

# The Scribe

November 2024



TEMPLE EMANU-EL







# THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Jonathan L. Jackson

By my understanding of the Jewish ritual year, Sukkot is the holiday in which water does the cleansing; for Hanukah, it is oil, cleansing ritual impurity with fire; for Tu B'Shevat it is sap, washing the dead wood with new life; and Passover it is lamb's blood preventing death at the hand of heaven. These "washing holidays" are specifically envisaged as cleaning days—purifying the soul and your life. The point is that when we do our spiritual work in each quadrant of our Jewish life, we do not carry it forward. We regard the rituals as effective because we live, and we move on, un-haunted and unencumbered by those things which we have cleansed away.

Let's talk about the water associations with Sukkot, and most importantly what they can and must mean for us spiritually, as we bear them into the modern world. We are a people bounded by water; water is life. The gateway from slavery to freedom is the passage through the Yam Suf, which can be translated as the Sea of Reeds, but also the Boundary Sea. We memorialize this crossing every single time a Jewish community prepares to pray the Tefilah and to connect our silent hearts to Gd beneath the words of the ancestors on our lips. The barrier between the toil and work of everyday and the luxury and celebration of the Jewish meal is the netilat yadayim, the washing of the hands. The barrier between ritual impurity and ritual purity is the immersion in living waters, the tevilah. And finally, the barrier between the living and the dead is taharah, the return of a dead body to the purity of its state at birth by ritual washing with seven pitchers of water. Water marks out our beginnings and ends; the religious discipline asked of us is to fight our human nature and to embrace the new and the changing nature of our world and our lives.

In the ancient world, Yom Kippur was imagined as a pageant of well, let's be honest, individual human sacrifice. But in our culture, the laying of your life before Heaven was accomplished by the "sacrifice of substitution," as Renee Girard called it; namely, the death of animals instead of people. The actual sacrificial mechanism was to give Gd back the **דמי חיה**, the Lifeblood, the first spurt of the jugular. Remember this was our ancient ancestors' theory and it has not been done since 70 C.E. But, it was messy and it left the altars and the courtyards defiled by blood, which had to be washed away. This was the festival of the drawing of the waters and the washing of the altar in the symbol of purity—water—and the symbol of life's joy—wine (m. Sukkah 4:9).

Archaeologically, the death of animals renewed the life of cultivated crops and ultimately human life. The washed blood was made into bloodmeal and distributed from the Temple to the farmers. Sacrifice became growth, literally. So must we grow in literal ways when the ritual drama of life and death on Yom Kippur is completed. We must accept the window of risk is passed, and must steel ourselves to be confident turning back to life renewed. We may not hold onto the life blood, just as we may not bear our sin. Some religions regard the carrying of sin and guilt as a badge of honor. We do not. We must not. We wash.

So, spiritually, in our world that is blessedly without blood sacrifice, where prayer, charity, and repentance are how we connect our silent hearts to Gd's heart of the universe, this festival of washing demands something very critical in the process of a new year and a new lease on life and the forgiveness of sin—you have to let go and move on. This is a harsh and difficult spiritual discipline, but it is one to which we must aspire if the holy days are really going to work on you and in the world. You are forgiven, the sin is over, and you are given life and the world is given back rain in the Land of Israel. Life returns do not deny it. This is the Yam Suf, the boundary-water, between slavery and freedom; no, more critically, between spiritual death and actual life.

In these days of Sukkot we have to consciously decide to let go, lest we turn to a pillar of inorganic salt, as the lesson of Lot's wife teaches us. We shake the four species in all six directions anciently to frighten off demons that threaten the joy, health, and wisdom of our new life this year. We shake the four species modernly to frighten off the demons and poltergeists of our own conscience. Guilt is seductive to bear, but it is death. Sin is over, you have begun again, as has the world, both this year and each and every day. Spend these days of Sukkot in washing back to life, away from guilt, towards freedom and the renewal of every possibility in the world on this dawn of the new year.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

STEPHEN HOLLAND

Dear Temple Emanu-El Community,

It is my honor to introduce our Temple's Ethics Code, a document that reflects the values we hold dear as a sacred community. This code is a testament to our commitment to kindness, respect, and understanding within our congregation. Rooted in our shared Jewish values and the teachings of our tradition, it guides us to conduct ourselves with integrity and thoughtfulness toward one another.

