



Temple Beth Israel of Redding

Newsletter

September 2021

(ELUL 5781 – TISHREI 5782)



Message from Rabbi Sam

Hello TBI Family!

I'm so happy to be back with you for another cycle through the Jewish calendar! Can you believe it's been a year? So much has changed, and yet, so much has stayed the same. We are coming upon our second Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in this pandemic. This will be our second High Holidays on Zoom, praying from a distance, keeping each other safe and connected even though we are apart. We may be sitting in the same places as last year, preparing our individual sanctuaries, creating our safe holy spaces, but something feels different. We've had a year of experience, a year of growth and fear, of disappointment and hope. We arrive again to this season, perhaps a little weary, a little unsure. How will we frame our prayer in this season of return?

Even with the disappointment of having to stay apart a little bit longer, we can see

hopeful changes in progress. As more vaccines are available to more and more people, we are able to slowly return to each other with less fear. As more and more studies are done and we learn about this terrible virus which continues to take far too many lives, we develop better ways to fight it and protect ourselves and others around us. We can see that our hope was not in vain.

And so, as we return this year, steeped in the pain and growth of a universal trauma, we allow ourselves to continue to hope. We do the work of reflecting on ourselves, we take a Cheshbon Nefesh, an inventory of our souls, and we commit to being better in the year to come. One of the most beautiful themes of these High Holy Days is the theme of forgiveness, the theme of accepting that we are human, that we are not perfect, nor should we be perfect. Instead of demands of perfection, we are met with understanding, with the idea that as long as we are willing to try to do better, we are granted forgiveness.

In this season of return, may we remember to be forgiving of ourselves. We've been through a lot, and we're not out of the woods yet. We are also not alone in this struggle. This year has proven the strength and connection of the TBI community. We've celebrated together, we've mourned losses, we've studied and prayed, and we've

kept each other as safe as we could. No matter what this year brings, we will continue. We will carry on the important and holy work of our community. I look forward to continuing on this journey with you.

Shana Tova! May you find sweetness in the new year to come!

A Vidui for Racism

Samantha Thal

Each year on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, we beat our chests and engage in a communal confession. Looking back on a year, it can be difficult to pinpoint specific mistakes or failures. The beauty of a communal confession is that we take on all these failures together. We confess to an alphabet of sins, covering all our wrongs from A to Z. We take responsibility for ourselves and everyone around us. We accept that no matter how hard we try, we are not perfect, and in our admitting, we are committing to try to be better.

Recent events in our country have brought to light an alphabet of sins we have avoided admitting. Our failure to acknowledge these wrongs has cost the lives of our fellow people. It has caused exclusion and alienation within our own communities. It has gone on too long. Now we will take responsibility. Now we will feel this pain we've been ignoring, this pain we've been causing. We will take it on as a community of individuals, working to be better.

A Vidui for Racism

We have **abstained** from uncomfortable growth.
We have **belittled** the pain of our fellow humans.
We have **complied** with social pressures.
We have **desensitized** ourselves to the suffering of others.
We have **engaged** in performative activism.
We have **forgotten** how to dream.
We have **grown** accustomed to our power.
We have **heard** the cries and chosen to stay silent.
We have **ignored** our personal responsibility.
We have **joined** the path of least resistance.
We have **killed** innocent people through our silence.
We have **laughed** to avoid confronting problematic behavior.
We have **made** excuses instead of listening.
We have **not** used the power of our voices.
We have **oppressed** others for our own gain.
We have **perpetuated** racist systems in our society.
We have **questioned** the severity of the situation.
We have **robbed** children of their innocence.
We have **stood idly** by in the face of wrongs.
We have **taught** a false narrative.
We have **undermined** movements for change.
We have **valued** property over life.
We have **walked away** from a chance to help.
We have been **xenophobic**.
We have **yelled** to mask our fear.
We have **zealously** guarded the status quo.

For all these sins, may we earn forgiveness, through our actions, through our learning, through our change of heart.

