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

Welcome to Kesher

IN THIS ISSUE
A Letter from the Rabbi ................................................................. 2
A Letter from the Co-Presidents ..................................................... 3
Bucket List for End of Life Concerns .............................................. 3
Rabbinic Search Update ............................................................... 4
Education News ............................................................................. 5
Teens at The Village Temple ......................................................... 6
Save the Date ................................................................................. 6
Welcome Kalix Jacobson ............................................................... 7
September Calendar ..................................................................... 7
October Calendar ........................................................................... 8

Welcome Kalix Jacobson

September-October 2019 / 5779/5780

HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE – 5780 Please note new service times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erev Rosh Hashanah</td>
<td>Sunday, September 29, 2019</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Service held at The Cooper Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosh Hashanah, Day 1</td>
<td>Monday, September 30, 2019</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Morning Service at The Cooper Union</td>
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<td>Ages under 7 Children's Service at The Cooper Union</td>
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<td>Ages 8-11 Children's Service at The Cooper Union</td>
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<td><strong>Tashlich</strong> Service at Hudson River &amp; 10th St.</td>
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<td>Rosh Hashanah, Day 2</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 1, 2019</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Morning Service at The Village Temple followed by a light lunch</td>
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<td>Kol Nidre</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 8, 2019</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Kol Nidre</strong> Service at The Cooper Union</td>
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<td>Yom Kippur</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 9, 2019</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
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<td>Afternoon Service at The Cooper Union</td>
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<td><strong>Yizkor and N'ilah</strong> Services at The Cooper Union</td>
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*Services marked with an asterisk (*) are open to all with no tickets required
** Yizkor service will start between 4:15 and 4:30 pm

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
When I submitted this article, the last days of July were quickly fading into memory. The first session of summer camp was over as children returned home more confident—friendships firmly solidified by a common camp experience. Families put the final touches on late summer travel plans. Our public schools’ incoming 8th graders were prepping for the Specialized High School Admissions test (SHSAT) and high school admissions. Most college students (save those on the quarter system) have returned and some parents are adjusting to their new empty-nester status. Others took advantage of a slower Manhattan—and still others were in flight to the beach or the mountains.

More than a half century ago, Judy Collins wrote and recorded “Who Knows Where the Time Goes.” As a teen, 50 years ago would have seemed like ancient history. Today, a half-century is not a faded memory, but, one that often is crystal clear. In Psalm 90 we read “For a thousand years in Your (God’s) sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.” Although, our horizon of time is vastly contracted to that of God’s, each of us knows our lifespan never has enough moments to accomplish all of our hopes and desires, and the passage of time speeds by ever so quickly.

According to Aristotle, who influenced great Jewish thinkers like Sadia Gaon and Maimonides, time is “the number of motion according to ‘before’ and ‘after’. (Physics 4:11, 29b) Time, although, existing in its own moment, is inextricably linked to what precedes that moment and what will follow.

May this coming year, be one of enrichment, growth, and enjoying who our congregation is and the potential that will reach fruition in future time.

The next months will be critical ones, as the rabbinic search committee fulfills its sacred mission to interview and recommend the congregation’s next rabbi. As the interim rabbi it has been my role to create ‘breathing room’ for the congregation. During the past three years, we have borrowed time to reflect, alter course and dream. The congregation has found a new equilibrium—one that embraces change and has the self-confidence to move into exciting, albeit, unchartered waters. The next 10 months will be ones of preparation: to search, say good-bye and welcome. More than 40 years ago, James Taylor wrote, “…the secret of life is enjoying the passage of time.”

May this coming year, be one of enrichment, growth, and enjoying who our congregation is and the potential that will reach fruition in future time.

Carole joins me in wishing you all a shanah tovah un’tukah—a good and sweet year.

Rabbi Deborah A. Hirsch
Rabbidhirsch@villagetemple.org
Dear Village Temple community,

We hope everyone enjoyed a great summer, whether staying in the city or traveling. We have school-aged children, so our family’s summer follows their schedule of sports camps, internships, and youth trips, as well as an annual family visit to Europe to spend time with my relatives. This is all wonderful and we feel very blessed. Yet I always look forward to September with our kids going back to school and the return of a certain routine, all leading up to the High Holy Days. The beginning of the Jewish calendar year brings beloved rituals, family traditions passed from generation to generation, and a time to pause, reflect, and pray as Jews do all over the world. A special time indeed.

We look forward to seeing you and your families in the upcoming weeks. Sunday September 15th is the first day of our Religious School and also our Open House. This is a chance for interested families to learn about our religious school and temple; so don’t hesitate to pass the word out and bring your friends. We hope to reconnect and break bread (or challah!) with many of you at our Welcome Back Shabbat on Friday September 20th. Our services will be followed by a lovely community dinner. Make sure to sign up early for the dinner, as we will sell out quickly.

