

PRAY – YAY OR NAY?

This month, Jews all over the world will gather for Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. A powerful group of Holy Days, each with their own respective energies that can be directed into our lives if we put some thought into it... or our prayers into it. Finding our voice of prayer, however, can sometimes prove challenging.

It might be good to know that we are not alone in this situation, but what might be even better to know is that to find our voice of prayer isn't an insurmountable task.



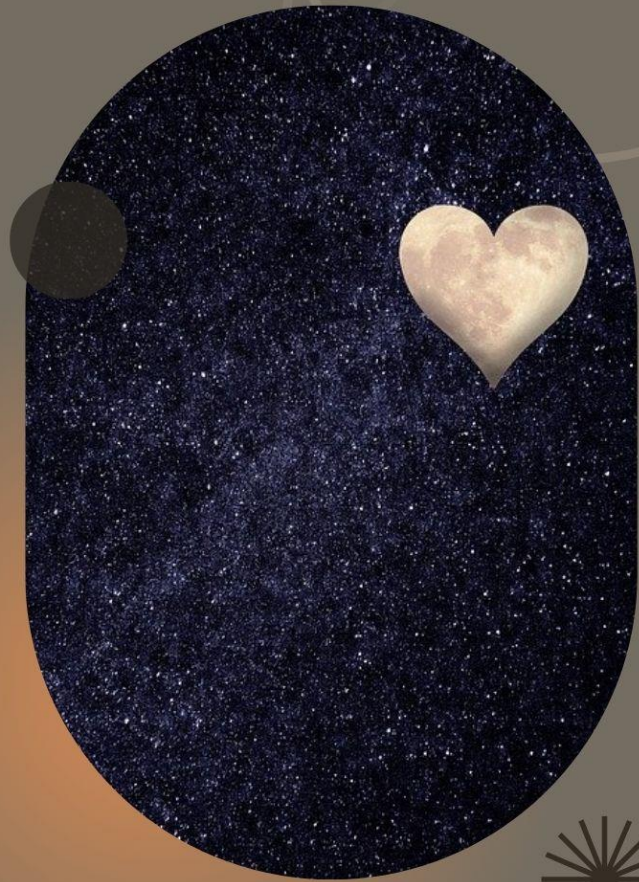
Our rabbis created a fixed liturgy for every service, including weekday and holy days. This text in the Prayer Book may inspire –or not. How can we get a sense of fulfillment and spirituality? Here is a suggestion: don't try. Don't try to follow the whole prayer service page after page.

A different way to follow the service, and even get something out of it, is to close your eyes and simply listen. Listen to the words, even if you don't understand them. Their magic still works. Listen to our melodies, some ancient, others new. They are meant to propel you.

The service is like a symphony that brings a whole range of emotions. However, the experience does not have to be a passive one. You can be actively engaged in introspection, looking inward and forward into the New Year. You can definitely be active by participating. The power of a group of people chanting "Shema Israel!" is so inspiring. Hearing a full room singing "Avinu Malkeinu" can bring tears. Good tears. You may also want to sing along with any part of the service. You don't quite know the words? You sing off-key? Who cares! This is your time to get strength and inspiration from your House of Prayer. You may decide to look at one paragraph; think about it and meditate on it. Consider why it is there. What does it mean when it says "The great shofar is sounded and a still, small voice is heard"? What do the words "May you be inscribed in the Book of Life" mean to you? Take the time to breathe and take in positive energy that emanate from the ancient prayers and melodies.

**MAY YOU BE INSCRIBED IN THE
BOOK OF LIFE FOR BLESSINGS OF
HEALTH, HAPPINESS, LOVE, AND
SUCCESS.**

Throughout the previous Hebrew month, the month of Elul, the Divine energy was very close to us. It is even closer now in Tishrei, as the Gates in Heaven are symbolically open, meaning that we can attain a level of closeness, elevation and inspiration that is much higher than the rest of the year. This is why I invite you to open your heart and to connect to the strongest source of blessing. G-d is calling. It is up to us to answer. Any way to connect, through song, liturgy, spontaneous prayer or meditation works and is a powerful source of blessings. This season, may our communal prayer help us draw each of us closer to one another, to the essence of who we are and to connecting to Judaism.





