Rosh Hashanah, Days of Awe, and Yom Kippur

The Jewish New Year, the birthday of Creation, is a time for self-examination, repentance, and community assessment. When I reach out to Hashem and pray for new beginnings of wholeness for me, my family, and for our Jewish community during the Days of Awe it will be with deep introspection, resolve and optimism.

I could not be more thrilled to be in South Bend to kick off 5781 in service to our Jewish community. In welcoming the New Year, let us be moved by the piercing blast of the Shofar. Let the power of the Shofar awaken us! Stir our souls! And remind us that the strength of our community will power change!

Rosh Hashanah’s customs and symbols exude hope. Hope is the transformative power that imbues the holiday with personal and community renewal. We immerse ourselves in prayer and we laden the holiday table with delicacies prepared with honey, raisins, carrots, apples, and quinces, representing our profound hope for a sweet future.

Jews cannot live without hope — hope is our oxygen — it’s embedded in our 5,000 year old Jewish DNA — and expressed both in the belief of a better future and the action to realize our deepest possible human and community potential.

As you will read in this issue, the potential of our Jewish ideals are captured in Shani’s new column called Through Lisa’s Lens. Hope for the New Year also abounds in Bob’s CRC piece that speaks to our obligation to live up to the values of our Federation by engaging in the process that literally means searching for our souls. And finally, Rowan’s JFS article reminds us we are stronger together. The challenges of the pandemic notwithstanding, JFS is here for you with services to meet the needs of adults, children, families, and community.

This holiday as we celebrate the world’s birth, let us also celebrate our Jewish community and how inextricably intertwined we are as human partners. Please join me in building on our past Federation successes and to deepening our commitment for a sustainable Jewish future — L’dor V’dor. From generation to generation, this is the sacred mission of the Jewish Federation. We are in the business of building flourishing Jewish communities. With your help we can create a safe, healthy, educated, compassionate, and inclusive community that we all can be proud of.

This is my hope for the New Year.
Shanah Tovah Umetukah.
Moshe Kruger
Executive Director

May we be as full of Mitzvot as the pomegranate is full of seeds

Tradition tell us that a pomegranate holds 613 seeds, one for each mitzvot listed in the bible. One of the seven species of Israel, Pomegranates are a traditional symbol of Rosh Hashanah. The fruit is often used in the Rosh Hashanah seder, a Sephardic ritual, and may households use them for the blessing over a new fruity on the second night. To learn more about the Pomegranates in Jewish Tradition, visit Myjewishlearning.com
Focus Remains on Our Mission in 5781

Ilana and I wish all of you a healthy, sweet, and peaceful new year. At this time last year, none of us knew the heartaches, changes, and challenges that members of our community, and our community as a whole, would experience in 5781. While nothing can replace those we have lost, or fully substitute for the lost opportunities to gather together as a community, I am proud to be a part of an extended Jewish family that has come together to further the Federation’s mission “to embrace, connect and support Jews locally and globally through social services, coordinated fundraising, community outreach, and educational & recreational programs.” While the COVID-19 circumstances necessitated a shift in our focus among these goals—with additional emphasis being placed on social services and creative use of technology to connect, educate, and entertain—furthering the Federation’s important mission remained at the forefront throughout the year.

Of course, none of us knows what the coming year will bring, but the Federation’s leadership and staff will do our best to ensure that the Federation does all that it can to continue to serve the Jewish community, both locally and globally. In that regard, we have an enthusiastic and creative staff, led by Executive Director Moshe Kruger with significant contributions by our Director of Operations Emily Benedix, who will help the Federation thrive regardless of the external circumstances. More importantly, we are fortunate to have a community filled with members with a long history of volunteering their time and donations to ensure that the Federation maintains its ability to serve and strengthen the Jewish community both today and in the future. Thanks to all of you who make this possible.

*L’shanah tovah u’metukah*, and may you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Michael Kirsch
President, Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley
A New Road Map for the Annual Campaign

Chaverim,

Tradition! It has been the Federation’s tradition to schedule its Annual Campaign Kickoff just before or after the High Holidays. This year because of the coronavirus we cannot gather like we normally do for our big annual event. While we could do a virtual campaign kickoff this Fall, I think it’s time we break from tradition and try a new approach for raising Federation funds to support Jews both locally and globally.

