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# the Shofar



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Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER, 2023

ELUL/TISHREI, 5783/5784

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

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

[FIND THE HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES ON  
THE LAST PAGE OF THIS PUBLICATION](#)

## FROM THE RABBI

### Not Really Paradoxical

A rabbi of the last generation began a High Holiday sermon with a "paradox." He said, "We ask for added years, and yet we fear that which added years bring." We want long life but it comes with physical decline, illness, and loneliness.

The rabbi composed a fine sermon. But that one word, "paradox," animates me to write this month's column. Strictly speaking, it is a paradox — a seeming contradiction -- that we want life and yet we fear the steady decline that longevity brings.

But as I grow older I learn that we mustn't be surprised by the seeming contradictions of life. It's not a surprise that increased age means some decreased powers. It's not a surprise that if you live long, you will lose loved ones. People often use the word 'paradox' to imply a contradiction. I'm suggesting that the essential realities of life are not contradictory at all.

As the Hebrew song Al Kol Eleh puts it metaphorically, the honey comes with the sting. The book of Job tells us, "Shall we accept good from God, yet shall we not accept adversity?"

From Greek, we get para ("beyond" or "outside of") and dokein ("to think"), yielding paradoxos, meaning "contrary to expectation." But whatever the semantic nature of it, I'm trying to learn that the deepest challenges of life are — for better or worse — not contrary to expectation. Life is inherently hard. The bad times are part of the good. We don't like that. But we try not to be surprised by it. That's life!

Speaking of life, on Friday evening September 15 we begin Rosh Hashanah. See the entire High Holiday schedule in this edition of the Shofar. Come what may, we put our energies into life, and health, and joy and togetherness!

Shanah tovah,

Stephen Listfield

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Friends,

High Holidays are a special time to gather and pray. Etz Chayim follows rituals consistent with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Look for the schedule to participate.

Here are some highlights. Want another opportunity for Havdalah and a movie? Then Selichot is for you. Read the Sisterhood message to learn more about contributing to Erev Rosh Hashanah desserts. You are probably aware that the Shofar is not blown on Shabbat, so that super wonderful activity will take place on the second day of Rosh Hashana Sunday, with an encore at the Tashlich service. The chanting of Kol Nidre Erev Yom Kippur brings tears to my eyes. And always yummy is the Brigadier Break the Fast dinner. But the fun isn't over yet, as volunteers build the Succah. Then everyone gets to display their artistic/creative side by decorating the Succah. More to come in October. Rabbi weekends will begin after the High Holidays.

We offer activities for families with children. The Education committee has reported that NACHaS began formal classes on August 20. The curriculum is from the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, ISJL. There is a Judaic section and a Hebrew section. Additional time is spent on Hebrew for grades 4 and up.

Max reported that Bar Mitzvah students are participating in Friday and Saturday services; studying the history of the Jewish people; and practicing their speeches, Torah portion, and Haftorah portions. Also, Bar and Bat Mitzvah students often choose to perform a service project.

Families with young children can look forward to early and shortened services several times throughout the 2023-2024 year. How else can Etz Chayim meet your needs? And how will you work with Etz Chayim to make these activities happen? Be thinking about answers to these questions as you have a conversation with Martin Freeman and Millie Rosenthal.

Volunteer opportunities:

\* I am looking for volunteers to be High Holiday greeters (outside the front door) and ushers (inside the synagogue).

\* I am looking for 1 or 2 volunteers to work alongside of me on Anti-Defamation League's (ADL's) Program **Kulanu: Synagogues in Action Against Antisemitism**. Our synagogue was accepted to implement this program in Huntsville.

\* We have recently acquired a defibrillator. Want training to respond to health emergencies? Contact me (Lynne).

\* Barry Meyer is looking for volunteers to interface with Interfaith Mission Service.

\* Linda Kolchin is looking for Volunteers to host the Rabbi meals for 2024. Please participate in this opportunity to provide hospitality. If you have not been contacted, reach out to Linda.

\* Interested in supervising kids in the play room during High Holidays?

Contact Millie

\* Interested in substitute teaching at religious school? Contact Karen Hirsch.

Sincerely,

Lynne Edmondson

## WELCOME!

We're happy to welcome new members to our Etz Chayim family-- Stephanie and Daniel Perri and their children, Rebecca, Gabriel & Evelyn.

Be sure to introduce yourselves to them, and make sure they feel at home!

