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# the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

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SEPTEMBER, 2021

ELUL/TISHREI, 5781-5782

**Etz Chayim services will be Virtual & In-Person, at synagogue in September.**  
**Please tell us which RH & YK services you plan to attend In-Person**  
**For information on joining virtual services and events, please see our website.**  
<http://www.etzchayim-hsv.org>

## FROM THE RABBI

### Skip the Superficial

Last month the New York Times published an opinion piece in which the author complained about deception in social media. The writer claims that social-media companies find it easy to deceive the public because there are no "clear laws or norms to separate 'meaningful' from 'superficial' transparency. The result is a series of superficial transparency initiatives."

I know nothing about transparency in the social-media realm. In fact, I prefer the solid and traditional word 'honesty' to the more recent 'transparency.' Nevertheless, I'm so glad to have come upon the phrase "superficial transparency." As far as I'm concerned, the article appeared precisely on time for Rosh Hashanah. At our new year we Jews are mandated to engage in *cheshbon hanefesh* — examining our deeds and attitudes. It's our annual spiritual cleansing. We repent of our transgressions of the past year, we ask forgiveness from those whom we have offended, and we promise to do better in the new year. But

to do this requires a full measure of honesty with ourselves.

And yet it seems that a lot of people have 'superficial transparency' about themselves. The human psyche has any number of mechanisms by which to fool ourselves. Some people are in denial about their shortcomings. Some people admit to shortcomings but blame others for them. Some people are so interested in other people's shortcomings that they have no time to work on themselves.

It is said that "A half truth is worse than a whole lie." Superficial transparency is a half truth. There are people who calculatingly reveal their good side, but they hide the rest of their nature. That can be problematic enough vis-a-vis relationships with others. But why would a person be content with superficial transparency about themselves?

Leslie and I wish you a wonderful New Year, and may your 'transparency initiatives' be anything but superficial,

Stephen Listfield

## SISTERHOOD

Greetings,

In spite of our Synagogue being closed due to Covid, our Sisterhood has been very busy supporting our Synagogue and our congregation. I would like to thank Amy Mauldin and her board of directors. They kept us active and interested by coming up with wonderful programs through Zoom, very hard work and excellent communications. This past year was a success. We held our incredible Talent Night, Trivia Night (Thank you, Manya. We will miss you.) the Latka Giveaway celebrating Chanukah, honey for Rosh Hashana and the bottle of wine for Passover. All donated by the Sisterhood. All wonderful moments and memories during a very trying time.

If you were able to get to the Yard Sale last month, you would have seen another example of our Etz Chayim Congregation's generous donations as well as our Sisterhood members' hard work. This yard sale ran like a well-oiled machine. The Sisterhood had so many people that worked tirelessly to bring about this well-organized event. The generous contributions of our congregation members were just the tip of the iceberg. The many planning sessions, pricing hundreds of items, set up, advertising, manning the hall, turning our sanctuary into a room capable of not only holding a multitude of items and people but getting the sales completed safely and efficiently was impressive. People were needed to set up displays: thank you Sue and Joe Paddock, Natha and Scott Hancock, Sandy Kalachman, Lauren Goodman, Elena Lobl, Amy Mauldin, Donna Lyonnais, Max and Millie Rosenthal. Planning, prep committee: Natha Hancock, Millie Rosenthal, Amy Mauldin, Michelle Persons, Shirley Roberts. Pricing: Natha and Scott Hancock, Amy Mauldin, Shirley Roberts. Advertising: Michelle Persons and Shirley

Roberts. Working the hours of the sale: Lynne Edmondson, Brenda Liles, Shirley Roberts, Donna Lyonnais, Natha and Scott Hancock, Lauren Goodman, Max Rosenthal, John Persons, Sue Paddock, Amy Mauldin, Steve Goodman. Parking and crowd control: Max Rosenthal. I know there is someone out there that I have missed. I apologize for the unintentional oversight. The men and women who helped us tear everything down after the sale and put our sanctuary back together. You could not even tell we had had an event. All of these people worked tirelessly to make this event the success it was. Thank you all.

Thank you very much Amy, you are very much appreciated. You will be a very hard act to follow.

