



BETH EL NEWSLETTER

The Heights Synagogue

September, 2006
אלול 5766 \תשרי 5767



Rabbi Moshe Adler

On the Threshold of a New Year

We enter the new year fully aware of the danger Israel faces, fully aware of the growing tide of anti-Semitism around the world. Can we honestly enter it trusting in G-d's caring presence?

an enemy who reviles me – I could bear that; it is not my foe who vaunts himself against me – I could hide from him; but it is you, my equal, my companion, my friend; sweet was our fellowship; we walked together in G-d's house" (Psalms 55.13-15).

Faith is not blind; it sees clearly. One acknowledges what is happening and decides to act from faith rather than from nihilism.

Is there, then, no one left to trust, nothing left worth fighting for? David's answer: "Cast your burden on HaShem and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous person collapse. For You, O G-d, will bring them down to the nethermost Pit – those murderous, treacherous men; they shall not live out half their days; but I trust in You" (Psalms 55-23-24).

King David expresses it most poignantly. In the midst of an uprising by people from within his government and even his family, he cries, "Give ear, O G-d, to my prayer; do not ignore my plea; pay heed to me and answer me. I am tossed about, complaining and moaning at the clamor of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked; for they bring evil upon me and furiously harass me. My heart is convulsed within me; terrors of death assail me. Fear and trembling invade me; I am clothed with horror" (Psalms 55.2-6).

This is not an answer to why there are such things as war and treachery. Rather, it is an answer to war and treachery themselves. It proclaims: I can't control the way others act, and I may be compelled to defend myself forcefully from their actions, but I refuse to become like them. The Bin-Ladens and Nasrullahs of the world may speak death in G-d's name, but I will speak life in G-d's name. They may demonize me, but I will not demonize them: they are human and will have to answer to G-d for drenching His name in blood. If they abandon their program of annihilation, we will live side by side in peace. If they persist in it, I will oppose them, and

He longs for respite from strife, fantasizing what escape would be like: "I said, 'O that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and find rest; surely, I would flee far off; I would lodge in the wilderness. ...I would soon find me a refuge from the sweeping wind, from the tempest'" (Psalms 55.7-9). Doubly stung by the treachery of his most trusted confidant, he complains, "It is not

*From Nili and me to the entire BE-THS family:
L'shanah tovah
tikatevu -
May you be written down for a good year.*

Beth El - The Heights Synagogue builds vibrant Jewish community.

We welcome all in participatory, traditional, egalitarian worship and learning.

Rabbi Moshe Adler ♦ Saturday Morning Services at 9:15, 3246 Desota Ave., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118 ♦ ☎216-320-9667

Our Participatory Congregation



Jack Valancy

QUESTIONS?
CONCERNS?
COMMENTS?
COMPLAINTS?

As always, please do not hesitate to contact your President by e-mail president@bethelheights.org or home telephone (216) 371-1439

HELP US STAY IN TOUCH! Please be sure we have your current contact information: phone number and home and e-mail addresses. Send changes to Blanche Valancy, blanche@valancy.com or call her at (216) 371-1439

E-Mail Newsletter: If you'd like to get the pdf e-mail version, contact news@bethelheights.org (You must have the free Acrobat Reader in order to open the attachment.)

As I write on a sunny summer's day, our Board is preparing for our 1st Annual Program Planning Meeting. By the time you read this, our members will have joined in planning our congregation's worship, learning, and social events for our 2006/2007 program year.

Our community has grown since we marched our Torahs from Temple Beth El to the Mayfield JCC eight years ago, and we have matured since we marched our Torahs to our present synagogue building in 2003. Just three short years ago we were scrambling to get our home ready to welcome our friends for the High Holy Days.

Cheryl Birkner Mack has been among our most active members from the start. Cheryl and her family will be making aliyah just a few days after daughter Aliza Mack becomes bat mitzvah during Labor Day weekend. We send our good wishes with Cheryl, Eric, Esther, and Aliza as they begin their adventure. We look forward to seeing them again, whether in Cleveland or in Eretz Yisroel.

