

# Hakol

The Voice of  
**Congregation Kol Emeth**

5130 W. Touhy Avenue  
Skokie, Illinois 60077  
847-673-3370

[www.KolEmethSkokie.org](http://www.KolEmethSkokie.org)

September/October, 2013  
Elul 5773 / Tishrei / Cheshvan, 5774



## Message From The Rabbi



Many years ago I read a science fiction story about time travel. The story begins with an election and, to the country's relief, a very vicious candidate has been defeated. The last

headline the time travelers see before they begin their journey through time is "President Good Elected." The travelers get into their time travel machine and go off into the dark and distant past, and are warned by their guide to be careful not to touch anything, for there would be grave consequences.

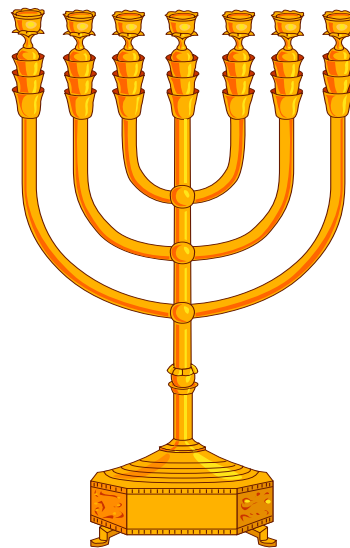
But during their visit to this past, one of them accidentally brushes a plant with his hand. The guide reprimands him. They make their return trip, emerge from their time machine into the present, and find everything looking slightly different. They then see the headline: "Prezident Evil Elekted". The guide looks at the traveller who touched the plant: "I warned you about what might happen." One slight, infinitesimally small action by a single person has changed the entire course of human history, and in this case for the worse, much worse.

This story tells us two things: All our actions have consequences, and every one of us matters.

Just think about the consequences of an action. The tourist touched one little thing, and the world was changed. It could have been another little thing and the world would have changed another way. But what we do in the world matters even if at the time it seems small and insignificant. And not only in the world of nature, but also in our relationships with other human beings. Whether we are kind or cruel, if we greet people as we are told in the Mishna "with a cheerful countenance" or scowl and make others feel bad, if we are fractious and argumentative just for the sake of it, or if we try

to reach agreement in a reasonable and pleasant manner, all these and other behaviors make a difference to the world. On Rosh Hashana we are called upon to think about our actions, to realize that they have consequences.

The story also tells us that we all matter, every one of us. True, it was one particular time-traveler who touched the plant. But it could have been any of the others, and there would have been equally serious consequences. Rosh



Hashana reminds us of this lesson too, of the importance of every one of us. So, if you are tempted to say that you are unimportant, (or worse, that someone else is unimportant), Rosh Hashana comes to remind you that you are important. If one feels that one has not sufficient learning to be important, or sufficient wealth, or whatever it is that we delude ourselves into thinking is required for importance, Rosh Hashana says no! The Machzor, the prayer book, has the same prayers for everyone. It does not say: "These prayers for the important people, but those are for the less important." Nine of the most important Jewish people in the world

can be gathered together, but there is no Minyan unless a tenth shows up, and that person need not be wealthy or scholarly or "important".

Julie and I would like to wish you all a Happy, Healthy New Year of 5774.

Rabbi Barry Schechter

### Services

Friday Evening 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday Morning 9:30 a.m.

### Minyan

Sunday Morning 9:15 a.m.  
Monday, Wednesday  
and Thursday Evenings 7:40 p.m.  
Lower level chapel

Refer to calendar for holiday service times.

# Sisterhood News

Many of our members attended our summer program at the Chicago History Museum. The exhibit, *Shalom Chicago*, explored Chicago's diverse Jewish community from the 1840's to the present. We learned how a small but dynamic community helped shape modern Chicago.

We are looking forward to the scheduled Sisterhood activities for the New Year. Our membership dinner will be at the synagogue October 8th with Heather Braoukis, back by popular demand. Dinner will again be catered by Shallots Bistro.

Our Torah Fund luncheon, November 5th will feature Sonni Helmer (d.b.a. Lebouton) with her interesting program. Our joint program with the Men's Club, October 29th, will showcase Charles Troy with his multi-media presentation of Irving Berlin.

Additional information will be coming about the dates and selections for our book club led by Selma Katz.

