Rabbi’s Letter

Our 30th/“Lamed” Anniversary Still Learning, Striving, Caring

By Rabbi Shawn Zevit | September 2018 / 5779

(Please see Rabbi Shawn's blog on www.mishkan.org for all hyperlinks)

Shalom and welcome to the Jewish rhythms of a new year. This year, 5779 in the Jewish calendar, marks the 30th anniversary of our first High Holy Days as a Reconstructionist community. From generation to generation, we ReGenerate our commitment to our Statement of Principles, our relationships and our evolving reason for being a community.

Using the ancient tool of Gematria, where each Hebrew letter is also a number; “30” is represented by the Hebrew letter “Lamed” and is our guidepost for the year. The shape of the Lamed itself is the tallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet and can be seen as a winding path in three sections. During our annual community meeting study session, our members pointed out that these three sections could stand for the three pillars in our Statement of Principles: Torah (Teaching/Learning); Avodah (Spiritual Practice, Ritual and Prayer) and Tikkun Olam/Gemilut Hasadim (Activism, Justice and Caring for Each Other).

If we explore further, we learn that the lamed is a word unto itself. Lamed means to learn and serves as the root for lilmod, to embody and ilamed, to teach or actualize what is learned Lamed is also used as a direction toward action—to move toward or to become. In this our 30th/Lamed year we embrace the foundational tenets of our Statement of Principles which propel us to the action required of these times. We will explore how we take care of ourselves as we heal a broken world. What do we need to sustain ourselves as a community and as individuals while rising to the times we were made for?

We join together for these High Holy Days and fall

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festivals to discover what lies ahead as we ReGenerate and celebrate our sacred connections to community and the world.

As the year begins, we join with nearly 100 member congregations of POWER and affiliates in the effort to register thousands of new voters. Our city, state and nation will be shaped for years to come beyond this one election. Our Jewish values and our own Mishkan Shalom statement of principles, compel us to rise above cynicism or apathy and get involved. We will do so in the weeks ahead!

Rabbi Yael and I have been preparing throughout the summer with energy and excitement for our sixth High Holy Days together at Mishkan, in a spiritual leadership partnership I continue to be grateful for. Our returning President Ellen Tichenor, and the Mishkan Board, Committee chairs and staff have been working through the summer to prepare for this 5779. We welcome our dynamic new Education and Youth Director, Rabbi Joysa Winter, who is already making her skill, compassion and energized engagement known.

I want to recognize and appreciate our continuing and new Board members and committee chairs, and our amazing staff. Our passionate co-chairs of Mishkan@30: ReGeneration campaign, David Piver, Keely Newman and founding member Irv Ackelsberg have worked tirelessly for over a year to get us 2/3 of the way to our goal of $950,000. This will serve to reduce our mortgage and free up funds for our mission, rebuild reserves and address staff, programming and building needs. We have a strong team all around as we continue to grow consciously the last three years in a row to our current 230 member households. Welcome new members and bring your friends who might be interested as well.

We are poised to move to a new phase in the life of our community as we enter our fourth decade together. Founding members can join the new generation of members to engage more actively in our mission and vision. Please read Ma Hadash weekly and visit our website often to stay informed. Please look at the wide array of educational and programmatic offerings coming this year and get involved in volunteering and/or participating. Our immersive Shabbat School returns for three Shabbat mornings this year in the winter months after two successful pilot years! Members Julie Meyer and Billy Linstead-Goldsmith co-chair our revitalized Green Team and sustainability efforts as part of our ongoing HAZON Seal of Sustainability initiative.

In the coming year, feel free to ask about our renewed Israel-Palestine discussion and action group. A few of us convened this summer to explore issues related to white privilege, bias, and racism so that we are also looking internally as we participate in activist work in the world around us. You can refer to our Kol Shalom issues from last April and May for more articles in this regard (https://mishkan.org/committee/kol-shalom-read-our-monthly-newsletter). Tikkun Olam board rep, Seth Horwitz, would be happy to discuss this with you, as would I.

