

**August 2018**

**Av 20, 5778 – Elul 20, 5778**

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**RABBI JUDY’S MESSAGE**

**Elul – A Special Jewish Month**

We are about to begin our countdown to the High Holy Days – Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The Jewish month of *Elul* begins with the new moon on August 12th. *Elul* is a time of preparation and reflection. It is when we think about the New Year that is fast approaching. We remember all we did in the year that will soon be behind us. We especially remember those we love who are no longer physically with us. And, we look at ourselves, reflecting on how we lived our lives last year and how we can improve in the year ahead. We think of relationships we have with others and our special spiritual relationship we have with God.

There are no coincidences in our Hebrew words and their meanings and numeric values (Gematria). I find the study of this fascinating and every time I delve into a specific Hebrew word, I am amazed at what I learn and how truly mind-blowing it is. Take the Hebrew word “*Elul*,” the name for this month that precedes the High Holy Days. *Elul* is formed from the Hebrew letters ***aleph*, *lamed*, *vav* and *lamed***, which are an acronym for the phrase (from the biblical Song of Songs) *ani l’dodi v’dodi li*, which means “I am to my beloved and my beloved is to me.” It is a phrase which many couples say to each other at their weddings. It symbolizes the joining of one heart to another.

The month of *Elul*, is the key to unlocking the inner and most potent meaning of the heart. The first Hebrew letter in *Elul* is an *aleph*. This is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet and it has a numeric value of one (1). *Aleph* symbolically represents God – Adonai (which also begins with *aleph* as do most of our other names for God).

**Rabbi Judy’s Message Continued**

The word *Elul* also contains two *lameds* with a *vav* connecting them. In Hebrew, the word for heart is *lev*, which is spelled *lamed-bet*. In order for there to be a relationship, the two *lamed*s need to be connected – face to face. *Vav* is a connecting word and often means “and.” It connects the two *lameds*.

So, in the word *Elul*, we have God (aleph) and we have two *lameds* connected by *vav*. It is significant that there are TWO *lameds* because the word *lamed* means both “to learn” and “to teach.” This shows us that it is necessary to have both of these letters in the word *Elul* and that the two letters are intertwined. In any relationship, we must be willing to learn from one another, therefore making one person the learner, the receiver and the other person the teacher, or the giver.

To take things a step further, consider this: The Torah is a guidebook for how we relate to God and how we relate to one another. Our Torah is not a book with a beginning, middle or end, but rather a never ending scroll that we are able to constantly turn and turn and look at from many different angles. There is a Kabbalistic principle that states, “the end is wedged in the beginning, and the beginning in the end.”

*Elul* is the set up month for the High Holy Days. We are ending our old year and coming to the beginning of a new year where we can start all of our relationships fresh. The reading of the Torah is also coming to an end where we read from the last chapter of Deuteronomy and begin anew with the first chapter of Genesis. If we look carefully, we notice that the last word in the Torah is *Yisrael* which ends with the Hebrew letter *lamed*. And the first word in the Torah is *Bereishit* which begins with a *bet*. *Lamed-bet*…*Lev*, the Hebrew word for heart. The essence of the month of *Elul*. The essence of our ends and beginnings. The essence of our lives.

All things are connected and intertwined. In just this one simple, four letter word – *Elul* – there is so much symbolism. All things emanate from the heart. We become aware of relationships not only between two people (a giver and a receiver), but also the relationship between us and God. This is what the month of Elul is all about. It is a time of reflection, a time of searching, a time to consider our relationships with others and our relationship with God. It is a time of endings rolling into beginnings where we all have a chance to start anew.

**Rabbi Judy’s Message Continued**

May we be blessed with the ability to open our hearts to the reflection of the month of Elul, to recognize and reveal our ability to both learn and teach, give and receive, and through this, be able to come face to face with ourselves, with our loved ones and with our Creator, as we are cradled in love.

Amen

Rabbi Judy

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

 I hope everyone is having a great summer. Even in the summer time things continue to happen at the Temple. Services are held every Friday night. Our knowledgeable lay leaders are having been doing a great job, as usual. If you haven’t attended a lay leader service, please honor them with your attendance.

Our Ritual & Worship Committee is busy planning for the High Holidays. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to attend these special services with you. All of our services, including our regular Friday night services, are open to everyone.

The 150th Anniversary Committee is busy planning some great events. I hope you will plan to attend these events. Details will be provided as they become available. Keep watching your newsletters, weekly emails, and announcements at services.

