**Welcome to Kesher**

Connection is the force that binds members and clergy to Judaism and to The Village Temple.

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**USHERING IN THE NEW YEAR AND DAYS OF AWE**

**NEW YEAR AND DAYS OF AWE**

**HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE – 5779**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erev Rosh Hashanah</td>
<td>Sunday, September 9, 2018</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Service held at The Cooper Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosh Hashanah, Day 1</td>
<td>Monday, September 10, 2018</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Morning Service at The Cooper Union</td>
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<td>Children's Service at The Cooper Union</td>
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<td>*4:00 pm</td>
<td>*Tashlich Service at Hudson River &amp; 10th St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosh Hashanah, Day 2</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 11, 2018</td>
<td>*10:00 am</td>
<td>Service held at The Village Temple</td>
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<td>Kol Nidre</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 18, 2018</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Service held at The Cooper Union</td>
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<td>Yom Kippur</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 19, 2018</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Morning Service at The Cooper Union</td>
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<td>*2:00 pm</td>
<td>Children's Service at The Cooper Union</td>
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<td>*3:45 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon Service at The Cooper Union</td>
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<td>**4:45 pm</td>
<td>*Yizkor and N’ilah Services at The Cooper Union</td>
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*Services marked with an asterisk (*) are open to all with no tickets required

**Services led by Rabbi Deborah A. Hirsch and Cantor Nancy Bach**

Children's Choir led by Anita Hollander

The Cooper Union is located at 7 East 7th Street at 3rd Ave.
The Village Temple is located at 33 East 12th Street

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Come as you are. Discover who you are.
Dear Friends,

In just a few days, many of us will be gathering in The Cooper Union as we usher in the Jewish New Year and prepare ourselves for the awe-filled task of self-reflection and brute honesty. We will seek God’s forgiveness and turn from paths that distracted us from living up to our highest values and ideals.

Last month, as I walked past the yoga studio on University Place, I noticed a quote written on the outdoor sign. It read, “It always seems impossible until it’s done.” The quote is attributed to the late, Nelson Mandela (z’l), who would have celebrated his 100th birthday this past July. In thinking back on Nelson Mandela’s life journey, indeed, there were numerous moments—actually 27 years of moments—that, just surviving them, must have seemed an impossible burden. Siobhan O’Grady’s July article in The Washington Post stated that during Mandela’s 27 years in prison, “Mandela missed raising his children and burying both his mother and elder son, Thembi, who was killed in a car accident in 1969.” During his decades in prison, Mandela never gave up hope. A new collection of his prison letters has recently been published. While in prison Mandela pursued a law degree, wrote incessantly to his children, who, for all intent and purpose, were orphans (during the 27 years, his wife Winnie also served time in jail). I had the privilege of meeting the Mandelas when they were honored in NYC in 1990. I attended a worship service in Brooklyn where Winnie Mandela spoke (long before their divorce and the scandals about her emerged). I was in awe of a man who had every reason to be hardened, angry and bitter. Yet, he made the impossible possible. He exceeded any childhood dream. His life was a demonstration of meeting challenge with hope, of never allowing hatred to blur vision, and to never forget that we have the potential of bringing humanity and leadership into a world in desperate need of both. His long road to freedom remains a signpost of possibility for us all.

Theodore Herzl, decades before the birth of the modern State of Israel, declared, ’Im tirzu ein zo Agadah—If you will it, it is no dream. Of course, he was speaking of a Jewish homeland, and, yet, his words ring true for us on the cusp of a new year. If one has the moxie—the courage and the vision for change—change does not remain an illusive dream. During the Noraim—at times, both awe-filled and awful—we have the power to delve into the deepest recesses of our hearts and find those parts of ourselves that ache for true expression—that need to be nurtured and unleashed.

With beating hearts of courage and love, with words that bring us closer to all that we hold precious, we will attempt to find the courage within to face life’s challenges.

