



CONGREGATION HESED SHEL EMET

Elul 5777-Tishrei 5778

September 2017

From the Rabbi's Desk.....

I had the privilege to serve as the scholar-in-residence and camp rabbi at METNY USY Encampment last week. The last time I served as staff at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires was 39 years ago, in 1979. While not old enough to be a participant's grandfather, I was older than most of their parents. I was older than most of the staff, save, two. This is a new reality for me. While technically not old, I am a lot closer to 80 than I am to 30.

In the almost 40 years since my last adventure as a USYer, I've had a wealth of experiences, almost enough to fill a lifetime. Driving up the winding roads that serpentine toward the camp, the nostalgia kicks in. Many of the landmarks are the same: the fork in the road, the bridge over the creek, the camp itself hasn't changed in any meaningful way. The camp seems much smaller though the walk to the dining hall feels much longer. The inclines are steeper, the accommodations a little rustic.

But I didn't come here to walk the grounds, smell the air, or enjoy camp cuisine. I came here to see what the future holds for Judaism. We know the demographics: our totals are shrinking; commitments are down; synagogues are merging or closing. From the random pew, in the random shul, it does not look good. But, that's not the whole story.

There is an oasis - it is called USY: 500 kids davening, singing, and studying Torah. These children will go on to become the next generation of Jewish leaders. They will take these memories and, hopefully, shape their lives around these experiences. As we marked the beginning of Elul with the singing of Hallel, I was struck by Psalm 118:17: "I will not die, but live and tell the works of God." This Psalm speaks of Israel's return from exile, its return from near extinction under the Babylonians.

For as long as we have been in existence as a people, we have never been numerically significant. The magic of the Jewish people has always been to leverage commitment and education to ensure the viability of our community. Countless stories of near-death experiences have been retold with the words, "I wasn't going to be defeated; I wasn't ready to die; I had to get back to my family." A nation, a person, or a community can survive untold misfortune if it can harness the will to live and thrive. "I will not die, but live to tell the works of the Lord." Every service, every Shabbat dinner, every Hebrew school class declares God's glory at Hesed Shel Emet.

Rabbi Ira Flax

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



September



Services

Fri Sept 1 6:15pm led by Rabbi Flax followed by Shabbat Dinner
 Sat Sept 2 9:15am led by Rabbi Flax
 Fri Sept 8 6:15pm led by Rabbi Flax
 Sat Sept 9 9:15am led by Rabbi Flax
 Fri Sept 15 —NO SERVICE—
 Sat Sept 16 9:15am led by Rabbi Flax followed by Lifecycle #1 & Luncheon
 Wed Sept 20 7:00pm Erev Rosh Hashana preceded by Dinner @ 6:00pm

Thur Sept 21 9:15am Rosh Hashana
 Fri Sept 22 9:15am Rosh Hashana followed by lunch
 Fri Sept 22 6:15pm
 Sat Sept 23 9:15am
 Fri Sept 29 6:15pm Kol Nidre
 Sat Sept 30 9:15am Yom Kippur
 Sat Sept 30 5:30pm Yizkor/Neilah followed by Break-the-Fast

Hebrew School

Sat Sept 9 9:15am - First Day!
 Tue Sept 12 4:30pm
 Sat Sept 16 9:15am
 Tues Sept 19 4:30pm — NO SCHOOL—

Sat Sept 23 9:15am — NO SCHOOL—
 Sun Sept 24 11:00am Tashlich @ Riverside Park
 Tue Sept 26 4:30pm
 Sat Sept 30 9:15am

Birthdays

1	Lesley Misko	15	Patty Prince
6	Paul Prince	21	Dan Pettigrew
9	Brandon Maltzman	23	Beverly Schlosberg
13	Midge Sokol		

Anniversaries

5 Timothy Manley & Wendy Ney-Manley

Save the Date!

Shabbat Dinner

Friday, September 1 @ 6:15pm in the LOWER Sanctuary

Sponsored by Rabbi Flax & Family

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



Board of Governors Meeting

Monday, September 11th @ 7:15pm

Lifecycle Session #1/Luncheon

Saturday, September 16th after services. This session's topic is Marriage.

Sisterhood Meeting

Sunday, September 17th @ 10:30am in the lounge.

Erev Rosh Hashana Dinner

September 20th @ 6:00pm - \$18.00 Adults, \$9.00

kids under 13 RSVP by September 15th.

Luncheon Rosh Hashana Day Two

Friday, September 22, after morning services.