On Shabbat weekend of September 7-8 we will have an opportunity to lean into renewed commitment and connections in a full weekend of dynamic learning, prayer, and sustenance. Rabbi Yael, Rabbi Joysa and I will all be on hand for Kabbalat Shabbat.

These Yamim Noraim/ Days of Awe are our 30th/ Lamed together. As we enter our 31st year let us raise the bar of involvement and demonstrate greater awareness of what it means to be a stakeholder in Mishkan Shalom. Thank you to those who have begun to move towards greater commitment through volunteer time and financial contributions.

As I take these words upon myself, I assess my own leadership of service, my partnering, parenting and friendships. I see my contributions and growth, and more often than not, my falling short of the person I long to be in this precious one life. If I have (continued on page 13)
Dear Friends,

It sure can be hard to say goodbye to summer. Its pauses keep me close to the year that preceded it, with its challenges, regrets, the occasional triumph, the deep losses, and indelible sweet moments. Summer’s a kind of slack tide in the annual rhythm of life. Some of us have traveled, hit a beach, a mountaintop or island, while some got no break at all. Some spent the summer defending immigrants and energizing voters. Whatever you did, I hope you had moments of beauty and some easy times that only summer affords. We need that inner spaciousness to support our turnings during the Days of Awe, and strengthen our intentions for a good year to come.

This year Yamim Noraim come early so for me to transition from summer feels a little more abrupt. Happily, while there’s much that’s upon us, there’s much to be energized about what’s ahead for Mishkan this year. Let me talk about two of them.

Last year at this time, we announced “Mishkan@30: ReGeneration” a five-year, $950,000 campaign to pay down the mortgage, build up reserves and grow our infrastructure to sustainable size. This year Mishkan actually turns 30, and I’m happy to say we’re off to a great start. Our intention from the start was and still is to have 100% member participation, also to take the opportunity to learn from each member household about their own needs and hopes for Mishkan in the next decade(s). We’ve had some great, thoughtful conversations and generous responses from the first 36 households who responded to our initial approach. Thus far, we have $582,000 pledged toward our total goal, over sixty percent! Thanks to all of you in this vanguard -- comprising less than a fifth of the congregation so far! -- for your mitzvah and your example.

If you do the math in a community of 230 households, you know this is just the start, albeit a great one, towards 100% participation. Though we’re well on course for meeting the goal, the sooner you contribute to the Campaign, the better off Mishkan will be. Here’s why: Our objective has been to raise $300,000 exclusively for paying down the mortgage in this first year of the campaign, and though we’re close, we are still short. The reason for front-loading such a big chunk of the total is to take advantage of a favorable interest rate before rates rise too high to make a difference. We’re told that will happen over the coming year. So we’re in a race against time to reduce our overall payments so the savings we achieve won’t simply be gobbled up by higher interest payments. You need not wait to be contacted: you can call me or any one of our tireless Campaign co-Chairs – David Piver, Keely Newman, Irv Ackelsberg, to make a time to talk. And when any one of them calls you, I hope you’ll respond with a time to talk in person about “your” Mishkan, and a contribution that you feel good making. We are also welcoming the next round of solicitors so special thanks go to those who are interested in joining the effort.

In Memories of a Catholic Girlhood, Mary McCarthy speculates that religion is only good for good people, who are the only ones who can afford to be religious. For others, she says, religion provides too much of a temptation to the deadly sins of pride, anger and sloth. I was never sure where I fit in those categories, I worry that I pride myself on being good at times. But I think we at Mishkan recognize the terrible cocktail of sins at work in our country and in the world. So we’re mobilizing a strong congregational presence in voter enrollment and engagement with only months until the (early!) November elections. In this work, Mishkan makes a powerful statement in solidarity with all the congregations and constituencies of POWER, about our refusal to accept tyranny and our insistence on compassion and justice as higher laws of the land. We’re keeping a focus on Israel/Palestine as Israel descends further into its own tyranny with new “Nationality Laws.” And we’re beginning to address white privilege and honor Jewish pluralism with various programmatic and liturgical offerings. In these ways, we endeavor as we pray, to be good and do good - both.