The High Holy Days beckon us to change—to change direction or perhaps to change priorities—to return to the essentials teachings of Torah. The Yom Kippur morning Torah portion implores us to return to Adonai, “with all your heart and with all your soul.” Torah suggests that returning is not so difficult. “Rather this thing [the ability to return] is very close to you: it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can fulfill it.” With beating hearts of courage and love, with words that bring us closer to all that we hold precious, we will attempt to find the courage within to face life’s challenges. And perhaps one year from now, we will look back and see how we met the challenges in our lives of what today seems impossible.

Carole joins me in wishing you a sweet and good year.

L’shalom,
Rabbi Deborah A. Hirsch
rabbidhirsch@villagetemple.org
Friends,

This issue of Kesher marks the first after the end of Julie Salamon’s unprecedented five-year term as co-president, and that gives me an opportunity to sing Julie’s praises without interference. To say we owe her a debt of gratitude is an understatement. The temple, the board, the staff, the clergy, and even the way we engage each other were all made better thanks to her efforts. Since Julie did such a great job, we did not let her leave the board and she will continue to serve as a Vice President.

July 1st marked the end of Julie’s term and the start of Sarah King’s term as co-president. Sarah King has been on the board for the last 4 years, she has been an officer of the board and has been chairperson of the religious school committee. Sarah and her husband William, their daughters, Summer and Anaïs, are familiar to congregant families with school-aged children. It is a privilege to serve as Co-President with Sarah.

This year marks the Village Temple’s 70th anniversary and we will be celebrating throughout the 2018-2019 year. The 70th anniversary celebrations are being planned by a committee co-chaired by former co-presidents Wendy Kaplan and Stephanie Kanarek. Rabbi David Stern of Temple Emanu-El of Dallas and president of the Central Conference of American Rabbi’s (CCAR) will be leading us in a special service in November and we are planning a big anniversary party on Wednesday, March 6, 2019. More details will be provided shortly.

As we near September, it is good to remember that the High Holy Days will start on Sunday evening September 9th. With that in mind please pay your dues so we can mail your tickets in time. We also ask that you invite your friends to join us for High Holy Day services at The Cooper Union, where we will be debuting our new prayer books, Mishkan HaNefesh, generously paid for by Jamil Simon, Emily Hacker, Anne Keating, Arthur Rovine, and Nelly Szlachter.

Fred Basch
Co-President

I am very honored to serve with Fred as co-president of the Village Temple. My husband and I were married by Rabbi Koster 17 years ago and our two daughters have enjoyed being part of our temple’s religious school and choir over the last 10 years. Although I grew up going to a Conservative synagogue in Paris, I feel most at home at The Village Temple with congregants of diverse backgrounds and a common commitment to Judaism, Israel, and tikkan olam - social action and justice. In the year ahead, I will welcome opportunities to reinforce our connections to each other as a caring community, which is something so important in today’s world. I look forward to seeing you all during our High Holy Days!

L’Shalom,
Sarah
Co-President

Yom Kippur Afternoon Service
New Time….Inspirational Guest Speakers Format!

This year, Yom Kippur afternoon will have a new feel as Rabbi Hirsch and Cantor Bach will be threading together the 3 component pieces of the service: Mincha, Yizkor & N'ilah. The afternoon service (mincha) will begin at 3:45. Prior to the Torah and Haftarah readings chanted by our teens, we will have the opportunity to hear reflections from three of our members. “The heart of the Yom Kippur service is tikun middot ha-nefesh—repairing and strengthening the personal quality traits that enable us to fulfill the urge to be good—virtues such as love, self-discipline, gratitude, and forgiveness.” (Mishkan Hanefesh p. 364.) With specially selected music as a backdrop and frame, the congregation will hear from three members—Sam Kopel, Julie Salamon, and David Smith—who will reflect on a soul trait meaningful to them at this introspective time of year. The afternoon service will segue into our community focusing on one of the most powerful soul traits—Remembrance—as we will continue with Yizkor and conclude with N’ilah.
The Jewish New Year brings wonderful opportunities for teenagers to be involved at The Village Temple. Our post b’nai mitzvah students are invited to participate in High Holy Day services by chanting Torah, blessings, and helping to lead and assist at children’s services. Once the school year begins, 8th-12th graders have numerous ways to participate at temple. Our teen schedule will be posted online with programs and events throughout the year. Here is just a smattering:

