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## Entering Elul

*Rabbi David Novak*

**T**his month (corresponding to August 11th) we enter *Elul*, the month before *Rosh HaShanah*. Some have written that *Elul* stands for *Ani l'dodi v'dodi li* (I am my beloved and my beloved is mine), using the first of each letter in the word *Elul*.

This is about reconciliation – how we reconcile with ourselves, with those around us, and with our relationship with God however we define that. The seven *haftarot* during this period which begins after *Tisha b'Av* are the lection from the Prophets, all from Isaiah. They are all about our reconciliation with God. Even back then (at least 600 Before the Common Era) people were people and the human/God relationship was often estranged. Does not sound much different from our times.

This is a time when we are encouraged, really entreated, to take a deep look at ourselves. The reason is really quite simple: *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur* are not holidays for which we can just walk in off the street and be ready to "do." We need the prep time. I need it, you need it.

One way our tradition gets us prepped is by having the *shofar* sounded each morning at the weekday service. You can hear the *shofar* sounded by going to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6iNXRVN-WE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6iNXRVN-WE). The *shofar* is sounded at about the 45 second mark. Periodically during *Elul* I

*continued on pg. 8*

## Worship Schedule High Holy Days 5771

### Rosh HaShanah

*Ma'ariv* – Wednesday, September 8, 8:00 pm  
**Followed by a sumptuous dessert *Oneg***

*Shachrit* – Thursday, September 9, 9:00 am  
and Friday, September 10, 9:00 am  
*Shofar* sounded Sunday at approx. 11:00 am  
**Followed by a sumptuous dessert *Oneg***

*Tashlich* – Thursday, September 9, one half-hour  
after the conclusion of services;  
bring comfortable walking shoes

### Yom Kippur

*Kol Nidre* – Friday, September 17, 6:45 pm  
*Kol Nidre* begins promptly; **please arrive early**

*Shacharit* – Saturday, September 18, 9:00 am

*Yizkor* will be at approximately 11:30 am

*Mincha* – Saturday, September 18, 4:30 pm

*Ruth Gilbert, Storyteller*—Saturday,  
September 18, approximately 5:30 pm

*Ne'ilah* – Saturday, September 18,  
approximately 6:00 pm

*Shofar* sounded at approximately 7:15 pm

**PLEASE NOTE:** Usage of cell phones/paging devices are forbidden on synagogue grounds during worship services. If you may be needed in an emergency situation (on call), kindly switch your device to vibrate.

Find us on

**facebook**

**I**srael Congregation has about 230 member families of diverse Jewish backgrounds, both full-time and part-time residents of southern Vermont. We provide weekly *Shabbat* and holiday services, a religious school, adult education, life cycle events, and cultural and social programming in a warm and welcoming environment.

An integral part of Jewish life in the Northshire for more than 70 years, Israel Congregation has been at its current location on Rte 7A, 1.2 miles north of Rte 11/30, since 1985. Our building is ADA accessible.

**David Novak, Rabbi**

Michael Cohen, *Rabbi Emeritus*

Karen Dreiblatt, *Administrator*

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Micki Lisman, Bev Rokes, David Sischy,

Rob Zeif

*Shofar Editorial Board:* Doris Bass,

Marisa Eisemann, Karen Dreiblatt,

Bev Rokes, Laurie Sullivan,

Cheryl Ullman

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service:**

6:30 pm, Friday

(followed by Congregational Dinner)

**Shabbat Service:**

9:30 am, Saturday

**Religious School:**

3:50 pm to 6:00 pm, Thursday

**Office Hours:**

9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday-Thursday

9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Friday

**Telephone:** 802.362.4578

**Email:** office@icmvt.org

**Website:** www.israelcongregationvt.org

**P.O. Box 1050 Manchester Ctr. VT 05255**

## High Holy Days Update

**T**he High Holy Days Committee would like to tell you about some of the exciting things that will be happening this year during our High Holy Days services. A copy of the ticket, shown on the front cover, gives you all the time and date information for services on *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*. Please note that the tickets are not transferrable.

We are thrilled to announce that **Cantor Lindsay Waldman** will be with us again this year. Cantor Waldman's wonderful voice and personality inspired us all last year.