Sandra Wiederecht, Sisterhood President

## ONE YEAR FREE DUES

Everyone who attends the September 23, 11:30 am, Book Club discussion, which will include a lunch in the Sukkah, will be entered into a drawing for One Year Free Dues to the Synagogue Book Club. There will be an intelligent discussion of the book "The Origins of Israel, 1882-1948," which includes many topics about the founding of Israel that you probably never heard of.

Lunch in the Sukkah, mingling with the synagogue intelligentsia, and learning about the founding of modern Israel---- what could you do any better with that one hour of your life?

Max

## DONATIONS

### Sisterhood

From: Renate Limmer

From: Ginger Nelson

## CLEAN-UP THANKS

Major thank yous to the guys who did the synagogue grounds clean-up getting it ready for the High Holidays.

To Joe Paddock, Eric Jackson, Jon Berger, Fred (Unstoppable) Kolchin, Howard Ross and Bill Brigadier, thanks from the congregation. To those who thought about coming but just couldn't make it-- No bagel for you.

And thanks to Millie and Shoshannah Rosenthal for the bagels, cream cheese and coffee for the workers.

Max

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[\(Please see the last page of this edition of the Shofar for a more detailed list of services and their times for this month's Holidays\)](#)

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|-----------|--|
| Aug 28    | Rabbi Listfield will lead (on Zoom) Havdalah followed by Selichot services, 7:45 PM  |
| Aug 29    | Taste of LimmudFest at Ramah Darom on Zoom, 9:30 AM  |
| Aug 31    | Member Drive-by pick-up of honey cake treat from Sisterhood, New Year Booklet (if ordered), Prayer Books for the High Holidays, 1-3 PM |
| Sep 5     | 1-3 PM, Drive-By Pick-Up Day 2   |
| Sep 6-8   | Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Listfield leads services on Zoom  |
| Sep 12    | Help build the Sukkah frame at 10 AM   |
| Sep 15,16 | Yom Kippur, Rabbi Listfield leads services on Zoom   |

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|-----------|--|
| Sep 19    | Add the roof and decorate the Sukkah, 9 AM     |
| Sep 20-27 | Sukkot, Kiddush in the EC Sukkah daily at noon |
| Sep 23    | EC Book Club, 11:30 AM                         |
| Sep 26    | Sukkot Concert for Food Pantries at 3:30 PM    |
| Sep 28    | Shemini Atzeret                                |
| Sep 29    | Simchat Torah                                  |

## BIRTHDAYS

- |        |                    |
|--------|--------------------|
| Sep 06 | Janet Schindler    |
| Sep 08 | Arlene Polin White |
| Sep 14 | Robin Slomka       |
| Sep 15 | Larisa Thomason    |
| Sep 18 | Sara Brigadier     |
| Sep 18 | Rudy Sainker       |
| Sep 19 | Russell Roberts    |
| Sep 23 | Jesse Kalachman    |
| Sep 24 | Lydia Honan        |
| Sep 26 | Molly Lapidus      |

## ANNIVERSARIES

- |        |                                |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| Sep 03 | Sandy & Marvin Kalachman       |
| Sep 17 | Sandy Pepper & Fernando Cerezo |

## Yahrzeits\*\*

- |        |            |                    |
|--------|------------|--------------------|
| Aug 29 | Elul 21    | Phil Wiederecht*   |
| Aug 30 | Elul 22    | William Karmioli*  |
| Aug 30 | Elul 22    | Beatrice Sainker*  |
| Aug 31 | Elul 23    | Alfred Freeman, MD |
| Sep 01 | Elul 24    | Abe Goldberg       |
| Sep 02 | Elul 25    | Percy Sacks*       |
| Sep 04 | Elul 27    | Nannie Ford        |
| Sep 08 | Tishrei 02 | Daniel Flank*      |
| Sep 11 | Tishrei 05 | Louis B. Lepp*     |
| Sep 12 | Tishrei 06 | Sylvia Zarovsky    |
| Sep 13 | Tishrei 07 | Sam Natt*          |
| Sep 13 | Tishrei 07 | Walter Ford        |
| Sep 14 | Tishrei 08 | Jerome Gaftman     |
| Sep 14 | Tishrei 08 | Norma Maier        |