We welcome everyone to all of our activities and in closing, wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful 5774. See you in schul.

**Sarine Rohde & Sheila Wexler**

# Men's Club News

The Kol Emeth Men's Club will start the 2013 - 2014 season with our annual kick-off dinner on Tuesday, October 22 with a guest speaker to be announced later. Our famous Sunday breakfasts will be held on November 17 and March 30. Also a combined Men's Club and Sisterhood program will be held some time during the year.

The Men's Club programs are always well attended. With interesting speakers, good food and lots of friendship, what could be better? If you were not a member last year why not join us this year?

Remember YOUR MEN'S CLUB helps support YOUR SYNAGOGUE!

The Men's Club would like to wish Congregation Kol Emeth and Jews everywhere a HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

**Herman Nussbaum**



# Message From The President

This is my first contribution to HaKol as the President of Congregation Kol Emeth. I felt it was a great honor when I was asked to serve in this office and I accepted with a sense of apprehension of my ability to lead this congregation.

Like all of us in our daily lives, Congregation Kol Emeth faces numerous challenges. We can surmount them only if we all work together and we all contribute our time and energy to their solution. I look forward to working with all of you to grow our congregation. Together we can make sure that our best days are ahead of us.

Rosh Hashanah is almost upon us. This holiday is one of most important in the Jewish calendar. It is Yom Teruah, the day for sounding the shofar, it is Yom Hazikaron, the day of remembrance, and it is the day that the world was called into being. Yet despite the holiness of the day, for all the reverence with which it is observed, you will not find any reference to the name Rosh Hashanah in the Hebrew Bible. Rosh Hashanah, as we know it, is the creation of the Tannaim, the Rabbis who established modern Judaism. It is a gift to us.

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the year and thereby signifies the end of the last year. The service on Rosh Hashanah is full of prayers, beautiful music from our choir and cantor as well as inspiring words from our Rabbi. Yet amongst all the elements of the service, I hope that we can each find time to reflect not only on the glory of G-d's creation but also on our own lives. As G-d's creation is in need of Tikkun, or repair, so do our lives need healing.

The service gives us the opportunity to reflect on the year that has ended; our successes and our failures, and the opportunities we took and those that we rejected. During the service we can think about family and friends and where we helped them and where could have done more. Rosh Hashanah is a chance to consider who we are, where we were and where we would like to be in the coming year. It is the start of preparation for Yom Kippur.

Let us use Rosh Hashanah as a chance to begin the renewal of our lives and the world in which we live.

May all enjoy a good and sweet New Year and may all the worthy desires of our hearts be fulfilled for good.

**Norman Gelfand**

## High Holiday Parking Notice

There is NO PARKING IN PEP BOYS' LOT. Your car may be towed (at your expense) if you park there. Early arrival is the only way to assure a space in our lot.

# We Celebrate... We Pray... We Remember...

## MAZEL TOV TO

- Sarine and Bob Rohde on their grandson becoming a Marine
- Dr. Anita Robbins on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson
- Helene and Len Colen on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson
- Roger and Trudye Fischhoff on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson
- Elaine and Richard Snow on the graduation of their grandson, Max
- Dr. Donald and Roberta Charous on the birth of their great grandchild
- Janine Oberrotman on the marriage of her son and daughter-in-law, Dan and Julia Oberrotman
- Paulette Lieb on the marriage of her son

## NEW MEMBERS

- Neil and Judith Adelman
- David Arieti
- Lester Ascher
- Sy and Beverly Baskin
- Irwin and Karen Berkley
- Howard and Beverlee Bernstein
- Sarah Blumen
- Haskal Brociner
- Irving and Rita Federman
- Herb and Sarah Fisher
- Thomas and Lisa Garbaty Smith
- Dr. Linda and Lonny Gruenberg
- Myron and Penny Gruenberg
- Sherman and Sandra Katz
- Odette and Irv Langer
- Michael and Donna Puccini
- Larry and Vicki Rabyne
- Jack Siegellak
- Marvin and Corrine Smith
- Mishka and Andra Snowsky
- Helen Stopek

## BOOK DONATIONS

- Shabbat Prayer Book donated by Sarine and Bob Rohde in memory of Leonard Keller
- Shabbat Prayer Book donated by Sarine and Bob Rohde in memory of Harold Chupack

