

What's Happening

September 12th
Unveiling Ceremony for
Bertha Ratute

September 19th & 20th
Rosh Hashanah

September 28th
Yom Kippur

SONS OF JACOB SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2020 ELUL 5780 – TISHREI 5781



5781/2020 HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

This year, we will worship together virtually by streaming Central Synagogue's Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Sons of Jacob will be open the first day Rosh Hashanah (Sat 9/19): Kol Nidre (Sun 9/27); and Yom Kippur (Mon 9/28) for those who wish to see the broadcast services at the synagogue.

We will enjoy some apples and honey and fellowship following Rosh Hashanah as well as a break the fast meal for those that wish to attend after Yom Kippur.

SOJ congregants will have ample room to socially distance, with hand sanitizer readily available. All services can be viewed from the comfort of your home.

SOJ Will be Open to View These Services:

Saturday, September 19th

**Rosh Hashanah
9:30 – 11:30 am**

Sunday, September 27th

**Kol Nidrei
7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Monday, September 28th

**Yom Kippur Morning
9:30 – 11:30 am
Yom Kippur, Yizkor
2:30 – 4:30 pm**

If you have any questions, please email stephanie.soj@gmail.com or call 319.233.9448.



Central Synagogue in New York City offers free streaming High Holy Days services, available simultaneously through the Jewish Broadcasting Service (JBS). This year, we will worship together virtually by streaming Central Synagogue’s Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. All services can be viewed from the comfort of your home. **Sons of Jacob will be open the first day Rosh Hashanah (Sat 9/19): Kol Nidre (Sun 9/27); and Yom Kippur (Mon 9/28) for those who wish to see the broadcast services at the synagogue.** SOJ congregants will have ample room to socially distance, with hand sanitizer readily available.

Here is our virtual worship schedule in Central Daylight Time (CDT):

Fri, 9/18	5:00 – 6:30 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah	Adult Worship Service
Sat, 9/19	9:30 – 11:30 am	Rosh Hashanah	Adult Worship Service
Sun 9/20	9:30 – 11:30 am	Rosh Hashanah	Adult Worship Service
Sun, 9/27	7:00 – 8:30 pm	Kol Nidrei	Adult Worship Service
Mon, 9/28	9:30 – 11:30 am	Yom Kippur, Morning	Adult Worship Service
Mon, 9/28	2:30 – 4:30 pm	Yom Kippur, Yizkor	Adult Worship Service

Although the synagogue won’t be open for streaming services at other times, you can watch High Holy Days services for tots (children ages 0-7) and families (kindergarten to 7th grade children) at your home. The Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) schedule for these services is listed at the link below. Here in Iowa, tune in one-hour earlier to watch these services with your children or grandchildren.

<https://hhd.centralsynagogue.org/schedule>

➦ Go to <https://hhd.centralsynagogue.org/live-streaming> to download the **Central Synagogue High Holy Days Machzor** as a pdf file.

There are three ways to stream Central Synagogue High Holy Days services:

- 1) Livestream directly from the synagogue’s website:
<https://hhd.centralsynagogue.org/live-streaming>
- 2) Livestream services from Central synagogue's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/centralsynagogue/>
- 3) Livestream Central Synagogue's High Holidays services at JBS (Jewish Broadcasting Service) when they are offered:
<https://jbstv.org/watch-live/>

If you have Roku, consider adding JBS (Jewish Broadcasting Service) as a free channel. You can livestream in that way too! JBS has many wonderful programs.

Best wishes always,
Sons of Jacob Board of Directors

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following contributions:

EDELMAN, Jesse & Lisa Vidis –

In memory of her grandfather, Robert Vidis

TABACH, Geraldine –

In memory of her brother-in-law, Robert Vidis

VIDIS, Arnold & Mary Kay –

In memory of his father, Robert Vidis

ZUCKER, George –

In memory of his father, Murray Zucker



An unbroken chain of memory
holds us together
through the years and through the generations

With a full heart, we pause to remember

Bertha Ratute

as we unveil her headstone

Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 11:00 am

Sons of Jacob Cemetery
Osage Road
Waterloo, IA



Please keep

Carla Fanelli in your thoughts as she continues to recover from knee replacement surgery. Her surgery took place on August 13th. Recovery is especially hard in this time of Covid-19. Carla cannot have any visitors during her time in rehab facilities.