As a grassroots community enterprise, I believe the Federation’s success in its fundraising endeavors correlates to programming that is resonant with our mission and engages our diverse community. I think you’ll agree, the lifeblood of our small Federation is programming that

- creates value for our children, families, and community members
- energizes our community and actively involves us in repairing the world; and
- motivates us to fund our renewal to strengthen our community

The common thread running through each touchpoint above is our shared Jewish values. In speaking with many of you about our community, I’m convinced we have the philanthropic will to give generously and the collective wealth to sustain our Jewish institutions while helping the most vulnerable in our community.

Today more than ever American Jews face the classic question that our sage Hillel addressed when he said, “If I am not for me, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?” In the coming weeks I’ll share more details about our campaign plan for developing our extraordinary Jewish destiny. If we come together to be active agents in our own future, nothing is impossible.

If not now, when?

Moshe

L'Dor V'Dor Sculpture Fundraising Event in Support of Jewish Family Services

Doug Barton and the Jewish Federation invite you to raise funds to purchase Doug’s sculpture, L’dor V’dor, for the Jewish community. This will be a unique sale in that it will be a community-wide purchase of this piece of art, with all proceeds being donated to JFS.

“L’dor V’dor” is the Hebrew phrase for “from generation to generation.” Doug’s Indiana limestone sculpture connects us to the beautiful concept in Judaism that evokes emotional images of the Torah being lovingly passed down from one generation to the next. L’dor V’dor refers to continuity, and responsibility of passing on spiritual knowledge and cultural traditions from generation to generation in order to sustain the customs, heritage, and collective memory of the Jewish people.

You are welcome to participate in this collective fundraising effort by making a gift of any size in multiples of Chai: $18, $36, $54, $72, $90, ...$180, and beyond. L’Dor V’Dor sculpture donations will be accepted through Thanksgiving. All proceeds go to support the important work of JFS.

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Your gift not only provides funding for JFS, it shows our love for a classy guy, a huge figure in Jewish life in South Bend, who believes in and has worked tirelessly for the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley.

Please help us purchase the L’dor V’dor sculpture to secure a piece of Doug’s Judaic art for the Jewish Federation's community building, a structure that was built and dedicated during Doug's presidency.
Dear Michiana Jewish Community,

As this article reaches you, the community is preparing to embrace Rosh Hashanah and the Days of Awe. I will say, in honesty, that it has been a hard year, and at times I have had difficulty finding joy and sweetness. I am looking forward to the opportunity to feel some spiritual renewal as I prepare to enter 5781, and am hoping very much that our community and our world will find some relief in the coming days. If I do not have a chance to say it to you in person (or over the phone or Zoom), allow me to use this forum to say l’shanah tovah tikateivu v’teichateimu! On behalf of Charmagne, Nancy, our volunteers and myself, may you, your loved ones and friends all be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life for 5781! As we approach Rosh Hashanah, JFS is working with our community partners to safely distribute packages including honey, apples, and other items to ensure that every Jew in our area can experience the sweetness of the new year. If you know someone who would benefit from a Rosh Hashanah gift, please let me know.

As many of you know, in addition to our regular services and the Covid-19 related services we have added recently, much of my focus this year has been on our Jewish Family Services 2020 Needs Assessment. As I have discussed with some in personal communications, I consider this to be one of the most important things I have undertaken while working for the Jewish Federation. In August, our Community Needs Survey took place, and we received an amazing amount of feedback from all corners of the community. To everyone who participated, a very heartfelt todah rabah for the feedback that you shared with us. A mentor of mine says, “in order to be effective, you must be reflective.” I am grateful that we will be able to reflect and learn from all of the feedback that you, the members of our community, provided. You can expect a comprehensive report coming to the community in October based on our survey results, and that JFS will use the results to rise to the occasion of meeting changing and ongoing needs in our Michiana Jewish Community.

Finally, please note that while the Federation continues to be closed for regular programs, our JFS staff and volunteers continue to do our best in engaging in the work of maintaining our strong social connections and human services. Working with Charmagne and Nancy, our advisory board, our volunteers, clients and program participants has been one of the ways that I have found joy and sweetness in this year. Our services remain confidential, and are offered with lovingkindness to the community. Please feel free to reach out to me if you need assistance through any of our programs, if you would like to volunteer for JFS, or if you have an idea that JFS might be able to use to keep us connected and our community needs met. Until we meet again, friends, be well and take care of yourselves.