## CONGREGATION WANTS TO WISH A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

- Miriam Goldberger
- Betty Gordon
- Nanette Greenspon
- Elayne Jacobs
- Leona Katzman
- Max Lorig
- Howard Mirsky
- Bill Raffeld
- Arnold Weiner

## DONATIONS FOR SPEEDY & COMPLETE RECOVERIES

- Rich and Micki Bloom
- Sandy and Johnnie Cochrane
- The Jaffe Family
- Mike and Iris Okmin
- Bill Raffeld
- Sarine and Bob Rohde
- Elaine and Richard Snow
- Sheila Wexler

## MECHIRAT CHOMETZ

- Maurice and Eve Alfille
- Rich and Micki Bloom
- Chester Gaynes
- Lois Schmidt
- Charlene Urow

## GENERAL & SIMCHA DONATION

- Jacqueline Balter
- Sol and Jane Bernstein
- Rich and Micki Bloom
- Sandy and Johnny Cochrane
- Rick and Janice Daitchman
- The Jaffe Family
- Fern and Bernard Katz
- Shirley and Melvin Krepack
- Barry Levison
- Marcia and Marvin Nussbaum
- Denise Phillips
- Bill Raffeld
- Sarine and Bob Rohde
- Lois Schmidt
- Elaine and Richard Snow
- Charlene Urow
- Sheila Wexler

## DONATIONS TO RABBI'S CHARITY FUND

- Sarine and Bob Rohde

## Tree Of Life

Perfect for a Special Birthday or a Special Anniversary, the Kol Emeth Tree of Life offers a unique and lasting record of your simcha. Any type of happy occasion is beautifully engraved for all to see.

Consider purchasing a Leaf, an Acorn or even a Rock for our beautiful Tree Of Life. For only \$118.00 you can purchase a Leaf, for \$236.00 an Acorn or for a Rock it is only \$354.00. Please contact **Judy Kessler** in the Synagogue Office for more information or to order.



### Points To Ponder

- To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.
- Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat miner!

Submitted by **Len Colen**



## Newly Revised Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Our office secretary is **Judy Kessler**.

We appreciate and encourage newsletter contributions from all our congregants but, hard copy (paper) submissions will no longer be accepted. If you are unable to submit electronically, please contact **Judy** in the office. All emails must be sent to [hakol@fischhoff.com](mailto:hakol@fischhoff.com). Articles must be sent by the 10th of the following month's newsletter.

Ha Kol is compiled by **Judy Kessler** and edited by **Roger Fischhoff**.

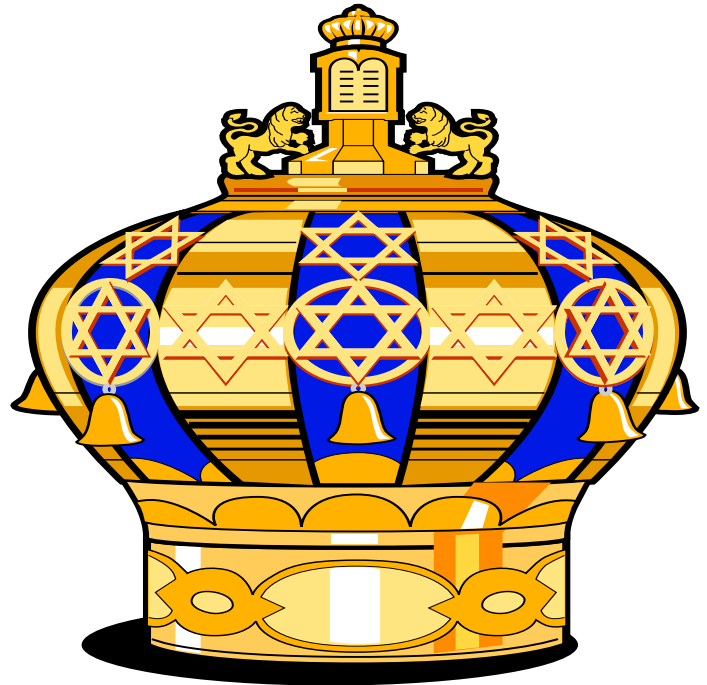
# Congregation Kol Emeth

5130 West Touhy Avenue  
Skokie, Illinois 60077



Address Service Requested

Rabbi	<b>Barry Schechter</b>
President	<b>Norman Gelfand</b>
Co-President/Religious Matters	<b>Dr. Paul Helman</b>
Vice President/Membership	<b>Leigh Sisk</b>
Treasurer	<b>Michael Okmin</b>
House Committee Chairman	<b>Len Colen</b>
Sisterhood Representative	<b>Sarine Rohde</b>
Men's Club Representative	<b>Bob Rohde</b>