**Eric Dreiblatt** has delayed his post-graduation sojourn to sound the *shofar*. We are also looking for others who would like to learn how to sound the *shofar* and join Eric on the *bimah*. If any of you are interested, please call the office for details.

**Alison Hill and Shira Hill-Cohen** have generously agreed to conduct children's services on the first day of *Rosh HaShanah* and on *Yom Kippur* at approximately 10:15 am to coincide with the *Torah* Service.

**Parts of the Yom Kippur service to keep in mind:**

~We will be having our pre-*Yom Kippur* dinner at the Wilburton Inn. The cost will be \$26 per person; reservations should be made through the ICM office and not the Wilburton Inn.

~During *Kol Nidre*, **the Rudiakovs** will perform their beautiful interpretation of Bruch's *Kol Nidrei*.

~Continuing our tradition, **Ruth Gilbert** will again be telling a story on *Yom Kippur* afternoon at the beginning of *Ne'ilah* at about 5:30 pm.

We hope to see all of you at services,

*Stan Reisman*

*Rob Zeif*

*Arnie Katz*

## Staying Comfortable in the Sanctuary

**S**ynagogues everywhere grope with the issue of finding the "right" thermostat setting during High Holy Days services—and we do as well. If you tend to feel cold when the air conditioners are operating, please ask the ushers to be sure that you are not seated under an air conditioning vent and bring a sweater/jacket/shawl with you. We have also received many requests from congregants that everyone refrain from using perfume or cologne since some people suffer allergic reactions to perfume products.

*Please note:* The Rabbi requests that cell phones and pagers be turned off (or to vibrate only) before you enter the sanctuary. Note also that smoking is not permitted anywhere on synagogue property. We want this to be a truly comfortable and comforting communal religious experience for all.

## Religious School Update From Rabbi R. Durbin

**S**halom Israel Congregation! I am very pleased to begin my work as your Children's Education Director! In addition to my work at Israel Congregation, I am also continuing as the Education Director at Congregation *Ohav Shalom* in Albany. A recent ordainee of Hebrew Union College (HUC) in NYC, I have been involved in both formal and informal Jewish education ever since my days as a high school student in Huntsville, Alabama. I continued my involvement during my studies at Brown University, and worked for the youth division of the Union for Reform Judaism for several years before beginning my studies at HUC. My summer camp experiences, ranging from a young camper to a Jewish Education Director and Day Camp Director, have influenced my Jewish educational philosophy a great deal. Working closely with **Alison Hill**, who will be teaching the younger grades, I hope to encourage a sense of community, *ruach* (spirit!) and pride in each student's Jewish identity. I am very excited to teach the pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah class, and to having a wonderful time learning with these students each Thursday afternoon, beginning on September 16th!

Please feel free to be in touch with any comments, questions, or suggestions about our Religious School: [RoseKDurbin@gmail.com](mailto:RoseKDurbin@gmail.com). I look forward to getting to know all of you!

Have a wonderful August,  
**Rabbi Rose K. Durbin, a.k.a. Rabbi Rose**

## Calling All Bakers

**B**akers are needed to make some of their delicious favorites for the High Holy Days. We need finger-type pastries and cakes such as banana bread, cookies and lemon squares; no brownies please. Look through your recipes and share your baking talents with us. Your homemade treats make our holiday *onegs* special.

Please call **Sasha Kent** by August 20 at 802-362-2944 to tell her what you will share. No calls before 9 am and, please, no calls after 8 pm.

## President's Column A Tribute to a Special Person: Gert D'Eredita

On Friday, July 9, ICM celebrated the 25th anniversary of Gert D'Eredita's service to our synagogue. As most of you know, Gert's official title is *Building and Catering Coordinator*. However, Gert's role and function in our synagogue go well beyond these responsibilities. For those of you who were not able to attend this festive occasion, allow me to take this opportunity to share some comments made by past presidents of ICM.