STATE OF THE CONGREGATION, FROM THE PRESIDENT OF OUR BOARD

August 31, 2020

This is my third “state of the congregation” speech as President of Sons of Jacob Synagogue, but this one is different. Instead of standing on the Bima before a filled sanctuary, I’m sitting alone at my desk at home. Rather than reporting on a year that was filled with events of celebration, community and even mourning, the true picture of the past year is much more desolate and hollow. And while we look forward in hope and optimism, there is no doubt that our future feels more uncertain and hazy than ever before.

Certainly, the COVID 19 pandemic and the reaction to the virus has had a tremendous and negative impact on nearly every human being around the globe, including those of us right here in our community. We will continue to pray for those most negatively impacted and work together toward a day very soon when this virus and our reaction to it, ceases to be a threat to any of us.

But when we finally find ourselves on the other side of this pandemic, and the celebrations end, those of us at Sons of Jacob Synagogue will be forced to face some difficult truths. While we remain, laser focused on the immediate impact COVID 19 is having on our community presently, we would be remiss if we didn’t consider the challenges that have plagued our community since well before COVID 19 hit our shores.

It will come as no surprise when I report that concerning our finances, our expenses continue to outpace our income. And while the Board remains vigilant in cutting expenses wherever possible, that has become increasingly difficult as we try to provide our community with a meaningful Jewish experience while also maintaining a large, aging building and residence. In addition to cutting expenses the Board also focuses on raising revenue in a variety of ways. Over the last year the Board put together a successful fundraising campaign and was able to raise enough money to remodel both bathroom facilities. Please thank Leo Feldman, David Lederman and Bobbi Kazenelson when you see them, for leading that endeavor. Despite the success of that effort, raising revenue through dues or otherwise has also become challenging as membership continues the downward trajectory it has been on for more than a decade.

Although we are especially fortunate to have an endowment fund that was left by generous donors and that has been skillfully managed, when membership levels reach a certain point, financial challenges become only part of the story. When it becomes difficult to find enough members to serve in leadership positions; when making a minyan at services is a challenge; when special events and holidays are sparsely attended; when there is no longer a sisterhood, a men’s club or even much of a Hebrew School; it becomes time to change course.

So, what is the best way forward for our community at this moment in time? The following people have generously volunteered their time to explore that very question: Roberto Swazo (Chair); Naomi McCormick (Secretary); Bobbi Kazenelson; Ira Fratrick; Judy Finkelstein; Andrea Fratrick; David Lederman; Ted Lederman; and with the assistance of Stephanie Schmitt. Over the course of the coming months these people will be working hard and exploring all options, to determine our most viable paths forward and we anticipate their recommendations at the annual meeting in 2021. If you have any interest in helping this team with this vital task, please contact Stephanie in the office.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

It was around this time of year, 115 years ago, when 15 families came together and charted a new course for Jews in the Cedar Valley. They organized what would become Sons of Jacob Synagogue. For over 100 years the vision of those 15 families thrived. We have been an integral part of their vision and we can continue to realize the vision of those founding members as we move into the future. We can do that from a sanctuary, a social hall, or from our own homes. We can do that in groups of 1000, 100 or 10. We can do that when we celebrate Shabbat each week, construct a sukkah in the fall, sit Shiva with a loved one in mourning, or check in on a community member in need. We do that each time we express our Jewish identity and connect over a shared history. We cannot know what the future of Sons of Jacob Synagogue will bring but we can ensure a Jewish presence, our presence, in the Cedar Valley today and beyond. As we move into 5781, let us be grateful for the opportunities we have had, look forward to the ones that remain and continue to seek new ways to promote the welfare of the Jewish community in the Cedar Valley.

L'shanah Tovah!

May this New Year be filled with health and happiness for you and your family.

