

Newsletter

October 2009 / Tishri 5770

October Calendar

Date	Event
Oct 3	9:45-12:00 Sukkot Service(Lutheran Church)
4	1:00-5:00 pm Sukkah Hop.
10	9:30-12:15 Atzeret-Simhat Torah Service, with Rabbi Audrey, followed by a kiddush lunch (Lutheran Church)
14	7:00-9:00 pm Newton Mayoral Accountability Night, Temple Beth Avodah, 45 Puddingstone Ln, Newton
17	9:30-12:00 Study Breakfast with Rabbi Or Rose, followed by abbreviated service
18	7:30-9:30 pm Michael Grodin "Caring for the Survivors of the Holocaust" (member home - call for location)
23	6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat (member home - call for location)
31	9:45-12:00 Shabbat Lekh Lekha (Lutheran Church)
Nov 7	9:45-12:00 Shabbat Vayera with Rabbi Audrey (Lutheran Church)
13	Joint Kabbalat Shabbat with Dorshei Tzedek and Hillel B'nai Torah

Setup & Kiddush Schedule

Date	Setup/Cleanup	Kiddush
Oct 3	Huberman & Barrer	Adler-Golden
10	TBD	Seidman
17	Myrvaagnes	TBD Breakfast TBD
24	No Service	(Friday night service)
31	Swartz & TBD	Platt & Joffe

Simchat Torah Celebration

October 10

The combined service to celebrate Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, and Shabbat will be led by Rabbi Audrey on Saturday, October 10, beginning at 9:45am. This is both a solemn ceremony that includes the annual prayer for rain and a joyous celebration of the completion of the Torah and the beginning of next year's cycle of readings. We will have singing and dancing to the music of our Klezmer band, Shir Madness. The services end with Yizkor. Plan to stay for a Kiddush luncheon.

Caring for Survivors of the Holocaust

Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009

We will review the history of the Holocaust and the clinical importance of the varied experiences Jews suffered from being in the Ghettos, Concentration Camps, Labor Camps, Life in Hiding, Resistors and Partisans. We will explore the survivors post war experiences in Displaced Person camps and their reception in the US and Israel. We will then discuss the "reestablishment" of families and the problems of mourning and loss with aging. Existential problems of post Holocaust theology will also be explored. Finally we will address the inter-generational transmission of trauma as experienced by children and grandchildren of survivors. I will provide information about opportunities to visit isolated and lonely aging survivors living in the Boston area through a program sponsored by Jewish Family Services.

Michael A. Grodin, M.D. is Senior Faculty, Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies; Director, Program on Medicine and the Holocaust; Professor of Bioethics, Human Rights, Philosophy, and Psychiatry Boston University

For more information contact Joyce Hollman, 617-527-3030 or Eileen Schwartz, Shir Hadash Adult Ed Committee.

From the President

Rosh HaShanah Remarks

Highlights of Past Year

With Rabbi Audrey's help Shir Hadash joined this past year with our 2 sister Reconstructionist congregations, Dorshei Tzedek and Hillel Bnai Torah, to celebrate Selichot and erev Shavout services. These experiences proved to be so enriching that we are adding a 3rd joint service in the coming year. In addition, we had joint services with the Sunday School for Jewish Studies and the Harvard Hillel Worship and Study Minyan and expect to continue these relationships.

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Officers

President: Rosalind Bronsen
Vice-President: Joyce Lazarus
Vice-President: Madelyn Morris
Secretary: Steve Adler-Golden
Treasurers: Ellen Fisher and Ross Feldberg

Committee Chairs

Adult Education: Joyce Hollman
Gemilut Hasadim: Richard & Joan Yospin
High Holidays: Ruth Badler & Joan Belson
House & Operations: Martha Jaffe
Membership: Judith & Warren Hurwitz
Music (Klezmer & Chorale): Richard Yospin
Newsletter: Dena & Todd Rakoff
Planning & Finance: Chuck Rich
Program: Ruth Seidman
Ritual: David Goodson
Social Action: Peter Barrer
Technology: Reuben Fisher

Shir Hadash

The Reconstructionist Havurah of Greater Boston

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(617)-965-2775

<http://www.jrf.org/shirhadash/>

Torah/Haftarah portions for the month

Oct 3	Sukkot	Dt 8:1-18, 10:12-22, Lv 23:39- 44	Zechariah	14:1- 21
Oct 10	Simhat Torah	Dt 33:1- 34:12,Gn 1:1-2:3	Joshua	1:1- 18
Oct 17	Bereshit	Gn 1:1- 6:8	Samuel	20:18- 4
Oct 24	Noah	Gn 6:9- 11:32	Isaiah	54:1- 55:5
Oct 31	Lekh Lekhah	Gn 12:1- 17:27	Isaiah/font>	40:27- 41:16

Newton Mayoral Accountability Night

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2009

7-9 PM

Temple Beth Avodah

45 Puddingstone Lane, Newton

Shir Hadash joins other Newton synagogues and churches in presenting a joint platform of local priorities to the final mayoral candidates Ruth Balser and Setti Warren, asking each to endorse this platform and implement it during their term of office.