- Liz and Larry Eckman for our kitchen and bathroom supplies
- Jeff Klein for taking care of the myriad building issues
- Stephen Singer and Jeff Klein for organizing Wednesday morning minyans
- Ken Cohn, Jeff Klein and Josh Nathan for help with the yahrzeit boards
- John Weber and Leigh Musicof for their work on our security grant
- Carol Sternberg Chairperson of the Kitchen Krew and Gift Shop
- Kiddush Krew –Merle Paltrow, Ken Cohn, Monique Shaffer, Carol Pressman, and Carol Sternberg
- Ruth Chevion for her stories about her family's escape from the Holocaust to America
- Temple Israel Book Club Leaders - Ken Cohn, Aida Koocher and Benay Birch
- Rick Notkin for his safety & security initiative
- Steve Saulten for taking care of our security services

Tzedaka

Mary Gilman in memory of Max Gilman
Sydell Rosen in memory of Jacob Horenstein
Ruth & Jay Zax in memory of Sarah Zax

Rosalind Ladd in memory of Arline Eckman
Carol & Bob Sternberg in memory of Gerry Kaplan
Ruth & Jay Zax in memory of Samuel Fineblit

Other

Iris & Rabbi Gary Atkins in honor of Rachel Spierer
Iris & Rabbi Gary Atkins in honor of Rabbi Marc & Valerie
Karen Jacobs in honor of Ilana's engagement
Michael & Evelyn Miller towards the July BBQ
Julia & Ido Preis towards the rabbi fund
Carol Pressman & Bob Hutter for family Shabbat dinners
Carol & Bob Sternberg in honor of Rabbi Marc & Valerie

Iris & Rabbi Gary Atkins in honor of Jeff Salloway
Liz & Larry Eckman for cemetery maintenance
Phyllis Levine in honor of Rachel Spierer
Marti & Stephen Nathan for the rabbi subsidy fund
Carol Pressman & Bob Hutter for The White Party
Roberta Silberberg in honor of Rachel Spierer
Daphne & David Sydney for cemetery maintenance

JEWISH COMMUNITY TO DEDICATE MEMORIAL MONUMENT TO JEWISH SERVICEMEN/WOMEN INTERRED AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE VETERANS CEMETERY IN BOSCAWEN

Are you aware that New Hampshire has a beautiful Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, north of Concord? I was not aware of this until I was asked to officiate at the interment of a Jewish veteran there. It brought back memories of my being at, as an active duty chaplain almost 50 years ago, the largest American military ceremony overseas, in Manila, Republic of the Philippines. There are over 20,000 veterans from World War II interred there, of whom over 200 are Jewish. After the service for Colonel Katz in Boscawen, I wondered how many Jewish souls might be interred at the Boscawen cemetery. The director told me they did not keep religious affiliation records. After canvassing the immaculate grounds, we found over sixty markers with Stars of David.

The cemetery has a Memorial Garden near the administration building where, over the years, many organizations have erected monuments in honor of specific groups of veterans. When my wife Iris and I walked through the Memorial Garden area (see link to photos below), we realized there was no monument remembering/ honoring Jewish veterans. I talked with the cemetery administrator, and he said that there were spaces available in the garden, and that he would welcome the Jewish community erecting a monument.

With my personal history of being a military chaplain, I decided to make this happen. I started corresponding with Rabbi Davidson of Temple Adath Yeshurun of Manchester and Rabbi Robin Nafshi of Temple Beth Jacob in Concord, plus a number of people in the community, many of whom were veterans themselves. The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire has supported this project and is allowing funds

to be donated through the Federation for the cost of the monument. We invite you to contribute towards the cost of the monument, thus feeling part of the process, by sending an earmarked donation to the Jewish Federation.

We plan a dedication of the monument on Sunday, October 15, at 1pm.

Here is a link to an overview of the cemetery:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CE8hOxwJKYw>

And here is a link to photos of the Memorial Garden and some of the monuments:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/qUP63C94bdySeVQQ8>

You most certainly do not need to be a veteran to acknowledge the dedication and sacrifice of those interred in this hallowed ground.

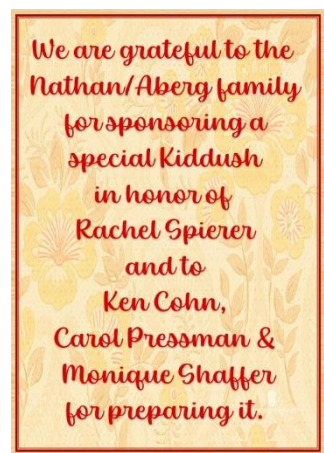
Rabbi Gary Atkins

Chaplain, New Hampshire Wing, Civil Air Patrol

Hevra Kadisha of Central New Hampshire

Our Hevra Kaddisha is ready to help you in your hour of need to perform the ritual preparation of a deceased for burial in accordance with Jewish tradition. Do not hesitate to call us when needed. We are here for you!

Please call 603.746.5218 to initiate the process or for more information.



