
the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER, 2022

ELUL/TISHREI , 5782-5783

For information on joining
virtual services and events, please see our website:

<http://www.etzchayim-hsv.org>

[SEE THE HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES SCHEDULE ON
THE LAST PAGE OF THIS EDITION OF THE SHOFAR](#)

FROM THE RABBI

Morality Begins with Yourself

The Irish poet, novelist and playwright Oscar Wilde was reckless in his personal pursuit of pleasure. It might seem anomalous to cite him for our Jewish New Year. But I was struck by a comment about him in a new biography: "He did not believe that morality consisted of judging other people's faults. He believed it consisted in judging your own."

Wilde suffered from the Victorian moralists of his time, many of whom delighted in judging other people's faults. But his insight about morality was timely. I submit that it is timely for us as well. We seem to share with the Victorians a readiness to judge and to criticize. Our political discourse involves so much cynicism, suspicion, negativism, and a troubling growth of extremism. Don't our political leaders have enough shortcomings of their own such that they should improve themselves rather than berate others? But

alas, we live in our own echo chambers. We are good — it is those other people who are ruining everything. And so we must judge the faults of other people, no?

No! Wilde in his imperfect way reminds us of a perfect piece of moral wisdom. A good way to enter Rosh Hashanah is to remember that the only person you can change is yourself. If we feel the need to judge what someone is doing, the right place to start is by judging ourselves. That is what Oscar Wilde called morality.

That's what we call morality too.

* * * * *

It's been a long time since we have seen each other in person. I look forward to Rosh Hashanah when we shall, God willing, begin the Jewish new year together. "Together" — the word has a lovely ring to it!

Shanah tovah,

Stephen Listfield

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year (5783). We are really, really excited and thankful to be back at Etz Chayim, ready to welcome Rabbi Listfield for the High Holidays and his monthly in-person visits! Thank you all for being part of our Etz Chayim community.

May this New Year be filled with good health, much happiness, and sweet moments for you and your family. L'shanah Tovah!

Steve Goodman,
President

FROM OUR IMS REPRESENTATIVE, BARRY MEYER

Anti-Semitism Program

Jewish organizations in Greater Huntsville have met to initiate a program to quiesce Anti-Semitism in the Greater Huntsville area. The organizations are:

- Etz Chayim Congregation
- Temple B'nai Sholom
- Chabad of Huntsville
- Jewish Federation of Huntsville and North Alabama

The plan is to review programs offered by various organizations, including:

1. Anti-Defamation League: ADL is founded with the clear understanding that the fight against one form of prejudice cannot succeed without battling prejudice in all forms.
2. American Jewish Committee: Through Disrupt Antisemitism, AJC is empowering young American Jews to develop bold ideas to take on antisemitism locally, nationally, or virtually.

The objective is to find or develop programs that can be provided or distributed to (1) Faith-based congregations and (2) school systems.

Since these programs are in concert with the vision of the Interfaith Mission Service (IMS) and the vision of a Beloved Community, initial targets would be Congregational Members of IMS.

In the Beloved Community:

1. Poverty, hunger, and homelessness are not tolerated because international standards of human decency do not allow it.
2. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice are replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood.
3. Disputes will be resolved by peaceful conflict-resolution and reconciliation of adversaries instead of force through a mutual determined commitment to nonviolence.
4. Alleviate economic inequity and achieve economic justice.

The Hope & Spirit of Beloved Community

IMS 2022 Annual Celebration
and Award Conference



Keynote Speaker
Rev. Dr. Joan Harrell
Director of
Inclusive Excellence
Auburn University
College of Liberal Arts

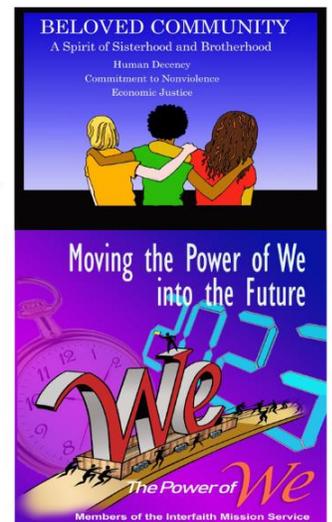
Tuesday, September 20, 2022
6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

Join us Live in the New Room, Trinity United
Methodist Church
607 Airport Road, SW, Huntsville, Alabama

Live Stream Also Available

Tickets available at

<https://www.interfaithmissionservice.org/2022-ACAC/>



GROUNDS CLEANUP

The synagogue grounds had not had a thorough clean up in a couple of years, and the vines and brambles had taken over. Even on a rainy day, a good crew came out to get

the grounds ready for the expected High Holiday rush of folks.