## SISTERHOOD

Hello!

Sisterhood is seeking a volunteer to sign people up to prepare and set-up a Kiddush Luncheon during one of Etz Chayim's Rabbi Shabbaton visits this year. Contact Karen, Sisterhood's Corresponding Secretary, if you are willing to

volunteer to get some volunteers! Text, call or email her at 571-276-0223 or [kefpegasus@gmail.com](mailto:kefpegasus@gmail.com)

If you're new at EC or have never prepared or attended a Kiddush Luncheon, don't be hesitant to volunteer for this job. What we're asking you to do consists of calling congregation members and/or Sisterhood members to ask them to take on the preparation and serving of one of the 7 Shabbaton Luncheons scheduled. Make that 6 slots to fill, because Natha and I will sign up for one of them!

Looking toward Rosh Hashanah accompanied by the return of Rabbi Listfield, Sisterhood is publicizing the September 15<sup>th</sup> Erev Shabbat/Erev Rosh Hashanah Pot Luck Dessert Night as our Oneg. What that means is that we ask you to bring a dairy or pareve kosher dessert to share with all attendees. Don't forget to bring it in a disposable serving dish with a disposable utensil (unless your own kitchen is kosher)! If you are uncertain about what items are kosher, see the Etz Chayim website for our kosher guidelines.

We want to thank those of you who participated in our New Year Greeting and Memorial Book fundraiser. Your support helps us assist in making Etz Chayim the place for the best latkes in town at Hanukkah, the Purim Hot Dog Supper, the yummy Shabbaton Kiddush Luncheons and more. If you frequent any of our advertiser's businesses, let them know you saw their ad in our book. We get lots of help acquiring advertisers from Shirley Roberts, Natha Hancock, Millie and Max Rosenthal, Michelle Persons, Natalie Young, Michelle Lapidus and Diana Polin. Thank you--we depend on you so much!

L'Shanah Tovah,

Brenda (with Sandra's permission)

### SYNAGOGUE BOOK CLUB

The Synagogue Book Club will meet on Thursday, August 31 at 11:30 at the synagogue to discuss and dissect the book, *The Red Tent*.

If you read the best-selling book years ago, or read it recently, or haven't even read it at all, I believe you will enjoy the discussion. And if you come to the review, I promise you can put your two cents in about this "almost" Midrash.

Max

### SYNAGOGUE CLEAN-UP THANKS

Once again, the synagogue members came thru with --not money - but hard work and sweat, the men cleaning the synagogue grounds and the ladies making breakfast for the workers and cleaning every chair in the sanctuary until they sparkled.

Thanks to Jon Berger, Joe Paddock, Jordan Petroff, Marvin Kalachman, Bill Goldberg, Bill Brigadier, Shoshannah Rosenthal, Bob Feigenblatt, Richard Shepard, and Nathan Shepard for cutting, slashing, dragging and bagging a ton of bushes and trimmings and making our grounds High Holiday ready.

Thanks go to Donna Lyonnais, Cynthia Elliott, Shirley Roberts, Lynne Edmondson, Shoshanna Rosenthal, Karen Feigenblatt, Sarah Shepard and Lilly Shepard for helping with the breakfast and cleaning the sanctuary chairs.

A special thanks to Millie Rosenthal for organizing the breakfast and leading the breakfast preparations.

Max

### BE AWARE

Unfortunately, there is a new type of threat to places of worship called Swatting. What is it? Swatting is the act of making false emergency calls, often to 911 or other emergency services, with the intention of triggering a significant response from law enforcement, especially getting the SWAT unit to respond. What do we do if this happens? If we get a call from a threatening person, try to get as much information as we can: phone number, tone of voice, etc. We don't know if it was a hoax. So

call 911. If we don't get a call, but law enforcement arrives because they received a call, listen and follow directions of the police. Why are we talking about this? Because preparation prevents panic.

Lynne

### IN THE NEWS

Following the devastating fires, the Maui synagogue posted the following to its website on August 12: "It's with much gratitude and humility to share that the Jewish Congregation of Maui and its grounds are safe. However, many in our community have lost their homes, businesses and also a loved one from the devastation of the fires."

From Lynne

### DONATIONS

#### General Fund

From: Ron Goldberg

From: Scott & Natha Hancock

From: Nannette Schwartz

From: Millie & Max Rosenthal

To: Mary Dunne - Glad your accident is resolved and you are all well again.