Temple Israel's Shem Tov Nominee Rachel Spierer receives her award at the JFNH annual meeting, along with other local recipients.

Aunt Fela sings Oyfn Pripechick, with a guest appearance of Rachel Spierer by Ruth Chevion

If my family holocaust story had a soundtrack, the number one song on it would be Oyfn Pripechick.

The song is a paeon to the Hebrew language itself. The title means "At the Hearth." The lyrics describe a scene in an old time Cheder in pre-war Europe, where the rabbi sits with little children in front of a crackling fire and tries to motivate the children to study hard to learn the Hebrew consonants and vowels. The rabbi tells the children how the beauty of our language will sustain them through hard times, especially through the difficulties of being a Jew in the diaspora.

My Mom learned the song Oyfn Pripechick during the war from hearing her Aunt Fela sing it. This is the story:

It was the middle part of the war, when they were living-hiding in Krakow. Fela had an apartment with her two children, and she had a Polish maid for help. But the maid did not know she was working for Jews. In the evening, after the maid was gone for the day, Fela would sit the two children on the floor, in the middle of the centermost room, away from walls, so as not to be heard, and sing to them in a soft voice the song Oyfn Pripechick.

It's hard to fathom why someone would take such a risk just to sing a song. So many lives were at stake. Why did Fela do it? What was so important?

Fela had grown up on a farm near Lvov in eastern Poland, the youngest of five children of Esther and Mechel Roth. These were kind people who had earned the respect of their Polish neighbors. Mechel Roth was especially well regarded among his Polish neighbors, participating in the life of the village, greeting each neighbor by name every day as he walked his cows home from pasture. He was friends with the village priest, played chess with him, spoke Polish with him. That was outside. Inside, the family spoke Yiddish, honored the sabbath, kept kosher.

So, it was a huge surprise and source of grief for her parents and her siblings, when Felicia, the youngest child, nicknamed Fela, the cosseted favorite, turned away from Judaism, ran away from home, eloped with a Polish army

officer, of all things, and changed her name to Felicitas Truszinska.

But when the war came Fela didn't need false papers. She genuinely was the tall, stately Mrs. Felicitas Truszinska who spoke high class Polish. Though widowed by the time of the war, she had a comfortable situation. She had a job, an income, a home, children, friends, a life.

Exactly why she traded her good fortune to become a savior of Jews, I cannot say. But I do recall a conversation years later, in which I asked her how she came to know what had to be done, how she cognized what was really happening. This question fascinates me. The Nazis did not advertise Auschwitz. They took pains to conceal what they were doing. Of course, we know all about it now, but it took more than a little awareness to grasp the meaning of the situation in the actual moment.

Fela told me that she had happened one day to be on the outskirts of a crowd where Hitler was speaking. She listened. She heard how capable he was of whipping up emotion, the power of his voice, of his words, of his physical presence. She heard him state his intention to eliminate the Jews. She believed him.

Once Fela set about to save Jews, she spared no effort. With the help of Ala Moskalska, the altruistic young Polish woman who was Fela's "partner in crime," Fela got seven members of her own family, including my mother, out of the Lvov ghetto and into hiding. Later on, Fela made a spectacular rescue of two other families from the Warsaw ghetto and hid them until the end of the war.

As to why she sang Oyfn Pripechik to the children during the war, taking the risk that the maid would find out, that neighbors would hear, that the children would let on, I can only suppose she underwent a profound change of heart. Hitler had made her want to be Jewish again, made her want her children to know they were Jewish, made her entreat them, as the rabbi in the song had entreated the children, to draw strength from their Jewish identity.

The happy ending to Fela's war story is that after the war she emigrated to Israel. She opened a pharmacy in Givataim, married a Jewish man, lived out her life as a proud Israeli speaking Hebrew, and died in Tel Aviv well into her nineties. The two children to whom she sang live in Israel to this day. Mechel and Esther Roth would surely be proud.

As a postscript, dear reader, I would fast forward to the year 2019, the year in which I hosted a Zikaron Ba Salon, meaning "Remembrance in the Living Room." This is an innovative new way to commemorate the Holocaust. In Zikaron ba Salon we sit together in an intimate setting rather than in an auditorium. We hear a survivor speak or see a taped survivor story. Then invited guests are asked to share their own feelings in any creative way — art, poems, insights, songs — concerning the Holocaust. To the Zikaron at my house in 2019, I invited Rachel and Mel Speirer, among other honored guests, and I particularly asked Rachel if she would kindly sing Oyfn Pripechik.