Rabbi Sam's
Schedule for 2021-
2022

August

Friday 20th Virtual Welcome Back Shabbat

Saturday 28th Virtual Shabbat doing the work: High Holy Preparation

September/ High Holy Days

Monday 6th 7pm Erev Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday 7th 10am Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday 15th 7:30pm Erev Yom Kippur /Kol Nidre (note later start time to allow time for pre-fast dinner)

Thursday 16th 10am Yom Kippur morning service

6:15 pm afternoon Torah study

*6:45 pm Honoring Voices of the Community (formerly called symposium)

*7:00 Yiskor (please bring your own rock as we adapt our tradition to the changing times)

*7:15 N'eila & Havdallah

*7:45 Break the Fast and schmooz

*Times are approximate

October

Friday 8th 7pm Virtual Shabbat

Fri/Sat - 22-23 fingers crossed—In person weekend w/Rabbi Sam (also online)

November

Fri/Sat 12-13 In person weekend w/Rabbi Sam (also online)

Friday 19th 7pm Virtual Shabbat

December

Fri/Sat 3-4 Hanukah In person weekend w/Rabbi Sam (also online)

Friday 17th 7pm Virtual Shabbat

January

Fri/Sat 14-15 Tu B'Shevat

Friday 28th 7pm Virtual Shabbat Social Justice

February

Fri/Sat 18-19

Friday 25th 7pm Virtual Shabbat

March

Friday 11th, 7pm Virtual Shabbat

Fri/Sat 18-19 Purim

April

Fri/Sat 15-16 Passover Seder in some form

Friday 29th 7 pm

Virtual remembrance Shabbat

Yom HaZikaron/Yom HaAtzmaut

Israeli Memorial Day

May

Friday 13th, 7pm Virtual Shabbat

Fri/Sat 20-21st last visit from Rabbi Sam

On in person weekends -

All Friday night services begin at 7pm

Saturday morning services begin at 10am





President's Message **By Lis Peery**

Dear TBI family,

All of us continue to navigate a world in crisis. It is impossible to look around and not wonder what will become of us and the planet as we stumble forward. I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. I know that all of us have faced challenges during this last year and a half.

One of the challenges for the TBI Board has been deciding when to re-open the Temple for services. Several of you have reached out and asked when we're gathering again, particularly since the High Holy Days are coming up. Our members' safety is our first concern, obviously, and we have had many, many spirited discussions at our meetings about the core issues of the pandemic: freedom of choice when it comes to vaccinations and masks, infection rates, liability, being responsible, etc.

As you know, the Board ultimately decided that it's not safe yet: the Delta variant has added a whole new, horrible twist to the Covid 19 story. We don't know when we'll be gathering in person again. We simply cannot know or say when the threat of infection will be low enough for us to comfortably open the Temple's doors to all of you.

In other news, Louise Cogan coordinated a Sisterhood Rummage Sale with All Saints Episcopal Church in June that raised

\$1000.00. She was a dynamo and a half; she did a wonderful job of pulling it together and pulling it off.

Our own Eva Hecht earned a prestigious Bronfman Fellowship and spent four weeks at the Isabella Freedman Jewish retreat center in Connecticut. The Bronfman Fellowship nurtures intellectually curious young Jews from Israel and North America to build a more dynamic and pluralistic future. The Bronfman Fellowship "...thoughtfully selects promising Jewish people with diverse backgrounds and identities who demonstrate the ability to be cultural creators, deep thinkers, moral voices, and community builders. By exploring the plurality of Jewish life, and by creating a rich tapestry of Jewish ideas, we build a community rooted in meaningful relationships and an expanded sense of possibility." Congratulations, Eva! We can't wait to see what you do on your path through life!

Lastly, Temple Beth Israel will be celebrating the High Holidays via Zoom with Rabbi Sam. Stay tuned for more information as they get closer.

I hope you are surviving the heat and smoke this summer and I wish all of you my very, very best. -Lis

Dear Tanta Golda,

The rabbi told us that during the month of Elul we are supposed to go around and ask people to forgive us. I'm mostly a nice person, but to be honest, sometimes I say something when I'm angry that I didn't mean. But they are just words, no big deal, right? And what about people I gossiped about

behind their backs? They don't know about it, so why should I upset them?

