



Sept / Oct 2020

Elul 5780 / Tishrei / Cheshvan 5781

<http://BethSholomFlorida.org>
(352) 326-3692

Rabbi Karen Allen
386-254-2773



In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, we are continuing to exercise an abundance of caution, reluctantly suspending all in person activities.

Our services and Rabbi's Roundtable are held virtually using Zoom technology. Zoom can be accessed, at no charge, through any computer or cell phone. The schedule is on page 4.

We are thrilled that we can make it possible for our congregants and friends to observe Shabbat and the High Holidays with us from the comfort of their home, without worries about social distancing.

We will eventually return to our customary rich schedule of events. In the meantime we hope you will be able to participate in our virtual services.

Although it seems strange to express holiday greetings in the midst of the pandemic, it is important that we remember our holidays are a time of renewal and redefined purpose.

The Board of Directors wishes all our members and guests a Happy, Healthy, and Sweet New Year.

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Rabbi's Message

MAY WE FORGIVE WITHOUT AN APOLOGY?

Judge all men with the scale weighted in his favor – Mishnah Avot

Maimonides, in his Laws of Repentance, teaches that it is mandatory for Jews to confess to G-d any transgression of Torah law we may make, and to ask G-d for forgiveness. And, because we are in a covenant with G-d, when we have fulfilled our part of the agreement by showing true *t'shuvah* -- literally, returning, often translated as repentance -- G-d is obligated, in return, to forgive us!

But Jews are not required, or even permitted, simply to forgive our fellow human beings without their having received the beneficial though difficult experience of offering a sincere apology, including the promise of changed behavior.

When members of Mother Emanuel AME church in Charlottesville very publicly forgave the murderer of nine of their worshippers, including the church's Pastor, during study and prayer, though the killer had not apologized, expressed remorse or shown evidence of transformation, we knew that this was not a customary Jewish way of forgiveness. But is there a place in Judaism for forgiveness when no apology is offered?

Forgiveness is a powerful way of each person's recognizing the humanity of the other. We all do bad things, and each of us may even be capable of doing the very thing that has hurt us. Unlike G-d, we may not be able to wipe the slate clean; *m'chilah*, a legal term for forgiveness, comes from the world of finance. It means that though we may forgive a debt, that debt still remains outstanding.

Jewish law does not expect us to forget someone's bad behavior toward us. Forgiving does not excuse it or make it right somehow. The bad action has hurt us, taken something from us. Apologizing is a difficult action that, in turn, takes something from the one who apologizes.

But sometimes the other person is not able to apologize. So, what do we do with our feelings of hurt right now? We can understand that the humanity of the other person may include just not being ready yet to make that major leap into a full apology. Like us, they may be hurting, whether from some actions of our own that made them feel injured, or from some other cause.

In the meantime, we can open the door to reconciliation, by thinking positive thoughts about the person who has hurt us. We can see them as a human being, rather than a monster, and wish them well. In what we might call a kind of "Charlottesville forgiveness," this act of unconditional love can give us peace.

It is my wish for every one of you, the members and friends of our spiritual family at Congregation Beth Sholom, that you find the peace, the deep fulfillment and the joy of a safe, healthy and sweet High Holiday season: a *shanah tovah u'm'tukah*, with love and blessings – Rabbi Karen Allen – 386.254.2773.

Message from the President

As I sit down to write this letter, it is difficult to believe our new reality. It has been 5 months since we have been able to worship in person at Congregation Beth Sholom with our usual custom of greeting each other with a hug and a kiss. But, when in person services were not an option, we adapted. It might have been a rocky start, but we have made progress. Fortunately, Rabbi Allen took the lead in getting us started with Zoom. It has been a great way for members to “attend” services from the comfort of their home, with no need to drive, wear a mask or worry about social distancing. We also get to socialize before and after services which allows us to catch up with our CBS family. Vice President Linda Kost and I held practice sessions to help members get comfortable with the technology to increase participation.

We just had our virtual Kabbalat Shabbat Service which signals the High Holidays are approaching. Once again, a heartfelt thank you to Rabbi Karen Allen and her musical partner Mr. Zoriy Zinger for creating a wonderful musical evening. I know that they worked hard to record the music so that we could offer this service which is a highlight of our year. I hope that everyone who joined in enjoyed the service as much as I did.

Our synagogue has a long and wonderful history. For more than 65 years services have been held in our building, which we own. Therefore, there is no building fund.

We have a very special spiritual leader in Rabbi Karen Allen. Not only does she have a magnificent voice, but she has a caring heart, and is always available to any person who needs her assistance. Rabbi Allen not only leads our High Holiday and Shabbat Services, she also conducts a monthly Roundtable Discussion Group, and inspires us with her articles in the Shofar. The rabbi has started doing the Roundtable by Zoom as well, as the library where meetings are normally held is still closed. But, the advantage is that people who might not normally attend (due to distance, etc) are now able to join the conversation.