Alan Barth, President

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 **HIGH HOLY DAYS**

Just a reminder, the High Holy Days are fast approaching. Rosh Hashanah begins Sunday evening, September 9th and Yom Kippur begins Tuesday evening, September 18th. The service times will be published in the September bulletin, weekly emails, and flyers that will be available at Friday services once all the service times have been set.

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 **SERVICE SCHEDULE**

August 3rd Kash Schriefer

August 10th Kash Schriefer

August 17th Rabbi Judy

August 24th Mike Rhymes

August 31st Bob Eisenstadt

 Lay leaders are subject to change.

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**SISTERHOOD NEWS:**

Please send your $35 Sisterhood dues to:

Pam Rosenberg

[3305 Lake DeSiard Drive](https://maps.google.com/?q=3305+Lake+DeSiard+Drive+Monroe,+LA+71201&entry=gmail&source=g)

Monroe, LA 71201

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**MEN’S CLUB**

The Men’s Club will NOT be meeting in August. The next meeting will be in September 9th at 10:00 am at the Temple. We will be discussing the Kosher-style Hot Dog Sale, which has been postponed until November.

If you have not yet paid your Men’s Club dues of $35 for 2018-2019, please send them to the Temple. Make your check payable to Temple B’nai Israel-Men’s Club.

Alan Barth, President

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**YAHRZEIT**

**AUGUST 3RD**

 Melvin Greenblatt Arthur Marcus

 Elliot Marcus

**AUGUST 10TH**

 Ben Glazer 1-1 Henry Gerson Marks

 Harry S. Roby Arthur Brueck

 Nathan J. Laudenheimer 5-12 Moses Kaplan

 Hilda Bodan

**AUGUST 17TH**

Jonathan Brian Cohen 4-17 Linda Leibowitz 5-3

Celia Cohen Flemin

**AUGUST 24TH**

 Fanny Charach Mollie Froug

 Victor Jacobs Augusta Cahn

 Theodore Dreyfus Ida Levine

 Robert Galitzen Philip Alan Leibowitz 5-4

 Irving Leibowitz 5-1 Max Roby

**AUGUST 31ST**

 Bertha Marx Abe Temerson

The numbers following a name is the location of their plaque on the Memorial Board in the Foyer. The first number represents the column. The second number represents the position in the column. The lights on both sides of the plaque are light during the week of their Yahrzeit. If you would like to have your loved one remembered with a bronze plaque on the memorial board, an order form is included with this newsletter.

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**BRONZE PLAQUES AVAILABLE FOR SALE**

There is space available for bronze plaques on the Yahrzeit Board in the front foyer. The plaques include the name of your loved one and their Yahrzeit date in both the Gregorian date and the Jewish date. The lights on both sides of their plaque are turned on the week of the Yahrzeit. This is a wonderful way to remember your loved ones. The cost of each plaque is $250.00. Contact the office for more information and to place your order. An order form is included with the newsletter.

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**KALLAH SCHEDULING**

This year's Kallah has been planned for the Weekend of March 15-17th. Rabbi Judy and I are working on it already and hope that many of you will return with us to the same location for fun in the Spring. We also hope that many of you who were unable to attend last year will join us this year. Our surveys indicated that you wanted this event to happen in the Spring rather than January like last year and there will be many more organized activities for all ages. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. We welcome everyone's opinions and input. Looking forward to seeing you soon and please say yes when called on to help! The sign up forms will be available during the High Holidays.

Susan Marx

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**TEMPL B’NAI ISRAEL’s 150 YEAR CELEBRATION**

Temple B’nai Israel will begin its 150th birthday celebration on Rosh Hashanah Eve, Sunday September 9th. Our congregation was founded in September 1868. What a perfect occasion to start our celebration! We hope members, past and present, near and far, will join us as we celebrate a new Jewish year and our congregation’s 150th birthday! There will be a very special Oneg following services.