Best,
Rowan Kelley, Director of Jewish Family Services

Thank you to Kayla & Sam New for sharing their mitzvahs with our community. The New family took part in our PJ Library Mitzvah Kit program which included art projects to be given to Jewish Family Services to be shared with local seniors. Thanks to a grant from Doing Good Together we were able to offer our mitzvah kits as an affordable at home activity for our PJ Librarians.

Our Camp Ideal Challah Kits were also a huge success! Thank you to our Program Director Shani Kramer for putting together these boxes to help bring this Shabbat camp tradition into our homes.
Imagine how beautiful it will look in your sukkah!
You will need:
· An exacto knife with #11 blade OR a small sharp scissors (like a cuticle scissors)
· A piece of cardboard for underneath, while you are cutting
· Glue
· Piece of construction paper
· Printed "shalom" template (which we will email to you. If you don't have a printer, please let us know so we can print it for you.)

Please RSVP to skramer@thejewishfed.org so we can email you a Zoom link and template.

A paper-cutting art class, brought to you at home on Zoom!
Sunday, September 13th at 8 PM
Join us for our special high holiday activity:

Young Adults Division (YAD)

In August the leadership of the Young Adults Division of the Jewish Federation met with Moshe Kruger for a day of social distancing at the beach to discuss what their goals for our young adults are and how we can achieve them in the age of Covid-19.

If you are a young adult in the Michiana Jewish community, we invite you to join us for future events and activities. For more information contact Chen Nissan, our Israeli Shlicha at Israel@thejewishfed.org.

Technologies Concierge Service

Having Tech trouble?
As we continue to face uncertainty and need to physically distance from one another, current technology like Facebook and Zoom on computers and smartphones are good options for staying connected with friends and family.

The problem? Many of us don’t have experience using this technology, and need help getting started.
The solution? JFS volunteers are ready to call and help “talk through” things like downloading, installing and using these programs. If you would like a call and some “tech help,” please contact Rowan at 574-309-1213 or rkelley@thejewishfed.org, and a volunteer will call you and help talk you through it.

Attention Film Fans!
The Jewish Federation and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center are beginning to plan the 11th Annual Michiana Jewish Film Festival! If you are interested in serving on the 2021 Michiana Jewish Film Festival committee please email Sheri Alpert at sheria@thejewishfed.org or contact her by phone at 574-233-1164 x 1820. We look forward to planning next year’s film festival with you!
There is nary a soul in South Bend who has not been impacted in some way by the powerhouse that was Lisa Lerman z’l. It is my distinct honor to introduce this brand new column to the OCN. It will focus on stories where an “ayin tov,” which literally means “a good eye,” but translates as the positive view for which Lisa was so famous. My hope is to engage our readers to not only be inspired to act similarly, but also to share their stories of when an inspired outlook changed their own outcomes.

The story I am sharing this month is a very powerful one that happened to me and was the inspiration for this column. To submit your stories, please email them to me at skramer@thejewishfed.org.

By Shani Kramer, Program Director

Not to toot my own horn, but I am a pretty friendly person, for the most part. I also happen to be stubborn, very stubborn. Can I blame genetics for that one?! After all, we are called an am kishei oref, a stiff necked nation! Point is, there is a time for stubbornness and there is a time when, well, not so much.

Years ago, I got into a disagreement with someone in town, over something that wasn’t entirely either of our faults. At the time, sharp words were exchanged that resulted in bad feelings for both of us. After the initial feelings of justification wore off, I felt sorry almost instantly, but the damage had been done.

We were not able to get past those heated moments, too much water under the bridge, as they say. I sadly resigned myself to the lack of relationship that I felt I deserved.

When I heard the news of Lisa’s passing, I knew that I wanted to help out in any way possible. There is a ritual in Jewish burial where the deceased is watched over or guarded until it is time for the burial. There are multiple mystical reasons for doing so, which I won’t go into in this article.

I volunteered to do a series of hours at the funeral home, where I was stationed outside Lisa’s room, immersed in saying psalms. As you can imagine, it is a time of deep reflection and introspection. There is nothing quite like death, to make one really feel life. I prayed for Lisa and I prayed for myself and my loved ones.

As I sat there, I glanced over at the list, left out on the table, of the volunteers to replace me, when my shift was over. I saw that after me, was scheduled this member of the community with whom I had not exchanged even a word in the past several years. My heart beat fast. The questions raced through my mind. Was this a sign? Was Lisa pulling the two of us together after all this time? But what if I made all the right overtures just to be turned away? I resolved that I would take full responsibility and apologize no matter the outcome.