Wishing you a sweet and healthy year,

Ellen
Dear Friends,

Here we are, standing on the edge of another New Year together. As we know, it has been a challenging year in our country and throughout the world. And in the midst of all of it, I feel such gratitude for our community. We are so blessed to have each other.

Preparing for the Days of Awe, I am aware of the frustration, anger and hatred I am carrying in my heart. I don’t want these emotions to shape my entrance into the New Year. I don’t want this point of view to have such a hold on my soul. The year we are entering, 5779, offers guidance to ease some of the pressure and pain of these times.

With gematria, the mystical practice of transforming numbers into Hebrew letters, 5779 reveals the letters, ayin (70) and tet (9). Ayin means Eye and Tet is the first letter of Tov – Good.

5779 calls us to step into the year with an ayin tov, “a Good Eye” – to make a deep commitment to see the good and call forth the good in ourselves and others – to truly see another person and feel their goodness. And ayin tov also calls us to search for and see the good in the world and to share the blessings and joys we encounter.

This is not to deny the difficulty – or to dismiss the horrors – of stepping into the new year with an ayin tov, a good eye, as a way to strengthen ourselves and each other and raise up the good as an inspiration and a guide. An ayin tov can help us create relationships, build bridges and find common ground. And making a commitment to see the good – to look for the good – can help ease some of our pain and despair and provide a strong foundation upon which to work together for justice and peace.

Tich Nat Hahn, the Buddhist teacher, says when practicing in this way, we should not begin with the most difficult people and most difficult situations. He teaches we should practice seeing the good with those we love, with those we are in relationship with. We should practice seeing the good in the beauty of the natural world. After we have practiced for a while we then begin to expand our circle. And there may be some people and some situations, he says, that make it impossible for us to see the good. When that happens, he instructs, find comfort from the generosity of the earth and the goodness of friends.

As we walk into the New Year together, may we be supported by each other’s courage and love. May we be inspired by each other’s vulnerabilities and strengths. And may we guide each other in seeing the good and bringing forth the good for blessing, for justice, for peace.

I am so grateful to be walking with you.

Shalom, Rabbi Yael

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Email articles by the 15th of each month to levinson@yahoo.com
I began my new position as education director at Mishkan in mid-July and it has been a busy but quiet summer. I’ve had three opportunities to meet some of you.

First, **Gabby Kaplan-Meyer** and I co-lead a toddler service during the Shabbat Under the Stars event in July. Next, one of our teachers, **Cantor David Aker**, kindly agreed to co-lead a Shabbat morning service with me. Most recently, several of our teachers were on-hand for our mini Hebrew School reunion Kabbalat Shabbat.

Beyond those three formal events, however, most of my work has been done in a quiet building, behind a quiet computer screen.

That is all about to change dramatically of course. And I am so looking forward to the sounds of children’s footsteps filling up our hallways again! I’m really looking forward to finally getting the chance to get to know everyone in person at long last!

As you are probably aware, my primary role at Mishkan will be running the congregational Hebrew School and thanks to Rivka’s help, we were able to find two wonderful new teachers to join Gabby Kaplan-Meyer, Cantor David Acker and Julia Weekes on the Hebrew School staff.

**Amy Goldman** works her day job at Philadelphia Family Court, but she has been teaching Hebrew School for a decade, first in Dresher and most recently at Main Line Reform Temple, where she taught 4th grade for the past two years. For those families who attending our mini-Hebrew School reunion we can thank Amy for with two of the awesome activities we enjoyed.

Joining us as a 7th grade teacher is **Solomon Hoffman**, an incoming first-year student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Solomon earned his undergraduate degree in psychology and music, and he has been teaching at the Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore in New York for the past four years. Working closely with the rabbi, he brought to that community a dynamic curriculum for b’ni mitzvah-year students – a program we will be instituting in part this year at Mishkan.

Beyond running the Hebrew School, and teaching the teen program, I will also be helping coordinate the broader lifelong learning opportunities for the congregation. With thanks to Jennifer Coburn for running this program for the last two years, we are hoping another Mishkan-er will step forward and decide to take on this important mitzvah

In the meanwhile, I look forward to helping connect you all to Jewish learning opportunities around our city and in the online universe.

