

The Scribe

TEMPLE EMANU-EL

October 2024





THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Jonathan L. Jackson

We learn in our tradition at this time of the year that for sins between people and Gd, the Day of Atonement atones, but for sins between one person and another, the Day of Atonement does not atone until they have made peace with one another (*paraphrasing* b.Yoma 85a). On reflection, I realized that there are three things forgiven in the human world when we engage in *teshuvah*, the process of repentance: *speech*, *deeds*, and *feelings*.

First, *speech*. Gd forgives according to our *speech*, our vows, our promises, and our communications to each other. This is the realm of our *neshamah*, our soul, that little fragment of Gd that resides within us and returns back to Gd when our time comes with everything it has learned in creation. Gd forgives automatically for the sake of Peace of Heaven.

Second, *deeds*. We, person to person, are to forgive according to our *deeds*. We must do this for the sake of earthly and human peace, **שלום הבית** (*shalom habayit*). We are taught, as we spoke in the weeks past, that we are to cultivate the little compulsion to admit, to confess formally, to repair the material and relational in the world in practical ways. Yacov Fruchter summarizes in his essay published on Sefaria that "... a person is only obligated to ask for forgiveness three times. After three refusals, the person is no longer held accountable for that action, as he/she has proven their true regret. The person who will not accept a sincere apology after three requests for forgiveness, however, is guilty of bearing a grudge" (cited on and [available online](#)).

Third, *feelings*. And this is where the ideal of the Peace of Heaven and **שלום הבית** (*shalom habayit*, Peace of the [Human] House) get real, real complicated really quickly because now we are in the realm of the human heart, and peace is a stranger here more often than not. Maimonides addressed a question that haunted our Torah study last week under the surface and it haunts our human nature in the context of Yom Kippur and forgiveness.

The question is how do I know when forgiveness happens? Rambam's answer is simple, but it hints at profound things. He says that facing the situation to sin again, you make a new choice. This statement hints at profound transformations of the soul that guides the speech and the body that carries it out as deeds in the world.

The raising up of peace in the realm of *feelings*, Peace of the Heart, exists in the domain of the human heart. It takes two forms: first is the reunion of two people between whom a breach was affected by sin. This outcome is the rarest as it so often seems, but it seems to be our most common expectation and the harshest duty we impose on our hearts. Second, much more common and seemingly harder to accept, the other form of peace is the perpetrator and the victim going their separate ways in peace and harmony after confession and acceptance of the *teshuvah*.

Please understand that either form reflects our highest ideal. Not all shattered teacups can be repaired; sometimes the crack must be honored and left as it is, as in the Japanese art of *kintsugi*, the filling of cracks in pottery with gold and precious metals—harmony restored while honoring the separation and change in the shape of things. Sometimes, for the sake of the peace of our community, of this world, and of Heaven, things must remain changed for peace to be raised up.

These things are unimaginably hard. But human existence is unimaginably hard. And so is this third aspect of forgiveness, feelings, and the human heart. We are called upon to accept, as it were, any oppressor or offender's offer of confession as a sacred call for *teshuvah*, repair and forgiveness. But can we? How could we?! What is the more complex and more honest way to fill the breaches in the world with gold as in Japanese *kintsugi* art, and not to force things to go back the way they were? There is a way to raise up peace in all of this mess—there has to be.

Let me conclude by citing a prayer from the last century, penned and uttered by Elie Wiesel in 1997 (cited on and [available online](#)).



THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Jonathan L. Jackson (continued)

By Elie Wiesel Oct. 2, 1997

"Master of the Universe, let us make up. It is time. How long can we go on being angry? More than 50 years have passed since the nightmare was lifted..."

Oh, they do not forgive the killers and their accomplices, nor should they. Nor should you, Master of the Universe. But they no longer look at every passer-by with suspicion. Nor do they see a dagger in every hand.

Does this mean that the wounds in their soul have healed? They will never heal...

What about my faith in you, Master of the Universe?

I now realize I never lost it, not even over there, during the darkest hours of my life. I don't know why I kept on whispering my daily prayers, and those ones reserved for the Sabbath, and for the holidays, but I did recite them, often with my father and, on Rosh ha-Shanah eve, with hundreds of inmates at Auschwitz. Was it because the prayers remained a link to the vanished world of my childhood?

But my faith was no longer pure. How could it be? It was filled with anguish rather than fervor, with perplexity more than piety. In the kingdom of eternal night, on the Days of Awe, which are the Days of Judgment, my traditional prayers were directed to you as well as against you, Master of the Universe. What hurt me more: your absence or your silence?

In my testimony I have written harsh words, burning words about your role in our tragedy. I would not repeat them today. But I felt them then. I felt them in every cell of my being. . . In my childhood I did not expect much from human beings. But I expected everything from you.

Where were you, God of kindness, in Auschwitz? What was going on in heaven, at the celestial tribunal, while your children were marked for humiliation, isolation and death only because they

were Jewish?