**Bobbie Brayer**, president of ICM for four years in the mid-1990s, reflected on Gert's contributions over the years: *When I think of Gert, I fondly recall her warm and welcoming smile. In many ways, she was and is the face of ICM—always greeting everyone with her warmth and genuine interest in their well-being. Gert was unflappable—she understood what needed to be done, even before it was suggested! She managed the congregation with incredible efficiency and care. Gert knew everyone and never forgot to ask about their families. Her pride in her work and her incredible loyalty to ICM are well-worth noting.*

**Gary Marmer**, president of ICM from 2000-2002, adds his own thoughts: *You deserve all the attention, Gert. You are always here for us. And no matter how crazy we get, no matter who the president or rabbi is, no matter what changes we ask you to make—you are a rock. Nothing seems to phase you—or at least you don't let on that it does. And that's what makes you special. Because no matter how many changes happen around this place, when we walk into this building, there are certain things that we expect to be a constant at Israel Congregation—and you are one of them.*

The bottom line is that Gert has touched so many lives over the past 25 years. Her work ethic is exemplary and she always has a smile on her face no matter what situation may arise. It is evident that Gert has put her heart and soul in our synagogue. ICM would not be the same without all the countless hours she has provided us, which in turn has elevated ICM to what it has become today. On behalf of the entire ICM community, I would like to extend our profound gratitude to Gert for all that she has done for all of us over the past 25 years.

**John Sobel**

# Prepare for the High Holy Days at the ICM Library

**H**ow much do I know about the High Holy Days? How can I get a deeper understanding of the prayers of the service? How can I make next year more spiritual? What quotes and readings might enhance my appreciation of the High Holy Days this year? There are a variety of books in the ICM library that can help you create a more meaningful experience this High Holy Days season. Below are listed a selection of relevant titles and the sections of the library where they, and others, can be found. Come and take a look!

## Jewish Life Cycle

~*Seasons of Our Joy: A Modern Guide to the Jewish Holidays* by Arthur Waskow. A brief overview of all of the holidays, including the High Holy Days.

~*The Rosh Hashanah Anthology and The Yom Kippur Anthology* by Philip Goodman. These books attempt to present a vivid picture of the holidays through biblical, talmudic and midrashic selections.

~*Rosh Hashanah Readings: Inspiration, Information, Contemplation and Yom Kippur Readings: Inspiration, Information, Contemplation* edited by Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins. An anthology of contemporary and ancient commentaries, readings, poems, prayers and insights from a variety of sources that connects you to the ancient and medieval prayers of the holidays and the days' central themes.

~*The Days of Awe*, an excerpt from *Menoras Hamaor* by Rabbeinu Yitzchak Abohav. Directs the reader to the symbolism and meaning of this ten day period.

~*Kol Nidrei: Its Origin, Development, and Significance* by Stuart Weinberg Gershon

~*Joan Nathan's Jewish Holiday Cookbook* by Joan Nathan. A collection of Jewish recipes from around the world.

## Jewish Life Cycle – Ethics

~*Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself* by Lenn E. Goodman. Discusses this commandment from the standpoint of Judaism. Drawing extensively on Jewish sources, both biblical and rabbinic, Goodman fleshes out the cultural context and historical shape taken on by this commandment.

## Jewish Life Cycle – Spirituality

~*The Jewish Lights Spirituality Handbook: A Guide to Understanding, Exploring and Living a Spiritual Life* edited by Stuart M. Matlins. Fifty of our foremost spiritual leaders invite you to explore every aspect of Jewish spirituality.

## Literature

~*Melodies From My Father's House: Hasidic Wisdom for the Heart and Soul* edited by Simcha Raz. A book of quotes from Hasidic masters.

~*Love Poems from God: Twelve Sacred Voices from the East and West* translated by Daniel Ladinsky.

## Prayer and Worship

~*The Art of Public Prayer: Not for Clergy Only* by Lawrence A. Hoffman. Descriptions of contemporary worship patterns and suggestions for practical ways of improving them.

## Library Display Table in Lobby

Currently on display are suggested books related to the lecture of Dr. Stephen Berk. These are books about the American Jewish Community.

Upcoming display . . . Suggested books related to the High Holy Days.