- 8th-9th grade madrich classes
- Confirmation track with Rabbi Hirsch for students in 11th and 12th grade
- Social action projects and learning opportunities
- A social action and Jewish heritage trip to Philadelphia
- Joint programming with the East End Temple Youth Group

Additionally, all 8th-12th graders are encouraged to be teaching assistants in the classrooms during religious school. It’s a great way to learn responsibility and gain experience, and allows the older students to share their knowledge with younger children. It’s such a joy to see the children who have grown up at The Village Temple give back to their community by helping in the school.

We will be in touch with all the teens and parents in the late summer and early fall to discuss all the ways to stay involved at The Village Temple. Looking forward to another great year for our teens!

Liotte Greenbaum
Director of Community Engagement
lgreenbaum@villagetemple.org

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**Highlights of The Village Temple’s 70th Year Celebration**

Seventy years ago, thirty Jewish residents of Greenwich Village decided to start a liberal synagogue downtown, B’nai Israel, but always referred to as The Village Temple. At first, services were held at a hotel and then in a local church. In 1957, the congregation purchased its own building, at 33 East 12th Street, where the synagogue has remained. During this 70th anniversary year, you are invited to participate in a commemoration of past and future, in a series of upcoming events.

The festivities begin, appropriately, with the High Holy Days, beginning the evening of September 9, and the introduction of the *Mishkan HaNefesh*, the synagogue’s new prayer books. This beautiful, two-volume set—one book for Rosh Hashanah and one for Yom Kippur, reflect The Village Temple’s goal to respect tradition while recognizing changing needs and values. *Mishkan HaNefesh* is fully transliterated, allowing everyone to follow along. Traditional liturgy is accompanied by readings resonant with contemporary issues and struggles.

On the weekend of November 30, 2018, Rabbi David Stern, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, will come to The Village Temple to be a scholar-in-residence. Rabbi Stern is the senior rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, third largest congregation in the United States. He is an inspiring orator and prominent leader in the field of social justice, and will speak at Friday night services and lead a discussion at a community dinner to follow.

And mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 6, 2019, a fundraising gala for The Village Temple, to be held at Manhattan Penthouse, at 80 Fifth Avenue.

These are just three highlights of a year that promises to offer many opportunities for our congregation to reflect on our community’s vision and purpose, to build for a strong future, and to get to know one another better. Thanks to Wendy Kaplan Goldberg and Stephanie Kanarek for co-chairing the 70th Anniversary Committee. They are looking for volunteers to help with these events and others that will be announced as plans take shape. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact executive director Sandy Albert at 212-674-2340 or salbert@villagetemple.org.
Bruchim HaBa'im! Shalom and welcome to the 2018-2019 / 5779 school year at The Village Temple!

It is such a pleasure and honor to welcome back all students and their families following a refreshing and memorable summer break. It is also a delight to welcome our new students and their parents. I hope that the roots you and your children plant here at The Village Temple this season will offer your family a deep and meaningful connection to this vibrant Jewish community for many years to come. Please remember that that our clergy, staff and fellow families are here to welcome you and help you navigate along your journey as you become active in our many innovative programs and services.

In Religious School this year, we will be launching many new and exciting offerings inspired by our shared vision of excellence, your feedback gathered via a school survey, and through many individual meetings that took place during the previous school year and this summer. Below are some of important dates to put on your calendars and highlights of what we have in store for the coming school year:

- **Monday, September 10 at 2:00 pm at The Cooper Union:** We welcome all Religious School families and their friends to our open community Rosh HaShanah family service. Also join us at *Yom Kippur* on September 19 at 2:00 pm.

- **Sunday, September 16 at 10:00 pm:** The official school kick-off party and Religious School Open House. Our block will be closed for traffic and we will have the chance to reconnect after the summer break, meet new friends, and celebrate as a community. Please invite your friends to join!