שנה טובה ומתוקה

-Sarah Stokes

Sons of Jacob President



NEWS OUT OF ISRAEL

ISRAEL-UAE PEACE ISRAELI DELEGATION HEAD, SPEAKING ARABIC, HAILS NEW REALITY

'Join us' in peace, Kushner urges region, as El Al flight brings Israelis to UAE

Joint US-Israeli delegation arrives in Abu Dhabi on unprecedented direct journey, overflying Saudi Arabia; talks underway to put breakthrough Israel-UAE normalization into effect

You can read this article here - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/stepping-off-israeli-plane-in-uae-kushner-urges-others-join-us-expand-peace/>

Photo Caption:

From left, US National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien, Trump Administration Senior Adviser Jared Kushner, UAE Foreign Minister Anwar Gargash and Israel's National Security Adviser Meir Ben Shabbat meeting in Abu Dhabi on August 31, 2020. (Israeli Prime Minister's Office)



Words of Wisdom from Rabbi Kushner...

Will the real Evil Impulse please stand up?

There is an ancient conviction in rabbinic theology that we humans are neither inherently good nor inherently evil. We all have within us the tendency both for good (called the yetzer ha-tov) or the impulse for evil (the yetzer ha-ra). However, even when assuming no one is completely evil or completely good, many prayers of the High Holidays seem to address only one side of our human coin: correcting (or at least re-directing) the yetzer ha-ra. Perhaps “good” always seemed to require less repentance than evil?

This makes me wonder if one can also be a little bit too “good”, too virtuous? Surely our love for our children is a noble virtue. But what happens when this love is expressed by trying to solve all our children’s problems, permitting them to carry no burdens, take no risks, make no decisions, shoulder no responsibility, or submit to no discipline?

Courage can prove self-destructive when it becomes recklessness. Loyalty frequently betrays itself by freezing into fanaticism and blind obedience. Curiosity makes a good scientist but a lousy neighbor. As Rabbi Sidney Greenberg observes: “The enterprise of *living means reckoning with the ravages of virtue as well as those of vice. The evil in the world comes not only from unbridled wrong but also from unbridled good.*”

This resonated with me when I read in the rabbinic commentary Bereshit Rabbah: Rabbi Nahman said in Rabbi Samuel's name: 'Behold, it was good' refers to the Good Desire; 'And behold, it was very good' refers to the Evil Desire. (It only says, 'very good' after man was created with both the good and bad inclinations, in all other cases it only says 'and God saw that it was good') Can then the Evil Desire be very good? That would be extraordinary! But without the Evil Desire, however, no man would build a house, take a wife and beget children; and thus said Solomon: 'Again, I considered all labor and all excelling in work, that it is a man's rivalry with his neighbor.' (Ecclesiastes 4:4).

After reading this, I pondered how to determine between the yetzer ha-tov and the yetzer ha-ra. If the evil impulse isn't completely bad after all, what is it? I decided to imagine these two impulses as how we react to stress. “Stress” is defined as the body’s reaction to any change that requires an adjustment or response. Stress that continues without relief causes *distress*.

Eustress (I only recently learned this term!) on the other hand, is a type of stress that is crucial for us to have in our lives. It is associated with excitement, achievement and effective organization. Without it, we would become bored or depressed. Without enough eustress, we would begin to feel a lack of motivation to accomplish goals and a lack of meaning in life itself. Not striving for goals, not overcoming challenges, not having a reason to wake up in the morning would be damaging to us, so eustress is considered 'good' stress. It's seeing things not as threats, but as exciting challenges. Is this perhaps our rabbinic yetzer ha-ra?

An ancient legend teaches: An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. “A fight is going on inside me,” he said to the boy. “It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.” He continued, “The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too.” Wide-eyed, the boy asked his grandfather, “Which wolf will win?” To which the old Cherokee replied: “The one you feed.”

We can choose which yetzer wolf we feed. Our Yetzer ha-ra can be either a source of distress or eustress. It can lead us to illness and disaster, or it can be a quality that helps us to be remarkably adaptive and productive. Our task is to discover our optimal level. When we are balanced between both our impulses, between “good” and “very good” we become fully human.