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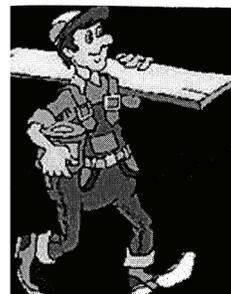
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## Tikkun Olam Works

### RAFFLE:

The enthusiasm of our membership showed in the results of the ICM raffle. THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR YOUR SUPPORT! We had another great year and another great turnout at the BBQ! The members of the Tikkun Olam Committee were selling raffle tickets up until the very last minute in order to give everyone, members and guests, an opportunity to participate. And the winners of the raffle prizes seemed to represent every segment of our community including guests, part-timers, full-timers, family members and a member of the Board. Many thanks to everyone who pitched in.

### TAG SALE:

Israel Congregation's **Third Annual Tag Sale** is coming! The remaining drop-off days are Sunday, August 15 (9 am to noon), Monday, August 16 (9 am to noon) and Tuesday, August 17 (9 am to 5 pm). **Tag Sale Day is Sunday, August 22!** We'll be spending time organizing all week, and we need volunteers to cover a myriad of jobs. Come and have fun while you work. And don't forget to sign up so we know you're coming. Call **Vicki Greene** at 802-824-5120 or **Marlene Skulnik** at 802-867-0375.

We're accepting almost all types of donations including books, clothes, small appliances in working order, household items of all types, art and art supplies, bric-a-brac, sporting equipment, electronics, antiques. WE ARE NOT ACCEPTING: TV's, computers, skis, mattresses, major appliances, tires, underwear or swimsuits. Clothing should be washed and/or cleaned and should be on hangars where practical. If you have any furniture to donate, please call Marlene Skulnik to make arrangements.

### DONATIONS:

Our fiscal year has just started and already we're giving money to help where it is needed. The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty received \$650 from us. This agency provides 100,000 Jewish New Yorkers with critical services in their fight against poverty. Services range from domestic violence counseling to kosher food pantries to career counseling. We also sent \$650 to the Blue Card, which provides financial assistance to Holocaust survivors; the children and grandchildren of survivors are Board members. Blue

## Dr. Berk to Speak at ICM

### From G. Washington to B. Obama: Presidents and the American Jewish Community

*"Professor Berk is a passionate speaker who makes history come alive. You feel as though you are in a living room and he is speaking directly to you. He uses no notes and connects complicated issues to each other in easily understood terminology....." Helena Davidoff*

Israel Congregation is delighted to host Dr. Stephen Berk on Saturday, August 14. As can be seen by the accolades his programs elicit, this is a program not to be missed.

Dr. Berk's discussion of the American Jewish experience as it has related to the nature and policies of the presidency brings unique insights which are sure to open our eyes and our minds. A dessert reception following the program will give us a chance to share our thoughts with fellow congregants.

Tickets are \$18 prepaid and \$25 at the door. The program will start at 7:00 pm, with doors opening at 6:30 pm. Call Karen at 362-4578 for more information.

*Merrily Lewis*

## Special Thanks

**Phyllis & Robert Topchick** for donating an outdoor dining set for our patio

**Sandy Castelbaum, Ruthie Ellenbogen and our generous sponsors** for making our July 4 BBQ great

**Sasha Kent** for organizing our celebration honoring Gert D'Eredita

**Faryn Borella** for creating the Holocaust Memorial Tree project and for leading the ceremony and services so beautifully on July 16

**Marlene & David Skulnik** for their donation toward the Holocaust Memorial Tree

**The Board of Directors** for sponsoring dinner July 9

**The Borella Family and Executive Committee** for sponsoring dinner on July 16

**Sherry and Joe Kratzer** for sponsoring dinner July 23

**Students of the Bromley Brook School** for sponsoring dinner July 30

Card keeps its overhead to an absolute minimum and is consistently rated 4-Stars by Charity Navigator.

*Micki Lisman*

## Thank You From Sasha Kent

It was a great pleasure to have been involved in the event which honored our own Gert D'Eredita's 25th anniversary with Israel Congregation on July 9.

I'd like to express thanks to the following people who helped make the evening turn out so beautifully.

**The Shalom Rav Singers, Ina Rubin, Karen Dreiblatt, Bev Rokes, Sandy Castelbaum, Rosalie Fox, Cathy Kimmel, Irene Berkson and Arnie Katz.** And a big thanks, too, to **Travis and Angela Wood** as well for their help the night before the event.

Thanks also go to all of the people who brought food as well as to those who made cash contributions to fund the evening.

