



# SYNAGOGUE FOR THE ARTS NEWS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009  
ELUL/TISHREI

Synagogue for the arts  
49 White Street  
New York, NY 10013

## Schedule of Services for the High Holiday Season

### SELICHOT\*

SEPTEMBER 14-18

7am: followed by morning service

### ROSH HASHANNAH

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18\*

6:45pm: Evening services followed by oneg (light supper) in memory of Gary Turkel

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9am: Morning services

10am-noon: Family/Learner's Services

10-11 am: Adult Study Session

10-11:30 am: Tot program

11:30am: *Shofar* blowing in main sanctuary

Services followed by kiddush

3 pm Tuesday-Community *Tashlich* at the Hudson River (north of Stuyvesant High School)\*

Afternoon/Evening Service: 6pm—

SATURDAY ONLY

### SHABBAT SHUVAH

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th

6:30pm: Evening services\*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th

Shabbat services 9am

followed by *kiddush*\*

### YOM KIPPUR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

6:15pm: Afternoon service

6:30pm: *Kol Nidre*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9am: Morning services

10:30am-noon: Family/Learner's Services

10-11am: Adult Study Session

10:30-11:30am: Tot program

11:45am: Yizkor (approx.)

5:30pm: Evening service & *Ne'illah*

Fast Ends: 7:24pm

### SHABBAT/SUKKOT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

6:15pm: Evening services\*

7pm: Dinner in the *Sukkah*#

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

9am: Morning services\*

6:15pm: Evening services\*

7pm: Dinner in *Sukkah*#

### CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT

The *Sukkah* will be open and available on intermediary days

MONDAY-THURSDAY

OCTOBER 5-8

7:10am: Morning service\*

1:40pm: Afternoon service\*

### HOSHANA RABBAH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

7:00am: Morning service\*

1:40pm: Afternoon service\*

### SHABBAT/SHEMINI ATZERET

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

6:15pm: Evening services\*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

9am: Morning services\*

Yizkor approx. 11am

6pm: Farewell to the *Sukkah*\*

6:10pm: Afternoon services\*

### SIMCHAT TORAH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

6:45pm: Evening services\*

followed by Simchat Torah party\*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

9am: Morning services\*

### Service Leaders

**Main Sanctuary:** Rabbi Jonathan Glass and Hazzan Moshe Berkowitz

**Rosh HaShannah & Yom Kippur Adult Study Session:** Dr. Freema Gottlieb

**Family/Learner's Service Services:** Gail Nalven and Pat Rudden

**Tot Services:** Erika Sevier and Ashley Sevier

Ticket required for all services unless otherwise noted.

For more information and to purchase tickets call: 212-966-7141 or email [info@synagogueforthearts.org](mailto:info@synagogueforthearts.org)

\*open to public, free of charge

#other fee and reservation required

## RABBI'S MESSAGE

The last unit of a period of time always gets emphasized in the Jewish calendar, and builds in significance as the period of time gets bigger. For instance, Friday, which is the last day of week before *Shabbat* is considered a day more opportune than the other five for growth and introspection (along with preparing for *Shabbat*). The day before *Rosh Chodesh*, the beginning of the month, is actually called *Yom Kippur Katan* (little *Yom Kippur*) and is given a lengthy prayer ritual.

You can imagine, therefore, how significant would be the last month of the year going into *Rosh HaShannah*, which is known as *Elul*. *Elul* is given a slew of rituals and prayers to help raise its profile in our conscience. Just like it says that 30 days before Passover we are supposed to begin our preparation, all the more so with the New Year. Essentially what the sages are requesting from us is that we don't just show up on *Rosh HaShannah*!