Coward, Trying to do Better.

My Darling Coward,

There is an ancient Jewish proverb that goes: Loose tongues are worse than wicked hands. Words, shmords, you say. How can they be worse than a smack across the face? Let me tell you a story about the time my cousin Maidle asked the rabbi the same question.

The rabbi of our humble little village was old and wise, as rabbis were back in the old country. (Now, many of them are young and wise.) He told Maidle to take one of her fine goose down pillows up to the roof of the tallest building in the shtetl. Once she was there, she should rip it open and let the feathers free.

Having done that, she returned to the rabbi. "Nu? I destroyed one of my good feather pillows—one so soft it was like sleeping on a cloud—but I did what you asked and released the feathers. Now what?"

The rabbi nodded. "Now," he said, "go gather all the feathers."

My cousin Maidle was shocked. "Why, that will be impossible! They have blown into every nook and cranny of the village!"

The rabbi sat back in his chair and nodded sagely, as rabbis do. "Ah, now you see. Words are like feathers. Once they are out they are nearly impossible to take back fully."

So, back to the proverb. While physically more aggressive, the sting of a smack fades fairly quickly, but words—words linger. Now you know why gossip is called *lashon hara* - evil tongue.

During Elul, we are required to seek out those we've wronged since last Rosh Hashanah and ask forgiveness. But, how we ask depends on the extent of the 'damage' done. If your words created negative consequences, say the person lost standing in the community or was fired from their job, or was embarrassed in front of the whole office, then you must ask them directly for forgiveness. But, even if there is no lasting harm, and you know the person will be understanding, you should still ask. Like when you yell at your child for dropping garbage next to the garbage can and leaving it there—for the nth time. Oy!

However, if informing the person that you spoke about them will result in embarrassment or hurt—like gossiping with Chana after services about the hideous dress Maidle wore when she gave her speech at last month's Sisterhood lunch, then it is acceptable to ask for general forgiveness without going into details. In fact, the rabbis say, if informing the person of the deed would cause embarrassment, that itself would be cause for asking forgiveness again.

Words matter, but actions speak louder. Go forth and show those you've wronged with your loose tongue that you will aim to do better in the year to come.

Much love, TG

The Jewish Obligation to Get Vaccinated

By Geri Copitch

In last week's Torah portion, Ki Tetzze, we are told: If a (person) builds a new house, then they shall make a parapet (low wall) for the roof so they will not bring blood (injury) on (or off) the roof. (Deut 22:8)

It does not say to build the parapet only to protect the old, or only if someone in your household has a pre-existing condition that might cause them to fall. It doesn't give you an 'out' for being young and healthy. Everyone is commanded to build a parapet in order to prevent anyone from coming to harm.

I suppose the Torah could have said, if you are old or have a pre-existing condition, you should stay within your home so healthy people can express their freedom to enjoy the roof without restrictions, but it doesn't. Why? Because in Judaism we are told to put the needs of the community at the forefront. When I was teaching a class on Jewish ethics at Bet Sefer, the chapter on *Pikuah Nefesh* cited this Torah passage as an example of how important the rabbis felt

our obligation to ‘save a soul’ e.g prevent bodily harm, was.

Pikuah Nefesh overrides all other ethical obligations. All of them.

This Yom Kippur we will say the Vidui, the list of sins which we ask forgiveness. We aren’t told to say only the ones we are guilty of. We recite all of them, together, as a community because we are responsible for each other. By asking forgiveness for not only our own mis-steps, but those of our community members as well, we are holding each other up. It is the same reason we say the Mourners Kaddish only when we have a minyon (ten Jewish adults), and the reason we are told to rejoice with the bride and groom. Because in times of grief, in times of joy, we lift each other up, we watch out for each other.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis, (CCAR) the oldest and largest rabbinic organization in North America, came out with a Responsa, a Jewish legal ruling, back in 1994 in response to the question of whether a Hebrew School could require students to be vaccinated. The ruling was a resounding, Yes. They cited the overriding obligation to protect the community. This April they issued a resolution in response to Covid-19 vaccine. It affirmed their 1994 ruling.