As we engage with this code, let it remind us of our responsibilities to each other and the principles that unite us as a diverse and devoted family of faith. Should you ever have any questions, concerns, or need anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Shalom,  
Stephen Holland  
President, Temple Emanu-El



TEMPLE EMANU-EL  
Dothan, Alabama

We, the members of Temple Emanu-El, are a diverse family of Jews and fully embrace our faith, belief, and personality differences. Our tradition teaches us that each human is formed in the image of God and that each of us carries a divine spark. Our responsibility is, therefore, first and foremost to one another. We aspire to be thoughtful both in our intentions and in our interactions. We are a sacred community built on a deep history, which our conduct must honor and build upon.

A Sabbath prayer succinctly offers us a goal for our behavior: “Let us listen to each other with respect, and treat each other with wisdom and generosity, so that we witness to the master whom we serve and justify God’s choice of us. May none of our controversies rise up like those of Korach, from ambition and self-seeking. Let them only be for the sake of heaven, like those of Hillel and Shammai.”

#### Our Ethics Code

**We are a sacred community.** We endeavor to act in fulfillment of our sacred Jewish values of Kehillah (community), K’dushah (holiness), Yosher (honesty), and Tzedek (justice).

**We are thoughtful with our words and actions.** We strive to be honest and respectful in our interactions with one another. We oppose bullying, including cyberbullying, any unwanted behavior that degrades, humiliates, or oppresses another. We limit disagreements to principles and priorities, never personalities.

**We are all responsible for one another.** We strive to ensure that all engaging with our community feel safe and respected. We treat one another without bias. We do not tolerate harassment, discrimination, acts, or behaviors that exploit the vulnerability of another, take advantage of power imbalance, compromise one’s moral integrity, or create an intimidating or hostile environment.

**We are all created in the image of God.** We respect everyone who engages with our community equally, without regard to sex, gender, identity or expression, sexual orientation, parental or marital status, disability, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, age, class or social background, and religious or political belief. We endeavor to create a community where all participating feel a sense of belonging.

#### Our Code of Conduct

- To uphold Jewish values such as fairness, respectful engagement, and mutual respect.
- To respect boundaries, e.g., private communications between two people should not be shared, nor should one announce medical issues or personal tragedies to others without permission—regardless of intent.
- To uphold Jewish values such as fairness, respectful engagement, and mutual respect.
- To respect the rights, dignity, and worth of everyone equally without regard to age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality, color, parental or marital status, class or social background, sexual preference, or political belief.
- Not to condone or allow any form of discrimination to go unchallenged.
- Not to threaten or bully nor to express oneself in a way that impinges on the freedom or privacy of others.
- To ensure disagreements relate only to principles and priorities, not personalities.
- To behave appropriately and use appropriate forms of speech, avoiding sexual innuendo or inappropriate physical contact and gestures.
- To respect each other’s and the Synagogue’s property.





Annual Caring & Maintenance of  
Ward-Wilson Memory Hill Cemetery  
Sunday, October 6





# Shana Tova!



May your new year be filled with  
health, happiness, and peace!