Cheryl touched us by organizing and leading services, reading Torah, delivering d'var Torah, facilitating our understanding of the teachings of Rashi and other sages, and caring for our members and friends in need. It has been my privilege to serve with Cheryl on our Board. I have seen her intelligence, wit, compassion, and inner beauty. We will all miss Cheryl and her family.

Our congregation runs on its members' active participation. We each bring our unique gifts to our community. Read on, to learn how your skills can strengthen us.

You may have a gift for leading Shabbat or holiday services, reading Torah, chanting haftorah, or delivering a d'var Torah. You may also wish to welcome worshippers by serving as an usher. To share your gifts these ways, contact Vice President and Ritual Chair Leon Gabinet at lxg5@po.cwru.edu or (216) 751-7444.

Would you like to share your insights on our ancient and contemporary teachers, or your knowledge of Jewish arts and letters? To find an appropriate setting, contact Adult Education Chair Mia Buchwald Gelles at miabgelles@gmail.com or (216) 321-7134.

Perhaps you would like to participate in our Family Education programs on Shabbat, Kabbalat Shabbat, and holidays. Share your ideas with Joe Buchwald Gelles at thumpers@apk.net or (216) 321-7134, or Ari Klein at ari@dasa93.net or (216) 932-9907.

Whether it's our regular Shabbat kiddush or a lavish event, many hands make light work in our kitchen. Social Chair Merry Lugasy and Executive Chef Marvin Palevsky will show you what's cooking! Contact Merry at mlugasy@core.com or (216) 397-9305.

Our members and friends in need appreciate our assistance during their difficult times. Chesed Chair Marilyn Malkin will tell you how you can help. Contact her at mxm74@po.cwru.edu or (216) 932-1949.

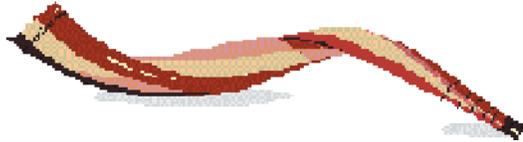
Do you like working in your garden? Would you like to work in ours? Contact House and Operations Chair Ditte Wolin at adwolin@dasa93.net or (216) 932-9907 for opportunities to grow.

Our Participatory Congregation, Continued from Page 2

The generosity of our members and friends enables us to develop programs that appeal to our diverse members and friends, and to we welcome all into our community. Advising our members and friends on the opportunities to support our congregation financially stirs compassion in the advisor as well as in the donor. Contact Development Chair Emily Dennis at glendennis@sbcglobal.net or (216) 589-0663 for this rewarding opportunity to serve.

Spread the good news about our congregation. Invite your friends to become our friends, and then to become members. Contact Membership Chair Mickey Greenberg at mickeygreenberg@sbcglobal.net or (216) 291-1805 to get started.

Ever feel like Clark Kent or Lois Lane? Why not become a newsletter reporter? Newsletter Editor Carol Bruml has your first assignment. Contact her at news@bethelheights.org or (216) 932-9155. Our Mailing Parties are more fun than A Chorus Line! Data Base and Mailing Queen Blanche Valancy can show you the choreog-



On the Threshold of a New Year,
Continued from Page 1

sooner or later “You, O G-d, will bring them down to the nethermost Pit – those murderous, treacherous men; they shall not live out half their days.” Either way, “I trust in You.”

It is a tough, open-eyed faith. Our Israeli brothers and sisters teach us that kind of faith every day, simply by carrying on their lives and refusing to be dehumanized. We must learn from them.

May the new year of 5767 bring a glorious peace to Israel and to the world. L’shanah tovah tikatevu v’tehatemu – may you be written down and sealed for a good year.