The platform will include specific items relating to:

- Restoring Senior Transportation
- Protecting the Environment through Newton Recycling
- Nurturing our Youth by Addressing Social and Academic Pressure
- Expanding Affordable Housing
- Promoting Fair Banking Practices

We will have a Shir Hadash contingent and plan to sit together. Calls are being made to all Shir Hadash members who live in Newton, although the event is open to anyone regardless of where you live. If you have not been contacted and want to come or want more information, please contact Peter Barrer, pbarrer@verizon.net

Rabbi Or Rose

Created in God's Image: Mystical Teachings on the Divine-Human Relationship

Please join us for a light breakfast at 9:30 and then study with us 9:45 - 10:55.

Or Rose is Associate Dean and Director of Informal Education at the Rabbinical School. Author and Jewish social activist, Rabbi Rose is a co-editor of *Righteous Indignation: A Jewish Call for Justice* (Jewish Lights, 2008) and organizer of the Righteous Indignation Project, author of *Abraham Joshua Heschel: Man of Spirit, Man of Action* (JPSA, 2003), and a regular contributor to *Tikkun Magazine*. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he directs interfaith and social justice programs at Hebrew College.

Some Highlights of the Year Ahead with Rabbi Audrey:

Shabbat morning study sessions on: Prophets, Parashat Hashavua (weekly Torah portion), and Psalms

- A 3-session course on Modern and Contemporary Jewish Thought about Israel
- A "Learner's Service," with in-depth explanation of the structure and content of the Shabbat morning service
- A trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City to commemorate Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)
- Involvement in the new Boston Jewish Music Festival in March 2010
- Musical and ruach (spirit)-filled Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday evening) services

Join the Sukkah Hop

October 4, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Have the experience of being an *ushpiz* (honored Sukkot guest). Our annual tour of members' sukkot will take place the afternoon of Sunday, October 4. Details to follow. Contact: Ruth Seidman, rkseidman@comcast.net 617-734-7820



Rosh HaShanah remarks (continued)

Rabbi Audrey also introduced to us Mayyim Hayyim, a new facility that offers a modern version of ritual cleansing. Another benefit we continued receiving from her is her lovely voice. Not only did we derive a lot of pleasure listening to her chant the prayers but also she continued teaching us the melodies so we can share in the joy of singing.

Our members led services twice a month, chanted Torah, gave commentaries on the weekly portion, and during Rabbi Audrey's maternity leave, led High Holiday services in their entirety. Our members continue to play a tremendous role in making Shir Hadash a vital and active congregation. It can't be emphasized enough, Shir Hadash literally could not function without the contributions of our dedicated members.

presentations from, among others, Dr. Michael Grodin on Jewish Medical Ethics, Nahum Kalinsky, a visiting professor from David Ben Gurion University in the Negev who addressed the very important question Can Israel Survive, and Rabbi Natan Maraglit who gave us an environmental interpretation to Tu b'Shevat.

Rabbi Audrey also contributed to Adult Education with her Shabbat pre-service study sessions on topics that included Song of Songs, Psalms, Miracles in Jewish Tradition, the prophet Ezekiel, and the theology of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. A member survey that we implemented this year told us this was the single most popular program.

A really special educational event was when we joined with members of the Lutheran Church of the Newtons for a joint study session with Rabbi Audrey and Rev John Stendhal, the pastor of the Lutheran church. They spoke on the use of water rituals in both Jewish and Christian traditions.

But it was not all serious. We attended as a group both the Boston Jewish Film Festival and the National Jewish Film Festival. Our Klezmer Band, Shir Madness regularly performed. Our chorus enhanced some services. And a new "tradition" (that means 2 years in a row) was added, a dance party with the well-known dance leader, Adrienne Greebaum, for an evening of Yiddish and Israeli singing and dancing.

And, of course, there were the holiday celebrations such as the Sukkot Hop on October 4, Simchat Torah where we danced with the Torah, a joyous Chanukah celebration with lots of latkes, and a Purim party featuring an Open Mike that was a runaway success.

We closed the year with our annual retreat to Craigville which included study sessions with Rabbi Audrey, a sign-a-long, bike rides, the beach and, most importantly, the opportunity to mingle with one another in a relaxed environment.

L'shana tova v'tikatevu
Rosalind