## Mark Your Calendars

- Sep. 16 OWTC Reception
- Oct. 8 Sisterhood Membership Dinner
- Oct. 22 Men's Club Kick-Off Dinner
- Oct. 29 Sisterhood/Men's Club "Irving Berlin" Multi-Media presentation
- Nov. 17 Men's Club breakfast
- Mar. 30 Men's Club breakfast

Many more activities are as of yet un-scheduled. Our Culminating Event is normally held at the end of June. Inquire about how you can attend at little or no cost to you.

Refer to High Holiday schedule for dates and times of upcoming holiday services.

### CHANUKAH STAMPS

A woman goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Chanukah cards. She says to the clerk "May I have 50 Chanukah stamps please."

"What denomination?" says the clerk. The woman says "Oy vey... my God, has it come to this?"

"Okay, give me 6 orthodox, 12 conservative and 32 reform!"

## How Long Does A Minyon Take?

For most of you, the Minyon is only around the corner, or a couple of blocks down the street. When I attend the Minyon it's a project; I leave home about 6:45 p.m., return about 8:30 p.m. Home for me is in Arlington Heights, a 25-mile round trip.

When I first became a member of Kol Emeth, I decided to make a time commitment to the Synagogue. At first it was twice a month. Now it's three or four times a month.

I come early and stay late to talk with the men and women who attend the 7:40 p.m. services, but on the long trip home, I feel I've done something for the Synagogue, myself and the others who come to say Kaddish.

After all, we may all need the benefit of a regular Minyon some day. Why not start the year right? Attend the Minyon on a regular basis. After all, for most of you it's just around the corner.

**Howard Mirsky**

### PHILANTHROPY

A visitor to Israel attended a recital and concert at the Moscovitz Auditorium. He was quite impressed with the architecture and the acoustics.

He inquired of the tour guide, "Is this magnificent auditorium named after Chaim Moscovitz, the famous Talmudic scholar?"

"No," replied the guide. "It's named after Sam Moscovitz, the writer." "Never heard of him. What did he write?"

"A check", replied the guide.

**Remember... HaKol's deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Thanks!**

## The Old World Theatre Company Returns to Kol Emeth for a Fourth Season!

The Old World Theatre Company is happy to announce its return to Congregation Kol Emeth for its fourth season. It has been a very happy journey for Old World Theatre in its previous three seasons at Kol Emeth. Each year our season has been more successful than the last, thanks primarily to the members of Congregation Kol Emeth. Last year two of our productions— A View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller and Arms and the Man by George Bernard Shaw both sold out a majority of their performances. The company is looking forward to entertaining our audiences with their exciting new season.

The 2013–2014 season's theme is *Decisions of the Heart*. The four plays for the season are:

***Too Many Husbands*** by Somerset Maugham,  
***Of Mice and Men*** by John Steinbeck,  
***The Heiress*** by Ruth and Augustus Goetz and  
***Fools*** by Neil Simon.

All four plays have had successful Broadway runs in their production history and three of them have been very successful movies.

The season is well-balanced with 2 comedies and 2 dramas. As in the past season subscriptions along with single tickets will be available. An Old World Theatre brochure will be mailed to all members and ticket holders from past seasons, prior to the High Holidays. The brochures will contain all the pertinent information for the playgoer – dates, times, prices, short play descriptions and an order form.

As in the past The Old World Theatre will host a reception on Monday evening, September 16th for members of Kol Emeth and their guests as a thank you gift for their support. At the reception the company will be presented along with the season and a discussion of the plays. There will be a delicious dessert table with coffee and tea for your enjoyment. And special gifts for those who attend! A flyer will be mailed to you announcing the reception.

Plan on having an entertaining and culturally provocative year with us! Remember not only will you be entertained royally but a portion of the ticket price is a donation to the synagogue. We look forward to sharing this season of plays with you. If you have any questions concerning the season please call **Bill Raffeld** at 773–235–1647.

