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ELUL 5771 - TISHRI 5772

Temple Talk

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Transforming the Severity of the Decree: Remembering September 11 Ten Years Later

By: Rabbi Tracy Nathan

As I reflect on the ten years since the violent and tragic events of September 11, 2001, I remember conversations I had in the intense days in New York that followed of fantasies that many had of waking up and finding that it had all been a bad dream or wishing they could turn back time and prevent it from happening. How different life would be today if only....

We cannot bring back any one of the 2,992 people who lost their lives in the Twin Towers, on the airplanes, and at the Pentagon; nor can we bring back the more than 6000 American troops and the countless civilians who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. But the season of *teshuva* that we formally began with Rosh Hodesh Elul with its daily blasts of the shofar remind us that we have some power to transform the future.

The Unetaneh Tokef prayer of the Yamim Noraim/Days of Awe forces us to grapple with our vulnerability. It seems at first to speak of a destiny that we have no control over – who will live and who will die. But this gives way to the famous words:

U'teshuva, u'tefilla, u'tzedaka ma'avirin et ro'ah ha'gezera.

But *teshuva*/turning, and *tefillah*/prayer, and *tzedakah*/righteous acts transform the severity of the decree.

Teshuva has the sense of returning to the Divine path or our truest and best selves. *Tefillah* provides us with the opportunity to connect with ultimate meaning, with that which is beyond and bigger than us. It helps us to discover the direction we need to take for true *teshuva*. *Tzedakah* are righteous acts of responsibility for others.

I believe that we have taken some major missteps as a nation in these past ten years. The generosity and love expressed towards fellow citizens in the days that followed quickly turned to fear and intolerance. But how might we respond going forward now, for the word *teshuva* also means “to respond.” How might we honor the memory of those who needlessly lost their lives and those countless heroes who risked their own lives to save others?

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:30am - 12:30pm

Upcoming Events

Labor Day - Morning Minyan Monday Sept 5 at 8:00am

Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner and Service Friday Sept 16 at 6:30pm

Selichot Services Saturday Evening Sept 24 at 8:30pm

See page 6 for a full High Holy Day Calendar

Marks Remarks: When in Rome

By: Mark Frydenberg

As many of you know, I recently returned from ten days in Italy where I combined vacation time with attending a professional conference. The Torah portion on the Shabbat after I returned was Masei, describing the journeys of the Jewish people wandering through the desert. Here is an abridged version of the D'var Torah I shared at Temple Beth Israel that morning, as I was thinking about my own journeys through Florence and Rome.

Forty-two stops along the Israelites path are enumerated and named in the Torah portion of Masei, the last of the book of Numbers. Each of their stops along the way is given in a formulaic "And they journeyed from.... And they camped at..." Each place was a stop along the way that took them to the next place and one step closer to the goal of reaching the Promised Land. The text recalls the places we have been, and reminds us that we must fully experience them to receive the blessings and the lessons they offer.

Coincidentally, my friend Sharon was vacationing in Italy with a friend of hers at the same time as I was, and all of us had pre-arranged to meet in Florence for Shabbat. We visited the beautiful main synagogue there, and had dinner with Chabad. Sharon told me about her experience two nights earlier, when she got locked out of the monastery in Rome where she and her friend were staying, and that she met a priest who gave her shelter for the night. The next day, Father Wilmar and his friend Sal, a high school Italian teacher from Philadelphia in Italy for the summer, showed Sharon and her friend around the city. Sharon emailed Sal and asked him if he would show me around Rome when I arrived there a few days later. He agreed.

I met Father Wilmar and Sal at a fountain near a subway stop at a designated hour. Like the Israelites through the desert, we they led me from place to place. From the fountain we walked to the Spanish Steps, and we visited the nearby church. From the church we walked to a plaza (and visited another church), then on to the statue of Moses with the horns. From the statue we walked to the Fountain of Trevi. From the fountain we visited the Pantheon, and from the Pantheon, we visited the Piazza Navona to see the church there, dinner, and finally St. Peter's at the Vatican. In each place we walked, talked, and looked around – to get a sense of what was there, watch the people, take in the architecture, and visit yet another church.