At Synagogue for the Arts we are happy to say that the last week of the year is appropriately programmed. That Monday will be the first session of our Hebrew School, which we expect will be buzzing with new students. Tuesday will be the opening night of our *Tanach* class which will begin *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes) but will include High Holiday themes. And finally that Thursday we will reopen the Synagogue for the Arts Gallery with a father-son show of Robert Bery and Moshe Tzvi Berger. During the reception there will be a talk about the mystical perspective of the High Holidays consistent with the theme of the show.

We hope that you will consider joining us at these events which will be helpful in creating the proper mindset for a very special new year.

*L'Shannah Tovah Umetukah,*  
Jonathan Glass

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## Meet our High Holiday Service Leaders

### Meet our High Holiday Cantor

We welcome Hazzan Moshe Berkowitz to Synagogue for the Arts. Cantor Berkowitz is a tenor with a powerful voice. He has performed in various settings for over 20 years and he has studied under Noah Schall, a renowned professor at Yeshiva University's Belz School of Music. Cantor Berkowitz is an experienced and talented musician and he is pleased to join us.

### Meet our Learner's Service Leader

Freema Gottlieb was born in London and grew up in Scotland. She is the author of *The Lamp of God: a Jewish Book of Light* and other writings, and is deeply involved in adult Jewish education.

### Meet our Family Service Leaders

Our own Educational Director Gail Nalven and Dr. Patricia Rudden will return to lead family services on *Rosh HaShannah* and on *Yom Kippur*.

Gail has led High Holiday children's programs at Larchmont Temple and Temple Beth Torah in Nyack. In addition, she has led a variety of student and family services at SFTA, Kolot Chaiyenu in Brooklyn, Temple Beth Torah, the Actor's Temple, and elsewhere and she has led Friday afternoon services at the Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in lower Manhattan for the past 10 years. She has attended the Hava NaShira song leader's workshop for several years and has actively attended several conferences in Jewish education. Gail holds a MA in Jewish Education from the Davidson School of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary in NY.

Patricia Rudden, Ph.D. led High Holiday services at Ohel Ayalah in New York for two years. In addition, she has contributed her beautiful soprano voice to leading services over the years at Town & Village Synagogue, the Actor's Temple, CBST, and acts as cantor for the Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in lower Manhattan. She attended *Hava NaShira*, sang with the Zamir Chorale for 3 seasons, and is a member of the Women Cantor Network. Pat holds a Ph. D. in American Literature from the City University of New York.

### Meet our Tot Program Leader

Erika and Ashley Sevier return this year as our Tot High Holiday and *Shabbat* Service leaders as well as teachers in our Hebrew School for their third year. Both Erika and Ashley are musical. They are students at NYU and attended a teacher training program at Gratz College in the Philadelphia area from which they hail.

## HEBREW SCHOOL NEWS

As I write this, we are on the cusp of the new month of *Elul*, and we are feverishly re-reading the school for the new year. **The first day of classes is Monday, September 14th.** We will be welcoming back *Morah* Erika and *Morah* Ashley to the school, and our Tot programs, while we welcome some new faculty. Pat Ruden and I will also be leading our High Holiday Family Services again on both days of *Rosh HaShannah* and on *Yom Kippur*.

Over the summer, we worked in the classrooms, organizing books and equipment, hanging posters and creating a wonderful learning environment. We are hoping to create a “pillow” corner in our *gan* classroom. If you are disposing of any good quality couch or other large *pillows* that could be used on the floor to add to our corner, please let us know. We can also use a plush rug for our back room for our *Tot Shabbat* program.

As returning parents know, for the past year or so we have been communicating with each other through our school Google group. It’s a great way to share information. I have also created a Hebrew school blog. This will be a great way to share photos and activities within the school and with our friends in the greater community. I have posted photos from recent programs. As this is not a “closed” site, extra care will be taken with materials posted. Please check it out at <http://sftahebrewschool.blogspot.com>.

Over the summer I also created a new *siddur* (prayerbook) for students to use in our prayer service and classrooms. I am also in the midst of creating a *shiron* (songster) for the school as well as a *Tot Shabbat siddur* with transliterations for parents to use.