#### Sisterhood

From: Nannette Schwartz

In support of the New Year Book

From: Linda Kamisher

For: High Holy Days bima flowers and in support of the New Year Book

From: Karen & Bob Feigenblatt

In support of the New Year Book

From: Renate Limmer

In support of the New Year Book

### Outdoor Lighting Fund

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

### Special Thanks

To: Karen Feigenblatt for donating 12 bottles of Kosher Grape Juice for the Friday night services.

To publicize upcoming activities and events, submit information to [shofar@etzchayim-hsv.org](mailto:shofar@etzchayim-hsv.org)

For more information about Etz Chayim or to make a donation, go online at <https://www.etzchayim-hsv.org>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 31	Book Club at 11:30 AM, <i>The Red Tent</i>
Sep 04	Labor Day
Sep 09	8 PM, Selichot service, Havdalah and a film ( <i>Holy Silence</i> )
Sep 10	10 AM, help build the Sukkah, bring power tools
Sep 11	11 AM- 2 PM, at EC, Secure Community Training
Sep 12	6 PM, IMS Annual Celebration & Awards Dinner
Sep 15-17	Rosh Hashanah with Rabbi Listfield
Sep 24, 25	Yom Kippur with Rabbi Listfield
Sep 28	Complete the Sukkah
Sep 29-Oct 06	Sukkot
Sep 30	Sukkot, morning service at 9:45 AM
Oct 01	Sukkot Concert to support the Food Bank

## ONEGS

Sep 01	Schindler/Reece
Sep 08	Freeman
Sep 15	Potluck Desserts
Sep 22	Hancock
Sep 29	Shepard
Oct 06	Camenker/Smith

## BIRTHDAYS

Sep 02	Stephanie Perri
Sep 06	Janet Schindler
Sep 08	Arlene Polin White
Sep 14	Robin Slomka
Sep 18	Sara Brigadier
Sep 18	Rudy Sainker
Sep 19	Russell Roberts
Sep 20	Sandra McGuire
Sep 23	Jesse Kalachman
Sep 24	Lydia Honan
Sep 26	Molly Lapidus

## ANNIVERSARIES

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

## YAHREZITS\*\*

Aug 28	11 Elul	Milton Baum*
Aug 29	12 Elul	June Rothfeder
Aug 29	12 Elul	Leonard Flank*
Aug 30	13 Elul	Margaret Theresa Palermo
Aug 31	14 Elul	Albert Goldner*
Sep 01	15 Elul	John Hans Goldstein*
Sep 03	17 Elul	Molly Silver Rodkin*
Sep 04	18 Elul	Edward Kahn*
Sep 07	21 Elul	Phil Wiederecht*
Sep 08	22 Elul	William Karmiol*
Sep 08	22 Elul	Beatrice D. Sainker*
Sep 09	23 Elul	Alfred Freeman, MD
Sep 10	24 Elul	Abe Goldberg
Sep 11	25 Elul	Percy Sacks*
Sep 17	02 Tishrei	Daniel Flank*
Sep 20	05 Tishrei	Louis B. Lepp*
Sep 21	06 Tishrei	Sylvia Zarovsky
Sep 22	07 Tishrei	Sam Natt*
Sep 22	07 Tishrei	Warner Fleishman
Sep 23	08 Tishrei	Norma Maier*
Sep 23	08 Tishrei	Jerome Gaftman
Sep 24	09 Tishrei	Rose Schindler
Sep 25	10 Tishrei	Harriet M. Sacks*

Sep 25	10 Tishrei	Shirley Irene Jacobs*
Sep 25	10 Tishrei	Zachary Fuerst
Sep 26	11 Tishrei	Murray Rosenthal*
Sep 26	11 Tishrei	Irving Gettleman
Sep 29	14 Tishrei	Terry Lee Green*

On Monday September 11, 2023, 11 am -2pm at Etz Chayim Synagogue, the Secure Community Network will offer the following Trainings: Stop the Bleed and Countering Active Threat

RSVP to Lynne if interested.

Here are links to flyers for each training.