Our thanks go to Joe Paddock, Bill Brigadier, Hayden Brigadier, Bob Feigenblatt, Richard Shepard, Fred Kolchin, Jon Berger, Steve Goodman, Eric Bram, Sarah Shepard, Nathan & Lilly Shepard for working between the raindrops to make the grounds look nice. Thanks to Millie Rosenthal, Shirley Roberts, Sue Paddock, Donna Lyonnais, Shoshanna Rosenthal, and Sarah Shepard for getting the kitchen Holiday ready and preparing a bagel and lox breakfast for the volunteer workers.

Max

SYNAGOGUE BOOK CLUB

The review of "To Repair a Broken World," the book about a remarkable woman, Henrietta Szold, is scheduled for Sept 8, at 11:30.

Even if you have not read the book, you can still come and sit in on the discussion. We would love to have you participate with us or even have you sit like a bump on a log and listen. Come join us.

Max

DONATIONS

General Fund

In Honor of Janet Schindler's 90th Birthday with wishes for at least 30 more.

Maria & Mike Sumerall

Shirley Roberts

Diana & Howard Polin

Sue & Joe Paddock

Regina Dembo

Sandra Wiederecht

Millie & Max Rosenthal

Brenda & Cliff Liles

From: Shirley Roberts

To: Steven Goldstein & Family - In Memory of Alyce Goldstein

From: Diana & Howard Polin

To: Steven Goldstein & Family- In Memory of Alyce Goldstein, a Blessed Friendship stays in the heart.

From: Martin Freeman

Outdoor Lighting Fund

In memory of Gertrude & Perry Schlein from their daughters, Natha Hancock & Robin Slomka, and their families.

EREV ROSH HASHANAH RABBI RECEPTION

After missing this during "the Covid years," remember that Erev Rosh Hashanah, (September 25, this year) is when ask each EC family to bring a kosher pareve or dairy dessert for sharing after services.

Please bring serving utensils (kosher or disposable) and be sure to take your dishes, utensils and leftovers home.

L'Shanah tovah!

SISTERHOOD'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Many thanks to our generous members and friends who help us make the New Year Booklet a successful fundraiser. If you are a member of EC with an entry in the booklet, look for your copy in the foyer of the synagogue when you attend Rosh Hashanah (or any) services. It will have a tag with your name on it for easy identification.

I especially want to mention those of you who work to get our Advertisers to participate. It's

such a huge job, and it's very important. Your hard work is definitely appreciated. Shirley Roberts, Millie Rosenthal, Natha Hancock, Michelle Lapidus, Sandra Wiederecht, Diana Polin and Max Rosenthal are our heroes!

Also, to the individuals and families who may be far away in distance and/or years, but still stay connected to us, Sisterhood sends out a big "Thank you!" Your fond memories of Etz Chayim keep us connected regardless of time and location. We are very grateful to have such good friends who still support us.

During work on the New Year Book, I often get messages from some of our friends about their connection to Etz Chayim. I'm taking this opportunity to mention the fact that their recollections are always based on the people of the congregation that they know/knew. For that, I want to recognize our past and present matriarchs, patriarchs and all the volunteers here at EC.

Brenda Liles, Sisterhood treasurer

ONEG LIST

Aug 26 Lyonnais
Sep 02 Hirsch/Jackson
Sep 09 Bram
Sep 16 Feigenblatt/Shepard
Sep 23 Dunne/Ross
Sep 30 Edmondson

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 08 EC Book Club, 11:30 AM
at EC, "To Repair a Broken
World, The story of Henrietta
Szold," by D. Hachohen
Sep 17 Selichot: Havdalah, Movie &
Service, 8 PM at EC
Sep 25 Rabbi Reception after Erev
Rosh HaShanah services.
Congregation members

Please bring a dairy/pareve
dessert to share.