Tashlich @ Riverside Park*

Sunday, September 24 @ 11:00am, weather permitting. Everyone is invited. Hebrew School students are required to attend.

Break-the-Fast

Saturday, September 30, following Yizkor/Neilah \$13.50 adults, \$6.00 kids under 13, RSVP by September 15th.

Congregation Hesed Shel Emet 125th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Saturday, November 11 at the Copperfield Inn in Limerick. Details to follow!

High Holidays

September Schedule

- Wed Sept 20, 6:00pm
Erev Rosh Hashana Dinner
- Wed Sept 20, 7:00pm
Erev Rosh Hashana
- Thur Sept 21, 9:15am
1st Day Rosh Hashana
- Fri Sept 22, 9:15am
2nd Day Rosh Hashana (followed by lunch)
- Sun Sept 24, 11:00am
Tashlich @ Riverside Park
- Fri Sept 29, 6:15pm
Kol Nidre
- Sat Sept 30, 9:15am
Yom Kippur
- Sat Sept 30, 5:30pm
Yizkor/Neilah
- Sat Sept 30, (after Neilah & Havdalah)
Break-the-Fast

Note: Sukkot will be held off-campus on Sunday, Oct. 8. Location TBD.



Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

Wednesday, September 20 - 6 p.m.
(services to follow)

\$18.00 adults, \$9.00 kids under 13



Break-the-Fast

Saturday, September 30
(following Neilah & Havdalah)

\$13.50 adults, \$6.00 kids under 13

Note that the Jewish Women's League will not be providing babysitting services at High Holidays this year.

RSVP by September 15!
Please make checks payable to
Jewish Women's League
and send to:

Gayle Wolf
145 W. Harmony Drive
Potstown, PA 19464



Thank You

We had a wonderful "pot luck" Shabbat dinner on Friday, August 11. Thank you to Jack and Gayle Wolf, Stacey Messing, Rabbi & Vicki Flax, Sharon and Ed Freedman, and Amy & Levi Wolf for contributing to the dinner and to all the folks that helped set up and clean up afterwards. We were all happy to see Barry Sankey out and about after his recent and very long hospitalization, and we welcomed many guests, including Alex and Gwen Kaplan and their adorable baby Cora. We all had a great time!

We are looking for sponsors for the following Shabbat Dinners:

November 3 March 2
 January 12 May 18
 February 2 June 22

Dairy Meal Sponsorship - \$300
 Meat Meal Sponsorship - \$450

Please contact Amy Wolf if you are interested.

Thank you for your generosity!

Donations

In memory of Samuel Kuntz
donated by Sharon & Ed Freedman

In memory of Murray Pater
donated by The Faranda Family

In memory of Albert Collins
donated by Dr. Bill Collins



Continued better health to Barry Sankey now that he is at home and getting back in to the swing of things!

Best wishes to Marcus Neumann at Pottstown Memorial Hospital.

Personal Notes

If you have something you would like to contribute to the bulletin, please contact the Office at 610-326-1717, or by email at hesedshelemet575@gmail.com

September Yahrzeits From 9/1/2017 to 9/30/2017 (Elul 10, 5777 to Tishrei 10, 5778)

Name	Observed By	Relationship	Observed on (civil)	Jewish
Robert Morrison	Judi Ehlinger	father	Sunday 9/3/2017	Elul 12, 5777
Louis Rawdin	Dr. Martin Rawdin	father	Thursday 9/7/2017	Elul 16, 5777
Albert Sanft	Mr. Bruce Sanft	father	Friday 9/8/2017	Elul 17, 5777
Thomas Weiss	Alvin Weiss	father	Tuesday 9/12/2017	Elul 21, 5777
Lois Wolf Pollak	Jack Wolf	sister	Tuesday 9/12/2017	Elul 21, 5777
Emanuel Berman	Rebecca Marion	father	Thursday 9/14/2017	Elul 23, 5777
Bertha Phillips	Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Phillips	mother	Friday 9/15/2017	Elul 24, 5777
Bernice Pomerantz	Howard Pomerantz	mother	Friday 9/15/2017	Elul 24, 5777
William J. Macy	Barbara Gross	father	Saturday 9/16/2017	Elul 25, 5777
Albert Collins	Dr. I. William Collins	father	Monday 9/18/2017	Elul 27, 5777
Jacob Markowitz	Mr. F. Arnold Markowitz	father	Monday 9/25/2017	Tishrei 5, 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 (hesedshelemet575@gmail.com) and the message will be forwarded.

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