These questions have been haunting me for more than five decades. You have vocal defenders, you know. Many theological answers were given me, such as: 'God is God. He alone knows what He is doing. One has no right to question Him or His ways.' Or: 'Auschwitz was a punishment for European Jewry's sins of assimilation and/or Zionism.' And: 'Isn't Israel the solution? Without Auschwitz, there would have been no Israel.'

I reject all these answers. Auschwitz must and will forever remain a question mark only: it can be conceived neither with God nor without God. At one point, I began wondering whether I was not unfair with you. After all, Auschwitz was not something that came down ready-made from heaven. It was conceived by men, implemented by men, staffed by men. And their aim was to destroy not only us but you as well. Ought we not to think of your pain, too? Watching your children suffer at the hands of your other children, haven't you also suffered?

As we Jews now enter the High Holidays again, preparing ourselves to pray for a year of peace and happiness for our people and all people, let us make up, Master of the Universe. In spite of everything that happened? Yes, in spite. Let us make up: for the child in me, it is unbearable to be divorced from you so long."

*Elie Wiesel prayed for all three forms of forgiveness, speech, deed, and heart. It took him 50 years. Let us take the blessing of his learning, of his *Talmud Torah*, and may we learn quicker that we might heal this world, each other, ourselves, and our Gd sooner, in our own time, for the sake of the Peace of Heaven, the Peace of this House, and the peace of each of our hearts.*

ABRIDGED BOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2024

- Please welcome new members, Stuart & Katherine Levy, to Temple Emanu-El!
- Last year's Menorah lighting was a great success. Dothan officials enjoyed having us and are excited about the possibility of hosting us again this year.
- Our new Chanting Service, led by Rabbi Jackson, has received positive feedback. Please continue to share your thoughts on this new temple offering.



ROSH HASHANAH LUNCHEON OCTOBER 3

FOLLOWING RH MORNING SERVICES
\$20/ADULT; \$10/CHILD (UNDER 13)
PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 27



YOM KIPPUR BREAK THE FAST OCTOBER 12

FOLLOWING YK SERVICES THAT AFTERNOON
\$10/ADULT; \$6/CHILD (UNDER 13)
PLEASE RSVP BY OCTOBER 4

ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES DATES & TIMES:

Wednesday, October 2

Erev Rosh Ha-Shanah
8:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.

Thursday, October 3

Shacharit (Morning) Rosh Ha-Shanah
10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.*

*Luncheon follows promptly after the service, followed by *Tashlich*

MEMORIAL NAMES

Yom Kippur

Our tradition is to have the names of those you wish to remember read aloud during the Yom Kippur *Yizkor* service. Please submit the names of family members you want read aloud during this year's service to the Temple Office **by Friday, October 4.**

Those names on the boards at the back of the sanctuary are read each year, so submitting them is unnecessary.



YOM KIPPUR SERVICES DATES & TIMES:

Friday, October 11

Kol Nidrei (Erev Yom Kippur)

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 12

Shacharit (Morning) Service

10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Teshuva and Spiritual
Transformation Workshop

1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Mincha (Afternoon) Service

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.


Yizkor (Memorial) Service

4:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Ne'ilah (Closing) Service*

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

*Break-the-fast follows promptly
after the service



Temple Emanu-El
FOOD DRIVE

PLEASE BRING YOUR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS OR DONATIONS BY THE TEMPLE BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF SUKOT (OCT. 23) FOR OUR ANNUAL COLLECTION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT OF OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK!

Annual Caring & Maintenance of
Ward-Wilson Memory Hill Cemetery

Sunday, October 6 at 9:00 am

Join the Brotherhood for an important and
time-honored Temple tradition.

Please bring cleaning supplies, such as rags,
a scrub brush, and a bucket.

We will meet at the Jewish burial ground at
Memory Hill Cemetery, located at
2390 Hartford Hwy., Dothan





Hello everyone,

The High Holy Days are almost upon us. Sisterhood is sponsoring a New Year's Greeting that will appear in the November issue of *The Scribe*.

We ask all of our members and friends to participate in this fundraising project. All you have to do is reply by email or include a note with your check. Make sure your names are listed exactly as you want them to appear in *The Scribe*.

Please send a \$10 donation with your greeting. Checks are made payable to Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood. The deadline to submit greetings is Wednesday, October 23. If you have adult children and wish to include them, please add an additional sum to your contribution.

We hope all of you will generously support this fundraising project.

Sincerely,
Mary Miller, President



YAHRTZEIT OBSERVANCES

October 4

A. Richard Levine
Pesach Bender
Charlotte Funston
Minna Meyers Grodin
Barney Blumenfeld
Max David Baer

October 11

Sam Berk
Annie Kevesh
Rae Cutler
Celia Swartz
Jerry Shelton Solomon

October 18

Hyman Blumberg
Ian Sukoff
Hyman Cossin
Claire Cutler
Lena Belle Shugerman
Dusha Rimson
Ann Kerns
Jane G. Prisant
Rebecca Minkoff Blumenfeld
Lizzie Minkoff Schaffer

October 25

Bernard M. Schwartz
Irving Jay Zweig
Max Ginsberg
Ramon Marrero

*May the beauty of their lives shine forever, and
may we always bring honor to their memories."*



SIMCHAT SHABBAT

OCTOBER 2024

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 01 - ASA ANDERSON
- 01 - JEFF BAUMAN
- 06 - DEBRA MANN
- 09 - KATHERINE LEVY
- 10 - JANE BARBER
- 18 - DONA KRASELSKY
- 22 - ISAAC MILLS
- 28 - PAMELA ROSS
- 31 - DEBORAH BECK



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 07 - CARLY & ROBIN BRION
- 22 - VALERIE & BILL BARNES
- 31 - SAMARIA & ZACH MILLS

SIMCHAT SHABBAT IS TYPICALLY CELEBRATED ON THE FOURTH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.