<https://www.ccarnet.org/ccar-resolutions/central-conference-of-american-rabbis-resolution-on-the-covid-19-vaccination/>

This is not just a liberal rant from Geri. There are centuries of rabbis standing behind me. We are stronger when we support each other, when we have each other’s backs. We do have to care for ourselves, but we must also care for others. As Hillel said, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?”

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL BOARD MEMBERS

President: Lis Perry
Vice-President: Patricia Penn
Treasurer: Sharon Hoffman-Spector
Secretary: Geri Copitch
Members-at-Large: Jessica Morris,
Joanne Lobeski Snyder and Eva Hecht.
Newsletter editor: Joanne Lobeski Snyder
(530) 355 1793 jolobeski@gmail.com

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

8529 Placer Road,
Redding, CA 96001
P.O. Box 992582
Redding, CA 96009
(530) 243-5726



Today Rabah

- Geri Copitch** for setting up and hosting teleconferenced meetings and events during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Geri Copitch** for maintaining the Temple Beth Israel website and coordinating with Rabbi Sam for services during the year.
- **Josh Morris, Jessica Morris and Gavin Brown** for maintaining the yard at TBI
- Luisa Cogan** for spearheading the TBI yard sale
- Jess Morris** for being the voice of TBI for those calling to seek information
- Joanne Lobeski-Snyder** for organizing our library
- Eric Rapport** for maintaining the Tree of Memories
- Patricia Penn, Lis Peery and Geri Copitch** for their work on this newsletter.

Birthdays

June:

6/13 Bernie Berkowitz
6/23 Sharon Hoffman-Spector

July:

7/4 Trasen Kaplan
7/5 Rebecca Spector
7/7 Jacob Rubanowitz
7/9 Christine Woroniecki
7/11 Jake Zlotowski
7/15 Patty Bradlyn
7/22 Eva Hecht
7/27 Nancy Warsinger

August:

8/9 Joey Bradlyn
8/22 David Akman
8/22 Jeff Hage

September:

9/9 Abe Zlotowski
9/21 Julie Kaplan
9/21 Lachlan MacKenzie
9/27 Dan Rubanowitz

October:

10/9 Heather Marie Ditmar
10/12 Dale Currie
10/19 Marna Fischel
10/21 Carolyn Salus-Singh
10/12 Michael Cogan
10/28 Elizabeth Akman

November:

11/10 Louise Cogan
11/10 Gayle Tilles
11/14 Gavin Brown
11/15 Sadie Morris

December:

12/1 Marcia Berkowitz
12/8 Lindsey Yvonne Ditmar
12/8 Steve Zlotowski
12/11 Royce Seese
12/19 Allen Bradlyn
12/19 Alexa Singer-Telles
12/20 Gideon Ezekial Lyon
12/24 Mickey Bateman
12/31 Erica Rapport

Yarzheit

JUNE

Jeannette Bay, beloved member of TBI
Jerome Ivan Block, husband of Sandy Block
Arpad Clarke, maternal grandfather of George Wandrocke
Jack Israel Copitch, father of Phil Copitch
Esther Handman, grandmother of Hillary Fine
Emmanuel Katell, father of Geri Copitch
Doris Klein, grandmother of Brianne Brichacek
Sarah Leichtag, grandmother of Sarah O'Conner
Rose Roitman, mother of Jeri Roitman
Lorraine Rabe grandmother of Allison Ashby
Anna Tilles, mother of Art Tilles
Bess Waxer, mother of Dan Waxer
Isadore Weinstock, grandfather of Lynne Currie

JULY

Barry Balter, brother of Marna Fischel
Alexander Beigelman, grandfather of Alexa Singer-Telles
Deanna Fine, grandmother of Sharon Hoffman-Spector
Chaim Menashe, grandfather of Harvey Spector
Ida Rothchild-Beigelman, grandmother of Alexa Singer-Telles

