



September/October 2023
Etul 5783/Tishri 5784
Cheshvan 5784

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THE SCHRIER

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF WEST PASCO
Home of Congregation Beth Tefillah

HIGH HOLY DAY TICKET INFORMATION

Services will be in-person and available on Zoom.

Tickets are:

Members: \$50.00 (includes break-the-fast)
Non-members: \$65.00 (includes break-the-fast)
Children 12 and under: Free

The following is for those who **ONLY** wish to attend the break-the-fast (no services):

Members: \$20.00 (break-the-fast ONLY)
Non-members: \$25.00 (break-the fast ONLY)
Children 12 and under: Free

For Zoom participants, Selichot pamphlets and High Holy Day Prayer books are available for pickup at the JCC. Please return these after the holidays.

Most major credit cards accepted. Make checks payable to:
JCC West Pasco

Tickets must be reserved and paid for by September 8, 2023.

For more information call the office at (727) 847-3814

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

HIGHLIGHTS

- * Monday, 9/4 Labor Day
- * Monday, 9/11 7 pm JCC Board Meeting
- * Saturday, 9/23 First day of Autumn
- * Page 9 for complete schedule of High Holy Day services
- * Monday, 10/9 7 pm JCC Board Meeting

Shabbat Services
Conducted by **RON BECKER** and **ELLIOT SHAPIRO**

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AT 7:30 PM

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT 9:30 AM

Alan Goldberg, Rabbi Emeritus

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Eileen Hochstadt

Seven Wonders of Jewish History Continued from the July-August Schrier

Shared with us by Rabbi Asher Resnick and Motty Berger, from Aish.Com

WONDER #6: THE INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND THE LAND OF ISRAEL

The land of Israel was known to be fertile for millennia. When you were back in sixth grade, learning about the Middle East, do you remember what that region of the world was it called? It was called, "The Fertile Crescent." The Middle East was strategically important. It controlled the trade routes from Europe, Asia, and Africa. All of ancient civilization wanted to possess it and keep it flourishing. But we see a very strange thing. As long as the Jews are living in the land, the land remains fertile. As soon as the Jews leave, the land becomes a desert and no other nation is able to cultivate it. There is a fascinating quote from Mark Twain, who visited Israel in 1867. *"We traversed some miles of the desolate country, whose soil is rich enough but is given wholly to weeds, as silent, mournful expanse. A desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action. We reached Tavor safely. [Tavor is in the north, in the Galilee, the most fertile part of the land.] We never saw a human being on the whole route. We pressed on towards the goal..., renowned Jerusalem. The further we went, the hotter the sun got, the more rocky and bare, repulsive and dreary the landscape became. There was hardly a tree or a shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country. No landscape exists that is more tiresome to the eye than that which bound the approaches to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is mournful, dreary and lifeless. I would not desire to live there."* (Mark Twain, *Innocents Abroad*, Vol. II, Harper and Brothers, 1922, NY)

Has anyone been to Israel recently? Does this sound accurate to you? Once again, a startling and strange phenomenon, completely defying the laws of nature: When the Jews are not in the land, the land becomes a desolate wilderness. Has this ever happened anywhere else in the world? The white men came to this country and took it over from the American Indians. It had amber waves of grain. Did the land suddenly become a desert? Of course not! It doesn't make a difference who's living in the land. If a land is fertile, it's fertile; if it's a desert, it's a desert. Not so with the land of Israel. Only there does the land become uninhabitable when the Jews are exiled.

WONDER #7: THE MIRACULOUS RETURN OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO THEIR HOMELAND

In the seventh and final wonder, the Jews are promised that they will one day return to their land. And they are told what they will find when they do: Suddenly, after years of desolation, the land will come to life again. If you've been to Israel recently, you've seen this with your own eyes. The land has indeed begun to bloom and the markets are full of produce. Cecil Roth, an Oxford professor and non-observant Jew, wrote a book called, "The History of the Jews." At the very end of the book, he writes as follows:

"Our survey of three and a half millennia of Jewish history is closed. But the story which we have set ourselves to tell is unended. Today the Jewish people has in it still those elements of strength and endurance which enabled it to surmount all of the crises of its past, surviving thus the most powerful empires of antiquity. Throughout our history, there have been weaker elements who have shirked the sacrifices which Judaism entails; they have been swallowed up, long since, in the great majority."