L'Shanah tovah,
Rabbi Rebecca

Max's Dvar Torah for August 22, 2020

As I stand on this bemaah I cannot help but reflect on all the work and preparation it took to get to this point. I started training for my Bar Mitzvah in early 2019. For nearly a year and a half, I have been focused on getting to this moment. But in reality, I have been preparing for my Bar Mitzvah since I was 6 years old, when I began Hebrew school. And I ask myself why? Why spend so much time and effort to become a Bar Mitzvah?

To become a Bar Mitzvah means to do my best and follow Jewish law and keep G-d's mitzvot, his commandments. It means to be responsible for myself, and it also means to no longer act as a child but take on the responsibilities of participating in services, in a minyan, and to constructively contribute to society. I have to be a good person in G-d's eyes and be my own person at the same time.

So let us reflect on the Haftarah I just read. It is one of the four "Consolation" readings that were written to comfort the Jewish people after the fall of The Temple of Solomon in 586 BC. At the time of writing this, I, along with much of the rest of the world am in quarantine and this reading can relate to our situation because it talks about how G-d is trying to help the people of Jerusalem rebound after a tragedy. The Covid-19 pandemic is the biggest tragedy that most people alive today have ever experienced. "I, I am he who comforts you" is the first line in the reading of Isaiah and I think it is a great example of the reading's message. It is a message that can bring comfort to those of us dealing with the traumas of the pandemic: Not being able to go to school or work. Not being able to be with friends and family. Not being able to celebrate life's milestones. These are losses that are difficult to deal with. But this reading reminds us that we need G-d to console us.

However, the haftarah also says something else that I found interesting - that people need to help themselves get through difficult times. It reminds us that G-d will not do everything. "Awake, Awake oh Zion; clothe yourself in splendor; put on robes of majesty" That is, it isn't up to G-d alone but a cooperation between man and G-d. In other words, if you do what is necessary G-d will be there to support, guide and comfort you. So what can I do during this pandemic, during this very difficult period of time? I can stay positive. I can help people in need. I can be kind to my family. In short, I can persevere and if I do these things G-d will be there for me.

Another thing I found interesting while studying for my bar mitzvah is in today's Torah portion. Deuteronomy Chapter 20 verse 3-4 reads, "Let your hearts not be faint, you shall not be afraid and you shall not be alarmed and you shall not be terrified...for the lord your G-d is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to save you." G-d wants us not to be afraid during times like these. I believe fear is a recurring theme in the Torah because it is one of the most powerful human emotions. I think G-d is telling us to try our best to control our fear so that we do not become easily overwhelmed and thus become better able to stay focused, help others, stay positive, and accomplish our personal goals.

I would like to take a moment to thank the many friends and family who helped me along the way. I would like to thank Rabbi Kushner for the years of instruction to help me get to this point. Planning a Bar Mitzvah is always a challenge but under the circumstances we are in, it was especially difficult so I would like to thank Paul Schwarzbaum for coming in at the last moments and helping us complete this project. It certainly would not have been possible without him. I would like to thank all of my friends who listened to me complain about how hard it is to do something like this. I would like to thank everyone here for coming to this event, it means so much to me. I would like to thank my parents who, whether I liked it or not, made me work on my Hebrew no matter what and helped me through every step of the process. Finally, I would like to thank G-d for blessing me with such a great life and friends and family and being able to have an event like this, I am truly blessed.

Jewish Connections Book Club

The Jewish Connections Book Club will meet via Zoom until further notice.

Membership is not limited to synagogue members and is free of cost.

If you would like to participate with Jewish Connections or have any questions, please email Stephanie at stephanie.soj@gmail.com.

From September through May, our club will meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 10:00 – 11:00 am.

The final book club meeting, which takes place in the summer, will be scheduled around members summer plans and travel.

