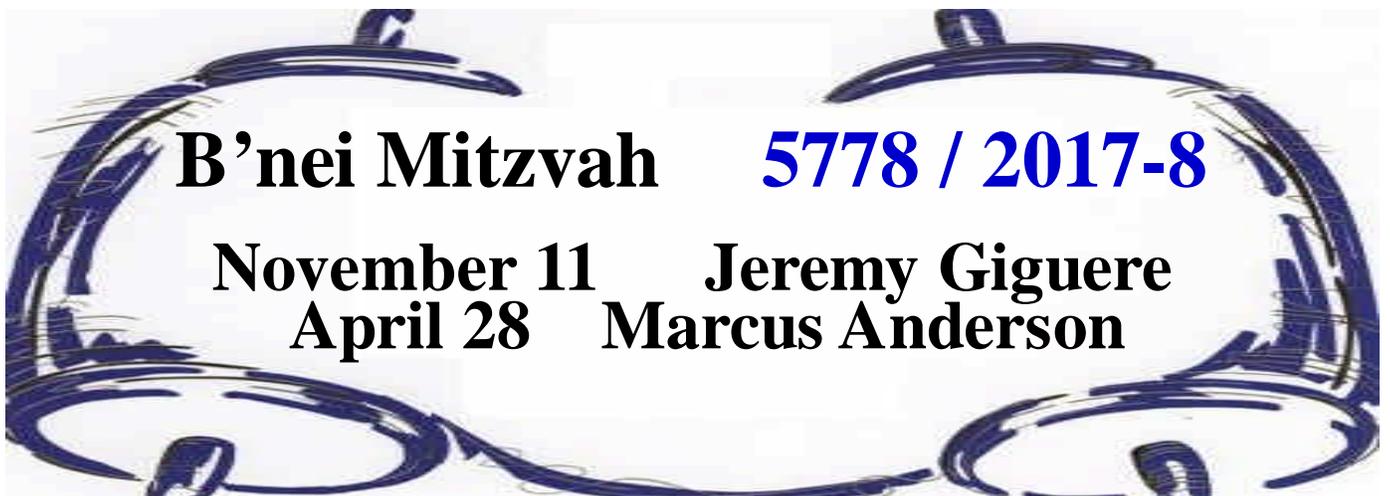
Don't Forget

Amazon Smile

&

Hannaford Gift Cards

See the website for details



B'nei Mitzvah 5778 / 2017-8

November 11 Jeremy Giguere
April 28 Marcus Anderson

Religious School

Welcome to the New Year

All are **WELCOME**

September

10	9:30	Religious School classes
17	9:30	Religious School classes
24	11:00	Cemetery Service at Dover Cemetery

October

1	9:30	Religious School classes — Sukkot prep
8	11:00	Religious School — Sukkot lunch
13	7:00	Simhat Torah at Shabbat evening service
15	9:30	Religious School classes
22	9:30	Religious School classes
29	9:30	Religious School classes

Dear Fellow Congregants,

The Ritual Committee is in the process of planning for our High Holy Days. If you would like to participate in one of the services, please contact me. There are Hebrew and English readings and aliyot. Non-speaking honors include opening the ark, returning the Torah to the ark, and holding, carrying and/or lifting the Torah.

Below are the service dates and times when honors are available. (*These do not include Cemetery Service, Family and Tashlich Services. See page 3 and the September Calendar for a complete schedule at www.dovertemple.org*)

Please contact me via email or phone. Thank you so much.

Wednesday 9/20 8:00 PM Erev Rosh Hashanna

Thursday 9/21 10:00 AM Rosh Hashanna Morning

Friday 9/29 8:00 PM Kol Nidre

Saturday 9/30 10:00 AM YK Morning

Our music leader for Rosh Hashanna and Yom Kippur Services will be Rosalie Toubes.

L'shalom,

Cathi Cherry-Liston (C) 603-312-8152 ccherryliston@yahoo.com



Save These Dates



Check out the Temple Calendar and watch for more news about:



October 8



October 13



October 20



November 3



MONTHLY MEDITATION



**A promise of blue breaks through,
Softening and calming the gray.**

**Mirrored in still waters; a now smiling sky finds joy.
Verdant visions – bushes, trees, water plants – all abound;
Each form of floral fullness invites pause to reflect:
A challenge to rejoice in a unified whole,
Out of a beautiful diversity.**

Temple Israel in the Community

The Dover Food Pantry

Items can be donated to the Food Pantry any time.
Drop off may done at the Temple.

The Food Pantry is open
Tuesdays 3-5PM and Thursdays 9-11AM

**In addition to donations of
food and/or personal items
volunteers are always welcome
to help work at the Dover Food Pantry.
Please contact Karen Robichaud
at (603) 749-4235 or blrklr2@aol.com**

The Dover SHARE Fund

directly assists local residents with needs that are not met through other helping agencies, providing them with shelter and support for utilities and medical care.

Your support is appreciated!

www.dovershare.org

Dover Friendly Kitchen

**MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!
PLEASE JOIN THE COMMUNITY!!!**

Temple Members help serve dinner at the Dover Friendly Kitchen on the first Tuesday of each month at St. Thomas Church Parish Hall on Locust Street. Temple Israel's time slot needs people to help cook, serve, and clean.

We are there from 3:45 until around 6:15.

Volunteers do not need to come for the whole time.

For more information or to let me know if you plan to attend, please contact me. We welcome everyone's help!

Thank you!