Rachel sang beautifully for us, as you can imagine, dear reader. She had studied the lyrics and gave us a beautiful rendition in her lovely soprano voice. We were a group of 24 people crammed into my small living room, but she made us feel like we had all the space in the world. Thank you, Rachel!



Photo of Fela with her daughter Yoasha in Israel around 1950.



Here is a childhood photo of Fela with her birth family. She is the little girl in the front row receiving a hug from her mother Esther.



Photo of me in conversation with Fela in her apartment in Tel Aviv. She looks short in the photo but she was really quite tall.



High Holiday Gift Shop Fare

Challah Boards - \$25

Challah Knives - \$18

Challah Cover - \$28

Candlesticks - \$8-15

Kiddush Cups - \$25

Contact: carolsnh@myfairpoint.net

We are very grateful to Marcia Feldman and Camp Yauneh for donation many Kosher baked goods, including vegan/gluten-free Snicker Doodle cookies!

tisha b'av



Tu b' Av Party!





*Registration is open for the
2023-2024 school year!*

To register, contact Karen Jacobs
or Jennifer Beard at:
school@templeisraelmht.org.

TEMPLE ISRAEL MANCHESTER

HIGH HOLIDAYS

TEMPLE ISRAEL
66 Salmon St., Manchester, NH

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prior to becoming a member!

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The TI Kiddush Lunch Krew Needs Your Help!!!!

The Kiddush Lunch Krew can use help!! Some of us are on vacation or want a break.

Twice monthly we meet (usually on a Friday) and work in pairs, perhaps making a salad, putting out a basket of bagels, a dish of gefilte fish or whitefish, fruit, and coffee cake. (All refrigerated till after next day's service.)

Can't come help with prep? Perhaps you can spare a few minutes to put the refrigerated foods out and/or help with clean-up.

If you would you like to do a Mitzvah, we would love to have you!

Contact Carol at
carolsnh@myfairpoint.net
or 603.623.7752



15 Webster Street
Manchester, NH
603.625.6700

Offering High Holiday Sweets

Honey Cakes - plain, with raisins and or/with fruit.
Marble sponge cake

Rugelach - chocolate, cheese, raspberry-cheese, apricot
or an order with all of them.

Bubke's - chocolate and raisin and pecan rolls.

All the items are parve from Kupits in Boston.
Orders must be placed by Sept 8th (the previous Friday).

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September -Elul 15 to Tishrei 15

Happy Birthday!

Sep 1 - Stephen Saulten

Sep 4 - Danica Taylor Sinkow

Sep 5 - Ken Cohn

Sep 6 - Benjamin DePasse

Sep 10 - Jay Zax

Sep 12 - Abigail Jane Bednowitz

Sep 12 - Morton Fleischner

Sep 13 - Morris Steinbock

Sep 15 - Denise Rudman

Sep 18 - Aaron Sommers

Sep 19 - Jeffrey Salloway

Sep 20 - Judson Belmont

Sep 21 - Danny Geller

Sep 21 - Laurel Geller

Sep 21 - Helena Guttman

Sep 22 - Brian Zinn

Sep 24 - Ido Preis

Sep 25 - Georgia Schill

Sep 27 - Ron Deeter

Happy Anniversary!

Sep 5 - Daniel & Tiffany Cohen - 23 years

Sep 9 - John & Dina Weber - 50 years

Sep 6 - Michael & Catherine Davidow - 15 years

Sep 27 - Peter & Morgan Hallock - 4 years

Upcoming September Services & Events

Morning Minyans – every Wednesday at 7:00am - Contact jlklein@comcast.net

Sep 2 – 9:45am Shabbat service

Sep 4 Labor Day – office closed

Sep 6 - 4:30pm TI Jewish Book club on Zoom

Sep 9 - 8:30pm Selichot at TAY

Sep 10 – 10:00am Cemetery Visit with TAY

Sep 10 – 11:00am Volunteer Day to install the Sukkah

Sep 15 – 6:00pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Sep 16 – 9:00am Rosh Hashanah Day 1

Sep 17 – 9:00am Rosh Hashanah Day 2

Sep 19 – 6:00pm Tashlich at Massabesic Lake

Sep 23 – 11:00am Shabbat Shuva at the home of Rabbi Marc & Valerie. RSVP required.

Sep 23-Oct 1: Office closed

Sep 24 – 6:00pm Kol Nidre

Sep 25 – 9:00am Yom Kippur Morning

Sep 25 – 5:15pm Mincha Neilah

Sep 25 – 7:20pm Blowing of the Shofar

Sep 25 - 7:30pm Break Fast. RSVP required.

Sep 29 – 6:00pm Deli Night. RSVP required.

Sep 30 – 9:45am Sukkot Day 1