*Sasha Kent*

## August Calendar Of Events

August 1	10:00 am	<b>B'nai Barak Hike</b>
August 6	6:30 pm	Friday Evening <i>Shabbat</i> Worship Followed by our Community Pot Luck Dinner
August 7	9:30 am	<i>Shabbat</i> Worship, <i>Parashat Re'eh</i>
August 13	6:30 pm	Friday Evening <i>Shabbat</i> Worship
August 14	9:30 am	<i>Shabbat</i> Worship, <i>Parashat Shoftim</i>
	7:00 pm	<b>Dr. Stephen Berk;</b> <i>From G. Washington to B. Obama: Presidents &amp; the American Jewish Community</i> —followed by Dessert Reception
August 15	9-12	<b>Tag Sale Drop-off</b>
August 16	9-12	<b>Tag Sale Drop-off</b>
August 17	9-5	<b>Tag Sale Drop-off</b>
August 20	6:30 pm	Friday Evening <i>Shabbat</i> Worship <b>No Community Dinner This Evening</b>
August 21	9:30 am	<i>Shabbat</i> Worship, <i>Parashat Ki Teitzei</i>
August 22	9-3:30	<b>Annual Tag Sale</b>
August 27	3:00 pm	<b>Play &amp; Pray, Divots &amp; Daven Golf Tournament</b>
	6:30 pm	Friday Evening <i>Shabbat</i> Worship Followed by our Community Pot Luck Dinner <b>Sponsored by Irene &amp; Ed Glazer</b>
August 28	9:00 am	<i>Shabbat</i> Worship, <i>Parashat Ki Tavo</i>

## College Connections

We like to keep in touch with our college-aged congregants and let them know the members of Israel Congregation are thinking of them. Send your child's school mailing address to **Karen Dreiblatt** and **Jackie Borella** at office@icmvt.org and we will send your child a "Thinking of You" gift for the High Holy Days, *Chanukkah*, and *Pesach* (Passover). Be sure to send addresses to Karen and Jackie by September 1 to ensure delivery of High Holy Days gifts.

If you'd like to join Karen and Jackie in continuing this program, now in its fifth year, please drop them an email at the address above or call Karen in the ICM office at 802-362-4578.

## Mazel Tov

**Ruth & Stan Gilbert** on their 50th Anniversary  
**Micki & Stan Lisman** on their 20th Anniversary  
**Barbara & Steve Kane** on their 30th Anniversary  
**Maddie Zeif** on donating her hair to Wigs for Kids

## CFC August Wish List

August is the time to get ready to go back to school. Donations to the Community Food Cupboard of basic school supplies will help kids get off to a good start this year: pens/pencils, crayons, notebooks, paper, binders, book covers.

All donations to CFC are appreciated, and may be left in our collection boxes at Israel Congregation, Shaw's Supermarket or in the hallway of the Manchester Town Office Building.



### Rosalind Compain

*Indoor/Outdoor*

## CONTEMPORARY SCULPTURE IN STONE

at her Red Barn Gallery, off Danby Rd, Pawlet, Vt  
Usually open or call 802•325•3431

# Ma'aser Sheni

When the Temple functioned in Jerusalem, the Jewish community supported it and its priests with a system of tithes in the form of food and/or money. Today we feed our communal needs by offering financial gifts that strengthen and enhance Jewish religious and communal life in the Northshire.



## GENERAL FUND

**Naomi & Robert Schwartz • Marjorie Magner** in memory of Max Magner • **Wende Morgan & Dan Rowe** in honor of Janet Kleinberg & Harvey Flaxman's new grandson Jackson Paul Kleinberg • **Doris Bass** in honor of the Kleinberg and Katzman babies • **Gail & George Glanzberg** in honor of Janet Kleinberg & Harvey Flaxman's new grandson Jackson • **Janet & Warren Corin • Abby & Tibby Ross** in memory of Seymour Rosenblum • **Judith & Hank Kaplan** in memory of Morris Kaplan • **Maddie & John Sobel** in honor of the birth of Janet Kleinberg & Harvey Flaxman's new grandson Jackson  
**Ruthie & Norm Ellenbogen** in memory of Morris Solomon, father of Spike Solomon