Many thanks from the company for your continued support.

**William Raffeld**  
Artistic Director

## THANK YOU... THANK YOU...

**Jacqueline Balter** – To my friends at Kol Emeth. Thank you for all of your good wishes and Leagrams in honor of my birthday. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

**Jane & Sol Bernstein** – It is hard for us to believe that Camille and Leah our daughter Amy's 14 year old twins are off to High School. What fun to have grandchildren and watch them grow into these wonderful girls.

**Rog and Trudye Fischhoff** – To our Dear Kol Emeth Friends: Special "thanks" for your generous contributions to Kol Emeth in honor of our grandson Levi's recent Bar Mitzvah and for all the "Best Wishes" leagrams on our 48th anniversary, and Roger's 70th birthday. (Where did the time go?) You are truly "family" to us! Again, many thanks.....

**Beverly Hoffman** – It was so nice to be remembered with birthday leagrams by my many wonderful

Kol Emeth friends. Thanks to all. Your good wishes were greatly appreciated.

**Sarine & Bob Rohde** – We want to thank everyone for their kind wishes by sending us so many beautiful cards and Leagrams. Our Kol Emeth Family has made our anniversary even more special for us. Thank you all once again for really making our day!!

**Robert Rohde** – I want to thank everyone for the many Leagrams, cards, phone calls and gifts on my "very special" birthday. You have made me feel very important and very happy. Thank you one and all again!

**Sarine and Bob Rohde** – We wish to thank our dear friends and family for their kind letters in honor of our grandson Zachery's graduation from Marine Boot Camp. We are so very proud of him and what he is doing with his young life. Thank you again for your kindness and donations.

## The Ad Book Final Report

It is because of you, our members and friends of Kol Emeth that this ad book was once again a huge success. We raised \$11,400.00

I want to extend a very special thank you to **Sandra And Max Lorig** for their outstanding support with the ad book. They are truly our diamonds. I want to give my warmest-hearted thank you to all our advertisers, members and silent donors. Without the cooperation and generosity of all of you this book would not have been accomplished.

I want to thank **Judy** for her help and cooperation with the ad book. I want to thank my culminating committee and **Trudye** and **Roger** for all their work and support. You all made my job a lot easier for me.

Try as we might to get everything right in an ad book, errors may have occurred so please accept my sincere apology if your name was omitted or misspelled. Please consider any oversight and extend your charity a bit further and forgive us for any omissions or mistakes.

May the "Almighty" truly see the love and devotion that you, our members and friends, have for our synagogue through your efforts. May "He" always grant you peace and good health so that you may continue in your endeavors.

Once again I wish to thank everyone for all their help to make this year's Ad Book a success.

**Sandy Cochrane**  
Ad Book Chairperson

## Share Your Happiness at CKE

Sisterhood is in need of help with sponsoring Oneg Shabbats and Kiddushes. We would appreciate it if you would like to help us by contributing any amount or share your Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush with someone. You do not have to pay for the whole Oneg or Kiddush unless you want to.

You can honor someone, or celebrate birthdays or anniversaries by sponsoring or helping to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat. If you want to honor someone's memory or again birthday or anniversary or whatever, you can sponsor a Kiddush. The whole Oneg (not fancy) is \$72.00 and a whole Kiddush (not fancy) is \$118.00.

If you are interested in doing any of this, please contact **Sarine Rohde** at 847-966-9882 and she or **Paulette Lieb** will help you with planning or helping you to do whatever you would like. Thank you for your help - Sisterhood appreciates whatever you can do. So just give me (**Sarine Rohde**) a call and we can plan together.

Thank you, **Sarine Rohde**,  
Sisterhood Representative

## High Holiday Parking Notice

There is NO PARKING IN PEP BOYS' LOT. Your car may be towed (at your expense) if you park there. Early arrival is the only way to assure a space in our lot.

### Congregation Kol Emeth Sends Deepest Sympathy to:

The Pokotilo family on the passing of their beloved mother and grandmother, **Sarra Pokotilo**.