The clock ticked slowly as I cried and prayed and prayed and cried. And then she walked into the room. I looked into her reddened eyes and we fell onto each other’s shoulders.

I felt Lisa’s presence so strongly in that moment. It was like it wasn’t the two of us embracing, but rather three of us enveloped in a group hug of peace and understanding.

I am so grateful for those moments of clarity. I’m so grateful that for a brief minute, I got to feel Lisa’s “ayin tov,” her positive outlook reflected in my own. Most of all, I am so grateful to have gained back another South Bend friendship, one which I will cherish forever.

Save the Date for Youth Futures- A Model for Success

A special webinar Thursday, October 22nd at 12:00 noon featuring the leadership of Youth Futures in Israel.

Please join us for a webinar about a unique Israeli mentoring program for at-risk children called “Youth Futures.” Our purpose in holding this webinar is to plant the seed of the idea for a similar program here in South Bend. Given the success of Youth Futures in Israel, we are excited about its potential for helping the children of underserved populations in South Bend. Keep an eye our for RSVP information in our next OCN!
Our Commitment for Rosh Hashanah: To Continue Building Community Locally and Globally

By Bob Feferman, Community Relations Committee Director

Each year, in the period leading to the high holy days, Jews are required to do Cheshbon Nefesh, searching of the soul. The question that we face as a Federation staff: in the reality of Covid-19, are we continuing to live up to the values of our Federation? In spite of these challenging times, we remain as committed as ever to building community locally and globally in order to fulfill the value of Tikkun Olam.

Given the necessity of moving to virtual programming, our Federation’s Community Relations Committee (CRC) has adapted to the new reality. Under the leadership of its chair Barb Lerman, plans are in the works for innovative programming for the fall season.

The ideas for these programs come from our special connections to Israel.

During the Community Opinion Leaders trip to Israel in February sponsored by our Federation and PartnershipTogether (P2G), Michael and Tina Patton, leaders in the local African-American community and CRC Director Bob Feferman learned about a unique mentoring program for at-risk children called “Youth Futures.”

Given the success of Youth Futures in Israel, we saw the potential in this model for helping the children of underserved populations in South Bend. Plans are now underway for a special webinar on Youth Futures for October 22nd at 12:00 noon. The webinar will feature the leadership of Youth Futures in Israel who will provide an overview of the program for local education leaders.

Working together with Michael and Tina Patton, along with Barb Lerman and Federation board members Anne Feferman, Elisheva Lerman and Cristyne Porile, we are now recruiting local education leaders and philanthropists to participate in the webinar. Our hope is to plant the seed of the idea for a similar program for at-risk children here in South Bend.

Another program we are bringing to our community focuses on the issue of sustainability. Because Israel is a country with scarce water resources and a growing population, it has learned to innovate in regards to the sustainability of its water resources.

In November, CRC has plans for a virtual screening of the documentary movie, Sustainable Nation. The movie follows three innovators who are taking valuable lessons learned from Israel’s water shortage to the rest of the world.

To accompany the movie, we will also be holding a special Zoom session with Omer Bar, an Israeli engineer. Omer just happens to be the brother-in-law of former shlichah, Efrat Naor. He has a wealth of experience in the field of sustainability.

Omer is an Operation’s Engineer at Shafdan, Israel’s largest wastewater treatment plant. Israel leads the world in reclaiming more than 80% of its wastewater and recycles it for use in agriculture. In addition, Omer participated in an IsraAid humanitarian aid delegation to Dominica, an island country in the Caribbean Sea, which suffered greatly from a hurricane disaster in 2017.

There is no doubt that our efforts to build community locally go hand-in-hand with our global connection to Israel. Through these two programs, we have an opportunity to help our wider South Bend community learn about innovative ideas in social entrepreneurship and sustainability in Israel.

Most importantly, these virtual programs will help develop people-to-people connections between South Bend and Israel for the mutual benefit of both of our communities. By doing so, we are fulfilling the value of Tikkun Olam.

Please see our upcoming OCN feature articles, Federation e-mail blasts, and advertising on social media for more details on both programs.