### STOP THE BLEED

[https://www.etzchayim-hsv.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/STB\\_Marketing-Flyer\\_fillable\\_2023.pdf](https://www.etzchayim-hsv.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/STB_Marketing-Flyer_fillable_2023.pdf)

### CATT

[https://www.etzchayim-hsv.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/CATT-Info-Flyer\\_2023-1.pdf](https://www.etzchayim-hsv.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/CATT-Info-Flyer_2023-1.pdf)

## 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.

The Power of *We*

*Our Annual Celebration & Awards  
Dinner Is Back In-Person for 2023!*



**2023 IMS ANNUAL CELEBRATION & AWARDS DINNER**

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KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER

**Jacquelyn  
Gates Shippey**

CEO  
GLOBALTIES > Alabama

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

Trinity United Methodist Church - Wesley Hall  
607 Airport Road SW Huntsville, AL 35802

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT**  
*interfaithmissionservice.org*

Interfaith Mission Service is delighted to welcome back our community of congregants, supporters, and partners for an evening of food and fellowship at our 2023 Annual Celebration and Awards Dinner.

Join us **Tuesday, September 12th, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church - Wesley Hall**. The theme of the evening is based on the inspirational sentiment of Dr. King, "*The Fierce Urgency of Now*," and will feature an incredible keynote speaker — Jacquelyn Gates Shipe, CEO of Global Ties Alabama.

**Individual tickets as well as sponsorship opportunities are now available for purchase.** We hope you will attend this special event and help us to continue creating and cultivating a beloved community.

To purchase tickets, copy and paste the following in your search bar:

<https://www.interfaithmissionservice.org/event/2023-acad/>



# Huntsville Conservative Synagogue

*Etz Chayim Congregation*  
(256) 881-6260

*7705 Bailey Cove Road. SE.*  
*Huntsville, Alabama 35802*

## **L'ShanahTovah!** **High Holy Day Services** **2023 -5784**

### **Rosh Hashanah- Rabbi Listfield (SCL)**

Selichot- Services	Sat.	Sept. 9	8:00 p.m.
Build the Sukkah Frame	Sun	Sept. 10	10:00 a.m.
Evening Services with Rabbi SCL	Fri.	Sept. 15	7:15 p.m.
Morning Holy Day Services with Rabbi SCL	Sat.	Sept. 16	9:45 a.m.
Evening Holy Day Services with Rabbi SCL	Sat.	Sept. 16	7:15 p.m.
Morning & Shofar Services with Rabbi SCL	Sun.	Sept. 17	9:45 a.m.
Tashlich service @Aldrich Creek bridge Weatherly	Sept 16 or 17	at	1:00 p.m.

### **Shabbat Shuvah Weekend**

Evening Services	Fri.	Sept. 22	7:15 p.m.
Morning Services	Sat.	Sept. 23	9:45 a.m.
Torah Service & Musaf	Sat.	Sept 23	10:30 a.m.

### **Yom Kippur-Rabbi Listfield (SCL)**

Kol Nidre Service with Rabbi SCL	Sun.	Sept. 24	6:15 p.m.
Morning Services with Rabbi SCL	Mon.	Sept. 25	9:45 a.m.
Torah Services (approximately at)	Mon.	Sept. 25	10:30 a.m.
Mincha, Yizkor, N'ilah & Ma'ariv Services	Mon.	Sept. 25	5:00 p.m.
Break the Fast Dinner	Mon.	Sept. 25	7:00 p.m.

### **Sukkot.with Food Pantry Donations**

Add Roof & Decorate Sukkah at Etz Chayim	Thu.	Sept 28	3:00 p.m.
Shabbat Sukkot Evening Services	Fri	Sept.29	7:15 p.m.
Sukkot Morning Services	Sat-Fri.	Sept 30-Oct 6	9:45 a.m..
Shabbat Sukkot Morning Services	Sat.	Sept.30	9:45 a.m.
<b>Music &amp; Kiddush in Sukkah for Food Donors</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Oct. 1</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>
Hoshana Rabbah Morning Services	Fri.	Oct. 6	9:45 a.m.

Kiddush in Etz Chayim Sukkah daily at Noon plus Food Pantry Donations

### **Shemini Atzeret**

Shabbat Shemini Atzeret Evening Services	Fri	Oct 6	7:15 p.m.
Morning & Torah Services	Sat.	Oct. 7	9:45 a.m.
Yizkor (following Torah Service, @ approximately)	Sat.	Oct. 7	11:00 a.m.

### **Simchat Torah**

Evening Ma'Ariv Service, followed by	Sat.	Oct. 7	7:15 p.m.
Hakafot Services	Sat.	Oct. 7	8:00 p.m.

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