AUGUST

Walter Nathan Carmi, father of Judi Carmi
Milton Fine, maternal grandfather of Sharon Hoffman-Spector
Sheila Hansen, beloved member of TBI
Jenny Hoffman, grandmother of Sharon Hoffman-Spector
Annette Katell, aunt of Geri Copitch
Robert Powell, father of Patty Bradlyn
Irving Prober, father of Royce Seese
Dora Roitman, paternal grandmother of Jeri Roitman
Louis Seltzer, step-father of Steve Zlotowski
Sydney Bernard Tushbant, father of Clair Lillian-Tushbant
Valerie Valentine, aunt of Hillary Fine
Vera Zacharias, grandmother of Geri Copitch

Raymond Zebrack, brother of Lynn Brophy
George Wandrocke beloved member of TBI

SEPTEMBER

Mervyn Barnett, uncle of Hillary Fine
Isadore Bradlyn, uncle of Allen Bradlyn
Joan Copitch, mother of Phil Copitch
Hersh Dunaetz, husband of Charlene Dunaetz
Steven Goldberg, brother of Luisa Cogan
Clara Karp, grandmother of Lynne Currie
Maurice Karp, grandfather of Lynne Currie
Bonnie LaRose, beloved member of TBI
Fred Martinez, husband of Lyn Brophy
Jacob Penn grandfather of Patricia Penn
Goldie Prober, mother of Royce Seese
Abraham Rothenberg, maternal grandfather of Art Tilles
Lena Rothenberg, maternal grandmother of Art Tilles
Pauline Wandrocke, mother of George Wandrocke
Sofia Zebrack, mother of Carolyn Brophy

OCTOBER

Regine S. Weinstein Carmi, Mother of Judi Carmi
Stanley David Hoffman, father of Sharon Hoffman-Spector
John Kreslake, father of Mary Waxer
Rose Penn, mother of Patricia Penn
Anthony Rapisardo, uncle of Marcia Berkowitz
Edward Roitman, father of Jeri Roitman
Henry Rubanowitz, father of Daniel Rubanowitz
Frieda Schwartz, aunt of Daniel Rubanowitz
Nathan Singer, paternal grandfather of Alexa Singer-Telles
Irena Smigielski, mother of Joanna Ramseyer

Joel Specht, husband of Patricia Penn
Douglas Vanderpool, brother of Jessica Morris

NOVEMBER

Arlene Aronowitz, beloved member of TBI
Paul Bell, beloved friend of Jeff Hage
Helena Berkowitz, mother of Bernie Berkowitz
Della Bradlyn, paternal grandmother of Allen Bradlyn
Mildred Lloyd, mother of Judith Schmid
Fortune Menashe, maternal grandmother of Harvey Spector
Kate Lancaster-Penn grandmother of Patricia Penn
Millicent Rubanowitz, mother of Daniel Rubanowitz
Josephine Seligman, aunt of Geri Copitch
Susan Singer, mother of Alexa Singer-Telles
Charles Waxman, father of Muriel Weissberg

DECEMBER

Fayga Beder mother of Maryasha Bateman
Jacob Leonard Beder father of Maryasha Bateman
Sam Bradlyn, father of Allen Bradlyn
Herb Fried, father of Marcia Berkowitz
Rose Fried, mother of Marcia Berkowitz
Deborah Molesky, aunt of Allen Bradlyn
Gregg Nochenson, cousin of Judy Chambers
Doris Rosenberger, mother of Carolyn Salus-Singh
Emil Smeriglio, father of Louise Cogan
Lynn Alan Spector, brother of Harvey Spector
Samuel Spector, father of Harvey Spector
Guy Sutton beloved member of TBI
Franz Wandrocke, father of George Wandrocke
David Sperber beloved member of TBI

* Yiskor Booklet for Yom Kippur *

Gerri and Joanne are working on updating the TBI Yiskor book of Remembrance for the Yiskor service on Yom Kippur afternoon.

If you have lost a loved one in the past two years, or joined the TBI community since fall of 2019, and want to add any names to our memorial list, please email Geri. Traditionally, these lists are for the names of family members.

If you don't recall if Geri has a name(s), please reach out to her. We need names no later than Sept 10th.

It is customary, but not mandatory, to make a donation in their memory.

Contact Geri: Geri.Copitch@iCloud.com