Continued on page 4

BREAK-THE-FAST

We are re-introducing our break-the-fast meal at the conclusion of Yom Kippur services on Monday, September 25th.

If you would like to bring your special-recipe kugel (**DAIRY or PAREVE**), they would be most appreciated and enjoyed!

Please visit the JCC's web page at:

jccwestpasco.com
(our new and easy-to-remember site!)

Find us on Facebook, too
(and don't forget to 'like us').

Visit Our
Website

A Message From Ron Becker

Dear friends, I hope you are continuing to enjoy your summertime activities and staying safe and happy. In July, we spent two wonderful weeks at our annual reunion (the 53rd consecutive one) with college friends at the beach in Delaware and over Labor Day weekend, we will spend some time in New Jersey and New York to visit with friends and family, and to honor the memory of our blessed family members with our annual month of Elul trip to the cemeteries in Woodbridge, NJ, Staten Island, NY, Elmont, NY, and Farmingdale, NY.

On Sunday afternoon, August 27th, we will gather once again for the annual Jewish Heritage Day at Tropicana Field. In addition to enjoying each other's company, we will see the Rays take on their division rival New York Yankees in what has become a very tight pennant race. Details on the activities for that day have been sent to all who have signed up to participate.

So again, regardless of how you are spending the summer, Chris and I wish you much happiness, good health, and fulfillment. See you in shul and at one of our exciting summer activities.

Now on to the High Holy Days!

We begin on the evening of Saturday, September 9th with our annual community nosh/social hour at 6:30 pm follow by Havdalah and Selichot (prayers of penitence) at 7:30 pm to help prepare us for the days of awe ahead. If you will be participating virtually on Zoom, please let us know so that we can mail you a copy of the Selichot service pamphlet in advance.

Then the next morning, Sunday September 10th in order to practice the ritual of Zichonot (Remembrance), one of the three major themes of Rosh Hashanah (Zichronot, Malchuyot, and Shofarot), we conduct our annual cemetery visitations with a session at Beit Olam in Trinity at 10:30 am, Grace Memorial in Hudson at 12:30 pm, and the National Cemetery in Bushnell at 2 pm. Please make every effort to attend one of these even if you do not have loved ones buried there. We will make an individual memorial prayer in memory of all of the family/friends of those who are present at each cemetery. This Eil Molei Rachamim prayer is traditionally chanted every year during the month of Elul, usually at the gravesite.

אל מלא רחמים, שוכן במרומים, המצא מנוחה נכונה על פני השכינה, במעלת קדושים וטהורים כזהר הרקיע מזהירים, את נשמת (שם הנפטר בן שם אביו) שתהיה לעולמו, בעבור שבלי נדר אתן צדקה בעד הזכרת נשמתו, בגן עדן תהא מנוחתו, לכן בעל הרחמים יסתירהו בסתר כנפיו לעולמים, ויצרור בצרור הסיים את נשמתו, וי הוא נחלתו, ויגוס על משכבו בשלום. ונאמר אמן.

Continued on page 6

DATES TO REMEMBER

<p>9/1 Religious Services 7:30 pm 9/2 Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm 9/4 Labor Day Bingo 11 am 9/8 Religious Services 7:30 pm 9/9 Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm Selichot Social 6:30 pm Selichot Services 7:30 pm 9/10 Cemetery Visitation Trinity 10:30 am Grace 12:30 pm Bushnell 2:00 pm 9/11 Patriot Day Bingo 11 am JCC Board Meeting 7 pm 9/15 Erev Rosh Hashanah 5:00 pm 9/16 Rosh Hashanah Day 1 9:30 am Rosh Hashanah Day 1 6:30 pm 9/17 Rosh Hashanah Day 2 9:30 am Tashlich 3:00 pm 9/18 Bingo 11 am 9/22 Religious Services 7:30 pm 9/23 Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm 9/23 First day of Autumn 9/24 Decorate Sukkah 10 am 9/24 Erev Yom Kippur 6:30 pm 9/25 Yom Kippur 9:30 am Yom Kippur 6:15pm</p>	<p>9/25 Yizkor 6:45 pm Yom Kippur 7:15 pm Break-the-fast to follow 9/29 Erev Sukkot 7:30 pm 9/30 Sukkot 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm 10/2 Bingo 11 am 10/6 Hoshana Rabbah 9:30 am Religious Services 7:30 pm 10/7 Shemini Atzeret & Yizkor 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm 10/7 Simchat Torah ice cream Social 6:00 pm Simchat Torah Services 7:00pm 10/9 Bingo 11 am JCC Board Meeting 7 pm 10/13 Religious Services 7:30 pm 10/14 Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm 10/16 Bingo 11 am 10/20 Religious Services 7:30 pm 10/21 Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm 10/23 Bingo 11 am 10/27 Religious Services 7:30 pm 10/28 Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm 10/30 Bingo 11 am 10/31 Trick or Treat!</p>
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Candle Lighting Times