Andra Welch, Coordinator

abbwelch@yahoo.com or 534-4142

Bereavement Support Groups by Rockingham VNA & Hospice

September 12 through October 18

Afternoon and Evening groups are planned

Free but at least 4 must pre-register for a group to be held. For more information and for locations contact Dick Munsey or Molly Brewer (603) 772-2981

***Support the Temple
When You Shop at Amazon***
***When you shop at Amazon, Amazon
Smile will donate 1/2 of 1% of what
you spend to the Temple.
Here's what you have to do.***

You will be prompted to select your charity. **In the white search box, type "Temple Israel of Dover"** and execute the search.

"Temple Israel of Dover, NH" should pop up.

Select it and then shop as usual.

You need to do this each time you shop, unless you leave the browser tab open. If the URL (web address shown at the top of the browser page) doesn't include smile.amazon.com, you need to log on again to **smile.amazon.com**.

The smile program doesn't work with smart phone apps.

(When this changes, we will change these instructions.)

Thus, to get the donation, you must do your shopping from a browser regardless of its type.

Contact **webmaster@dovertemple.org**, if you have any questions or problems.

AUGUST DONATIONS

All are encouraged to honor the memory of loved ones and/or to offer tributes to friends, relatives and members of the community through a donation Temple funds. We express appreciation to:

GENERAL FUND

Ken and Bertha Litvack
for sponsoring the August 4 oneg
Jo McLean

MUSIC FUND

Robert Golub and Laurie Smith
in memory of their mother,
Ethlyne Golub

Jim and Beth Lieberman
Stan and Rita Robbins

RABBI'S FUND

Bridget Jameson
with gratitude for your support
Jim and Beth Lieberman

SISTERHOOD

Jim and Beth Lieberman

Hospital Visits:**Please keep us informed!**

If you or someone you know will be or is in the hospital please call the Temple office. You can also ask a nurse to see the hospital chaplain, who can call the Temple to let us know that you are there. Rabbi Sam and the Caring Committee of Temple Israel would like to be able to offer support and comfort to you and your family as you may desire.

SEPTEMBER YAHRZEITS

NOTE: *Yahrzeits are recorded according to the Hebrew date, so the English date will vary from year to year. Kaddish in the Synagogue may be recited on the Shabbat following the date of remembrance.*

It is traditional to make a donation in memory of the Yahrzeit of a love one. To make a donation, please contact the Temple Office.

Week of September 2: William Kleinhandle(27), Robert Dick(28), Betty Doris Kates (28), Krissy Yanofsky (29), Dyna Dykerman (30), Mary Nicole (30), George Nielsen (30), Arthur Yaffee (30), Myer Saunders (31), Samuel Goldstein (31), Charles Zinck(31), Nathan Issokson(31), Fredrick L. Diengott(1), Harry Stein (1)

Week of September 9: John Talisman(3), Barbara Alperin(4), Joseph Jalbert (5), Barbara O'Connor (5), William Olney (6), Ray Alterman (6), Selma Odell (6), Martin Erwin Cohen (6), Matthew Fleece(7), Michael Youngfellow(7), Samuel Kramer(8), Hilda Rutstein (8)

Week of September 16: Aaron Ginsburg(12), Sadie Liebson(12), Hugo Dieterich (13), Judith Olson (13), Joseph Karol(14), Sandra Proud(14), Helga Burby(14), Philip Verner(15), James Troilo (15)

Week of September 23: Charles Kram(17), Martin Karelitz(18) Isadore Kotlus (18), William Baer (21), Nancy S. Hernandez(21), Suzanne Rubenstein(22), Bernard Cooperman(23), Leonard Lane (23), Joseph M. Baer (23)

Week of September 30: Sarah Edelstein (30), Mark Shor (30)

Memorial Wall

Members may add the name of a loved one or reserve a space on the Memorial Wall with a minimum contribution of \$300. Please contact the Temple Office for more information.



Temple Israel of Dover

36 Olive Meadow lane
P. O. Box 254
Dover, N. H. 03821
(603) 742-3976
templeoffice@
dovertemple.org
www.dovertemple.org



Temple Israel is a vibrant Reform Jewish congregation. We welcome all who wish to participate in Jewish study, worship, and fellowship. Our mission is to be a center for Jewish tradition, Shabbat and holiday services and programs, sharing of life-cycle events, opportunities for Jewish education for all ages, connection to Israel, and involvement in the wider Jewish world and support for all who are in need.

Temple Israel is a proud member of the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) We join with more than 800 congregations in the Reform synagogue movement.

President:
Ken Litvak
president@dovertemple.org
Rabbi:
Sam Seicol
rabbisam@dovertemple.org

September 2017

01	6:30	Shabbat Meat/Vegetarian Dinner
02	10:30	Shabbat Morning Torah Study
05	3:45	Dover Friendly Kitchen
08	7:00	Shabbat Service
09	10:30	Shabbat Morning Torah Study
10	9:30	Religious School Classes Begin
15	7:00	Last Shabbat Eve Service of 5777
16	10:30	Last Morning Service of 5777
17	9:30	Religious School Classes
20	8:00	Rosh Hashanna Evening Service
21	10:00	Rosh Hashanna Morning Service
	12:00	Rosh Hashanna Tashlich at the Pond
22	11:00	Rosh Hashanna Music & Meditation
	12:00	Rosh Hashanna pot luck brunch
	4:15	Rosh Hashanna Family Tashlich
	4:45	Kabbalat Shabbat at the Pond
23	10:30	Shabbat Shuva Morning Torah Study
24	10:00/11:00	Cemeteries Services
29	8:00	Yom Kippur Evening Service
30	10:00	Yom Kippur Morning Service
	1:30	Yom Kippur Family Service
	3:00	Yom Kippur Study Program
	4:00	Yom Kippur Afternoon / Yizkor
	5:00	Yom Kippur Afternoon / Concluding
		Break the Fast following Concluding Service