Sep 25-27 Rosh HaShanah,
Rabbi Listfield Visit
Oct 02 Come help build the Sukkah
structure

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

YAHREZEITS**

Aug 30	03 Elul	Belle D'Acosta*
Sep 01	05 Elul	Adolph Goldstein*
Sep 02	06 Elul	Caryl Hollenberg
Sep 02	06 Elul	Grete Goldstein*
Sep 02	06 Elul	Milton Levitt
Sep 02	06 Elul	Roland Jordan Krantz
Sep 07	11 Elul	Milton Baum*
Sep 08	12 Elul	June Rothfeder
Sep 08	12 Elul	Leonard Flank*
Sep 09	13 Elul	Margaret Theresa Palermo
Sep 10	14 Elul	Albert Goldner*
Sep 11	15 Elul	John Goldstein*
Sep 13	17 Elul	Molly Silver Rodkin*
Sep 14	18 Elul	Edward Kahn*
Sep 17	21 Elul	Phil Wiederecht*
Sep 18	22 Elul	William Karmiolt*

Sep 18	22 Elul	Beatrice Sainker*
Sep 19	23 Elul	Alfred Freeman, MD
Sep 20	24 Elul	Abe Goldberg
Sep 21	25 Elul	Percy Sacks*
Sep 23	27 Elul	Nannie Ford
Sep 27	02 Tishrei	Daniel Flank*
Sep 30	05 Tishrei	Louis B. Lepp*
Oct 01	06 Tishrei	Sylvia Zarovsky

***Memorial Plaque**

****Light Memorial candle sunset of previous evening**

THE GOAT: YOM KIPPUR'S PRIMA DONNA

By TED ROBERTS, (1930-2020),
the **SCRIBBLER ON THE ROOF**



Rosh Hashanah marks the birthday of the world – the anniversary of its creation. First, say our sages, the Creator made heaven and earth. Now on earth's birthday He wants a birthday gift

from us. No, not the trinkets we hand each other, He wants more. He wants the gift of the heart, the gift of goodness.

Every Rosh Hashanah He asks us to take a self-administered test, grade ourselves and underline those areas wherein we are deficient. Lastly, we should repent and ask forgiveness so that on Yom Kippur – ten days later – our personal scorebook rates an A plus.

Truly these are the Days of Awe, but even in these ten days of tension, we need nourishment. And since we are Jewish – the People of the Kitchen as well as the People of the Book – we may as well eat with joy.

We eat sweet things with the hope that it will help to bring on a sweet year. A traditional round challah bread and sliced apples dipped in honey are served along with wishes for a

sweet year. And, of course, we tell the story of the scapegoat in Leviticus.

I know the Lord loves all His children – human and animal. But I have a feeling that He has a soft part in His heart for goats. You don't agree?

You remember it's described in Leviticus: Aaron shall "confess" over the scapegoat all the sins of the people, symbolically transferring a load of guilt from us to the dumbfounded animal – who is then led off to the wilderness wailing over its lot with its thin, piercing, shofar-like voice. He is the goat who relieves us of sin on Yom Kippur.

Its fate was scripted on the Holyday, that first day of Creation. This was a big day in Eden. All the animals were assembled in the meadow by the water hole. One by one they were summoned to appear before the throne. Here, they would receive their assignments.

"Goat," said the Lord, "I have chosen you – not one of my most elegant creations – to be the savior of Israel. Your swaying back shall bear the sins of the people. I shall send you with your noxious bundle far away into the forsaken lands where the sun never shines. Every year at Yom Kippur, the High Priest shall select one of your breed to perform the solitary mission of absolution. You, one of the lesser creations – crying as you enter the wilderness – shall bring forgiveness."