150th Chairpersons

Gay Nell Barth and Betsy Laudenheimer

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**DONATIONS**

**GENERAL FUND**

**In memory of Joe Rosenberg**

Margaret & Tom Brook

**CEMETERY FUND**

**In memory of Joe Rosenberg**

Joan & Jerry Album

**ENDOWMENT FUND**

**In memory of Joe Rosenberg**

Mel & Nanette Cohen

**In memory of Dorlean Rhymes**

Mel & Nanette Cohen

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Alan & Gay Nell Barth August 5th 40 years

Ron & Sandra Blate August 12th 56 years

Joseph & Sharon Hakim August 15th 37 years

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Morris Mintz – August 1st Charles Masur – August 2nd

Samuel Allen (5 years) – August 2nd Joseph Hakim (6 years) – August 5th

S. J. Shlosman – August 7th Don Laudenheimer – August 12th Phillip Roby – August 14th Penny Hakim – August 15th

Paul Aron – August 22nd Herman Rosenberg – August 26th

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**RITUAL AND WORSHIP**

We had a nice turn out for services when Rabbi Judy was here in July. Her next visit will be on August 17-18. She will lead Friday services at 6:00 pm, Tot Shabbat at 9:30 am on Saturday, and Torah Study at 10:30 am on Saturday.

Thank you to Bob Eisenstadt, Mike Rhymes, and Sandra Blate for leading services in July.

We are beginning to prepare for the High Holy Days in September. We will need several readers to participate in the services. I will be contacting people soon asking them to participate. However, if you would like the honor of participating in a specific service, please contact me at 318-388-4319.

Gay Nell Barth, Chair

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**Donate to the Temple - AmazonSmile**

If you shop on Amazon, you can help the Temple earn a little extra money and it costs you nothing. Amazon has a foundation that donates money to charities of the buyer’s choice. You have all the same items and prices as the general site, but the Amazon will donate to the charity of your choice when you make a purchase. The donation is NOT added to the cost of your purchase. The donation is made entirely from Amazon’s Foundation.

To make the donation, you must login at smile.amazon.com (not the general Amazon site). You use the same login and password you have been using for your regular account. Before you make any purchases on AmazonSmile, you will have to choose your charity. The Temple is listed as Bnai Israel Congregation, Monroe LA (No apostrophe in Bnai).

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**ARCHIVES/MUSEUM NEWS**

During our recent visit to Ft. Worth to my sister and brother-in-law’s 60th wedding anniversary, we had an opportunity to tour the Kimball Museum of Art. We were fortunate to be able to meet with a gentleman who assists in designing the exhibits. I learned a lot about creating museum exhibits and hope to use this information in creating the exhibits in the Precious Legacy Museum

If you are interested in Jewish military history, I have recently discovered there is a National Museum of American Jewish History located in Washington, DC. If you are interested in Jewish military, the next time you are in the Washington, DC area you may want to check it out. You can see a sample of their exhibits, as well as purchase books and DVDs on their website, nmajmh.org.

Every year the State of Louisiana puts out a list of places of interest in the state. The Precious Legacy Museum/Archives will be listed in the upcoming list. The cost to be included was funded by the Jewish Historical Society grant, the Jewish Endowment Fund grant, and your donations. Thank you for supporting the museum and letting visitors know there is a place they can visit to learn about the Jewish community in Monroe.

We are continuing our interviews of Temple members to document our Jewish heritage in Monroe. If you haven’t already been interviewed, I will be calling you over the next several months to participate in an interview. You will be asked such things as: How did your family choose Monroe? What mode of transportation was used? What was their port of entry? Did they help to charter either congregation? What Jewish organizations did they support? What was their community involvement – Jewish and the general community? How did they earn their living? Did they own a business? Also, please bring any pictures, newspaper clippings, and other memorabilia, that will help tell your heritage story.

Thank you to Susan Marx for the donations of the display stands.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sandra Blate

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Dear Fellow Congregants,

In 1992, the Board of Trustees established the tradition of publishing a ***Book of Remembrance***

to be distributed on Yom Kippur. With your help, this simple dignified means of honoring the

memory of our beloved departed will once again become part of our memorial service on

Yom Kippur. The book will be distributed at the Yizkor Service on the afternoon of Yom Kippur.

To have the names of your cherished departed included in the *Book Of Remembrance,*

please fill out this page and return to the Temple office **no later than August 20, 2018.**

It is also a tradition to honor the memories of our loved ones with a special Yizkor donation

to the Temple. Let the memories of our past help provide for our future.

L’shanah tovah!

Alan Barth, President

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Please include the names listed below in Temple B’nai Israel’s Book of Remembrance.

I have enclosed a Yizkor donation of\_\_\_\_\_$10\_\_\_\_\_$20\_\_\_\_\_$50\_\_\_\_\_$10.\_\_\_\_other.

Remembered By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Names (please print)**

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