(Please see the separate book club document for the entire list of books for October 2020 - May 2021)

September Meeting:

Wednesday, September 16

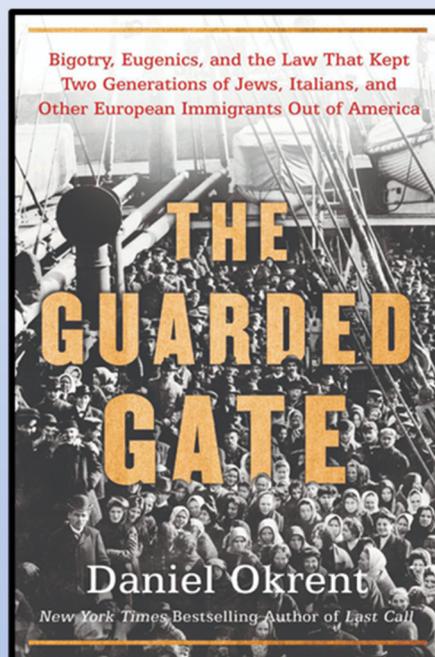
10:00 – 11:00 am

Via Zoom

September Selection

The Guarded Gate: Bigotry, Eugenics and the Law that Kept Two Generations of Jews, Italians, and Other European Immigrants Out of America

By Daniel Okrent



ONLINE-ONLY ISRAELI ART EXHIBITION AT THE UNI GALLERY OF ART...

Visions of Place: Complex Geographies in Contemporary Israeli Art **August 24th through October 3rd**

Follow this link for the exhibition - <https://gallery.uni.edu/exhibitions>

Israel offers a unique opportunity for a major exhibition of contemporary art and extensive, related programming, providing a series of lenses through which to view and to better understand the complexities of the country. Geography, in its physical, personal, religious, intellectual, political, existential, historical, economic and other manifestations, is an inescapable part of Israeli life, its psyche and art, and issues in relation to geography in this broad sense are some of the most pressing ones in the contemporary world. This exhibition includes the work of contemporary artists, all Israeli citizens, who deal with this central aspect of Israeli art in ways that speak to these vital concerns from a variety of diverse perspectives. Although focused specifically on Israel, the issues raised by the exhibition have wide interest and applicability in the broader contemporary world, and many of the artists in the exhibition exhibit their work internationally. The exhibition demonstrates the richness, complexity and diversity of perspectives in contemporary Israeli art, and by extension, Israeli society. It provides a rich artistic experience and can catalyze a broader, more open dialogue relating to the important issues raised by Israel's contemporary artists.

Zoom Webinar, Wednesday, September 2, 2020 - 6:00 – 7:00 pm (EST)

Register here: https://uni.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4E1viwHfRc-D6wGrGfHJeg

In this Zoom webinar, co-curators J Susan Isaacs, Ph.D., and Martin Rosenberg Ph.D., will introduce their national touring exhibition "Visions of Place," which is being hosted by the UNI Art Gallery this Fall. The exhibition focused around the theme of geography, in its broadest contemporary sense, includes 50 works by 35 contemporary Israeli artists, from a variety of diverse backgrounds. The artists are Jewish, from a variety of different backgrounds, Arab Muslim, Arab Christian, and Arab Druze, and half are women. These works are conceptually-rich, multi-layered, and visually compelling, and the exhibition includes many of the leading contemporary artists in Israel. The webinar will include an overview of the Virtual Exhibition, viewing of a brief documentary about "Visions of Place," and an exploration of a selection of works by the co-curators. Drs. Rosenberg and Isaacs will address questions raised by participants after their presentation.



Yahrzeits

In Jewish tradition, when the year of mourning is over, mourners are expected to return to a fully normal life. There are several occasions each year when our loved ones who have passed on are memorialized. The most significant of these is yahrzeit, the anniversary of the death, which is observed according to the Hebrew calendar. As is the case in all Jewish holy days, yahrzeit observance begins at night.

You are invited and encouraged to let us know the name and yahrzeit of your beloved ones who have departed. We will add them to our bulletin on the month in which the death occurred. You will get a reminder when the yahrzeit occurs. Yahrzeit candles are available at the synagogue.

“The memory of the Righteous is a Blessing”

The yahrzeits of these beloved, departed relatives listed below should be observed on the Friday and Saturday of the week listed...