September 1	7:34 pm
September 8	7:26 pm
September 15	7:18 pm
September 22	7:09 pm
September 29	7:01 pm
October 6	6:53 pm
October 13	6:46 pm
October 20	6:38 pm
October 27	6:32 pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 2

Only the more stalwart have carried on the traditions of their ancestors and can now look back with pride in their superb heritage. Are we to be numbered with the weak majority or the stalwart minority? It is of course, for ourselves, to decide, but in a reading of Jewish history, one factor emerges which may perhaps help us in our decision: the preservation of the Jew was certainly not casual. He has endured through the power of a certain ideal, based upon the recognition of the influence of a higher power in human affairs. Indeed, time after time in his history he has been saved from disaster in a manner which cannot be described as anything but providential. This author has deliberately attempted to write this book in a secular spirit, but he does not think that his readers can fail to see on every page, a higher immanence."

Obviously, when Cecil Roth looked at history, just as you're looking at it now, he saw the impossible contradictions: an eternal nation, exiled and dispersed throughout the globe; subject to intense anti-Semitism which should assure their extinction; few in number, and yet, despite that, a light unto the nations. One contradiction after another. The land produces nothing when their enemies inhabit it, yet when the Jews return, the desert blooms once again. You know, the idea of the Jewish people returning to their homeland was truly seen as absurd by most of the world. When the Reform movement was founded in Germany in the 1820's, one of the first elements of Jewish belief that they rejected was the concept of a return to the land of Israel. They declared, "Germany is our fatherland. Berlin is our Jerusalem." They understood it was ridiculous to think of going to settle the desert of Palestine. "Here we are in Europe - it's obvious that we're here to stay - look how well we're accepted." Were they idiots? No, they were rationalists. They just didn't understand that in a world run by G-d, it doesn't matter how things *seem* to be. Imagine if I told you that when we walk out of this building, to-night, fifty red Maseratis will pass by, all in a row. And then you go out and see that it really came true. Would you be impressed with me? I would assume so. Let's say I told you that they would all have consecutive license plates, one after the other. Would you believe that I had some sort of prophetic ability? We have an incredible history, a history that makes absolutely no sense and follows no rules. No other people have ever experienced a history like ours. Yet, every single piece of our history has been predicted beforehand by our Torah.

The Seven Wonders of Jewish History as Predicted in the Torah

WONDER #1: THE JEWISH PEOPLE ARE ETERNAL

We have seen the Jewish People survive for more than 3000 years. This was predicted beforehand!

"Thus says G-d, 'Who establishes the sun to light the day, the laws of the moon and stars to light the night, Who stirs up the sea into roaring waves, Whose name is the Lord of Hosts? If these natural laws should ever give away before Me,' says G-d, 'only then shall the offspring of Israel cease to be a nation before me for all time.' " (Yirmiyahu 31:34-36)

In other words, as long as there's sun, moon and sky, there will always be a Jewish people.

WONDER #2: DISPERSION

Rule number one of world history is that if you're going to scatter a nation all over the globe with no common land or language or history, they're going to lose their identity! And yet we are eternal.

This dispersion was predicted beforehand! *"That they shall know that I am G-d, when I scatter them among the nations and disperse them over foreign lands."* (Yechezkel 12:15)

Continued in the next edition of *The Schrier*

OCTOBER IS ELECTION TIME

Your Election Board is presenting the slate of officers and board members to the general membership IN LIEU OF THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. If you are interested in running for a position please contact Eileen Hochstadt by October 6th.

The positions for which we will vote in November are (names in parentheses are the current office holders who have stated a willingness to run again for the same position):

**Recording Secretary (open)
Corresponding Secretary (Natalie Cohen)
Financial Secretary (open)
2+ Board members (L. Bernas, B. Cohen, B.D. Johnson,
D. Merkle, W. Seldin)**

If you are interested in becoming more active in the day-to-day operations of your JCC and would like to know the responsibilities of these positions, please contact Eileen Hochstadt at 727-692-6431.