MI SHEBERACH

A PRAYER FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| EDA FELDMAN | DEAN MITCHELL | PAT GLAZER |
| PETER FELDMAN | GABE TUFANO | DOTTIE BROWN |
| SARA LOZANO | PHILLIP RAY | BOBBY MARTIN |
| GERALDINE CARROLL | JANE YECHALI | DEBRA SANSONE |
| HERNANDEZ FAMILY | MARY PLUNKETT | BERYL COSSIN |
| GILBERT LOZANO | JOE RUGGIERO | |
| MIKE STUFFEL | EDDA BECK-GILMORE | |
| TODD HENRIKSON | REGINA STEVENS | |
| KATHY STOUT | SANDY & JOHN HODGE | |
| JINIESE CRAWFORD | ABBY SPARKMAN | |
| MARCUS WOODWORTH | ANNA JAMES | |
| ADAM JETTER | BEVERLY BUGDA | |
| JUDY ANN DEAL | ALLEN MANNING | |
| | RICHARD KARCH | |



TEMPLE EMANU-EL TZEDEKAH, MITZVAHS & MAZELS

TEMPLE EMANU-EL GENERAL FUND

Larry & Laura Blumberg
In memory of Steve Elsberry

Larry & Laura Blumberg
Yahrzeits of Harold Blumberg,
Esther A. Blumberg,
Esther O. Blumberg

Dianna Sue Bryant

Gary Wakstein
Yahrzeit of Anna Ross

Larry Blumberg
Yahrzeit of David Hanson

Ed & Roberta Marblestone
In memory of Steve Elsberry

TEMPLE EMANU-EL CEMETERY FUND

Jack Blumenfeld
Yahrzeits of Simmie Blumenfeld
& Ann Joseph Blumenfeld

Steven, Beth Schaffer
Yahrzeit of Sylvia Schaffer




2024

10

OCTOBER



TEMPLE EMANU-EL
Dothan, Alabama

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 <i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i>	3 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	4 Shabbat Services 7pm	5 Morning Services 9:30am Torah Study 10:30am
6 Memory Hill Maintenance 9am	7	8	9 Board Meeting 7pm	10	11 <i>Kol Nidre</i>	12 <i>Yom Kippur</i>
13	14	15	16 <i>Sukkot</i>	17	18 Shabbat Services 7pm	19 Torah Study 10:30am
20 Religious School 10am	21	22	23 Food Drive Ends Greetings deadline	24	25 Chanting Service 6:15pm <i>Simchat Torah</i>	26 Torah Study 10:30am
27 Religious School 10am	28  <i>The Scribe</i> Nov. 2024	29	30	31		

FT. NOVOSEL SERVICES

8:30AM-9:30AM
WINGS CHAPEL

DATES:

THURS., OCTOBER 17

THURS., OCTOBER 31

Times & dates are subject to change per Ft. Novosel Chaplain's Office

HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICE TIMES:

Oct. 2: Erev Rosh Ha-Shanah, 8pm - 9:15pm
Oct. 3: Morning Rosh Ha-Shanah, 10am - 12:15pm
Luncheon promptly after service, followed by Tashlich

Oct. 11: Kol Nidrei, 8pm - 9pm
Oct. 12: Morning YK Service, 10am - 12:15pm
Teshuva & Spiritual Transformation Workshop, 1pm - 1:45pm
Afternoon Service, 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Yizkor Service, 4:45pm - 5:30pm
Closing Service, 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Break-the-fast promptly after the closing service



TEMPLE EMANU-EL LEADERSHIP 2024-2025

BOARD OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	STEPHEN HOLLAND (334) 797-0134
VICE PRESIDENT	LARRY PADRO
TREASURER	LARRY BLUMBERG
SECRETARY	JOSHUA LESSIN

CLERGY

RABBI	JONATHAN LEE JACKSON (781) 206-7939
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BOARD TRUSTEES & LIAISONS

BOB BARBER	SUSAN S. BLUMBERG
LES KRAUT	BILL MILLER
IRA SUKOFF	BARBARA MINSKY, PH.D.
DR. STEFAN ZWEIG	LUCIA SUKOFF
PAMELA ROSS	

TEMPLE OFFICE INFORMATION

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30am-12:30 pm
Secretary: Susan Griffin
(334) 792-5001

188 North Park Avenue
Dothan, AL 36303
dothantemple@gmail.com
dothansynagogue.org