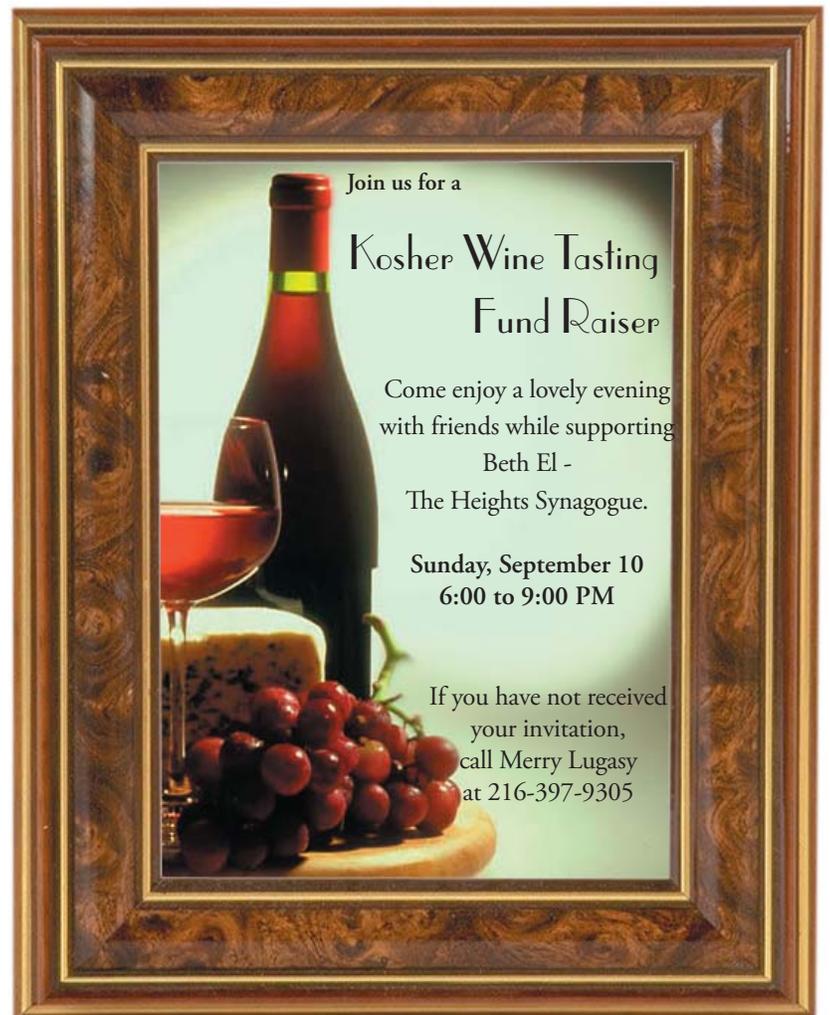
raphy: step-peel-stick-fold-stuff-seal-sort-kick! Contact her at blanche@valancy.com or (216) 371-1439.

Communications Chair Marty Gelfand can tell you about more opportunities to spread the good word about our congregation. Contact him at offblue@wruw.org or (216) 371-8827

Know your way around an office? Find your way to ours. Contact Treasurer Laura Gooch at lgooch@alum.mit.edu or (216) 932-1002 to put your skills to work.

Our historian preserves our congregation’s collective memory. Contact Secretary Robin Dubin at rad4@po.cwru.edu or (216) 382-8848 to learn more.

Thank you for actively participating in our congregation. Each hour you invest brings the satisfaction of building our community.



A Tribute to Cheryl Birkner Mack

This month, the synagogue bids a bittersweet farewell to founding member and Board member, Cheryl Birkner Mack. Cheryl and her husband, Eric, and daughters, Esther and Aliza, are going on aliyah.