Later in the week, the Conference I attended also offered a walking tour of Rome as its social event. In 90 minutes a group of 50 of us with one tour guide were shepherded from the Spanish Steps to the plaza to the statue to the fountain to the Pantheon to the Piazza to St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. I stayed in each place long enough to take the

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Themes and Appearances of T'shuvah – Returning and Repentance in High Holy Day Liturgy

By Ellen Band

Some of you may remember, that in 2004, I composed a piece on the sounds of prayer titled *Portal Of Prayer* that was installed at Logan International Airport. To create the piece, I visited and recorded many places of worship. One of those places was an Eastern Orthodox Church. Imagine my surprise when, during the lengthy service, the priest gave a sermon on his interpretation of T'shuvah as a command to 'change direction'. Speaking with him after the service, I added that the Jewish orientation to the meaning of t'shuvah is 'returning to God' as in turning back to God hence the term Ba'al T'shuvah. Most of us are familiar with the ways in which we have historically turned away from God, the most egregious one being the worshipping of idols. For this, and other ways in which we have offended God, we embrace returning and repentance on the High Holy Days. An excellent book that I highly recommend for reading at this time of year is *On Repentance*, which is a compilation of teachings on this theme by Rabbi Soloveichik.

The term *t'shuvah* appears at the end of the U'netaneh Tokef prayer during the repetition of Musaf on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. During this prayer, we hear in exalted language and music, the heavenly procedure that will take place on the Day of Judgment. At the end of the list describing who shall live and who shall die and by what means, the following phrase appears: "U'tshuva, u'tefilah, u'tzedakah, ma'avirin et roa ha'gzairah", "*But repentance, prayer, and tzedakah, mitigate the stern decree.*"

Other texts that contain the theme of t'shuvah are found in the Ne'ilah service at the end of Yom Kippur. After the final 'vidui' (confession), there are three texts that describe God's desire for return and repentance. In the first text God is described as extending God's right hand to receive the repentant sinners (l'kabeil shuvim). In the second text God is imagined saying: "Shuvu, shuvu, midarchaichem ha'raim", "*Return, return, from your wicked ways.*" The text goes on to say: "*For if a person turns from his/her evil ways, he shall live.*" In the third and final text, God is quoted as saying: "*It is I who blot out your transgressions, for my sake: and I will remember your sins no more... Return to me, for I have redeemed you (Shuva aylai, ki g'alticha).*" In all three texts the root word *shuv* is used to indicate both return and repentance.

(Continued on page 4)



September Yahrzeits



Plaque Loc.	Name	Yahrzeit Date
4-4	Morris Potash	31-Aug Elul 01
3-3	Sumner Mason Tirk	31-Aug Elul 01
6-4	Anna Araten	31-Aug Elul 01
3-2	Ella Weiner	1-Sep Elul 02
1-1	Louis Alpert	1-Sep Elul 02
	Aaron Blauer	4-Sep Elul 05
4-3	Rose Ritter	4-Sep Elul 05
3-2	Cecelia Belle Freeman	5-Sep Elul 06
	Bertha Zellin	5-Sep Elul 06
2-4	Rachel Shecktman	6-Sep Elul 07
	Alexander Freedman	6-Sep Elul 07
	Abraham Goldstein	7-Sep Elul 08
6-2	Ruth Cormier	7-Sep Elul 08
1-2	Benjamin Greenblott	7-Sep Elul 08
5-4	Joseph Kennen	9-Sep Elul 10
1-4	Sara Weinstein	9-Sep Elul 10
5-4	Gayle Raye Schupak	9-Sep Elul 10
5-4	Carrie Altman	9-Sep Elul 10
2-4	Samuel Wolf	10-Sep Elul 11
3-2	Nathan Weiner	11-Sep Elul 12
1-2	Louis Goldberg	12-Sep Elul 13
2-3	Mary Nochemsohn	12-Sep Elul 13
5-2	Samuel Arnold	13-Sep Elul 14
3-1	Jennie Bernstein	13-Sep Elul 14
1-2	Harry Goldberg	13-Sep Elul 14
6-4	Hyman Cohen	14-Sep Elul 15
3-2	Anna Ginsburg	14-Sep Elul 15
4-2	Rose Jacobs	15-Sep Elul 16
2-4	Rebecca Wolf	17-Sep Elul 18
2-3	Daniel Leaken	18-Sep Elul 19
2-3	Dorothy Nottenburg	19-Sep Elul 20
2-1	Bessie Aronie	19-Sep Elul 20
1-2	David Feingold	20-Sep Elul 21
3-2	Sarah Mendelsohn	21-Sep Elul 22
1-3	Louis Kniznik	21-Sep Elul 22
6-3	A. Harvey Cinamon	22-Sep Elul 23