As a congregation we celebrate Sukkot, Chanukah, Tu B'Shevat, Purim and Passover, often sharing a meal or snack together as we enjoy the customs of each holiday. We are looking forward to the future when we can safely return to the shul to continue worship with our CBS family.

We are ***“The Synagogue That Feels Like Family”***. We know each other. We care about one another. We love spending time together at our wonderful shul. I would like to thank Dee Marcus and members of Sisterhood as well as Ben Solotoroff (President of the Men's Club) who have reached out to our members to make sure that everyone is well.

Our holiday services will be virtual. We will start them early so that we can have our social time before the actual service begins. It's probably a good idea to login early to be sure you don't miss the start of the service. Having the services on Zoom will permit us to welcome all guests who wish to attend. As always, guest donations are appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

If you are visiting us for the holidays, I hope you will consider becoming a member. We have so much to offer. If you are already a member, I hope that you will invite your friends to worship with us for the High Holidays so they can feel the warmth that makes Congregation Beth Sholom ***“The Synagogue That Feels Like Family.”***

I look forward to seeing you at High Holiday services.

L'Shana Tovah,

Andrea

SCHEDULE

Zoom invitations will be sent out one or two days prior to each date.

September

Sat. 12 th	Slichot	7 PM
Fri. 18 th	Rosh Hashanah	7 PM
Sat. 19 th	Rosh Hashanah	10 AM
Sun. 20 th	Shofar Service	2 PM
Sun. 27 th	Kol Nidre	7 PM
Mon. 28 th	Yom Kippur and Yizkor	10 AM
	Neilah shofar blown	5:15 PM

October

Fri. 9 th	Sukkot Shabbat	7 PM
Thurs. 15 th	Rabbi's Roundtable	1 PM
Sat. 24 th	Shabbat	10 AM

SISTERHOOD

I miss seeing each and every one of you, and even with seeing some of you at the Zoom services it is not the same as sitting down with you enjoying a cup of coffee, and having the atmosphere filled with laughter and good cheer. During these times it is hard to be optimistic and not let pessimism creep into our lives. It is a time that we can turn away from the negative news, and reflect on the many positive things that are all around us. It is a time that we can reflect on what is important, our families, our friends, and the many blessings that Hashem has sent us.

With gratitude and a positive outlook we can go forth into the New Year with hope. We can look forward, and hope for a Shabbos where we are all free, we are all well, and where peace will prevail. Until that day comes, we can affirm that it is not the stocks, bonds, real estate, large bank accounts that measure our worth, but it is what we give back to the world.

Remember as a member of Sisterhood you can make a difference in this world. The ladies that give their time to the Knitty Gritty Crafters, sending recipes to Dorothy, serving on the care committee all make a difference. Remember, a smile, a letter, or a phone call can bring joy to another person.

Members of the sisterhood care committee again made calls on behalf of the congregation. These calls were well received. The sisterhood care committee has started a new program. We started in August to send Birthday Greeting by e-mails. If you have had a Birthday and did not receive an e-mail, please check your junk or spam mail. The members of the care committee are: Henrietta Lubin, Anita Sherman, Marion Solotoroff, Diane Weinbaum, and myself. If you have ideas for the care committee or would like to be part of it please call me at 352-750-8086.

Everyone stay well and safe, hopefully it will not be too long before we can all be together again.

Dee Marcus

Sisterhood President

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SEND A CARD AND SUPPORT THE SYNAGOGUE

There are lots of reasons to send cards:

birthdays, anniversaries, get well, condolences, congratulations.

Your donations can benefit the synagogue and let someone know you care!

Mail your donation to the synagogue, along with your message.

For more information contact Dave Englander at 352-504-4402.

He will send the card on your behalf, and your good wishes will appear in the Shofar.



CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays				Anniversaries	
September		October		September	
9/4	Bill Schweitzer	10/2	Lowell Cramer	9/2	David and Betty Chasin
9/6	Robyn Kassie	10/3	Marjorie R. Heyman	9/7	Rick and Bobbi Feiertag
9/7	Ellen Englander	10/6	Eileen Levin	9/17	Martin and Beverly Meyers
9/14	Joan Russell	10/6	Alice Schweitzer	9/27	Sally and Frank Chletsos
9/15	Sheldon Treibitz	10/7	Ellen Schafer Trustman		
9/18	Elizabeth Morrison	10/7	Judy Hartstein		October
9/19	Marissa Mularsky	10/14	Phyllis Simon	10/1	Chip and Francine Rizzotto
9/21	Selma Haimes	10/16	Barry Wright	10/19	Helene and Jeffrey Bachmann
9/21	Lou Glaser	10/21	Robert Treibitz	10/27	Marty and Elly Rothbard
9/24	Phyllis Lax	10/21	Phyllis Stern	10/29	John and Rosalie Scholl
		10/22	Linda Friedman		
		10/24	Herb Siegel		
		10/27	Ronnie-Jane Boekema		
		10/30	Hennie Goldensohn		