Cheryl is a professional Jewish educator and passionate Jew, whose presence in the shul has been felt in every aspect of its existence. She chaired and served on the Ritual Committee, overseeing not only basic policy for a new shul but many times taking on the arduous task of finding prayer leaders, Torah readers, and people to lead divrei Torah each Shabbat, and on holidays. She always did this with an eye not only to covering slots, which is task enough, but to balancing styles and providing variety. She led innumerable Learner's Services and Rashi study sessions, providing her expertise to the Education Committee. She also chaired the Chesed Committee. Not least, she was in shul just about every Shabbat and always took a part in the service herself, offering crucial help in Torah reading and offering stimulating and learned divrei Torah. She never failed to help make a minyan at individual homes during shiva, no matter how early or late the hour. Cheryl discharged all these tasks while also holding down her teaching jobs and caring for her family, including her sister, member Shelly Birkner

and, proving that the miraculous does exist in every day life, did so with unfailing cheer and humor, kindness and sensitivity.

Cheryl's home and her Shabbat table were always open to longtime members and to guests she gathered up from shul. It was open for meetings, study sessions, and not least, televised baseball games. She was a model of intellectual and spiritual engagement and the creative synthesis of tradition and feminism.

To Beth El, and to Beth Am and the Library Minyan before it, Cheryl was a true *oseket be'tsorchei tsibbur be'emunah* – one who devotes herself to the needs of the community with utter devotion. As the rest of that prayer goes, with all our hearts, we wish for Cheryl and her family return for her goodness. May they be spared all tribulation; may G-d bless and bring success to all their doings; and together with all Israel, her sisters and brothers, may all know peace and security in a region at peace with itself and the world. May Cheryl and her family find fulfillment and joy in their new life.

By Shulamith Magnus

A Heartfelt Thanks for Your Generosity

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Beth El – The Heights Synagogue, and in my own behalf, I want to thank you for responding so generously to the Israel Crisis Fund. Your donations helped ease the plight of Israelis forced to live in bomb shelters during the conflict.

Few *mitzvot* are as great as that of rushing to the aid of our fellow Jews in their hour of crisis. The war against Hizbullah is one phase of a larger war unendingly waged in defense of Israel's very right to exist, and that makes it the shared crisis of us all. Thus, by helping our Israeli brothers and sisters, we are helping ourselves as well.

Though I am always proud to be associated with this congregational family, your response to the ICF appeal has made me prouder than ever. Kol ha-kavod lachem – well done! May HaShem hasten the day when we will no longer have to fight to stay alive, but can instead share coffee and ideas with our Arab and Muslim cousins.

Rabbi Moshe Adler

Hebrew at Siegal College:



Start the New Year on the Right Foot

Learn how to read Hebrew or brush up your reading skills at Siegal College's "Hebrew on One Foot" program on Sunday, August 27, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

courses in Hebrew literature, learning how to chant the Torah and study of biblical narrative. The fall catalogue may be downloaded from <http://www.siegalcollege.edu>.

Fall classes begin the week of September 5. Call Nili Adler at (216) 464-4050 ex. 116 or e-mail to nadler@siegalcollege.edu

Follow up with a course in modern or biblical Hebrew. A variety of courses is available at all levels including



HIGH HOLY DAY BABYSITTING



Beth El -- The Heights Synagogue is pleased to welcome your child to our High Holy Day services for 2006/5767. Your child is welcome to sit with you during all services. Realizing, however, that even the most patient child may need an occasional break, we are offering babysitting for several of our holiday services:

- Babysitting is for pre-schoolers ages 18 months to 5 years.
- Babysitting will be offered on: the first and second days of Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 23 and Sept. 24 from 9:00 AM until 1:30 PM and Yom Kippur day, Oct. 2, from 9:00 AM until 1:30 PM
- Care will be provided by experienced teens.
- Kosher snacks will be served (including on Yom Kippur).

Cost of babysitting is \$9.00 per child per day, with a maximum total cost per family of \$50.00 for all three days. Because we are not permitted to write or handle money on the holy days, it is mandatory that you pre-register your child using the form below and pre-pay by check.