## SHABBAT DINNER FUND

**Bromley Brook School • Ruthie & Norm Ellenbogen** in honor of Gert D'Eredita • **Alice & Judah Levine** in honor of Alecia Rokes becoming a *Bat Mitzvah* • **Ina & Al Rubin** in memory of Beverly Canter  
**Laurie & Jeff Sullivan** in memory of Laurie's sister Ruth Schindler

## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

**Elliot Hurwitz** in memory of Thelma Hurwitz

## CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**Sandy & Marty Castelbaum**

## TIKKUN OLAM

**Marilyn & Edgar Rice** in memory of Sophie Deutsch, Harvey Lewis and Sissy Thompson  
**Marilyn & Edgar Rice** wishing Phyllis Gottdeiner a speedy recovery • **Geraldine & Edward Kaplan**  
**Laurie & Jeff Sullivan** in memory of Laurie's sister Ruth Schindler

## GOLDSMITH PRAYERBOOK FUND

**Cathy & Saul Kimmel** in memory of Morris Solomon, father of Spike Solomon

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Marilyn & Edgar Rice** wishing Rabbi Novak a speedy recovery • **Leah Sperber** in memory of Nathan Sperber • **Ina & Al Rubin** in memory of Bernard Brown • **Ilse Fuchs** in memory of Bill Fox  
**Carole Silverstein** in honor of Rabbi Novak's speedy recovery and long life

## MARILYN GLATT LINGLEY FUND

**Marilyn & Raymond Starker** in memory of Albert Reiter

## PETER JANNKE ENDOWMENT FUND

**Judith & Michael Adler** in memory of Jerome Adler

\* **Note:** Donations received after the 15th of the month will appear in September's edition of *the Shofar*.

## Shabbat Dinner: How It Works

Just about every Friday night, Israel Congregation hosts a pot-luck dinner following services. Over the years, the format of this dinner has taken many shapes. As of July 1, we have embarked on a new format which we hope will nourish not just our bellies, but our relationships and our connection with each other. As this format renews an emphasis on the contribution we each bring to our shared meal, it is also a format which reduces the fiscal impact Shabbat Dinner has on our synagogue budget.

**What does the synagogue provide during a non-sponsored potluck dinner?** Israel Congregation provides *challah*, wine, juice, soft drinks, paper goods, soup and/or salad (both in the winter, just salad in the warmer months), coffee/tea and the services of one professional to staff the kitchen, serve and clean up.

**What does it mean to “sponsor” a Shabbat Dinner**

Sponsorship means that a person, family, or group pays for the background costs of the *Shabbat* Dinner (as mentioned above: *challah*, wine, juice, soft drinks, paper goods, soup and/or salad (both in the winter, just salad in the warmer months), coffee/tea and the services of one professional to staff the kitchen, serve and clean up). At sponsored dinners, Israel Congregation also provides a main dish, a side dish and an additional kitchen professional. Dinners are usually sponsored in honor of a *simcha*—a happy occasion—such as a birthday, anniversary or *bar/bat mitzvah*. The cost of sponsorship is \$180.

**If I want to do more than the regular sponsorship?** In the case of a large party, additional food, supplies, kitchen help, set-up assistance, and cleaning help are the responsibility of the family and will incur additional costs. Many sponsors who expect a large crowd make or purchase additional food or ask fellow congregants to bring larger dishes.



## Entering Elul

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encourage you to pull this up and listen.

Introspection is the dominant motif of this moment in our communal life. We come together as community, we pray as community, we share each other's lives. On *Yom Kippur* we confess in community (in the first person plural; the "we" of Hebrew). We do this so no one is singled out or embarrassed.

Let me conclude by reminding you of an axiom from the *Mishnah* in *Yoma* 8: "And as to serious transgressions, [repentance] suspends the punishment until the Day of Atonement comes along and atones. . .For transgressions done between humans, the Day of Atonement atones, only if one human regains the good will of the other person." *Yom Kippur* works on our human/Divine relationship; for our relationships with each other, we must each seek forgiveness of the other whom we have harmed, intentionally or unintentionally.

*Tika b'shofar gadol*: Let the *shofar* sound signaling a new year where we all grow stronger in our individual and communal relationships.

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