And don’t forget, the Reconstructionist movement is bringing its national convention to Philadelphia, November 15-18. It’s an awesome, inexpensive opportunity to engage in some great Jewish learning – and I encourage everyone to look at the roster of events.

If nothing else, consider coming to the Saturday night music jam where the new Jewgrass band **Nefesh Mountain** will be performing their hit song *The Narrow Bridge*. It’s not every day that a song with a line in Hebrew makes it into Country Music Billboard’s Top 10 list for best country songs of the year! Check out their music video here: [https://vimeo.com/264059821](https://vimeo.com/264059821).

I’m eager to hear from anyone who feels like they might have a class or skill they can bring to our community. We have a veritable trove of treasures among our own members, and I would love to be a conduit for sharing your gifts and knowledge!

The possibilities are limited only by our own imaginations! Think about the things you know best and please be in touch. Reach me at RabbiJoysa@mishkan.org or text me any time at 267-902-7752. I can’t wait to hear from you!

B’vracha,

Rabbi Joysa
Preaching to the Choir

By Tsurah August

The beauty of preaching to the choir is – that it is totally unnecessary! The choir “gets it.” No words necessary – or adequate!

I recently read an article that “sang the praises” of singing in a choir as a way to health, wholeness, joy and even longevity. When I told this to the Mishkan choir members they looked at me in silence, amazed that I had taken this long to “get it.”

However, this was only my third year in our choir, and I do “get it.” Singing in a choir takes you out of yourself – and into a Self that transcends the individual. I experience a harmonic oneness, a timelessness, a presence of sound in which my individual voice, like an individual wave in the ocean, is indistinguishable from the sea of music we flow in. Each session feels new, fresh, renewing, refreshing. No matter how tired I am from the day’s work, once we begin our warm-ups, I feel newly alive, awake – happy!

This is in no small part due to the talents, humor, patience, dedication and creativity of our choir director, Miriam Davidson. She is a gem!

So, dear reader, if you enjoy singing, please consider bringing your special sound to enrich our choir - and your life.

We meet, after the High Holidays, Tuesday evenings, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at Mishkan. Please contact Miriam Davidson at Miriamdvdsn@gmail.com for further information.

L’Shana Tova!
– Tsurah August
(215-421-0616)
B’nai Mitzvah

June Kaplan-Mayer
September 29

(Minha Service)

Before she even started Hebrew School, June was a regular at Mishkan—tagging along with her mom, Gabby Kaplan-Mayer, as she led Tot Shabbat services on Saturday mornings.

“I think my first Mishkan memory was when my mom gave me a stuffed animal from Rabbi Linda. I cherished it. I remember coloring and drawing, seeing the older kids being goofy, helping my mom out.”

Later, when she contemplated becoming Bat Mitzvah, June liked the idea of being hoisted up in a chair, but felt nervous about reading Hebrew, especially without vowels and trope marks, from the Torah.

“I’m usually the learner who doesn’t always get it at first,” she says, with characteristic candor. “But as I’ve been working and learning, I’ve been gaining confidence. I’m going to knock my Bat Mitzvah out of the park.”

June’s parasha is Bereishit (Gen. 1:1-6:8), a section that rouses her interest in both science and creativity. “This parasha explains the background of how this world became a world,” she says. “There are so many questions in it. I like pondering questions like ‘How did gas get invented? How did trees grow in the north?’”

Although the basic structure of the creation story was familiar—darkness to light to land to plants to animals to people—June found surprises in the text. “I didn’t know about how God took a part of a man’s rib and made it into a woman. Why did the man have to be created first? Why not the woman?”

She answers her own question: “Sexism! And a part I thought was cool: where it talked about how the snake told [Adam and Eve] to eat the fruit, and the snake was walking on legs, and God said, ‘Now I will make you be on the ground only.’ I thought: Is that how snakes got on the ground? It’s like when your teacher tells you something you never knew before.”

