



CONGREGATION HESED SHELEMET

Tevet - Shevat 5778

January 2018

From the Rabbi's Desk.....

I love New Years and, as Jews, we've got lots of them. There is, of course, Rosh Hashanah "the" Jewish new year. There is also Tu B'shevat, the new year for trees. We can't forget the beginning of Nissan, the first month of the Jewish year, which falls two weeks before Passover. All of this doesn't include the secular new year, the fiscal year, or the school year. All in all, we can mark, celebrate or commemorate seven or eight "new years'." While these celebrations are radically different in size, scope, and ritual, they all share a common thread: one period is marked off, and a new calculation, computation, or compilation begins anew.

We don't have to wait till "THE" new year to turn over a new leaf. We can use these mini new-years as a place to take stock, reexamine, reassess, and reevaluate the trajectory of our lives and relationships. The ritual for Rosh Hashanah can be indispensable for our approach to 2018. If there are promises left undone; if there are feelings that have been hurt; if there are fences that need mending – today is a better day to do them than to wait till 5779.

The beginning of January also marks the beginning of the second book of the Torah, the book of Exodus. The opening chapters are packed with a theology that has influenced our people for millennia. Perhaps, the most telling is the verse, "Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who knew not Joseph." (Ex 1:8) How is it possible that a new Pharaoh would be clueless to the debt Egypt owed to Joseph's logistical skill? Why would a king enslave a loyal people? Why would God allow this to happen? All these questions have been queried over our long history. Where is God? And why did he allow This (fill in the blank) to happen? For some, the feeling of God's abandonment crushes any sense of religious kinship or loyalty to ritual. For others, the time and distance from belonging has created a barrier from participating in worship or ritual. There are still others who want to come back but don't know how or where.

It's a new year; it's a new month, and it's a new book of the Torah. Make peace with those who caused you hurt, and apologize to those you've wronged. I know - it's easier said than done. "Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who knew not Joseph." How many people in our lives do we pretend not to see? How many people do we overlook or belittle their role in our life or community? As we begin a new year (again), let's appreciate those around us and strive to make this year our best yet! Shanah tova.

Rabbi Ira Flax

Rabbi Flax can be reached at (610)937-4504 or email iraflax@aol.com



January



Services

Fri	Jan 5	—NO SERVICE—	Sat	Jan 20	9:15am	led by Rabbi Flax	
Sat	Jan 6	9:15am	led by Rabbi Flax	Fri	Jan 26	6:15pm	led by Rabbi Flax
Fri	Jan 12	—NO SERVICE—	Sat	Jan 27	9:15am	led by Rabbi Flax	
Sat	Jan 13	9:15am	led by Congregant				
Fri	Jan 19	6:15pm	Shabbat Dinner followed by services led by Rabbi Flax				

Hebrew School

Sat	Jan 6	9:15am	Tue	Jan 16	NO SCHOOL	Sat	Jan 27	9:15am
Tues	Jan 9	4:30pm	Sat	Jan 20	9:15am			
Sat	Jan 13	NO SCHOOL	Tue	Jan 23	4:30pm			

Birthdays

16	Edward Windrim	21	Ree Hoffner
19	Bunny Gross	26	Philip Matilsky

Anniversaries

6	Mr. and Mrs. Philip Borger
11	Dr. and Mrs. Howard Sokol

Save the Date!

Board of Governors Meeting

The January 8th meeting was cancelled due to the weather, it will likely be re-scheduled after the MLK Day weekend.

Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 19 @ 6:15pm in the LOWER Sanctuary BEFORE services. After dinner there will be a special service/lecture - around 7:00pm to welcome The Hill School World Religions class for their annual visit.

Sponsored by
The Wolf Families

RSVP by January 17th to the Office Administrator by email: hesedshelemet575@gmail.com or call (610) 326-1717

If you would like to sponsor a future month's Shabbat dinner, contact the Office!



Sisterhood Meeting

Sunday, January 21st @ 10:30am

Congregation Meeting

Sunday, January 28th @ 4:00pm - look for the letter/email announcement for details.

Tu B'Shevat Seder/Shabbat Dinner

Friday, February 2nd @ 6:15pm

Co-Sponsor for February Shabbat Dinner

We are looking for someone to co-sponsor our February Shabbat dinner on February 2 with Judy Bieberfeld - please let Judy or Amy Wolf know if you are interested in co-sponsoring (Pasta Night including KOSHER shrimp scampi! Yes, it's true!)



Thank You

A Big Thank You to all who came out to help make Latkes for our Hanukkah Dinner:

Stephanie Windrim	Barbara Gross
Claire Pettigrew	Judy Bieberfeld
Amy Wolf	Gayle Wolf
Patty Prince	Pat Rhoads

And thank you to everyone who came out for the dinner in spite of the bad weather! We had a very festive time as always!



Condolences

Our deepest condolences to David Kaplan and the Kaplan family on the passing of David's brother, Elliot, on December 14th.

Thank you for your generosity!

Donations



In memory of Murray Malkin
donated by Flip & Laurie Borger

In honor of their 50th wedding anniversary
donated by Flip & Laurie Borger

In memory of Stephen H Gross and Ruth Galler Gross
donated by Gary & Barbara Gross

In memory of Frances Hoffner
donated by Len & Reba Hoffner

In memory of Ida Michael and Joseph Prince
donated by Paul & Pat Prince

Donation to CHSE, by Paul & Pat Prince

In memory of Arnold Markowitz
donated by David & Debra Schachter

In memory of Jay M Schlosberg
donated by Marge and Samuel Schlosberg

In memory of Samuel S Schlosberg and Jay M Schlosberg
donated by Bob & Bev Schlosberg

January Yahrzeits From 1/1/2018 to 1/31/2018 (Tevet 14 to Shevat 15, 5778)

Name	Observed By	Relationship	Observed on (civil)	Jewish
Eleanor Prince	Marilyn Altschull	mother	Saturday 1/6/2018	Tevet 19, 5778
Harold Wolf	Jack Wolf, Levi Wolf	father, grandfather	Sunday 1/14/2018	Tevet 27, 5778
Sidney Weiss	Alvin Weiss	brother	Friday 1/19/2018	Shevat 3, 5778
Suzanne Collins	Dr. I. William Collins	wife	Sunday 1/21/2018	Shevat 5, 5778
Sol Borger	Philip Borger	father	Monday 1/22/2018	Shevat 6, 5778
Leonard Strom	Barry Sankey	uncle	Wednesday 1/31/2018	Shevat 15, 5778

Committees and Contacts:

President: Barry Sankey

Secretary: Julia Katz

Treasurer: Ed Freedman

Finance: Judy Bieberfeld & Valerie Angst

Ritual/Education: Mark Pastor & Jack Wolf

Cemetery: Paul Prince & Allan Altschull

Communications/Administration: Stacey Messing & Bob Misko

Sisterhood: Claire Pettigrew

If you need to contact one of the VP's or Deputies, please email your concern with the person's name in the subject line to the office (hesedshemet575@gmail.com) and the message will be forwarded.

Office Hours: Tues 2:30-6:30pm, Wed & Th 8:30am to 12:30pm. Hours are subject to change, please call or email before stopping by!