Message from the Vice President

Though sometimes it may seem difficult to feel connected when we are unable to meet in person, Congregation Beth Sholom offers many ways for us to stay close with each other without leaving the safety and comfort of our homes. If you have not attended one of our Zoom services or Rabbi's Roundtable, I would encourage you to give it a try. Many of us have been pleasantly surprised at how inspired we feel when attending a virtual service. If you have not attended because you are not familiar with the technology, please contact me or President Andrea Kraft and we will walk you through it. It is very easy.

I hope you will renew your membership, or become a member if you are one of our guests. We will resume the use of the synagogue when it is safe. In the meantime, please attend our Zoom services, enjoy our Shofar newsletter, and continue to support us, so that we can continue to support the tri-county Jewish community.

R'fuah Sh'leima (Get Well Wishes)

to all who have been affected by the Covid-19 crisis and to those who have been ill or have had or will have surgery: Roz Wenrich

Mi Shebeirach

Our Secretary, Fred Jacobs, maintains a list of our members and their close friends who are in need of healing. The list is presented at services.

To add new names, please send them to Fred at secretary.bethsholom-at-gmail.com. (replace –at– with @)

Please remember to let him know when our prayers are no longer needed.

Donations

Alisa & Mike Jacoby in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary

Bette Croll in memory of Michael Davidoff

Marty & Bev Meyers in memory of Helen Lisker, mother of their friend Ed Lisker

Arthur & Henrietta Lubin in memory of her father, William L.Kleinfeldt

Appeal Donations: Lt Col (Ret) Herb Siegel

Additional Membership Renewal Donations: Linda Friedman, Fern Singer, Lt Col (Ret) Herb Siegel & Sandra Byrne, Myra Efron, Dorothy Strauss, Chip & Francine Rizzotto, Dr Marnell LaRoe Hayes, Stephen Berger, Kathy Gipe, Lynne Bloom, Linda Kost, Ken & Pattie Stark, Hank & Judy Hartstein, Marsha Stemerman, Ben and Marion Solotoroff

General Donations: Robert L Milkman, Elizabeth Morrison

Welcome New Member

Sally Chletsos

Thank You to

Rabbi Karen Allen and Violinist Zoriy Zinger for a wonderful Kabbalat Shabbat. We were fortunate that they were able to figure out the technology to record the music for our service

Vice President Linda Kost for all the work she does behind the scenes to ensure that CBS activities and services continue (Shofar, emails, website, etc)

President Andrea Kraft for scheduling and administering our Zoom services

Dee Marcus and the Sisterhood Care Committee for reaching out to our members to check in and with their new effort to send Birthday greetings (guess I was one of the first recipients so thank you for that!)

Ben Solotoroff for contacting the men in our Congregation to check in during these unprecedented times

Secretary Fred Jacobs for always stepping up to handle many of the different tasks that arise

Director Diane Weinbaum for chairing our successful Honey from the Heart Fundraiser this year

Treasurer Dave Englander and Director Barry Wright for checking on the building

ADD YOUR LOVED ONE TO THE MEMORIAL BOARD

Memorializing a loved one with a permanent plaque in the sanctuary is a wonderful opportunity to honor their memory. The cost of a plaque is \$300, 2 or more are \$275 each.

Contact Fred Jacobs for more information. Secretary.BethSholom-at-gmail.com (replace –at– with @) or 352-633-0500

EXPLANATION OF DATES ON YAHRZEIT LIST

We give our members the option to observe yahrzeit on the secular date (the actual date of passing) or the Hebrew date. If there is no Hebrew date next to a name, it is because their family prefers to observe yahrzeit on the secular calendar date. To add a loved one to the yahrzeit list, contact Linda Kost and provide the names and relationship of the congregant and relative, and the actual date of passing including the year. Please indicate whether you wish to observe yahrzeit on the secular or Jewish date.

Contact Linda at intofrogs –at– gmail.com (replace –at– with @) or 352-315-0309



IN MEMORIAM: THE FOLLOWING YAHRZEITS ARE OBSERVED



The congregation expresses condolences to Sally Chetlos on the passing of her brother, Monte Strauss, to Dr. Marnell LaRoe Hayes on the passing of her cousins Betty LaRoe and Peter Rosenberg, to Martin Meyers on the passing of his brother, Alvin, and to past president Joseph Hornstein on the passing of his father, Lawrence Hornstein. May their memory be for a blessing.