We will also have holy day programming for grade-school age children from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM on the same days as above. Kosher snacks will be served, including on Yom Kippur. No advance registration is required, and this programming is free.

AGAIN THIS YEAR: In addition, we will have a free supervised Drop-In on Erev Yom Kippur for all ages from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. No advance registration is required.

Full name of each child	Date(s) for babysitting

Name of parent(s): _____ Phone No.: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Send form and payment by September 15 to:

Marilyn Malkin
3018 Scarborough Rd.
Cleveland Hts. OH 44118

Questions? Call the Beth El High Holiday Hotline, 216-320-9667.

NEWS FROM BETHEL

חדשות

Refuah Sh'lema to:

רפואה שלימה!

- Richard Krueck, who is recuperating from surgery.

Condolences to:

ניחום אבלים

- Judith Bergmann, whose eldest daughter, Ann Bergmann Manson, recently passed away in New York.
- Emily Dennis and family. Emily's mother, Nancy Jean Hall Landis, recently passed away in Michigan.

Congratulations to:

מזל טוב!

- Ed, Debbie, Avi, Arielle and Eva Small on the birth of their daughter and sibling, **Tori Penina Small**, on July 24.
- David and Teri Tomberg, on the birth of their new granddaughter, **Lilah Beukemann**. Parents are Shoshana (Tomberg) and Arthur Beukemann.

Congratulations to:

י"שר כוח!

- Enid and Irving Kushner, whose daughter, Ellen Kushner, just had a new fantasy novel, "The Privilege of the Sword," published (read her interview at <http://tinyurl.com/k2ohu>). Ellen is also the host of a public radio show, "Sound and Spirit" (<http://www.wgbh.org/pages/pri/spirit/>).
- Ieda and Marvin Warshay's son, Danny, who recently had an interview featured in the Israeli Globe. Danny is currently teaching a mini-course on Entrepreneurship at Tel Aviv University.

Thanks to those who read the following chapters of Eicha on Tish'ah b'Av:

תודה!

- Perek I: Laura Rabinowitz
- Perek II: Shulamit Magnus
- Perek II: Nili Adler
- Perek IV: Abby Halpern
- Perek V: Moshe Adler

Thanks for donations to:

תודה!

- Bill and Carol Bruml, who donated 188 volumes from Bill's father's library of Judaica, to the shul library.
- Gabi Hays, who donated a heavy-duty Kirby vacuum cleaner, with attachments that include a carpet shampooer.

Welcome, new members:

ברוכים הבאים

- Jamie Saunt
- John and Linda Siff

Thanks for contributions to:

תודה!

- Ruth Ballonoff, in memory of Leon Ballonoff.
- Ken Bardach
- Lisa and Russell Berusch
- Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin
- Michael and Shelley Bloomfield, to the Rabbi's Discretionary Funds.
- Emily Dennis, in memory of her mother, Nancy Landis, and in gratitude for her father, Martin Landis' healing.
- Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck
- Leon Gabinet, toward the Adult Education, the Torah and Book, and the Rabbi's Discretionary Funds.
- Laura Gooch and David Kazdan, in honor of Cheryl Birkner Mack.
- Chester and Stephanie Gordon, to the Torah and Book and the Rabbi's Discretionary Funds.
- Louis Gray, in memory of his mother, Esther Gray.
- Harvey and Sondra Jacobs, in memory of Judith Bergmann's daughter, Ann Bergmann Manson.
- Harvey and Sondra Jacobs, in honor of the 90th birthday of Bill Weiss.
- Norman Javitt, in thanks for an aliyah and in honor of Miriam Rabinowitz.
- Ari Klein and Ditte Wolin, toward Family Education.
- Sue Klein, to the Adult Education Fund.
- Carole and Daniel Litt
- Stephen Pepper and Linda Tobin, in memory of Emily Dennis' mother, Nancy Landis.
- Cynthia and Kyle Rose
- Arnold, Andrew and Aaron Stone, in memory of Helen Sonnenstein, Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother.
- Blanche and Jack Valancy, in memory of Emily Dennis' mother, Nancy Landis; in memory of Judith Bergmann's daughter, Ann Bergmann Manson, and in honor of Richard Krueck's recovery.