Memorial Contributions

The Jewish Federation expresses its appreciation to these generous donors:

From the following:
Board & Staff of JFSJV
Hugh Metzger
Ina & Irv Rosenberg
Babs Waks
Janina Goetz
Eileen Weingarten
Marsha Brook & Fred Kahn

To the following funds:
The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley
JFS Food Pantry
Milton & Sara Brook JFS Fund

Mazel Tov to:
Veronica Kozelichki
Marlene Hollenkamp
Cheryl & Dave Ziker

In Honor of:
Arnold Valencia

Wishing a Speedy recovery to:
Jill Ross
Brian Zubkoff

In Memory of:
Edward Rosenstein
Mickey Cohen
Mitzie Schrager

We welcome contributions to our various funds. Individual acknowledgment cards are sent for each contribution.
Our Community Table  By  Deena Abraham

With the High Holiday season approaching, I am sure we are all wondering what the coming year has in store for us. We hope for a good new year, but considering the things we’ve faced in the past months, our hopes and prayers will certainly have more depth and meaning than in previous years. When we wish each other a good year, we often use the word “sweet” as a description. Eating sweet foods, like honey, is traditional at this time of year.

I have two favorite recipes for honey cake. Honestly, the one that I like best is not very traditional. It’s a marble honey and chocolate cake that will win over even the strongest honey cake haters. But, I’m pretty sure that I shared that in an Est Gezunterhait column about 15–20 years ago and I don’t like to repeat. (Granted, many of you probably didn’t live in town then and many of you have long since forgotten about the recipe. If you are interested in the recipe, let me know. I’m always happy to share recipes.) The recipe below is more of a standard honey cake.

The main thing that makes this recipe stand out is that it doesn’t contain coffee. The thing is, I don’t do coffee. I don’t drink it and I don’t bake with it. (There is one exception. My chocolate pudding cake uses a small amount of instant coffee granules. It is such a small amount that I can handle using it. If you want that recipe, too, just let me know.) Being that our society seems to be somewhat obsessed with coffee, I hope that I didn’t just make some enemies by admitting that I detest the stuff. Can we just agree to disagree?

When I started to make honey cake, I figured that tea would be a proper replacement for coffee. I use orange flavored herbal tea. The lightness of the tea and the subtle flavor of citrus go a long way to enhance the flavor of the cake. There are other flavored herbal teas that would be nice as well – cinnamon, lemon, or ginger. Feel free to try whatever you think will work.

On behalf of the Jewish Family Services food pantry, I wish everyone in our community a sweet, happy, and healthy new year.

**HONEY CAKE**

- 4 eggs
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. oil
- 1 ½ c. honey
- 3 c. flour
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 c. tea, cooled

Beat the eggs well. Mix in the sugar on high until the mixture is light and creamy. Mix in the oil and honey on medium until blended. In a separate bowl, combine the dry ingredients. Add the dry ingredients alternately with the cooled tea. Pour the batter into an ungreased tube pan. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes and then lower the temperature to 325 and bake for an hour. When the cake is done, invert the pan to cool completely before removing the cake from the pan.

This recipe yields one large honey cake. You can prepare half of a recipe and bake it in a loaf pan. Or, prepare the whole recipe and bake in in loaf pans. That way, you can share with family or friends.

**PERSIAN CHICKEN STEW WITH QUINCES & PLUMS**

*By Chen Nissan*

- 6 pieces of chicken
- 3 big unpeeled quinces (or pears) cut to 6 pieces
- 10 dried plums
- 1 28oz can of crushed tomatoes
- 2 black dried lemons, cut to half
- 2 tablespoons of tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons of sugar
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 4 tablespoons oil
- Juice from 1 lemon

Put the chicken in a big pot with 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil. Heat the oil on the stovetop and add the chicken to brown on all sides. Take it out of the pot and set aside on a plate.

Do the same thing with the quinces: Put 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil in the same pot and add the quinces, cook until caramelized, making sure all sides are cooked evenly. Take them out of the pot and set aside on a plate.

Put the chicken back in the pot with all the other ingredients: 1 can of crushed tomatoes, dried plums, black dried lemons, tomato paste, sugar, salt, soy sauce, lemon juice.

On top of everything, add the quinces. It’s important the quinces be on top so they aren’t crushed. Add 2 cups of water.

Close the pot and cook it for 1 hour.