Plaque Loc.	Name	Yahrzeit Date
4-4	Louis Goldstein	23-Sep Elul 24
3-3	Annie Siegel	23-Sep Elul 24
4-4	Abraham Crevoshay	24-Sep Elul 25
5-3	Hedwig Benedick	24-Sep Elul 25
1-3	Samuel Pill	25-Sep Elul 26
5-1	Abe Grater	25-Sep Elul 26
2-3	David Pokat	25-Sep Elul 26
1-1	Sarah Caplan	25-Sep Elul 26
3-3	Lillian Michaelson	25-Sep Elul 26
3-4	Doris Resnikoff	27-Sep Elul 28
3-4	Max Russell	28-Sep Elul 29
1-2	Janet Greenblott	30-Sep Tishri 02
1-2	Noah Goldberg	30-Sep Tishri 02
2-3	Annie Meilman	30-Sep Tishri 02
4-1	Tsippa Shapiro	1-Oct Tishri 03
1-1	Rose Bronfman	2-Oct Tishri 04
	Jack Victor Iskowitz	2-Oct Tishri 04
1-4	Louis Sheer	3-Oct Tishri 05
1-2	Mary Hoffman	3-Oct Tishri 05
6-2	Rose Sheer Wolk	3-Oct Tishri 05
1-4	Ethel Shriberg	4-Oct Tishri 06
5-4	Stefanie Claire Handel	4-Oct Tishri 06

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one listed above please send it along with a brief note of who you would like remembered to the Temple Office.

We Need Minyanaires

Services are held at 7:00am on weekdays (except Tuesday) and at 9:00am on weekends & 8:00am on holidays.

Kaddish

We are not able to guarantee a minyan at each morning service, so if you need a minyan on a particular day to recite Kaddish, please let the Temple know at least 2 days prior.

**Transforming the Severity of the Decree:
Remembering September 11 Ten Years Later**

By: Rabbi Tracy Nathan

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My hope is that we take this opportunity of the proximity of September 11 to the New Year to use this time of personal transformation through *teshuva*, *tefilla*, and *tzedakah* to discern how each of us might play a role in forging a path from violence and intolerance to compassion and peace.

As we lead up to September 11, please find a time to come to the synagogue lobby and write in our Book of Reflection and Memory. Write down your personal stories, memories, and reflections on the tragic events ten years ago and on the years since. And you are invited to bring in a stone to place on the table on which the book will stand and write something on the stone – the name of one who was lost; a word of blessing or hope. We will leave this display up through the holidays, and invite you to read the words of others and add some of your own. As we gather together for Selichot, you will have the opportunity to add to this memorial and we will name together some of our blessings and hopes for this new year and decade.

Scott and Hanan and I wish for you a sweet New Year, a year of blessing and wholeness.

L'shanah tovah u'metukah!



Marks Remarks: When in Rome

By: Mark Frydenberg

(Continued from page 2)

pictures to document that I was there. Having been to each of these places a few days earlier, I realized that I was physically there, but I wasn't present. There wasn't time to focus on a particular artifact, or create a memory or have a story to tell.

There were only three places where I wasn't allowed to take photos: The Sistene Chapel, and the synagogues in Florence and Rome. I remember saying, that it killed me that I can't take photos in these places. The synagogue in Florence was especially beautiful, with the hand-painted geometric patterns on the walls, the colorful tiled floors, the arched passageways and Moorish architecture, and the ornate stained glass windows composed of colorful, circular glass disks. Particularly in the places where I couldn't take photos it forced me to be more aware, more present, more focused, simply to be able to take it all in.

Whether it's the places we visit on vacation or the mundane tasks we do as part of our daily routines or the events that become milestones in our lives, our tradition reminds us to stop and experience where we are, and be present in the moment. Maybe that's the real reason for not allowing photographs in sacred places - to force visitors to open their eyes and stop to create sacred memories. Otherwise we may find ourselves like Jacob, who says "God was in this place and I, I didn't know it."

I hope you also had meaningful summer journeys and wish you all the best for the New Year.