Early in the summer we held an open house, welcoming those in our neighborhood who are seeking a welcoming environment for their children to learn. We still have spaces available and will be happy to welcome any newcomers, so please send friends our way. Also, we ask that returning students submit any remaining paperwork as soon as possible.

Rabbi Glass and I have had meetings with representatives of UJA to help us formalize *chesed* programs as part of our *bar* and *bat mitzvah* program. While many students have participated in wonderful programs in the past, there has been no formalization of the process. Our goal is to work with UJA to create some interesting *mitzvah* opportunities for our students. Stay tuned for further information.

Eager to start the year off properly, I would like to thank Dolores Wine for all her continued support to the school. She has been helpful in more ways than I can recall here. She has developed a special rapport with many of the students and it is wonderful to have her support of Monday afternoons. *Toddah Rabbah* Dolores.

Please note that April Feffer has agreed to be our parent liaison. Please greet April positively and join her in helping to make our school even better.

I am looking forward to the new school year and wish all of you a *Shanah Tovah U'Metukah*, and good and sweet New Year!

Gail F. Nalven  
Educational Director

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### High Holiday Adult Learning with Freema Gottlieb

Dr. Freema Gottlieb has graciously agreed to lead our High Holiday study sessions. Here are her study topics:

*Rosh HaShannah* Day 1: **Judgement Day** -- An examination of the *Unetanneh Tokef* prayer. Discussion of themes of guilt and judgement, with special reflections on the Jewish idea of *Teshuva* (return) as our great opportunity.

*Rosh HaShannah* Day 2: **Sarah's Sound** – A discussion/meditation on the central Jewish text of the *Akedah* (Genesis Chapter 22), on the woman who made the ultimate offering, with special reference to the musical notes of the Ram's Horn in the liturgy.

*Yom Kippur*: **Why Yom Kippur Might Be A Very Good Day** -- a look at some of the specials in the menu of the day, leading up to the concluding *Neilah* prayer. Before the closing of the gates, we have a lot to accomplish!

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**SYNAGOGUE FOR THE ARTS NEWS**

## ***Schtiklach* – Tidbits from around the Shul**

### **CHOLENT BAKE-OFF**

Our annual cholent bake-off is back in it's traditional *Succot* time slot on October 9-10th. To participate, please contact the synagogue for more details.

### **ROSH HASHANNAH OPEN HOUSE**

All are invited to join us for a light holiday/Shabbat dinner on the first night of Rosh HaShannah. This is open to the public so please invite friends. What a great way to show off our warm and friendly congregation. Thanks to Toby and Avram Turkel who are once again sponsoring this gathering in memory of Gary Turkel.

### **TOT SHABBAT**

Save the Dates: Ashley and Erika Seiver will once again be leading our monthly Tot Shabbat from 10:30-11:30am on the following Shabbat mornings: 10/3, 11/12, 12/12, 2/6, 3/6, 3/27, 4/17, 5/8

### **CALLING ALL SYNAGOGUE FOR THE ARTS WOMEN**

We are pleased to announce that the Womens' Study Group will be starting again this Fall. We are going to study the *Parshah* of the week. We will meet the second *Shabbat* of every month after *Kiddush* for about a half hour or more. It is easy to participate. If you can, read the *Parshah* during the week, or during services. See if anything interests you, we can explore any topic, all comments are welcome.

Feel free to bring in outside resources. JTS has commentary on the weekly Parasha that is worth looking at. The web address is: [http://www.jtsa.edu/Conservative\\_Judaism/JTS\\_Torah\\_Commentary.xml](http://www.jtsa.edu/Conservative_Judaism/JTS_Torah_Commentary.xml) Please share any other websites of interest.

The first meeting will be November 14th. The *Parshah* we are discussing is *Chayei Sarah*.