Eat it with white rice and enjoy! Shana Tova!
Fortitude: American Resilience in the Era of Outrage, by Dan Crenshaw

The five of us who attended via Zoom had strong opinions about this book. First, we listed aspects of Crenshaw’s views that we found helpful, such as the need for building a safer, kinder, and better world for children. We also admired his list of traits a hero must have: being smart, strong, selfless, caring, resilient, reliable, and inspiring. Having focused goals, effective mentors, and a clear direction helped make him the man he became. He gave a graphic depiction of his arduous (to put it mildly) training as a Navy Seal, giving his readers clear insight into that kind of military background. Crenshaw attributed his resilience to Seal training, and used his life as an example of how one threads together attitude with outcome.

We considered Crenshaw’s examples of outrage-inspiring incidents mild to weak. For example: Hillary’s deleted emails. One of us stated that other than G. Gordon Liddy, all his examples of “shameful acts” applied only to Democrats. As a high school paper, this work may have scored a B minus. The B for the well-written, if preachy, memoir aspect of it; and the minus for ineffective, non-objective examples that diluted his earlier message.

We found it hard to accept his premise that there are no victims, and he came across to us to be saying nothing bad happens to people who don’t somehow deserve it. Wait, what?

Our conversation ended on a tangent about citizens learning to communicate, to ask each other about concerns and fears. This book should be about learning to work together on garnering solutions in a bipartisan way. Instead, it became an anti-liberal diatribe designed to fuel the existing fires of polarization.

In addition to feeling somewhat misled by the full title, we disagreed with him on what makes this an era of outrage. We couldn’t remember him mentioning Treyvon Martin or Michael Brown, or countless other examples that truly justify outrage.

Fortitude came out just before the global pandemic took hold of all our lives, somewhat rendering the book outdated. Not Crenshaw’s fault. It would be interesting to see how he’d apply his principles to the post-pandemic lifestyle of which, unfortunately, nobody can yet enjoy. In wondering about his stance on Covid-19, we went to his website and heard him lashing out at the “lies of Democrats” for saying hospitals are full. This helps calm outrage, how?

Upcoming Schedule of Books:

- **September 3**: The Dutch House, a novel by Ann Patchett
- **October 1**: Educated, a memoir by Tara Westover
- **November 5**: The Marsh King’s Daughter, a novel by Karen Dionne
- **December 3**: The Lost Man, a novel by Jane Harper
- **January 7**: Begin Again, non-fiction by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.
- **February 4**: The Rosie Project, a novel by Graeme Simsion

The Federation Book Club to meet via Zoom at 4 PM for an hour or more on the first Thursdays of the month. We choose books of either global or page-turning interest, and do not meet for the purpose of promoting our businesses, or those of our friends. Contact information to join is as follows: info@thejewishfed.org.

Sheri will forward your email address to the organizer who will invite you to join our sessions via Zoom.
This past year has taught us many lessons. We’ve learned to appreciate “normal,” to be acutely aware of the needs of others, and to take nothing for granted. We’ve been shown how what seems imperceptible and insignificant (a tiny virus) can be overwhelmingly impactful.

Perhaps the greatest lesson we’ve been taught is that everything and anything can change in a moment. With that in mind I wanted to wish everyone a wonderful new year. A year of health, success and happiness. A year of peace and unity.

A year in which the seemingly insignificant changes we make in ourselves have a world altering impact and Hashem grants us the greatest upheaval imaginable, the coming of Moshiach speedily in our days.

Kesiva V’Chasima Tova!

Rabbi Meir Bulman
Hebrew Orthodox Congregation

**Midwest Torah Center**

Midwest Torah invite the entire community to join us for Rosh Hashana services, regardless of membership or affiliation. All programs will be conducted adhering to CDC and local health guidelines.

Please RSVP so we can best accommodate everyone for the High Holidays. Sleeping accommodations are available for anyone interested. Children’s programs will be available from ages 3 - 12.

**Full Schedule:**

**First Night Rosh Hashana, Friday Night September 18th**

7:00 PM - Pre Rosh Hashana Vaad w/ Rabbi Lazarus
7:30 PM - Mincha
7:50 PM - Drasha
8:00 PM - Maariv

**First Day Rosh Hashana, Saturday, September 19th**

*Keep in mind that there will no shofar blown on first day because it coincides with Shabbos.