**Themes and Appearances of T'shuvah –
Returning and Repentance in High Holy Day
Liturgy**

By Ellen Band

(Continued from page 2)

The Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is called Shabbat Shuva, the Shabbat of Repentance. The Haftarah for that day begins with the words, "Shuva Yisrael", "Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have fallen because of your sin." The Etz Chaim Chumash describes the process of return as both an external and internal journey. On pp. 1234 and 1235 it states, "The haftarah readings (taken from Hosea, Micah and Yoel) emphasize the activity of repentance – the external acts (verbal and behavioral) that announce and activate a transformation of religious life. The inward journey "toward" God is left for the individual worshipper along with the "words" that must be taken to heart and spoken with integrity."

As we have seen many times in the Torah, God's capacity for forgiveness is limitless. Some would say that God's door is always open to those who return with purity of heart, intention, and spirit. May we all, in our own way, find our path of return to God. May we also find within ourselves the capacity to forgive, both others and ourselves. Shana Tova.



From our President, Merrill Griff

On Saturday, August 13, the congregation of Temple Beth Israel honored Chazan Ellen Band for 10 years of service.

Congratulations and mazal tov to Chazan Ellen Band. Ellen has led our high holiday services for the past 10 years. In addition to her liturgical professionalism, she has read the Torah and given many a thought provoking d'var torah on numerous Saturdays and other religious holidays. Ellen has also participated in our services as a congregant.

Her loyalty and professionalism has endeared us to her. Cantor Band continues to enrich our congregation with her talent, professionalism, depth of knowledge and participation in the life of Temple Beth Israel.

We are blessed with the number 10. Ten people comprise the minyan that allow us to hear Ellen chant the musaf service and torah reading, we have the 10 commandments and we have 10 years of service with Ellen Band as chazan at Temple Beth Israel. We are looking forward to 10 more years. Kol hakavod!

Dear members and friends of Temple Beth Israel,
Please accept my heartfelt thanks for honoring my ten years of service to the shul on Shabbat, August 13th. I have always considered myself very fortunate to be your Shaliach Tzibbur on the High Holydays and now on several Shabbatot during the year. I am very grateful for all the kindnesses you have shown me over the years. Finding

From the Revitalization Committee

The Revitalization Committee is looking for members to help plan and staff events at the Temple. If you are interested in joining the committee, or just lending a hand, please contact Marilyn Racette at [781-893-8693](tel:781-893-8693), or email jr9760@aol.com. Please put Revitalization Committee in the subject line if you contact me by email.

Thank you,

Marilyn Racette

Revitalization Committee Chair

From the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is eager to help members get to weekday and Shabbat services.

Please - if you would like a ride to shul- Contact the Temple office and let Andrea know the date you would like a ride.

The Membership committee will try to match drivers to those who need a ride.

Thank you.

Diana Korzenik

Membership Secretary

Saturday Kiddush Sponsors

September 17 - Sponsored by Ellen & Lester Macklin

Donations

Patricia McCue, in memory of her mother, Sadye Canter.

Herb and Nessie Baron, in memory of Joseph Kaplan.

Abraham Cohen, in honor of Erica Cohen's 80th Birthday.

Charles and Helene Altman, in memory of Carrie Altman.

Donald Kaplan, in loving memory of Joseph Kaplan, Abraham Pedell, Walther Kaplan, and Sumner Sirk.

Lillian Etkind, in memory of her sister, Katherine Sidell.

Charlotte Teicher, in memory of her mother Ellen Leavy.

In honor of Cantor Ellen Band's 10th Anniversary from:

Donald Kaplan and Lois Tabaczynski

Tracy Nathan and Scott Slarskey

Merrill and Carol Griff

Jim, Andrea and Michaela Baron

Stewart and Shari Lecker

Marilyn Racette, in gratitude for her recovery from surgery, and all the good wishes that came her way from the Temple.

Merrill and Carol Griff, in honor of Michaela Baron's graduation from High School.

Merrill and Carol Griff, in honor of Rabbi Tracy Nathan's first year at Temple Beth Israel and Rabbi Scott Slarskey's promotion to Principal at Solomon Schechter.

David Ashkenaz

Hollender Music Fund

Marilyn Racette, in memory of her mother.