Jay & Georgia Solomon  
Marty, Kate, and George Solomon

Barbara Minsky

A healthy & happy new year from  
Ira & Lucia Sukoff

Dr. Stefan Zweig & Nancy

Les & Tripper

Lori & Jeffrey Fadil

Susan & Leslie Blumberg





# YAHARZEIT OBSERVANCES

## November 1

Fannie Jaffe Berman

## November 8

Rose Nomberg Cohen

Max Bolotin

Samuel Nathan Wexler

David Wakstein

Stanley Jay Bernstein

## November 15

Herbert J. Goldsmith

J. Leslie Maddox

Michael Horowitz

## November 22

Abbie Minsk

C. Ira Funston

Chester M. Zeff

Mildred Daniel Silverfield

Martin Solomon

Nathan Schaffer

Moses D. Wynne

Sherwood Berman

Irving Wakstein

Emanuel Greenberg

## November 29

Joe Sheinberg

C. Davis Turner

Sara Alprin

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



# SIMCHAT SHABBAT

NOVEMBER 2024

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

02 - JENNIFER CUMMING  
05 - ELIJAH HOLLAND  
08 - TODD ANDERSON  
12 - KAREN ARENSON  
14 - RABBI JACKSON  
18 - DONA KRASELSKY  
23 - LAURA BLUMBERG  
28 - ONIKA SUKOFF

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

11 - MARY & BILL MILLER  
18 - JIMMY & LISA NOMBERG TODD

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

## MI SHEBERACH

A PRAYER FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING

EDA FELDMAN  
PETER FELDMAN  
SARA LOZANO  
HERNANDEZ FAMILY  
GILBERT LOZANO  
MIKE STUFFEL  
TODD HENRIKSON  
KATHY STOUT  
JINIESE CRAWFORD  
MARCUS WOODWORTH  
ADAM JETTER  
JUDY ANN DEAL  
DEAN MITCHELL

GABE TUFANO  
PHILLIP RAY  
JANE YECHELI  
MARY PLUNKETT  
JOE RUGGIERO  
EDDA BECK-GILMORE  
REGINA STEVENS  
SANDY HODGE  
JOHN HODGE  
ABBY SPARKMAN  
ANNA JAMES  
BEVERLY BUGDA  
ALLEN MANNING

PAT GLAZER  
DOTTIE BROWN  
DEBRA SANSONE  
BERYL COSSIN  
LISA HOLLAND  
STEPHEN HOLLAND  
LENARD CARROLL  
PATRICIA FRANCIS



# TEMPLE EMANU-EL TZEDEKAH, MITZVAHS & MAZELS

## TEMPLE EMANU-EL GENERAL FUND

Leslie Blumberg

Yahrzeits of Beatrice & Herman Blumberg

Jean Drufner

In memory of Gene A. Turner,  
C. Davis Turner,  
Jerome F. Turner,  
Walter R. Turner

Paul Lankin

Anonymous Donation

In honor of Rabbi Jackson

Gayle Druker

Laura & Larry Blumberg

Yahrzeit of Hyman Blumberg

Roberta & Ed Marblestone

Yahrzeits of Isaac Marblestone & Max Baer



## YOM KIPPUR MEMORIAL

Beverly & Stan Erdreich

Susan S. Blumberg

Dr. Stefan Zweig

Beth Schaffer

Dr. Barbara Minsky

Lucia & Ira Sukoff

## TEMPLE EMANU-EL CEMETERY FUND

Jack Blumenfeld

Yahrzeits of Barney Blumenfeld  
& Rebecca Minkoff Blumenfeld

Beth Schaffer

Yahrzeit of Lizzie Schaffer


2024

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TEMPLE EMANU-EL  
Dothan, Alabama

# NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Shabbat Services 7pm	2 Morning Services 9:30am Torah Study 10:30am
3 Religious School 10am	4	5	6	7	8 Chanting Service 6:15pm Shabbat Services 7pm	9 Torah Study 10:30am
10 Religious School 10am	11	12	13 Board Meeting 7pm	14	15 Shabbat Services 7pm	16 Torah Study 10:30am
17 Religious School 10am	18	19	20	21	22 Chanting Service 6:15pm Shabbat Services 7pm	23 Torah Study 10:30am
24 Religious School 10am	25  <i>The Scribe</i> Dec. 2024	26	27	28	29 Shabbat Services 7pm	30 Torah Study 10:30am

## FT. NOVOSEL SERVICES

8:30AM-9:30AM

WINGS CHAPEL

### DATES:

CHECK YOUR WEEKLY  
UPDATE

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



# 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

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