The goat listened. Fear gripped his heart and he pawed the earth. He nervously fluttered his lovely eyelids several times in succession. Even then he had long, curly lashes. But the rest of him was strictly junkyard gray with a long, skinny tail like a possum that ineffectively lashed at flies that would torment him in the life to come. His ears, like the donkey's, were outrageous. He had no horns. So, when the goat heard his magnificent, but perilous assignment, he figured the Lord might be generous enough to improve his

imperfect appearance. "Lord," he bleated thoughtfully "Considering the service my tribe will render to your people, could I make a few simple requests?" And the Creator of all things from the moss on the tree trunk to gravity, nodded positively.

Now, remember that most of the other animals had already been formed, including the sheep. The goat was wary. He could just see those heavy-handed shepherds with biting shears shaving the trembling lambs.

"Please, Sir," he shrilled in his high voice, "no thick, rich fleece for me, but just a nice coat of scraggly fur to keep me warm will be just fine."

And somehow, this farsighted creature knew of mutton stew supplied by fat sheep. So, he begged the Creator to make him a muscular animal with stringy flesh. "Boney will be great, please."

"And I almost forgot," said the world's first negotiator, "how 'bout some horns instead of these embarrassing ears? There should be grandeur in my banishment to the wilderness, not burlesque."

The Lord sighed and agreed. The bargain was struck. So, the goat had his way, which is a small price, I say, for the load of sin he carries off to the wilderness.

Huntsville Conservative Synagogue

Etz Chayim Congregation
(256) 881-6260

7705 Bailey Cove Road. SE.
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

L'ShanahTovah!
High Holy Day Services
2022 -5783

Selichot,	Havdala, movie, refreshments and Services	Sat, Sep 17	7:45 PM
Rosh Hashanah- Rabbi Listfield (SCL)			
	Evening Services with Rabbi SCL	Sun, Sep 25	7:15 PM
	Morning & Shofar Services with Rabbi SCL	Mon, Sep 26	9:45 AM
	Evening Services with Rabbi SCL	Mon, Sep 26	7:15 PM
	Morning & Shofar Services with Rabbi SCL	Tue, Sep 27	9:45 AM
	Tashlich Service @ Aldrich Creek bridge Weatherly	Sep 26 or 27	after services
Shabbat Shuvah Weekend			
	Evening Services	Fri, Sep 30	7:15 PM
	Morning Services	Sat, Oct 1	9:45 AM
	Torah Service & Musaf	Sat, Oct 1	10:30 AM
	Build the Sukkah Frame	Sun, Oct 2	10: 00 AM
Yom Kippur-Rabbi Listfield (SCL)			
	Kol Nidre Service with Rabbi SCL	Tue, Oct 4	6:15 PM
	Morning Services with Rabbi SCL	Wed, Oct 5	9:45 AM
	Torah Services (approximately at)	Thu, Oct 5	10:30 AM
	Mincha, Yizkor, N'ilah & Ma'ariv Services	Thu, Oct 5	5:00 PM
	Break the Fast	Thu, Oct 5	7:15 PM
Sukkot with Food Pantry Donations			
	Add Roof & Decorate Sukkah at Etz Chayim	Sun, Oct 9	9:00 AM
	Sukkot Morning Services	Tue-Fri, Oct 10-16	9:45 AM
	Shabbat Hol Hamoed Sukkot Evening Services	Fri, Oct 14	7:15 PM
	Shabbat Hol Hamoed Sukkot Morning Services	Sat, Oct 15	9:45 AM
	Hoshana Rabbah Morning Services	Sun, Oct 16	9:45 AM
	Music & Kiddush in Sukkah for Food Donors	Sun, Oct 16	4:00 PM
	Kiddush in Etz Chayim Sukkah daily at Noon plus Food Pantry Donations		
Shemini Atzeret			
	Morning & Torah Services	Mon, Oct 17	9:45 AM
	Yizkor (following Torah Service, approximately at)	Mon, Oct 17	11:00 AM
Simchat Torah			
	Evening Ma'Ariv Service, followed by	Mon, Oct 17	7:15 PM
	Hakafot Services	Mon, Oct 17	8:00 PM

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