June sings with the Pennsylvania Girlchoir, which spent a week this summer on tour in Colorado; she also plays drums and piano and listens eclectically to rock, pop, jazz and country music.

For her tikkun olam project, she and a friend organized and performed in a “Musical Jewbilee” to raise money for Tikvah Family Camp in the Poconos, where June has gone—along with her parents and her brother, George, who has autism—for eight years. “It’s a camp for people who have a family member with special needs. It’s very inclusive, and very fun. We raised slightly over $3,000—enough for four families to go without paying,” June says.

With her Bat Mitzvah on the near horizon, June is thinking about her changing role in the place that has been a second home since before she can even remember. “Mishkan is such a positive place; it’s so inclusive. It’s a safe home. I’m looking forward to seeing my family proud, to being up there, doing my thing. It’s like…a ticket to adult life.”
New Sanctuary Movement Update

According to its mission, the New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia “builds community across faith, ethnicity, and class in our work to end injustices against immigrants regardless of immigration status, express radical welcome for all, and ensure that values of dignity, justice, and hospitality are lived out in practice and upheld in policy.” After this summer’s 40-day campaign “Fasting for Reflection, Healing and Rebirth” we are moving into the Fall and 5779 with the momentum of recent victories and a renewed focus. In the months ahead:

- NSM will continue to accompany undocumented immigrants in their encounters with the legal system, which we at Mishkan know can make a decisive difference in how the fate of those who are accompanied and their families.

- NSM will also continue to organize with a statewide coalition to give undocumented immigrants access to drivers licenses.

- The NSM Families United Committee will work to replenish its Community Fund which has already supported 5 families in need. Their first event, Solidarity Bingo, was a great success!

Stay tuned for updates on how to be involved in all of this important work. Please email mvramberg at gmail.com with any questions.

The biggest recent victory is Mayor Kenney’s decision that as of August 31, ICE no longer has access to PARS, a police database which they had used to find, detain and deport Philadelphia immigrants. In explaining the significance of this victory, NSM leader Estela said, “As immigrants, we are happy that today culminates a struggle of 10 years against a policy that helped separate immigrant families. Now we won’t be scared to go to court with the fear that ICE could come. I went today with my kids to represent all the kids that have had parents deported, and to share this triumph with them.”

Philadelphia also agreed to issue municipal IDs beginning in January, a major victory for undocumented people in the city since the state of Pennsylvania won’t issue them drivers licenses. In response to the demands of NSM and other pro-immigrant organizations the city researched how to make sure the IDS wouldn’t also put immigrants at additional risk and committed to get rid of the data collected in the process of issuing the ID to ensure that ICE does not use it for deportation.

Earlier this summer several Mishkan members fasted in solidarity with immigrants as part of the campaign “Fasting for Reflection, Healing and Rebirth.” In explaining his decision to answer the call to fast for a day, Rabbi Shawn wrote, “Fasting in solidarity with individuals and families being supported by NSM is a deeply Jewish and humanitarian way of partnering with this expression of justice and compassion.”

Reflecting on her experience fasting, Anndee Hochman wrote, “What I thought about while fasting Thursday is the very significant difference between surrendering food voluntarily, and being forced to live in a state of constant deprivation. Between having choices and not having choices. Between the often-invisible benefits of being a legal citizen of the United States and the terror of being undocumented. And I resolved to stay engaged--along with others at Mishkan and in NSM -- with the work of ensuring justice, peace and possibility for immigrants here.”

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Lively and Learned, our One Book Mishkan for 5779: Born to Kvetch: Yiddish Language and Culture in All of its Moods by Michael Wex

The Library Committee is pleased to announce our 14th annual One Book Mishkan, and to share our reasons for choosing this light-hearted, yet serious, book:

- It is a very entertaining read!
- The audiobook (read by the author) is very well done, and you may want to listen to it even if you do read the book because it conveys the sound of the Yiddish phrases in a way that the book’s transliterations cannot possibly match.
- The book is not a chronological history of the development of Yiddish but rather a review about how Jews have used it to talk about various topics such as religion, money, and sex. As such, it paints a psychological and sociological portrait of Jewish life.