### **TANACH FOR THE NEW YEAR**

After having completed numerous smaller projects, the *Tanach* class is ready to get back into a big one. Over the past couple of years we have completed Ruth, Jonah and Esther but this year we will begin *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes).

*Kohelet* is read as part of the prayer service for the Shabbat of *Sukkot* so there is a direct holiday connection, but of course it is a deeply profound philosophical work which will be explored in detail over the year.

The class will be part of the pre New Year countdown of that last week of the Jewish Calendar so Tuesday the 9/15 at 6pm will be our launch. To broaden the appeal of that first class, time will be reserved during the session to discuss the High Holidays in general. So even if you're not planning on joining the entire class, all are encouraged to consider joining us for this first exciting session.

### **GALLERY REDUX**

Most of you know that after 15 great years the Synagogue for the Arts Gallery ended its run this summer due to many different factors. We remain deeply in debt to its coordinator Marilyn Sontag, as well as its committee for faithfully adorning our reception hall throughout.

Nevertheless we will attempt in a different way to keep an artistic presence in the synagogue. In particular we have slated an exciting show to begin the day before Rosh HaShannah called "Father and Son". Two prominent artists who have been affiliated with the synagogue for many years but have never shown here will present mystical art for the holiday season.

Robert Bery from Harlem and his father Moshe Tzvi Berger will usher in their work Thursday evening 9/17 from 6-8pm with a reception that will include a talk about the art and the holidays, with a mystical flare. Please try to attend and help us build momentum for the future.

Two more exhibitions are planned that will take us into 2010.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### YIZKOR FUND

#### From.....In Memory of

Aaron & Sarah Rapaport...Mary Rapaport  
Marilyn Sontag...Rose Sontag and Yetta Kaufman  
Sontag  
Richard J. Schwartz...uncle Irving Schwartz  
Benjamin Kuperman...Ida Kuperman  
Shirley Ebner Shavuot 2009

### KIDDUSH FUND

✧7/18 kiddush sponsored by Izak Zenu  
□7/17 dinner sponsored by Nancy Aaronson and Perry  
Parker in memory of the Yahrzeits of Nancy's mother  
and father and Perry's sister.  
✧David & Julienne Dweck  
✧Chaim & Yaffa Licari  
✧Eli & Yael Weiss  
✧Ethan Ellenberg & Barbara Glickstein  
✧George & Phyllis Parker  
✧8/8 sponsored Vladimir Kontorovich in memory of his  
father  
✧9/18 first night of Rosh HaShannah/Shabbat dinner  
sponsored by Toby and Avram Turkel in loving memory  
of Gary Turkel  
✧10/3 Kiddush sponsored by Moshe and Fia Hatsav in  
honor of Matan and Adam becoming *Bar Mitzvah*  
✧10/24 sponsored by Jackie Galory

### SIMCHA FUND

✧David Rheingold  
✧Nancy Kong  
✧Ida Robbins  
✧Robert Chetrit

### MINCHA

✧Peter Merker  
✧Lawrence Reisman

### BUILDING FUND

✧Adina Newman in memory of Yitzchak Ben Chaim  
✧William Breger  
✧Avram Turkel  
✧Joseph Borstein  
✧Aaron Nathaniel Rosenstein

### YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

✧Diana Kurz in memory of Lillian Kurz

## IN OUR FAMILY

### Mazel tov to

✧Sylvain Cappell who was featured in the New  
Yorker's Talk of the Town. Follow the link below for  
the full "MATH-HATTAN" article: [http://  
www.newyorker.com/  
talk/2009/08/03/090803ta\\_talk\\_paumgarten](http://www.newyorker.com/talk/2009/08/03/090803ta_talk_paumgarten)  
✧Laura Starr and Zeke Berman on their daughter  
Lily becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*.  
✧Moshe and Fia Hatsav on their sons Adam and  
Matan becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*  
✧Perry Parker and Nancy Aaronson on Jonathan's  
becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*  
✧George and Phyllis Parker on their grandson  
Jonathan becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*  
✧Arlene and Jack Ancona on the birth of their  
grandson to Steven and Lauren Ancona and on  
their grandson Isaac becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*