If no one else runs for these positions, the current office holder will be automatically reelected and there will be no elections in November.



A Message From Ron Becker

Continued from page 3

Adonai, full of mercy, who dwells on high, establish proper rest upon the wings of the Divine Presence, on the levels of the holy and pure ones who shine like the splendor of the firmament, for the soul of (name of the departed) who went to his/her world. Let his/her rest be in the Garden of Eden. Hence, Master of mercy, cover him/her in the cover of the wings of Adonai forever and bind his/her soul with the Binding of life. Adonai is his/her inheritance and let him/her rest upon this place of repose in peace. And let us say Amen.

We will launch our Rosh Hashanah prayers and activities on Friday afternoon, September 15th at 5 pm. This will be a short Shabbat/erev Rosh Hashanah service to welcome this awesome season and early enough so that we can all enjoy this momentous day of awe at home with a festival dinner with family and friends immediately afterwards. Rosh Hashanah morning services will begin at 9:30 am. The afternoon/evening services begin at 6:30 pm. All will begin on -time! We will not blow the Shofar on the 1st day of Rosh Hashanah because it is prohibited on Shabbat. The same holds true for the Tashlich activities. Both of these awesome rituals will be practiced on the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah, Sunday September 17th at services at 9:30 am and Tashlich (the symbolic casting off of our sins) at 3 pm beside the Cotee River in front of our residence on Grand Boulevard and will be followed with a joyous reception at our home.

Then on the Shabbat (Saturday September 23rd) between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (Shabbat Shuva), we celebrate the 4th anniversary of our adult B'Nai Mitzvot---Ana Calderon, Barbara D. Johnson, Barbara E. Johnson, and Art Simon. They will deliver a D'var Torah and chant their beautiful Haftorah from the Prophets Micah, Hosea, and Joel and provide us with a delicious Kiddush luncheon.

The following morning (Sunday September 24th) we will gather at 10 am for our annual Sukkah decorating party where we adorn our synagogue Sukkah and enjoy each other's company and share coffee and donuts.

On that same evening, we gather at the synagogue (and virtually on Zoom) for the haunting Kol Nidre service at 6:30 pm followed by the Erev Yom Kippur service at 7:15 pm. Then on Yom Kippur day, we begin with the morning services at 9:30 pm, take a break and then return for the afternoon (Mincha) service at 6:15 pm, the Yizkor (Memorial) service at 6:45 pm, Neila at 7:15 pm and Shofar and Havdalah at 8 pm followed by the return of our Break-the-Fast community meal after a long hiatus due to the Covid virus. It will be wonderful to be a part of the return of this wonderful tradition!

We round out the awesome month of September with Kiddush in the Sukkah following Shabbat/Sukkot services on Friday, September 29th at 7:30 pm and Saturday, September 30th at 9:30 am.

The celebration of Sukkot continues throughout the following week into the month of October. We will wave our Lulav and Etrog sets each morning then on Friday, October 6th at 9:30 am, we observe Hoshanah Rabbah which includes the beating of the willow branches to symbolically wipe away our sins. This holiday is considered to be the conclusion of the High Holy Day rituals. Then on the next day (Saturday, October 7th), we celebrate Shemini Atzeret, the last day of Sukkot and a holiday on its own as well. We will chant Hallel (psalms of praise) and chant the Yizkor (memorial) prayers once again. Finally on that very evening, we gather for our annual Simchat Torah social hour complete with ice cream and other sweet goodies at 6 pm followed at 7 pm by our celebration of one of the joyous occasions of the year as we complete the reading of the Torah, begin again anew, and sing, dance, and enjoy our sacred Torahs and how they will help guide our lives during the coming year.

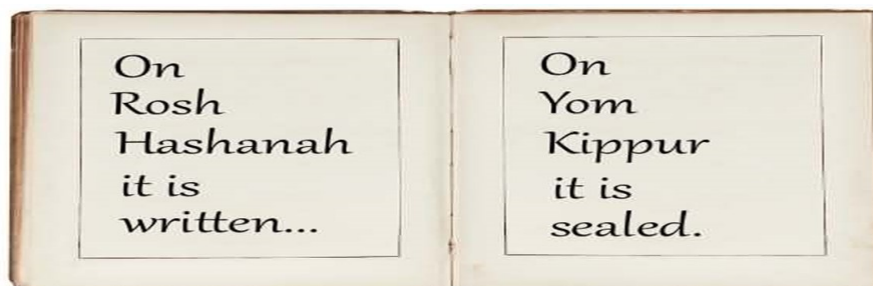
We have so much to be thankful for, to remember, and to celebrate in the coming month. Chris and I look forward to sharing it with you and wish you a טובה ומתוקה שנה a good and sweet year as we enter the year 5784!