Thanks to all the generous members of Beth El - The Heights Synagogue who contributed to the Israel Crisis Fund. As of August 10, our donations topped \$4,000 and far exceeded our goal of \$2,500! תודה!

- Henry Bloom and Marilyn Malkin
- Michael and Shelley Bloomfield
- Frank and Jeanette Buchwald
- Emily Dennis
- Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck
- Leon Gabinet
- Adi and Judith Gerblich
- Henry and Marjorie Goldhirsch
- Laura Gooch and David Kazdan
- Chester and Stephanie Gordon
- Mickey and Sue Greenberg
- Robert Kurzbauer
- Ari Klein and Ditte Wolin
- Sue Klein
- Deborah and Marc Lynn
- Lise Moulton
- Laura and Marty Rabinowitz
- Bernice and Morris Shanker
- Caren and Eran Shiloh
- John and Linda Siff
- Blanche and Jack Valancy
- Beth and Scott Wachter

Thanks for Kiddush sponsorship to: תודה!

- July 8 – Honey Massey, who sponsored Kiddush in honor of Orin, Deb and Zev’s visit from Israel.
- July 15 – Laura and Marty Rabinowitz, who sponsored Kiddush in honor of their daughter Miriam, who became a Bat Mitzvah that day.
- July 22 – Robin Dubin and Richard Krueck, who sponsored Kiddush in honor of their anniversary.
- July 29 – Leon Gabinet, who sponsored Kiddush in memory of Laille Gabinet, Sara Gabinet, and Rose Schutz.
- September 2 – Shelley Birkner will sponsor Kiddush in honor of her niece, Aliza Mack, who will become Bat Mitzvah that weekend.

Thanks for mailing help to: תודה!

- Shelley Birkner
- Robin Dubin
- Sue Klein
- Marilyn Malkin
- Blanche Valancy
- Marsha Weisberger
- Gerson and Kimberly Carr
- Beth and Scott Wachter
- Carol Bruml
- Fern Grunberger
- Karen Kugelman
- Lynda Siff
- Ieda Warshay

Errata

In the list of Board Members’ and Committee Chairs’ contact information, published in the August newsletter,

- Emily Dennis’ e-mail address should have been < glendennis@sbcglobal.net >.
- Marty Gelfand would like his contact e-mail address to be changed to < offblue@wruw.org >.

Please correct your copy.

Yahrzeits

<p>SEPTEMBER 1 TO SEPTEMBER 8 9 ELUL TO 15 ELUL</p> <p>Benjamin Slor 9 Elul 5731</p> <p>Sylvia Jane Starkman 11 Elul 5743</p> <p>Regina Stern 11 Elul 5712</p> <p>Zelda Muszynski 12 Elul 5702</p> <p>Fannie Sussman 12 Elul 5729</p> <p>John Date 12 Elul</p> <p>Samuel Henry Stroom 13 Elul 5729</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 9 TO SEPTEMBER 15 16 ELUL TO 22 ELUL</p> <p>Alan Maremont 17 Elul 5734</p> <p>Edwin Carr 17 Elul</p>	<p>Rochelle Claunch 18 Elul</p> <p>J. Marianne Simon 18 Elul 5747</p> <p>Louis Gilden 19 Elul 5718</p> <p>Sylvia Haskin 19 Elul 5729</p> <p>Samuel Holtz 19 Elul 5737</p> <p>Henry Lederer 19 Elul 5730</p> <p>William Linderman 19 Elul 5732</p> <p>Benzion Broner 20 Elul 5732</p> <p>Adele Reiss 20 Elul 5741</p> <p>Stanley Rabinowitz 20 Elul</p> <p>Milton Collin 22 Elul 5736</p> <p>Martin Simon 22 Elul 5729</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 16 TO SEPTEMBER 22 23 ELUL TO 29 ELUL</p> <p>Mildred Fromson 23 Elul 5737</p> <p>Ida Olshansky 23 Elul 5724</p> <p>Margaret Buchwald 26 Elul</p> <p>Isaac Mendelow 26 Elul</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 23 TO SEPTEMBER 30 1 TISHRI TO 7 TISHRI</p> <p>Albert Weinstein 2 Tishrei 5730</p> <p>Sara Weinstein 3 Tishrei 5726</p> <p>Eric Falck 5 Tishrei 5758</p> <p>Elias Greenhut 7 Tishrei 5718</p> <p>Carl Wasserman 7 Tishrei 5720</p>
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CALENDAR, SEPTEMBER 2006