Sep 15	Tishrei 09	Rose Schindler
Sep 16	Tishrei 10	Harriet Sacks
Sep 16	Tishrei 10	Shirley Irene Jacobs*
Sep 16	Tishrei 10	Zachary Fuerst
Sep 17	Tishrei 11	Murray Rosenthal*
Sep 19	Tishrei 13	Bernard Fisher
Sep 20	Tishrei 14	Terry Lee Green*
Sep 22	Tishrei 16	Capt. Robert Secher*
Sep 26	Tishrei 20	Randy Sacks*
Sep 26	Tishrei 20	Alex Greenbaum
Sep 26	Tishrei 20	Mariam Wertheim
Oct 03	Tishrei 27	Louis Klazmer
Oct 04	Tishrei 28	Bella Flank*
Oct 05	Tishrei 29	Leo Krell
Oct 05	Tishrei 29	Rose Natt*

\* Plaque

\*\*Light Memorial candle sunset of previous evening

## THE ORIGINAL SUCCOT CELEBRATION

By Ted Roberts, (1930-2020), the *Scribbler on the Roof*



Succot, like perfect sweet and sour cabbage soup, has two flavors. A single holiday with two themes. We celebrate

the bounty of the grape and olive harvest in the Promised Land; also, we commemorate 40 hungry years of wanderings in that huge sand pile – the Sinai Peninsula – a garden that can only grow rocks.

The Chumash commands us to relive our wilderness days. “Ye shall dwell in booths seven days...that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths” when he took us out of Egypt. This holiday is one of the three special ones when the Israelite male was required to show up at the Temple.

A booth, a succah, must have been a challenge on those chilly Sinai nights. It’s cold as only a desert can be bone-cold at

night. So you can bet most adults were drawn to the social warmth of the campfire. Conversation, maybe a little music from a homemade flute, and somebody might be passing around a skin of fermented goat’s milk.

Some sages say that the Jewish love for books and literature was born on those long Sinai nights. You see, Moses and Aaron and their Levite kinfolk had plenty of time to sit around and talk since there was yet no Temple to attend to. Moses, himself, didn’t have the leisure of his brother Levites since he was busy as a Goshen scribe putting down all that he heard on the mountaintop. You remember he spent 40 days and nights listening to the Master Magistrate lay down the Law.

And sitting around the fire, Moses passed on the message from the mountaintop. Those Five Books were full of tales of love and adventure. But full of rules, too, which occasionally brought on heavy eyelids and deep breathing to the nighttime audience huddled close around the fire. “Ten is enough,” they groaned. “613? We can’t even remember them. Let’s go back to Genesis. Tell us some more about that garden.” The men especially loved the story of Eve and the snake.

(Mark Twain, a spiritual skeptic who had a remarkably short attention span and therefore never went to synagogue on Yom Kippur, remarked that nobody heard a word a preacher said after the first ten minutes. He would have hated my synagogue.)

So, the first and greatest prophet of Israel, blessed with divine understanding of human inattention and the human temptation to doze off when anyone lectured for over ten minutes, knew he had to vary his curriculum. So, he told stories, the best of which found their way into the oral tradition.

Moses was careful to only repeat the best, the most fabulous tales. He knew he had a tough audience. Often, he told the story of Malcha, who invited the handsome but weary traveler into her succah and quenched his thirst and put a platter of lamb chops in front of him. Too late did the innocent victim find that her succah was a chupah. The men hated this story. But you can bet that once in a while, when Moshe told the same story for the fifth time, some creative Israelite got up and told one of his own inventions. It was like the Improv where freshmen storytellers tried their skills.

But the mystics tell us that on those star-glittered nights when Moshe cut back on the adventure tales and went back to his revelation of the Word of G-d to Israel, the desert creatures beyond the light of the campfire, quietly listened. No night birds sang, and even the desert fox refrained from calling his mate.