**Nata Andinysh** on the passing of her beloved husband, **Gregory Golding**  
**Eileen Keller** on the passing of her beloved husband, **Leonard Keller**  
**Sandra and Howard Mandell** on the passing of her beloved father, **David Strick**  
**Linda Chupack** on the passing of her beloved husband, **Harold Chupack**  
**Beverly Gilbert** on the passing of her beloved son, **Michael Bold**

## Synagogue Decorum

To maintain proper dignity and solemnity during our religious services, we would appreciate that our Congregants cooperate in the following:

Please do not loiter in or around the synagogue where your conversations may disturb others.

Please bring your tickets as you will need them to enter the sanctuary.

Please bring a tallis and machzor (High Holiday prayer book) to services. We have a very limited number available for congregant use. To purchase a machzor, contact the office prior to high holiday services, since they will not be for sale during services.

Please keep your head covered while in the synagogue.

Please avoid talking or walking around, especially while the Ark is open, during the sermon and major prayers.

Please shut off all cell phones, pagers, and electronic devices while in the synagogue.

Please dress appropriately and, if you are normally cool, please bring a sweater.

Please avoid using strong perfume.

Smoking is not allowed on synagogue premises.

Gum chewing is not allowed in the sanctuary.

### THE MEZUZAH'S

*A wealthy Jewish man buys a fabulous home in Beverly Hills. He brings in a local workman to decorate the place. When the job is finished, the homeowner is delighted but realizes that he's forgotten to put mezuzahs on the doors.*

*He goes out and buys 50 mezuzahs and asks the decorator to place them on the right hand side of each door except bathrooms and kitchens.*

*He's really worried that the decorator will chip the paint work or won't put them up correctly. However, when he comes back a few hours later, he sees that the job has been carried out to his entire satisfaction. He's so pleased that he gives the decorator a bonus.*

*As the decorator is walking out of the door he says, "Glad you're happy with the job. By the way, I took out all the warranties in the little boxes and left them on the table for you!"*

## Yahrzeit / Yizkor Donations

Helen Applebaum  
Howard Aronson  
Sylvia and Marvin Asher  
Nissin and Olema Behar  
Sonia Berk  
Margaret and Harry Besser  
George and Judy Blinick  
Leona Boris  
Helene and Len Colen  
Sharon and Barry Curtis  
Rick Daitchman  
Kay Duck  
Norman and Betty Elkin  
Helene Ellis  
Clara Foreman  
Chester Gaynes  
Linda Green  
Richard and Jo Ann Greenblatt

Marlene Iser  
Linda Halperin  
Ilona A. Hartman  
Elaine Heilig  
Herbert Heller  
Fay Herbstman  
Raquel Hochwert  
Michael Horowitz  
Marlene Iser  
The Jaffe Family  
Edward Jans  
Fern and Bernard Katz  
Leona Katzman  
Judy Kessler  
Shirley and Alfred Kleinfeld  
Irene Kogan  
Norman and Joyce Leeds  
June Lefkowitz

Barry Levison  
Howard and Sandra Mandell  
Rose Mandell  
Ellen Marchi  
Eileen Medansky  
Gregory Menn  
Diane Mulkerin  
Tyra Notorangelo  
Herman and Ruth Nussbaum  
Janine Oberrotman  
Ron and Lynda Orlean  
Luisa Orchow  
Bernie Perlstein  
Madeline Pinas  
Dmitriy and Irina Polevoy  
Phyllis Projansky  
Harriet and Jacob Reifer  
Sydelle Richard

Sarine and Bob Rohde  
Jean Rosenblum  
Joan Sapstein  
Beatrice Schatz  
Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Schimel  
Lois Schmidt  
Lois Schwartz  
Marcy Schwartz  
Lee Shandling  
Marion and Harold Shrifter  
Elaine and Richard Snow  
Anne and Eugene Solar  
Charlene Urow  
Benny Wapner  
Arnold and Ina Weiner  
Rivka and Brian Weiner  
Shirley Wool  
Eileen and Ronald Yedlin  
Eleanor and Daniel Zeff

Should you wish to honor the memory of your beloved departed with a permanent Memorial Plaque, please contact the synagogue office at 847-673-3370

## Schedule of High Holiday Services 2013

### SELICHOT SERVICES – SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2013

Reception.....	9:00 P.M.
Services.....	10:00 P.M.

### ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES

Wednesday, September 4.....	8:30 P.M.
Thursday, September 5.....	9:00 A.M.
Friday, September 6.....	9:00 A.M.