August 30 - September 5:

Robert Vidis
John Gellerman
Anna Poteshman
Sylvia Weissman
Samuel Gershovitz
Anna Arenson

September 6 - 12:

Denie Barg
Benny Levine
Meyer Slivken
Mollie Weissman
Rosalie Levine
Bessie Lederman
Sylvia Finkelstein

September 13 -19:

Ida Bezman
Delmer Klein
Hyman Hacker
Michael Slavin
Robert Broughton
Rose Glassman Brady
Bertha Ratute
Martin Andrew Uze
Herb Dorfman
Michele Whitchelo

September 20 - 26:

Mordecai Zaidberg
Janet Goldberg
Anna Kramer
Marion Offman
Joe Cohen
Dorothy Lederman
Michael Ratute
Ida Goldberg
Jacob Rosenthal
Rose Tamres
Fred W Fredricksen
Celia Unger
Simon Hurwich

September 26 - October 3:

Nate Zeiger
Joseph B Cohn
Miriam Dorfman
Nancy Weissman Sarles
Miriam Hurwich
Dov Baer Krupkin
Joseph Maida
Jane Zucker
Lois Wolf
Eli Cohn
Harry Freedman
Ida Gefter
Selma Rosen



Sons of Jacob Membership Directory Greetings

We are working on the production of the 5781 (2020-2021) Membership Directory. All members receive a complimentary copy of the Membership Directory at High Holidays.

If you would like to purchase a greeting, celebration, or tribute, please fill out the information below. Greetings, tributes, and celebrations are \$10.00 each and return it by **Friday, September 11th**.

Your participation is greatly appreciated!

- Greeting(s) - Please List my greeting as follows:

- Celebration(s) or Tribute(s) – Please print how you would like your celebration/tribute to read:

Examples:

In honor of the graduation of granddaughter, Jane Doe from the University of Iowa.

-Grandma Doe

In memory of John Doe.

-Jane Doe and Family

Greetings/Celebrations/Tributes - \$10.00 Each _____

Directory (for non-member) - \$10.00 Each _____

Postage (if you would like it mailed to you) \$3.00 Each _____

- Please include a calendar

_____ **Total Due**

Mail to: _____



The Network of Independent Communities invites you to join us in experiencing Israel through a unique lens. Join us on Zoom to see first-hand how Jewish Federation is making a difference. Meet new people from small Jewish communities across North America!

[Register here to experience the smells and tastes of Israel!](#)

Wednesday September 2nd : JDC – *Global briefing (11:30 – 1:15)*

11:30 Pre-mission tour of Israel: *Lyanna Rotstien and Zalman Spivak*

12:00 Mission begins

- **Leslie Dannin Rosenthal**, Chair of Network – welcome back!
- **Rabbi Scott Kramer**, Agudath Israel Etz Ahayem Synagogue, Montgomery, Alabama - Intention
- **Avi Narrow-Tilonsky**, Welcome to JDC
- **Eli Massel**, Global JDC Briefing
- **Shira Tober**, Krav Maga, "Eitan Everybody Can!"
- **Tzippi Ziper**, Center for Independent Living
- **Rabbi Scott Kramer** - closing

Wednesday September 9th: JAFI – *Global Briefing (11:30 – 1:45)*

11:30 Pre-mission tour of Israel: *Lyanna Rotstien and Zalman Spivak*

12:00 Mission begins

- **Leslie Dannin Rosenthal**, Chair of Network – Welcome back
- **Rabbi Batsheva Meiri**, Congregation Beth HaTephila, Asheville, North Carolina - Intention
- **Ariel Lallosh**, Greetings from Dimona Deputy Mayor
- Greetings from **Isaac Herzog** Chairman of the Executive for the Jewish Agency
- **Liat Damoza** - JAFI welcome
- **Roi Vaknin**, Briefing by Dimona P2G director

Post Mission - September 16th 1:00

1:00 L'chaim for Rosh Hashana - Mission reunion

1:30 Join JFNA campaign accelerator: **Community Kvell**