### Baruch Dayan Emet to

✧The family of Leslie Levinson for the loss of her  
father, Bertram

### TODDAH RABBAH to

✧To all who participated in our Kabbalat Shabbat  
on 7/17 and to those who helped prepare the fes-  
tive Shabbat dinner.  
✧Avram Turkel and his good friends Joe Borstein  
and Aaron Rosenstein for generously supplement-  
ing the costs on the front gate.  
✧Robert Berger in helping correct computer prob-  
lems  
✧Freema Gottlieb for donating her time and knowl-  
edge in leading our High Holiday adult study ses-  
sions

## What's Cooking with Dolores Wine

Before we know it, *Rosh HaShannah* will be here. I thought it might interest people to know what other communities eat during the *Hagim*. Most of us probably grew up on chicken soup, gefilte fish, noodle or potato kugel and roast chicken. Italian Jews eat whole cold jellied stripe bass instead of gefilte fish. Yemenite Jews poach fish fillets in a spicy sauce served cold. Kugels would be replaced with a zucchini pudding or pumpkin pancakes in the Syrian or Moroccan communities. Most *Mizrahi* and Sephardic communities serve beans, either chick peas or black eyed pas. Sweet rice and cous cous dishes are also found on their tables.

Here is a cake that comes from the Mizrahi Communities such as Aleppo or Baghdad and served for the Holidays.

### CARDAMOM SPONGE CAKE (IGAILI)

5 eggs  
 3/4 cup sugar  
 1 heaping tsp of ground cardamom  
 1/2 tsp of turmeric  
 1 cup flour  
 2 tsp of baking powder  
 1 tbsp of vegetable oil  
 a pinch of saffron soaked in 2 tbl of very warm water-optional  
 10-12 dried apricots cut into pea sized bits  
 9-10 tbsp of sesame seeds divided (see below)  
 1/4 cup finely chopped walnuts  
 margarine to grease pan

- Preheat the oven to 350 deg
- Grease the bottom and sides of a 8 1/2" or 9" spring form pan with margarine. Line the bottom with a piece of parchment paper and also grease it. Sprinkle about 3 tbsp of

sesame seeds on the bottom and sides of the pan. Set aside.

- Using a stand mixer, beat the eggs and sugar at a medium speed for 7 to 10 minutes. (You can use a hand mixer, but a stand mixer is easier) The eggs will almost become meringue like.
- In a separate bowl put the flour, baking powder, cardamom and turmeric, whisk together.
- When the eggs are done, slowly add the dry ingredients to the egg mixture by hand whisking together to combine. Continuing to whisk, add the vegetable oil and saffron water (if you don't do the saffron water, just add 2 tbsp of warm water to the batter now).
- Pour half the batter into the cake pan. Sprinkle 2-3 tbsp of sesame seeds and the diced dried apricots over the batter.
- Pour in the rest of the batter, sprinkle with 2-3 tbsp of sesame seeds and the finely chopped walnuts.
- Bake for 35 min or until the cake is golden brown and dry in the middle. Check with a tooth pick.
- Cool the cake. Put a plate over the cake and turn upside down. Release the spring and remove the pan and parchment. Place another plate on the cake and invert again. It is now ready to eat!
- Enjoy, enjoy!
- (This recipe was adapted from the Jerusalem Post)

Tumeric and Ground Cardamom can be purchased at:  
 Holy Land Market (an Israeli Grocery store)  
 122 St. Marks Place (between 1st and A)  
 212-477-4440

### Service times

☆ .Friday evening at candlelighting time.