The book gave us a number of ideas not just for our traditional programming but for other related activities as well.

This is Mishkan Shalom’s 30th year of existence. In his letter in this issue of Kol Shalom, (pp. 1-2) Rabbi Shawn Zevit reminds us that gematria, the tool that makes each Hebrew letter represent a numeric value as well, uses lamed for 30. The shape of lamed, rooted at the bottom and pointing to the future at the top, suggested to us that we could support the Congregation’s work this year by finding a way to explore its roots. Wex’ book supports that effort by examining the attitudes and experiences behind the language that many of our ancestors used for over a millennium.

Join the Library Committee and help plan this year’s 5779 programs. Fall is a great time to check us out. All members are welcome to join. Come see if we’re a good fit for you!

Time to gather and return books…including books from the Children’s (School) Library. The season for gathering your Mishkan Library books and returning them has arrived! Please place all items in the blue return bin under the circulation table, just as you enter the Library.

From all of us on the Library Committee, we wish you and yours a Shanah Tovah u’Metukah – a sweet and happy new year.

New Sanctuary Movement

(continued from the previous page)

NSM member Carmen Guerrero explained, “My purpose in fasting is to center myself. When your life is stressful and painful, you have to strengthen the body so that you can continue to confront [national] challenges. … [and] to holistically deal with this blanket of sorrows [we live under] so we can keep fighting.”

Maria Dorvil explained her reason for fasting, “When you are terrified your brain doesn’t function properly. I want us all to be free so we can share the gifts we have been given.”

And recently NSM issued this update on its Facebook page: “With respect to the events involving NSM and a group of former employees that have been reported in the media we share that: The parties have reached a just resolution regarding the terms of the former staff members’ termination of employment and the availability of legal fees. The parties are committed to moving forward for the good of the immigrant community.”
G’milut Hasadim/Acts of Caring

By Gene Bishop and Stephanie Shell

Mazel Tov
We offer a hearty mazel tov to June Kaplan-Mayer and her family as she becomes a bat mitzvah this month.

Condolences
We send condolences to the many Mishkan members who lost parents or other family members over the summer including:

- Kenneth Berkowitz, father of Gena Lopata
- Wesley Smith, father of Moon Smith
- Guillermo Slesersansky, father of Graciela Slesaransky-Poe
- Ruby Parker, mother of Sharon Parker
- Ralph Weisberg brother of Larry Weisberg
- David Steiker, father of Jim Steiker
- Dean Tuttle, father of Alan Tuttle
- Joshua Tesser Perlman, brother of Julie Meyers
- Joyce Goodman, mother of David Goodman

May their memories be for a blessing, and may Gena, Moon, Graciela, Sharon, Larry, Jim, Alan, Julie, and Joyce and their families be comforted among all who mourn.

Love and Support
This month we send our ongoing love, support, and prayers for healing to Mishkan members Eilen Levinson, Miriam Samuelson, Ray Kaplan, Teya Sepinuck, Erica Eisenberg, Jane Lipton, Adam Tuttle, Claire Needleman, Robin Berenholz, Bernice Bricklin, Mark Goodman, Jane Hinkle, Denise Kulp, Robin Leidner, George Kaplan-Meyer, Nathan Horwitz, Lior Feldman, and Natalie Gorvine.

We also send ongoing love, support, and prayers for healing to all those Mishkan members in need of healing but who seek to remain private.

We are keeping Carol Dombroski (mother of Brian Dombroski), Natalie Caplin (mother of Wendy Caplin), Eleazar Shimon Hakohen ben Shoshana v’Ahron Yosaif (father of Rabbi Shawn Zevit), Sarah Rivka bat Elizabeth (mother of Rabbi Shawn Zevit), Sarah Bradley (mother of David Bradley), Debra Singer (sister of Karen Singer), Patrick Windle (brother of Susan Windle), Sal Berenholz (father of Robin Berenholz), Jackie Berman-Gorvine (daughter-in-law of Natalie & Harold Gorvine), Lorna Michaelson (mother-in-law of Joe Brenman), Edgar Galson (father of Wendy Galson and father-in-law and mother-in-law of Susan Windle), Don Levinson, brother of Eilen Levinson, and Julie Post and Joseph Post (sister and father of Nancy Post) and in our prayers as well. May they all experience a refuah sheleimah (full healing).