אלול 5766 / תשרי 5767



All services held in
our fully accessible
building at
3246 Desota Avenue,
Cleveland Heights
(Parking available
on the street, or at
nearby Boulevard
Elementary School)

For more
information, call
Beth El – The Heights
Synagogue
at (216) 320-9667

Saturday, September 2 – Aliza Mack will give a d'var Torah in honor of her Bat Mitzvah, which will take place on September 4. Shelley Birkner invites the congregation to Kiddush in Aliza's honor, after services. She is co-sponsoring the Kiddush, along with the congregation, which is also sponsoring a portion of this very special Kiddush in honor of Cheryl Birkner Mack's contributions to our congregation, and in honor of the Birkner Mack family, who are making aliyah in September.

Sunday, September 10, 6:00 to 9:00 PM – Wine Tasting.

Saturday, September 16 – S'lihot

סליחות

8:17 PM – Shabbat ends

8:45 PM – High Holy Day teach-in 11:00 PM – S'lihot service

Friday, September 22 --- Erev Rosh Hashanah

ראש השנה

7:06 PM – Candle Lighting

7:30 PM – Evening Service

Saturday, September 23 – Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah, First Day שבת וראש השנה

8:00 AM – Morning Services (no shofar)

8:00 PM – Evening Services (Dark/Candle Lighting is at 8:05 PM)

Sunday, September 24 – Rosh Hashanah, Second Day

ראש השנה

8:00 AM – Morning Services

4:30 PM – **Tashlich תשליך** – Meet at the Kugelmans', 2904 Washington Blvd., and proceed together to Coventry School.

7:53 PM – Dark, Yom Tov ends.

Monday, September 25 – Fast of Gedaliah

צום גדליה

Sunday, October 1 – Erev Yom Kippur

ערב יום כפור

6:51 PM – Candle Lighting

7:00 PM Kol Nidre

Monday, October 2 – Yom Kippur

כול נדרי

יום כפור

8:00 AM – Morning Services

5:00 PM – Re-convene for concluding services

6:30 PM – N'ilah – 7:41 PM (Dark) – The shofar is sounded, and Yom Kippur ends.

Friday, October 6 – Erev Shabbat and Erev Sukkot

6:42 PM – Candle Lighting

Saturday, October 6 – Shabbat and Sukkot, First Day

שבת חול המועד

9:15 AM – Morning Services

7:41 PM – Dark, Candle Lighting

Sunday, October 8 – Sukkot, Second Day

סוכות

9:15 AM – Morning Services

7:39 PM – Dark, Yom Tov ends

Friday, October 13 – Erev Shabbat and Erev Sh'mini Atzeret

6:30 PM – Candle Lighting

Saturday, October 14 – Shabbat and Sh'mini Atzeret

טוב-שבת ויום

9:15 AM – Morning Services

7:30 PM – Dark, Candle Lighting

8:00 PM – Evening Service with Hakkafot

Sunday, October 15 – Simhat Torah

הקפות

שמחת תורה

הקפות

9:15 AM – Morning Services with Hakkafot

6:28 PM – Dark, Yom Tov ends.