The following names will be read on September 12 S'lichot						
Alissa Ignatz	Daughter	of	Marion Solotoroff	23	Elul	12-Sep
Stanley Levin	Member	of	The Congregation	25	Elul	12-Sep
Hyman Scholl	Father	of	John Scholl			12-Sep
Bessie Resnick Haimes	Mother	of	Marshall Haimes			15-Sep
Morris Zalla	Father-in-law	of	Lene Zalla			17-Sep
The following names will be read on Rosh Hashanah						
Lois F. Levy	Aunt	of	Diane Weinbaum	1	Tishrei	19-Sep
Dave Glaser	Father	of	Lou Glaser	1	Tishrei	19-Sep
Jeanette Wagner	Mother	of	Karen Salvat	3	Tishrei	21-Sep
Dorothy Kaplan	Mother	of	Anita Sherman	4	Tishrei	22-Sep
Mary Jaffe	Mother	of	Phyllis Stern			24-Sep
Ruth Myra King	Mother	of	Robert King			27-Sep
The following names will be read on Yom Kippur						
Bessie Libovitz	Sister	of	David Litwack	10	Tishrei	28-Sep
Mollie Scholl	Mother	of	John Scholl			30-Sep
Alvin Wagner	Father	of	Nettie Goeler	13	Tishrei	1-Oct
Sarah Fellner	Mother	of	Phyllis Berger (on wall)	14	Tishrei	2-Oct
Hannah Janosi	Mother	of	Cookie Wright	15	Tishrei	3-Oct
Aaron Herman	Father	of	Eileen Hirschfeld	17	Tishrei	5-Oct
Liz Shen	Member	of	The Congregation	17	Tishrei	5-Oct
Julie Maslansky	Daughter	of	Lynne Bloom			5-Oct
The following names will be read on October 9						
Irwin Treibitz	Brother	of	Sheldon & Robert Treibitz			9-Oct
Louis Pomeranz	Father	of	Irving Pomeranz	22	Tishrei	10-Oct
Ben Donnerstein	Uncle	of	Herb Siegel			12-Oct
Eileen Zalla	Sister-in-law	of	Lene Zalla			12-Oct
George Altshul	Father-in-law	of	Stephen Berger			15-Oct
Sol Fox	Uncle	of	Phyllis Berger (on wall)	28	Tishrei	16-Oct
Toby Schenerman	Member	of	The Congregation	29	Tishrei	17-Oct
Doug Chetwin	Partner	of	Judy Marshall			22-Oct
Sid Friedman	Father	of	Linda Friedman	5	Cheshvan	23-Oct
The following names will be read on October 24						
Frances Smith	Mother	of	Francine Rizzotto	7	Cheshvan	25-Oct
Irving Drexler	Father	of	Mike Drexler			29-Oct
Sonia Gelles	Grandmother	of	Diane Weinbaum	12	Cheshvan	30-Oct
Blanche Kessler	Founder	of	The Congregation	13	Cheshvan	31-Oct
Harold W. Wallbank	Father	of	Clint Wallbank			31-Oct
Stephen Finkelstein	Brother	of	Phyllis Simon			1-Nov
Morris Somer	Father	of	Barbara Rupert	14	Cheshvan	1-Nov
Ethel K. Sharp	Benefactor	of	The Congregation	15	Cheshvan	2-Nov
Sid Sager	Father	of	Roz Wenrich			3-Nov
	and	Grandfather	of	Matthew Cullen		
Amy Cullen	Daughter	of	Roz Wenrich			5-Nov
	and	Sister	of	Matthew Cullen		
Murray Milkman	Brother	of	Bob Milkman	19	Cheshvan	6-Nov
Neil Stark	Father	of	Ken Stark	19	Cheshvan	6-Nov
Devorah Hartstein	Mother	of	Hank Hartstein	19	Cheshvan	6-Nov
Henny Helen Schweitzer	Mother	of	Bill Schweitzer	19	Cheshvan	6-Nov
Thelma Muffs	Mother	of	Judy Hartstein	20	Cheshvan	7-Nov
Mimi Fox	Aunt	of	Phyllis Berger (on wall)	20	Cheshvan	7-Nov
Kenneth Lewitter	Father	of	Susan Glaser	20	Cheshvan	7-Nov
Sara Glaser	Mother	of	Lou Glaser	22	Cheshvan	9-Nov
David Kaplan	Father	of	Anita Sherman	23	Cheshvan	10-Nov
Arthur Land	Father	of	Bobbi Feiertag			11-Nov
Andor Schafer	Father	of	Ellen Schafer Trustman			11-Nov
Ruth Lewitter	Mother	of	Susan Glaser	25	Cheshvan	12-Nov