All times given are approximate.
8:00 AM - Rosh Hashana Tefilla Vaad
8:30 AM - Shacharis - Brachos
8:55 AM - HaMelech
10:00 AM - Torah Service
10:15 AM - Kids Programs Begin
10:25 AM - Drasha
10:35 AM - Mussaf
12:05 PM - Kiddush
12:25 PM - Mincha
1:50 PM - Drasha
8:00 PM - Maariv

**Second Day Rosh Hashana, Sunday, September 20th**

All times given are approximate.
8:00 AM - Rosh Hashana Tefilla Vaad
8:30 AM - Shacharis - Brachos
8:55 AM - HaMelech
10:00 AM - Torah Service
10:15 AM - Kids Programs Begin
10:25 AM - Drasha
10:35 AM - Shofar
10:45 AM - Mussaf
(There will be a second set up Shofar Blows at the end of services right before Kiddush)
12:15 PM - Kiddush
1:15 PM - Beginners Service
2:00 PM - Tashlich
7:00 PM - Refreshments
7:25 PM - Mincha
7:50 PM - Learning Program
8:30 PM - Maariv

**Temple B’naï Shalom**

**ZOOMING IN ON THE NEW YEAR**

By Rabbi David Nelson

My teaching for the New Year comes from the wisdom of Reb Menachem Mendel of Kotzk, who left a lasting imprint on Hassidic thought. He was born in Lublin in 1797 and died in Kotzk in 1859.

Commenting on the words following the declaration of the Shema Yisrael, he said, “We are instructed: “THESE WORDS SHALL BE UPON (on) YOUR HEART.”

It does not say: “in your heart” because the Torah cannot give such a command.

Often words are addressed to us, yet the heart is closed and the words, therefore, cannot enter.

“Never mind,” says Reb Menachem Mendel. “Leave them there. The time will come when the Heart will open and words will make sense. The goal is to have our hearts open and welcoming to the words of Torah.

In this New Year I wish each of you joy, happiness, peace, family harmony, contentment, laughter and all those blessings we wish for ourselves. And may it be a year where we continue to dream for ourselves and others. I saw a sign that conveyed my additional wishes in this uniquely incredibly strange new year of COVID 5781.

“DREAMING IS POSSIBLE BUT WITH BOTH FEET ON THE GROUND.” Salvador, Bahia Brazil.

Let us live the words of Torah in all we do!

**Hebrew Orthodox Congregation**

This past year has taught us many lessons. We’ve learned to appreciate “normal,” to be acutely aware of the needs of others, and to take nothing for granted. We’ve been shown how what seems imperceptible and insignificant (a tiny virus) can be overwhelmingly impactful. Perhaps the greatest lesson we’ve been taught is that everything and anything can change in a moment. With that in mind I wanted to wish everyone a wonderful new year. A year of health, success and happiness. A year of peace and unity. A year in which the seemingly insignificant changes we make in ourselves have a world altering impact and Hashem grants us the greatest upheaval imaginable, the coming of Moshiach speedily in our days.

Kesiva V’Chasima Tova!

Rabbi Meir Bulman
Hebrew Orthodox Congregation
B’”H Honey – It Sticks!

Honey is the symbol we’ve all come to know as the sweet taste of ushering in the new year. On Rosh Hashana the customs abound. There are special holiday greetings to wish each other and some rather unique items taking their place on the festive table. There’s one particular item that steals the show – and that is the honey. We dip the apple (and the challah) into this sweet and sticky treat, saying the blessing and a short prayer together.

On Passover this would fit right into the dipping we do at the seder ‘so that the children should ask’ – but on Rosh Hashana there are no questions. Young and old appreciate the simple focus on a sweet new year. Just a sweet year with no Shtik! Sweet & Sticky, they go hand in hand. So how about the stickiness? What significance does that carry for us into the New Year?

The Mishna in Avot [chapter 3:1] says “Know from where you came, to where you are going and before whom you are destined to give a judgment and accounting.” As we live our lives, we’re bound to come across a fork in the road or a challenge we need to overcome and the Mishna sets forth the process to follow for safety and direction. “Know from where you came” – can be paraphrased to say “(when in doubt) stick to your roots.” We’re actually really good at sticking to things. As a people, we’ve stuck with our tradition – our Torah and Mitzvot and held on tight. We stick with the elderly in our communities, respecting their experience and guidance and caring for our parents and grandparents. As individuals we’ll always love what we grew up with. Picture the refrigerator in yours or a friend’s home, covered in magnets with all kinds of ‘truisms’ that bring out a smile just because we know they’ll stay true forever.