Ron Becker, Spiritual Leader

High Holy Days Services 2023 (5784)

Selichot	Saturday, September 9	Light bite Service	6:30 PM 7:30 PM
Cemetery Visitation	Sunday, September 10	Trinity Memorial Grace Memorial Bushnell	10:30 AM 12:30 PM 2:00 PM
Rosh Hashanah Erev Rosh Hashanah	Friday, September 15		5:00 PM
Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Mincha/Ma'Ariv	Saturday, September 16 Saturday, September 16		9:30 AM 6:30 PM
Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Tashlich	Sunday, September 17 Sunday, September 17		9:30 AM 3:00 PM *
Shabbat Shuva Shabbat Shuva	Friday, September 22 Saturday, September 23		7:30 PM 9:30 AM
Sukkah Decoration	Sunday, September 24		10:00 AM
Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Ma'Ariv	Sunday, September 24 Sunday, September 24		6:30 PM 7:15 PM
Yom Kippur Mincha Yizkor Neilah Break-the-fast	Monday, September 25 Monday, September 25 Monday, September 25 Monday, September 25		9:30 AM 6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:15 PM
Sukkot Erev Sukkot	Friday, September 29		7:30 PM
Sukkot	Saturday, September 30		9:30 AM
Hoshanah Rabbah	Friday, October 6		9:30 AM
Erev Shemini Atzeret	Friday, October 6		7:30 PM
Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor	Saturday, October 7		9:30 AM
Simchat Torah	Saturday, October 7	Ice Cream Social Services	6:00 PM 7:00 PM

* We will meet at the pavilion on the Cotee River across from Chris and Ron's home






September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 הח 7:34 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	2 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Ki tavo</i> Bingo 5 pm
3	4 Bingo 11 am Labor Day	5	6	7	8 הח 7:26 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	9 Religious Services 9:30 am Selchot Social Hr./Services 6:30pm / 7:30pm Bingo 5 pm
10 Cemetery Visitation (See page 9) Grandparents Day	11 Bingo 11 am JCC Board Meeting 7 pm Patriot Day	12	13	14	15 הח 7:18 pm Religious Services 5:00 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah	16 הח 8:10 pm Religious Services 9:30 am Religious Services 6:30 pm Rosh Hashanah 1
17 Religious Services 9:30 am Tashlich 3 pm Rosh Hashanah 2	18 Bingo 11 am Fast of Gedaliah	19	20	21	22 הח 7:09 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	23 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Ha'azinu</i> 1st Day of Autumn Bingo 5 pm
24 הח 7:07 pm Decorate Sukkah 10:00 am Erev Yom Kippur Services 6:30 pm Erev Yom Kippur	25 Religious Services 9:30 am Mincha/Yizkor/ Neila/Havdalah/ Break-the-fast:6:15p Yom Kippur	26	27	28	29 הח 7:01 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm Erev Sukkot	30 הח 7:53 pm Religious Services 9:30 am Bingo 5 pm Sukkot 1

October 2023



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1		2 Bingo 11 am	3	4	5	6 88 6:53 pm Hoshana Rabbah Services 9:30 am	7 88 7:45 pm Shemin Atzeret/ Yizkor Services 9:30 am
Sukkot 2		Sukkot 3	Sukkot 4	Sukkot 5	Sukkot 6	Religious Services 7:30 pm Sukkot 7	Simchat Torah Social/Services 6pm Bingo 5 pm
8	9 Bingo 11 am JCC Board Meeting 7 pm	10	11	12	13 88 6:46 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	14 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Bereshit</i>	Bingo 5 pm
Simchat Torah							
15	16 Bingo 11 am	17	18	19	20 88 6:38 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	21 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Noah</i>	Bingo 5 pm
Rosh Chodesh 1		Rosh Chodesh 2					
22	23 Bingo 11 am	24	25	26	27 88 6:32 pm Religious Services 7:30 pm	28 Religious Services 9:30 am <i>Lekh lekha</i>	Bingo 5 pm
29	30 Bingo 11 am	31  Happy Halloween					