☆ Saturday morning services begin at 9am

☆ Morning *Minyan* meets at 7:30am on T, W, F and at 7:20am on M, Th, and 7:10am on other Torah reading days

☆ *Mincha* meets at 1:40pm M-Th.

## A Little About... *Tashlich*

The word "*Tashlich*" means "You will cast away." In this context, it refers to a custom dating from at least as early as the fourteenth century, but probably much earlier, based on the last verses of the Book of Michah (Micah) 7:18-20, shown below:

"Who is a God like You? You forgive sins and overlook transgressions  
For the survivors of Your People;  
He does not retain His anger forever, for He loves Kindness;  
He will return and show us mercy, and overcome our sins,

(Note: The Prophet has switched, grammatically, from addressing G-d in the "second person" (using "You") to addressing Him in the "third person" (using "He"). This may have to do with the difficulty finite man has when addressing his infinite Creator, and comes up again in connection with the topic of Blessings. Anyway, back to *Michah*):

And You will cast into the depths of the sea  
all their sins;  
You will show kindness to Yaakov and mercy to Avraham,  
As You did promise to our fathers of old."

Consequently, Jewish communities have for many generations gathered on the First Day of *Rosh HaShanah* at bodies of water and recited the *Tashlich* Prayer, which consists of certain chapters of *Tehilim* (Psalms) and the verses shown above, to symbolize our wish to get rid of our sins, and to be forgiven by God.

Some people have the custom of putting bread crumbs in their pockets and shaking them out into the water to give more concrete expression (however, I don't think concrete would be usable for this purpose) to their desire to be free of their sins.

Historically, Jews would sometimes be instructed by their own community leaders to seek out bodies of water not near the center of town, so as not to be seen during *Tashlich* by their non-Jewish neighbors, for fear of a "poisoning the wells" accusation. This was certainly true if actual food was thrown into the water, but even if not, they would be accused of mumbling curses and poisoning the wells by witchcraft.

If the first day of *Rosh HaShannah* falls on *Shabbat*, *Tashlich* is said on Sunday, the second day. If it cannot be recited at all on *Rosh HaShannah*, due to inclement weather or "whatever," it can be recited until *Hoshanah Rabbah*. *Tashlich* is preferably recited alongside a body of water containing fish, to remind us that just as fish are protected by the water in which they live, we pray to be protected by God.

(Thanks to OU.org for this material!)

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## Funds to Which Donations Are Welcome

### Youth Education Fund

Provides funds and scholarships for school and other youth educational activities.

### Bimah Fund

Provides funds to repair Torahs, covers, and other ritual items, as well as guest cantors and rabbis.

### Matzah Fund

Provides *Pesach* foods for the needy

### Youth Group Fund

Provide funds for youth group and teen activities

### Kiddush Fund

Supports *kiddush* on weeks when there is no sponsor

### Adult Education Fund

Provides funds for classes, lectures, and other educational activities

### Siddur Fund

Provides funds for purchasing prayerbooks, *chumashim*, *megillot* and other ritual books. A book plate noting the donor and honoree will be included in all books.

### Yom Tov Yeladim Fund

Provide funds for ShabbaTot, *Shabbat* Yoga and other children's programming on *Shabbat* and holidays.

### Simcha and Memorial Funds

Provides funds for synagogue activities and basic

functions.

### Shabbat Programming Fund

Provides funds for *Shabbat* Yoga, *Shabbat* lectures, and other *Shabbat* programming.

### Capital Campaign

Supports capital projects.

All donations over \$10 will be noted in a forthcoming newsletter. Simply send a letter to the synagogue along with your donation. Let us know who the donation is in honor/memory of and whom we should notify about the donation along with their address.

**SYNAGOGUE FOR THE ARTS  
49 WHITE STREET  
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New York, NY

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## **DID YOU KNOW?**

At [synagogueforthearts.org](http://synagogueforthearts.org) you can find out what's happening at SFTA, pay your dues online, register for Hebrew School, and so much more!

**Check us out!**