### YOM KIPPUR SERVICES

Friday, September 13	
Doors Open.....	6:15 P.M.
Kol Nidre.....	6:45 P.M.
Saturday, September 14.....	9:00 A.M.
YIZKOR following Musaf.....	

#### Concluding Services

MINCHA.....	5:00 P.M.
SHOFAR.....	7:30 P.M.

### SUKKOT

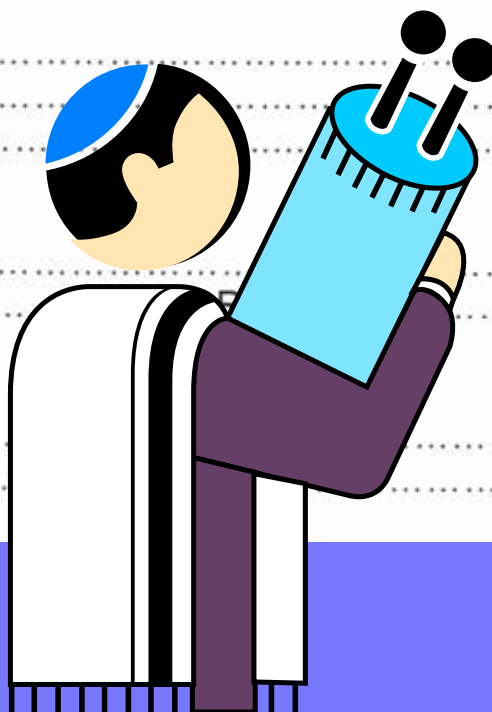
Wednesday, September 18.....	7:40 P.M.
Thursday, September 19.....	9:30 A.M.
Friday, September 20.....	9:30 A.M.

### SHEMINI ATZERET

Wednesday, September 25.....	7:40 P.M.
Thursday, September 26.....	9:30 A.M.

### SIMCHAT TORAH

Thursday, September 26.....	6:30 P.M.
Friday, September 27.....	9:30 A.M.



# A Quick Overview of the High Holidays

The most important time of the Jewish year is often the most misunderstood. Here's all the basics you need to know.

by Rabbi Shraga Simmons

The High Holiday period actually begins in Elul, the Hebrew month preceding Rosh Hashana. Elul is an important period of introspection, of clarifying life's goals, and of coming closer to God. Because when the big day of Rosh Hashana comes, and each individual stands before the Almighty to ask for another year, we'll want to know what we're asking for!

During Elul, many people perform a daily cheshbon — a spiritual accounting — where we step back and look at ourselves critically and honestly, with the intention of improving.

In order to arouse us to this task, it is the Ashkenazi custom to blow the shofar every morning after prayers during the month of Elul.

Historically, this month has great significance, because it was on the first day of Elul that Moses — following the sin of the Golden Calf — ascended Mount Sinai to receive a new, second set of stone tablets. Forty days later — on the seminal Yom Kippur — Moses returned to the people with tablets in hand, signaling a repair of the breach between the Jewish people and God.

High Holiday preparations intensify on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashana, when we recite "Slichot," a special series of prayers that includes the powerful "13 Attributes of Mercy."

## Rosh Hashana

Rosh Hashana is the Jewish New Year, commemorating the creation of Adam and Eve, the first human beings. On Rosh Hashana, the Books of Life and Death are open on the heavenly desk. On this "Day of Judgment," we each stand before God and offer our best case for being "created anew" — i.e. granted another year of life.

The morning before Rosh Hashana, we perform "Hatarat Nedarim" — annulling all vows. This enables us to enter the new year with a clean slate.

The essential mitzvah of Rosh Hashana is to hear the sounding of the shofar. The shofar blasts represent three distinct themes of the day:

It is the sound of the King's coronation  
It is the sobbing cry of a Jewish heart  
It is an alarm clock, arousing us from our spiritual slumber

[Click here to listen to the shofar sounds](#)

The shofar is also mindful of the biblical story of Abraham binding his son Isaac, when a ram was caught in the thicket and sacrificed in Isaac's stead. We blow a ram's horn to recall the great act of faith in God performed by Abraham and Isaac; tradition records that this event occurred on the day of Rosh Hashana.

The shofar is not blown when Rosh Hashana falls on Shabbat.