Time, as still as Horeb itself, ceased to exist so that the prophet could look both before and after. Did he not tell of history that was, and would be? Some say the scroll of time stood before him like a giant Torah as he recited to the people the oral tradition. Moses and the people talked. Many, many words – outnumbering the stars – filled the night. They talked 'til the moon grew pale and weary. And I think that's why the ancestors of these wanderers predominate in today's world of words.

Historians, sociologists, anthropologists still, today, wonder about this mystery of Judaism. I mean, how could it be that we're about .025 percent of the world's population, but we write about 20% of the books? (Check the best seller lists.) Why do we win all the Pulitzer Prizes? Why do we predominate in the world of entertainment, movies, and television? Jewish themes, Jewish scriptwriters, Jewish producers, Jewish actors.

What is it about words and their sequencing into literary art – like jewels on a bracelet – that attracts the former Children of Israel – now known as Jews?

It's almost like the old-fashioned anti-Semites used to say. Wherever you look, you see the Jew. Well, in the world of ideas it's as true as the wisdom in Proverbs. Where stories are told, you'll find Jews. But why?

I say it was those wild Sinai nights around the campfire when Moses told his tales. When the audience trooped back to their succahs, their wilderness huts, they had plenty to think about. Oh, the dreaming that went on in those succahs. And it still goes on and on.

# Huntsville Conservative Synagogue

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## L'Shanah Tovah! High Holy Day Services 2021 -5782

### Rosh Hashanah- Rabbi Listfield (SCL)

Selichot- USCJ & E C Rabbi SCL Services	Sat. Aug. 28	8:00 p.m.
Evening Services with Rabbi SCL	Mon. Sept. 6	7:15 p.m.
Morning & Shofar Services with Rabbi SCL	Tue. Sept. 7	9:45 a.m.
Evening Services with Rabbi SCL	Tue. Sept. 7	7:15 p.m.
Morning & Shofar Services with Rabbi SCL	Wed. Sept. 8	9:45 a.m.
Tashlich service @Aldrich Creek bridge Weatherly	Sept 7 or 8	at 1:00 p.m.

### Shabbat Shuvah Weekend

Evening Services	Fri. Sept. 10	7:15 p.m.
Morning Services	Sat. Sept. 11	9:45 a.m.
Torah Service & Musaf	Sat. Sept. 11	10:30 a.m.
Build the Sukkah Frame	Sun. Sept. 12	10:00 a.m.

### Yom Kippur-Rabbi Listfield (SCL)

Kol Nidre Service with Rabbi SCL	Wed. Sept. 15	6:30 p.m.
Morning Services with Rabbi SCL	Thu. Sept. 16	9:45 a.m.
Torah Services (approximately at)	Thu. Sept. 16	10:30 a.m.
Mincha, Yizkor, N'ilah & Ma'ariv Services	Thu. Sept. 16	5:00 p.m.
Break the Fast	Thu. Sept. 16	7:15 p.m.

### Sukkot.

Add Roof & Decorate Sukkah at Etz Chayim	Sun. Sept. 19	9:00 a.m.
Morning Services	Tue-Fri. Sept 21-24	9:45 a.m.
Shabbat Sukkot Evening Services	Fri. Sept. 24	7:15 p.m.
Shabbat Sukkot Morning Services	Sat. Sept. 25	9:45 a.m.
Hol Hamoed Morning Services	Sun. Sept. 26	9:45 a.m.
<b>Sukkot Concert for Food Pantries</b>	<b>Sun Sept. 26</b>	<b>3:30 pm</b>
Hoshanah Rabah Morning Services	Mon. Sept. 27	9:45 a.m.
Kiddush in Etz Chayim Sukkah daily at Noon		

### Shemini Atzeret

Evening Services	Mon. Sept. 27	7:15 p.m.
Morning Services	Tue. Sept. 28	9:45 a.m.
Yizkor (following Torah Service, approximately at)	Tue. Sept. 28	11:00 a.m.

### Simchat Torah

Evening Ma'Ariv Service, followed by	Tue. Sept. 28	7:15 p.m.
Hakafot Services	Tue. Sept. 28	8:00 p.m.

***"IT IS A TREE OF LIFE TO THEM THAT HOLD FAST TO IT"***