Welcome New Members

Helen Galkowski

Esther and Leonard Meiselman

Ellen and Lester Macklin

Alan and Gayle Pinshaw

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 8:00pm	3 <i>Shoftim</i> Rabbi Tracy Nathan
4	5 <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Morning Minyan</i> 8:00am	6	7	8	9 8:48pm	10 <i>Ki Tetze</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16 8:36pm Kabbalat Shabbat Friday Night Dinner- Service 6:30pm	17 <i>Ki Tavo</i> Rabbi Tracy Nathan
18	19	20	21	22	23 8:24pm	24 <i>Nitzavim/Vavelech</i> Selichot - 8:00pm
25	26	27	28 Rosh Hashanah Evening Service - 7:30pm	29 8:13pm Rosh Hashanah Service - 8:30am Tashlich - 5:00pm	30 8:12pm Rosh Hashanah Service - 8:30am	

If not specified, Minyan—Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday is at 7:00am and on Saturday and Sunday at 9:00am.

High Holiday Schedule 5772

Selichot Program and Services	Saturday	Sept. 24	8:30 pm
Rosh Hashanah Evening Service	Wednesday	Sept. 28	7:30 pm
Rosh Hashanah – Day 1	Thursday	Sept. 29	8:30 am
Tashlich at the Charles River bridge behind Embassy Theatre	Thursday	Sept. 29	5:00 pm
Rosh Hashanah – Day 2	Friday	Sept. 30	8:30 am
Shabbat Shuvah – Sabbath of Return	Saturday	Oct. 1	9:00 am
Memorial Service at Temple Beth Israel Cemetery	Sunday	Oct. 2	10:00 am
Kol Nidre – Plan to be seated by 6pm as we will begin promptly!	Friday	Oct. 7	6:00 pm
Yom Kippur Morning Services *Yizkor will be held directly after the Torah service at approximately 11:30am	Saturday	Oct. 8	8:30 am
Yom Kippur Mincha (Afternoon) and Ne'ilah (Closing) Services	Saturday	Oct. 8	4:30 pm
Yom Kippur Sounding the Shofar and Break the Fast	Saturday	Oct. 8	7:00 pm
Sukkot – First Day	Thursday	Oct. 13	8:00 am
Sukkot – Second Day	Friday	Oct. 14	7:00 am
Sukkot Friday Night Service and Dinner in the Sukkah *Please note that this will replace October's Third Friday service/dinner.	Friday	Oct. 14	6:30 pm
Shabbat Chol Ha-Moed Sukkot – Intermediate Sabbath of Sukkot	Saturday	Oct. 15	9:00 am
Hoshanah Rabbah – Torah Processional, and beating of willows	Wednesday	Oct. 19	6:45 am
Shemini Atzeret – Eighth Day of Assembly	Thursday	Oct. 20	7:00 am
Simchat Torah Evening – Dance and Celebrate with the Torah	Thursday	Oct. 20	7:00 pm
Simchat Torah Morning - We conclude the annual reading of Torah and begin Bereishit	Friday	Oct. 21	7:00 am

It is especially important that we have a minyan of at least ten on the week day holidays listed above (Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah) so please make every effort to attend at least one of these days.

Join us for
Shabbat.



Welcome Shabbat with Services and Community Dinner

Services: 6:30 pm

Dinner: 7:30 pm

\$10 per adult, \$25 per family

Welcome Shabbat with a spirited Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6:30 pm, led by **Rabbi Tracy Nathan**, followed by a Temple-cooked dinner at 7:30 pm, singing, and good conversation. **Reserve now!** Payment must be received by Thursday morning, the day before the dinner you are attending. We cannot accept payment at the door, and will not send bills afterward.

Sept. 16

Oct. 14

Send your check to Temple Beth Israel, P.O. Box 540182, Waltham, MA 02454-0182. For more information, see www.tbiwaltham.org, email: office@tbiwaltham.org or call the Temple Office at (781) 894-5146.

Temple Beth Israel

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Phone: 781-894-5146

E-mail: office@tbiwaltham.org
Website: www.tbiwaltham.org

stamp

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at
www.tbiwaltham.org

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- Guest Speakers
- Library
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Adult Programs
- Morris Hollender Music Appreciation Fund
- Carl Goldstein Memorial Fund
- Other, please specify: _____

Temple Beth Israel Donation Form

For your convenience, please use this form to make your donations and send to:
Temple Beth Israel, P O Box 540182, Waltham, MA 02454-0182

I have chosen the fund indicated at the right:

(Please use a separate form for each fund. Minimum donation: \$10)

Attached is my check in the amount of: \$ _____

The donation is being made

In Honor Of _____

In Memory Of _____

Other _____

This donation is made by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____