We may sometimes lose our footing. Facing a new unexpected challenge – the likes of which we’re experiencing now, we’re overwhelmed and completely unsettled. It’s hard to find a safe place and solid ground on which to stand. Go back to the sweet things that stick. Choose one thing you’re good at and keep busy with it. For those that are pros at praying, say a chapter or more of Psalms for a relative who needs it. Stick with the many sweet blessings you have. The news changes every day, but there’s a lot for us that doesn’t.

Finally, the root of every Jew is the rock solid foundation of our nation’s Belief in G-D and sensing his constant support behind us. Stick with Him, and like all businesses, G-D likes his customers who keep coming back. Sometimes we come back to complain, but we’re His favorite customers nonetheless.

With best wishes for a Shana Tova – a happy, healthy and sweet new year.

Rabbi Schneur & Sari Gansburg
Chabad of Greater South Bend

Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur are holidays of dislocation and discomfort. We enter our new Jewish year not with celebrations of achievement and good cheer but rather with an acknowledgement that we are not who we could be, that we have erred in living up to God’s expectations and that the way back depends on admitting this, linking ourselves with God and God’s path for us but also recognizing that we have the capacity to do better. The holidays conclude by offering us the consolation that because we are God’s children, we can do better, we can be better and most importantly, our sights need to be beyond the good, towards the holy.

Our nation and the world are going through a Yamim Noraim moment. We are in a state of dislocation and discomfort. The last 9 months have been difficult and frightening. The Coronavirus, that has ravaged the world, has caused many deaths, weakened our economy, forced children to lose 6 months of normal school time and uprooted normalcy in daily life. Due to the lack of national leadership we are staring at more months of the same. We are disappointed that because so many Americans could not take this disease seriously, the plague has grown more fierce in our country than almost any other advanced nation in the world.

And yet we have also been witness to signs that point to hope. Technologies that did not even exist 10 years ago have made social distancing, work life, and communal gatherings bearable. Scientists are working and developing new therapies to aid those stricken with the illness and creating potential vaccines at a pace not believed possible. People of all ages and races and faiths have taken to the streets to fight injustice and cry out that Black Lives Matter, too. We pray that the positive energy for meaningful change will stay strong as the virus weakens.

Seven weeks before Rosh HaShanah we observed Tisha B’Av, the darkest day in our calendar. Tradition states that the Messiah is born on this day of tragic remembrance. In the midst of death and defeat, we see redemption arise. On Yom Kippur aware of our own failures, we see salvation and growth. May it be so for all of us this year. Lizzie joins me in wishing our Jewish and entire Michiana community a year of health and security and positive growth. Shanah Tovah!

Rabbi Michael Friedland
The Rabbi, President, Board, staff, and members of Temple Beth-El wish the entire greater South Bend/St. Joseph Valley Jewish community a Shana Tova – a good, sweet year. Amidst these very strange, uncertain and unsettling times, may our community and indeed, the whole world, be blessed with safety, good health, and most importantly, shalom – peace.

L’shana tova tikateivu – may you and your loved ones be inscribed for a good year in the Book of Life.

JOIN US FOR HIGH HOLIDAYS LIKE NO OTHER WE’VE EVER HAD INCLUSIVE, WARM, INVITING, MEANINGFUL, PARTICIPATORY AS FAR AS ZOOM PERMITS(!), AND INSPIRATIONAL!

**ROSH HASHANAH**
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**
- 7:30 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah/Erev Shabbat service (Rosh Hashanah/Shabbat evening service)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**
- 10:30 am Rosh Hashanah morning service, including Torah-reading and Shofar blowing
- 2:00 pm Rosh Hashanah afternoon discussion

**YOM KIPPUR**
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**
- 7:30 pm Kol Nidrei service (Yom Kippur evening service)

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**
- 10:30 am Yom Kippur morning service
- 1:00 pm Afternoon interactive session led by Marzy Bauer
- 2:45 pm Zoom room will be open – drop in and catch up with whoever is there for on-line schmoozing/informal chatting
- 4:30 pm Yizkor/remembering, featuring a musical memory montage
- The Zoom room will remain open in between Yizkor and Ne’ilah for schmoozing/informal chatting
- 5:30 pm Ne’ilah (final) gathering, and Havdalah (separation ritual)

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF TEMPLE BETH-EL AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US FOR ANY OR ALL OF THESE ZOOM EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE at (574) 234 4402 OR EMAIL US AT temple@tbe-sb.org.

Michiana Jewish Historical Society

May this New Year be sweet, healthy and happy. L’shanah Tovah!