- **Following an intense planning process and our pilot program last year, we officially introduce our new, one-day-a-week 5th -7th grade Religious School Wednesday model. This new flexible model will allow our students in grades 5-7 to attend Religious School only one day a week – on Sundays, 9:00AM-1:00 PM or on Wednesdays, 3:45-6:00 PM. Our Wednesday students will receive a weekly individual online Hebrew homework assignment, in addition to their classroom instruction. The individual homework assignments, accessible online through personal logins, are designed to supplement our in-house learning in order to help our students meet their Hebrew learning goals and advance their skills using a self-paced structure.**

- **On Sundays, we will offer a new set of *chugim* (club-like electives) designed to help our students explore Jewish identity through dance, art, music, and dramatics.**

- **This year will continue having our beloved Class Shabbat dinners and services, Parent Socials, Shabbat dinners at congregants’ homes, and *shul*-ins. These and many more wonderful community events will give you and your children the opportunity to experience the warmth of The Village Temple family and to make many meaningful connections within it.**

- **This summer, Cantor Nancy Bach and Rose Snitz, our music teacher and songleader on Sundays and Wednesdays, created a new school-wide music curriculum. I am certain their work will greatly enhance our Religious School music program and help our students and their parents discover the love of contemporary and traditional Jewish music and liturgy.**

Lastly, I would like to remind you about a special membership promotion available to new members enrolling their children in grades 1 or 2 for the first time. They will receive a gift of free membership in our Temple family for one year! Spread the good word among your friends and neighbors about our wonderful Religious School, a place where our children want to be, where they are surrounded by nurturing, warm faculty and good friends, and are engaged in a meaningful learning experience, full of fun games, creative projects, and other rewarding activities.

To the entire Village Temple community, I wish a *Shana Tova U'Metuka* – a good and sweet year—a year blessed with new friendships, awe, wonder, joyous learning, meaningful connections, and a love of Judaism!

*Lishalom,*  
Alex Tansky  
*Director of Education*  
atansky@villagetemple.org
Meet Our New High Holy Day Machzor
*Mishkan Haneefesh*—Tabernacle of the Soul

When we gather at The Cooper Union this year, gone will be the familiar red Gates of Repentance (1978) and the transliteration pamphlets that attempted to make the Hebrew liturgy accessible to us all. Gone will be the two versions of liturgy—gendered and gender neutral. This year, we will pray in one voice!

*Mishkan Ha-Nefesh* is a High Holy Day prayer book for the 21st century. There is one volume for *Rosh HaShanah* and one for *Yom Kippur*. In addition to the traditional text that is fully transliterated on the same page, this prayer book contains numerous prayers and readings that reflect the needs, fears and desires of today. You will notice that there are no ‘stage directions’—we are not told when to sit or stand, when to pray silently or together. Those decisions are left to the *minhagim*—the customs of each individual congregation. Many of the musical settings we use in our congregation have been incorporated into the prayer book, so no need for additional handouts of music.

In addition to the traditional liturgy, there are study texts and numerous alternative readings. The layout of the prayer book (with the exception of some specific liturgy) is in a two-page layout. The "chatimot"—final line of each blessing signals the congregation to turn the page. During this, our first year of using this *machzor*, the rabbi and cantor will be announcing pages to ensure no one gets lost—unless they choose to let their eyes wander to alternative texts.

Here is a clickable link to the CCAR Press website (if reading a PDF version of *Kesher*), which introduces and explains the intricacies of *Mishkan HaNefesh*. We hope you will take a moment to become acquainted with our prayer companion for these Days of Awe.

The Village Temple is delighted to join the hundreds of Reform congregations that have adopted *Mishkan HaNefesh* and have been inspired by its beautiful prayers and readings.