A central part of Rosh Hashana is the festive meal. During the High Holidays, a round challah is used — symbolizing fullness and completion. We dip the bread into honey, and also an apple into honey, symbolizing our prayer for a sweet new year. On Rosh Hashana, we also eat a series of foods that symbolize good things we hope for in the coming year.

It is customary to greet others with the words: "L'shana Tova — Ketivah vi-chatima Tova." This means: "For a good year — You should be written and sealed in the good (Book of Life)."

The "Tashlich" prayer is said on the first afternoon of Rosh Hashana by a pool of water that preferably has fish in it. These prayers are symbolic of the casting away of our mistakes. When the first day of Rosh Hashana falls on Shabbat, it is said on the afternoon of the second day.

While the decision for "another year of life" is handed down on Rosh Hashana, the verdict is not "sealed" unto Yom Kippur. Therefore, the 10 days from Rosh Hashana to Yom Kippur are a crucial period when most peoples' judgment "hangs in the balance." During these "Ten Days of Repentance," we engage in intense introspection, and are particularly careful with our speech, actions, and mitzvah observance.

## Yom Kippur

Following the Golden Calf, Moses pleaded with God to forgive the Jewish people. Finally, on Yom Kippur, atonement was achieved and Moses brought the second set of Tablets down from Mount Sinai. From that day forward, every Yom Kippur has carried with it a special power to cleanse the mistakes of Jews (both individually and collectively) and to wipe the slate clean.

Yom Kippur is thus the holiest day of the Jewish year. In order to help us achieve a high spiritual level, there are five areas of physical involvement which we remove ourselves from on Yom Kippur:

[Click here to receive Aish.com's free weekly email.](#)

- eating and drinking
- washing
- applying oils or lotions to the skin
- marital relations
- wearing leather shoes

The Yom Kippur fast begins before sundown, and extends 25 hours until the following nightfall.

Though Yom Kippur atones for transgressions against God, this does not include wrongs committed against our fellow human beings. It is therefore the universal Jewish custom — sometime before Yom Kippur — to apologize and seek forgiveness from any friends, relative, or acquaintances whom we may have harmed or insulted over the past year.

The High Holidays are followed five days later by Sukkot, a holiday of immense joy, where we express our complete trust in God, and celebrate our confidence in having received a "good judgment" for the coming year.

This is a bonus page that does not appear in the printed version.

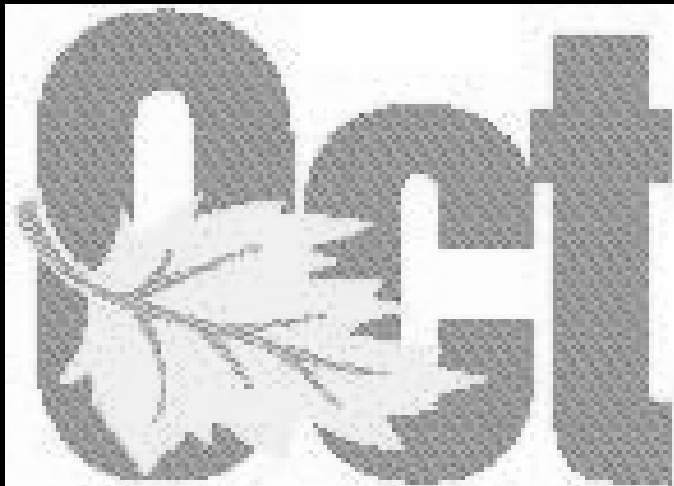


# Your Custom Calendar Is Just Moments Away!!!

All calendars are now available on [kolemethskokie.org](http://kolemethskokie.org) any time you want and in any form you want.

Go to [KolEmethSkokie.org](http://KolEmethSkokie.org) and click on the calendar link under the main photo and you will see a list of the next two weeks' events. Click on the link at the bottom and you'll see a list of the following two weeks.

If you wish to see the month at a glance just select "view by month". Click on anything in blue and you'll see all the details of the event.



You can also focus in on any specific type of events by clicking to the right of "all categories" and selecting the category(s) in which you are interested. The calendar will then only show those categories.

Now go down to the bottom and click on printer friendly version and print your custom calendar.

## **Are you planning a simcha in the next few years?**

You can now look up the dates of Jewish holidays on our calendar through the end of 2023. (Please note... You should always check with **Rabbi Schechter** to make sure that certain "black out" periods are avoided.)