

## **Dear Members of The Temple Family,**

Once again, it is my profound honor and pleasure to welcome you to the High Holy Day season at The Temple. At this time each year, we begin the difficult journey between the people we are and the people we aspire to be. During the High Holy Days, we gather to offer our individual prayers for the New Year ahead, even as we join together as one community and one sacred congregation, united in our worship of the God of Israel.

This letter contains specific information regarding our High Holy Day services and program offerings. I ask that you take the time to read it, so that you might find the most meaningful ways to make the High Holy Day season more inspirational to you and your family.

## **Security**

Weeks before the High Holy Days, we begin our planning with law enforcement for security and traffic arrangements for the evenings and mornings of each Holy Day. As always, The Temple will be under constant police surveillance during this time. The Temple facility is carefully screened and surveyed before the building is open to the congregation and to any guests who might wish to worship with us. This is done before each and every worship service. Police Officers, both in uniform and in plain clothes, continually observe the premises and monitor the various gathering places and worship spaces of The Temple. We ask that you report any suspicious individuals or packages, handbags or backpacks to any of the Police Officers, The Temple clergy and staff, or its Officers or members of the Board of Trustees.

In addition, our hosts and hostesses who greet people at the door may ask non-members and guests to sign-in and register their attendance at a Hospitality Desk. While we know this may present a minor inconvenience to some, we hope that taking this additional security precaution will help us gain a more comprehensive awareness of all those who enter through our doors during the High Holy Days.

The safety and security of our congregants is our highest concern, not only during the holidays, but also throughout the year.

### **Service Enhancements**

We hope the entire congregation enjoys the new High Holy Day Torah covers and their artistic majesty and splendor. (These Torah covers have been acquired by the congregation based on a generous gift from Bud and Barbara Zander).

This year, once again, in order to make better use of the building and to accommodate the various offerings of the High Holy Days, we are expanding the venues of some of our services and study sessions. Both the afternoon service, as well as the study session on Yom Kippur will be held in the Chapel. (The Congregant's Hour and the Memorial and Concluding Service on the Day of Atonement will continue to be held in the main sanctuary.)

As a continued reminder, the enthusiastic response to the introduction of music by the instrumental quartet was so euphoric in its nature that we are continuing to expand the use of that mode of music. Therefore, our High Holy Day Choir will continue to sing on Rosh Hashanah Morning, Kol Nidre night and the Memorial and Concluding Services. Our quartet of instrumentalists will now be offering the music on Erev Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Morning. This is a continuing effort to balance the desires of those who look forward to the music of the choir with the needs of those younger members of the congregation who prefer a more contemporary musical experience.

### **The Torah Reading**

On Rosh Hashanah morning, Jana Bregman, one of the younger members of our congregation and a student at Vanderbilt, will be reading the Binding of Isaac. In addition to the honors extended to specific individuals in our congregation to bless the Torah, honors will be extended to the recent graduates of our Bar and Bat Mitzvah Class (8<sup>th</sup> graders). **Most importantly, we will invite those members substantially affected and/or displaced by the recent floods to come forward for the third aliyah. We will offer a**

## **special Misheberach Blessing for these members of our Temple family.**

On Yom Kippur morning, Irwin Venick, a past President of this Congregation, will chant the Torah reading. We will invite the recent Confirmation Class, of 2010 to come forward and bless the Torah.

We will also invite forward any returning college students, home for Yom Kippur, to the pulpit for an Aliyah. And with great pleasure, we will invite the regular attendees of Lunch With the Rabbi to chant blessing for the third aliyah.

Once again, the Torah scrolls will be carried throughout the congregation at the start of the Torah service. We invite you, should you prefer, to draw close to the scrolls as they make their way through the congregation.

## **Family Services, Tot Services and Junior Choir**

This year we will continue with the wonderful enhancement to last year's Family Services; several children, who are participating in a High Holy Day Junior Choir, will conduct the majority of the music of the Family Services. They will also sing the opening two songs at the Adult Services on the morning of Rosh Hashanah.

Once again, we will continue to offer our Tot Service, designed for preschool aged children on the mornings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We will also offer our Family Service, designed for Kindergarten through Grade 6, in our main sanctuary, as well. Both of these services will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 9:45 a.m. This year, in consultation with our Worship Committee, we are inviting students who are of Bar and Bat Mitzvah age, and older, to join their parents in the main services for the Holy Days. We feel that the best way to honor these new young adults is to treat them as full adults in the Jewish tradition, and therefore, to welcome them to our regular services.

## **Congregant Hour Speakers and Study Hour Guest Scholar**

I am delighted to inform you regarding the members of our congregation who have agreed to serve as Congregant Hour Speakers this year: each one of their stories reflects a different type

of Jewish journey, some physical, all spiritual. Our speakers for this year will be Dr. David Barton, Steve Riven and Gus Kuhn III. They will be speaking on the afternoon of Yom Kippur.

In addition, I have invited Professor Dan Cornfield of the Sociology Department of Vanderbilt University, to lead our Congregational Study Hour on Yom Kippur afternoon. He will be leading and facilitating a discussion on "The Flood as a Reflecting Pond."

### **Tashlich**

We invite you to join with Rabbi Goldstein Mackler, following the conclusion of the morning service on Rosh Hashanah, for the Tashlich down by the creek.

### **Final Remarks**

Rabbi Shana Goldstein Mackler will be speaking during services on Erev Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur morning. I will look forward to speaking with you on the morning of Rosh Hashanah and on Kol Nidre night.

I am so proud of this congregation, and of its continuing ability to bring in Jews from all walks of life, who seek to make this their Jewish home. We have added so many new families over the past year, wonderful additions to our congregation in so many ways. I encourage you to make the effort to reach out to those whom you do not yet know, or to those you may not yet have met, and to welcome them here to The Temple.

On the High Holy Days, we reflect upon the honor which our ancestors brought to their lives, through their commitment to their faith and their community, even as we search, once again, the innermost recesses of our souls, reminding ourselves to do the same.

May the New Year be a sweet one for you and for all those you love. May we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the safety, security and continued survival of the Jewish homeland. May the New Year be a year of blessing for us, for our people, and for all the world.

Fondly,

Mark Schiffan

Rabbi