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**New High Holy Days Machzor Book Plates**

We are excited that during the High Holy Days, we will praying from our new *machzor*, *Mishkan HaNefesh* (Tabernacle of the Soul), a fully transliterated prayer book that contains traditional liturgy, music, study materials and interpretive readings. *Mishkan HaNefesh* is a beautiful, two-volume set—one book for *Rosh HaShanah* and one for *Yom Kippur*.

Members and friends of the congregation have the opportunity to dedicate a set in honor/memory/celebration of a loved one or special occasion.

A special donor plate will appear in each book.

The cost to dedicate a set is $180 for members and $216 (12x *chai*) for non-members.

Please email Sandy Albert to dedicate your bookplates or for more information.

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**Sukkot Celebration**

**Sunday, September 23**

- 4:30 pm Intergenerational Gathering
- 4:45 pm Adult Learning & Sukkah Decorating & Wine & Appetizers
- Religious School Sukkah Decoration Workshop & Study & Snacks
- 5:45 pm Students Decorate the Sukkah
- 6:10 pm Sukkah Brachot with Lulav & Etrog

**Simchat Torah**

**Sunday, September 30**

- 5:15 pm Yizkor in Sanctuary
- 5:45 pm Snacks in the Sukkah
- 6:00 pm Religious School Consecration of New Students
- 6:30 pm Simchat Torah Celebration
### SEPTEMBER 2018/5778-5779

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<td><em>Office Closed in observance of Labor Day</em></td>
<td><em>Soup Kitchen</em></td>
<td><em>Children’s Choir Practice</em></td>
<td><em>Board Meeting</em></td>
<td><em>Kabbalat Shabbat Service</em></td>
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<td><em>Bat Mitzvah Devin Craig-Schwartz</em></td>
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<td>8:00 pm Service at The Cooper Union</td>
<td>10:00 am Service at The Cooper Union</td>
<td>10:00 am Service at The Village Temple</td>
<td><em>Soup Kitchen</em></td>
<td><em>Bat Mitzvah Devin Craig-Schwartz</em></td>
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<td><em>RS</em> 9:00 am Religious School Parparim &amp; Pre K/K</td>
<td><em>RS</em> 10:00 am Kick-Off Party and Open House</td>
<td><em>Kol Nidre</em></td>
<td><em>Yom Kippur All services at The Cooper Union</em></td>
<td><em>Kabbalat Shabbat Service</em></td>
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<td><em>RS</em> 9:00 am Religious School</td>
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<td><em>RS</em> 6:00-7:00 pm Children’s Choir Practice</td>
<td><em>RS</em> 6:00-7:00 pm Madrich</td>
<td><em>Kabbalat Shabbat Service</em></td>
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<td><em>Simchat Torah</em></td>
<td><em>No morning Religious School classes</em></td>
<td><em>RS</em> 3:45-5:45 pm Religious School</td>
<td><em>RS</em> 3:45-6:00 pm Religious School</td>
<td><em>Kabbalat Shabbat Service</em></td>
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Meet our September-October B’nai Mitzvah:

- **Devin Craig-Schwartz** will become Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, September 8, Parashat Nitzavim
- **Sadie Howard** will become Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, September 29, Parashat Ki Tisa
- **Brian Wolfson** will become Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 13, Parashat Noach
- **Sam Copitch** will become Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 20, Parashat Lech L’cha

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*RS = Religious School  C = Classes  S = Service  ** = Choir  E = Events  B = Board Meeting*
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<td>6:45-6:00 pm Religious School</td>
<td>6:00 pm Confirmation Orientation with Rabbi Hirsch</td>
<td>6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>6:00-7:00 pm Children's Choir Practice</td>
<td>6:45-6:00 pm Religious School</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 pm Madrich</td>
<td>6:45 pm Welcome Back Shabbat</td>
<td>6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service followed by a community dinner</td>
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<td>9:00 am-1:00 pm Religious School</td>
<td>8:45-5:45 pm Religious School</td>
<td>6:45-6:00 pm Religious School</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 pm Madrich</td>
<td>6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
<td>6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THE VILLAGE TEMPLE**

Congregation B’nai Israel of New York
33 East 12th Street
New York, NY 10003