Please notify us if you want a name added to, or removed from, our “Ongoing love, support, and prayers of healing…” list.

Are you receiving Acts of Caring via email?
Acts of Caring now goes out to all Mishkan members. It is our communication central for sharing life cycle events and community needs for help. If you are not receiving Acts of Caring, please check your spam, or if you have gmail, your solicitations folder (Acts of Caring is distributed by Constant Contact). If you unsubscribe from Ma Hadash, intentionally or accidentally, you will also be unsubscribed from Acts of Caring. Please contact the office for clarification.

Acts of Caring
Acts of Caring lets the Mishkan Shalom community learn about significant events in the lives of our members. In this way, we can reach out to one another in times of grief, illness, and joy. To reach us simply email: actsofcaring@mishkan.org.

HINENI--HERE I AM
If you could use a little help because of illness, or joy (new baby!) or you know of a Mishkan member too shy to ask, please email actsofcaring@mishkan.org and we will reach out. Hineni offers concrete support to members in need of short term help, including meals, visits, transportation, etc. If you would like some help, but do not wish a public solicitation, please contact the rabbis, or actsofcaring@mishkan.org and we will speak with you privately and seek to arrange help. Our Hineni coordinators are Lisa Mervis and Chris Taranta.

Got Nachas? Sharing your good news is a marvelous way to connect our community! Please don’t be shy - send all lifecycle events you would like to be posted to our email address: actsofcaring@mishkan.org.
Please join us for Torah Study every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.

Saturday, September 1 – 10:30 a.m. – Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Shawn; 8:00 p.m. – Teshuvah workshop; 9:00 p.m. – Selihot Service with Rabbis Shawn and Yael

Friday, September 7 – 7:30 p.m. – Welcome Back Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, September 8 – 10:00 a.m. – A Way In Mindfulness Service, with Rabbi Yael

Sunday, September 9 – 7:00 p.m. – Erev Rosh HaShanah Service

Monday, September 10 – 9:00 a.m. – Rosh HaShanah Service at Haverford School

Tuesday, September 11 – 9:00 a.m. – Rosh HaShanah Service at Mishkan Shalom

Saturday, September 15 – 10:00 a.m. – Shabbat Shuvah Service, with Rabbi Shawn and guest Sarah Halley

Tuesday, September 18 – 6:30 p.m. – Kol Nidre Service at Haverford School

Wednesday, September 19 – 9:00 a.m. – Yom Kippur Service at Haverford School

Saturday, September 22 – 10:00 a.m. – A Way In Mindfulness Service, with Rabbi Yael

Sunday, September 23 – 5:00 p.m. – Erev Sukkot Service at the home of Nancy Post and Chris Jacobs

Monday, September 24 – 10:00 a.m. – Sukkot Service with Rabbi Shawn and Rabbi Yael

Friday, September 28 – 7:30 p.m. – Kabbalat Shabbat Service, with Rabbi Shawn

Saturday, September 29 – 10:00 a.m. – A Way In Mindfulness Service, with Rabbi Yael; 4:00 p.m. – June Kaplan Mayer will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah, with Rabbi Shawn

Sunday, September 30 – 6:30 p.m. – Shmeni Atzeret/Simhat Torah Service

Monday, October 1 – 10:00 a.m. – Shmeni Atzeret/ Simchat Torah at Germantown Jewish Centre

Letter from the Rabbi

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unintentionally hurt or missed the mark with any of you, please let me know in kindness so we may move into this next year with a more open heart together. As I begin the sixth year serving our community, please let me know better ways to do so or ways that we can better support each other in conscious Jewish community.

Let us examine, explore and commit to move forward (the Lih of Lamed!) in strength and deeper engagement. This is going to be a remarkable year. Elul tov v’Shanah Tovah U’Mitukah – wishing all of us and our precious world rebirth and renewal in the year ahead.