And of course, we will greet all of you at The Cooper Union starting on September 29th for Erev Rosh Hashanah services. In response to feedback received last year, our High Holy Day services will start and end a little earlier, and we are having two children’s services on Rosh Hashanah to better engage younger and older children with age-appropriate content. Make sure to refer to the High Holy Days schedule.

We are grateful for what won’t change this year: Rabbi Hirsch and Cantor Bach sharing the bimah and leading us through High Holy Day services, supported by Anita Hollander and our amazing Children’s Choir during children’s services. We will be praying again from our new fully-transliterated prayer book, Mishkan HaNefesh. Consider dedicating a set with your donation as a very special way to honor or celebrate a loved one. Contact Sandy Albert (salbert@villagetemple.org) for details.

While busy with the new religious school year and High Holy Days, we are also planning for the future as our search for a permanent rabbi is well under way. Change can feel uncomfortable, particularly when thinking of separating from Rabbi Hirsch, who has made our congregation stronger and for whom we have so much appreciation and respect. Yet thanks to Rabbi Hirsch we are an attractive congregation for prospective rabbis. Please read the update from our amazing search committee chairs, Julie Salamon and Marlowe Greenberg, and do not hesitate to reach out to them, to us, or to Rabbi Hirsch with any questions about the search.

Wishing all of you a sweet and good New Year.
Sarah King and Fred Basch, Co-Presidents
Sarahking123@gmail.com
Fredbasch@nyc.rr.com

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**Bucket List for End of Life Concerns**

**Wednesday, October 23, 2019 • 6:30-8 pm**

This Program will deal with planning for and coping with death. The Program is not just for the elderly. Young couples need to think about who will care for their children if both parents die, and dealing with elderly parents. All of us will at some point have to deal with death, whether our own or family members’, so this Program should be of great interest to all of us.

**Panelists include:**
- Rabbi Deborah Hirsch
- John O’Neil, Retired Paul Weiss Rifkind Trusts & Estates Partner
- Charles Solomon, President of Riverside Chapel
- Discussion moderated by Steve Shore, attorney and VT member

**Topics to be addressed:**
- Legal planning and post-death issues
  - Wills
  - Health Care Proxies
  - Powers of Attorney
  - Probate Proceedings
- Funerals (planning and the nuts and bolts of a funeral)
- Dealing with emotional and ethical issues (eg, what to say to children)

**RSVP:** Liotte Greenbaum (lgreenbaum@villagetemple.org)
As most of you know by now, we have embarked on a search for a permanent rabbi. Since Rabbi Hirsch joined The Village Temple as our interim three years ago, our community has become so much stronger—financially, spiritually and in terms of being connected to one another. Through June 30, 2020 she will continue to be our spiritual leader while helping us prepare for a confident and joyous transition. This is in accordance with the rules of The Joint Placement Commission of the Reform Movement, which stipulates that an interim rabbi cannot become our settled rabbi. Rabbi Hirsch has earned our deepest gratitude and respect for bringing us to this place of health and hope for the future.

This process involves two equally important components: [1] the rabbinic search itself and [2] transitioning the new rabbi into our congregation. The entire process takes up to two years (the second year being focused on a smooth transition).

Here’s where we are so far.

**Spring 2019:**
The search committee formed and met with the Director of The Joint Commission. We are lucky to have an excellent array of volunteers who represent the diversity of our congregation and have stepped up to serve on the search committee: Julie Salamon (co-chair), Marlowe Greenberg (co-chair), Carole Sadler, Jamil Simon, Emily Hacker, Gabrielle Haskell, Larry Klurfeld, Julie Safer, and David Friedman, with co-presidents Sarah King and Fred Basch as ex-officio members.

**Summer 2019:**
- **Town Hall.** On July 15, more than 50 of you—including some religious school students—gathered at The Village Temple for a Town Hall discussion led by congregant Deb Seidman, a consultant who specializes in organization effectiveness. You provided valuable information about what the Village Temple means to you, your vision of the synagogue in five years, and the qualities you’d like in a new rabbi.
- **Online survey.** Those who weren’t able to attend provided similar information via an online survey that was distributed to the entire community.
- **Application.** Using your input, staff and the search committee prepared the application that will introduce The Village Temple to reform rabbis all over the country who are participating in the CCAR search process. All applicants must go through this process; if you know a rabbi who is interested in the Village Temple, please direct them to the Placement Director, Rabbi Cindy Enger.

**Fall 2019:**
Once our application is posted, the search committee will review applications from interested rabbis and conducts interviews, first remotely and then in person for a shortlist of top candidates. Search committee members will visit finalist candidates in their home congregations to observe them on the pulpit before making a final candidate recommendation to the Board. To make the process as fair as possible, the search committee will undergo unconscious bias training with Deb Seidman before beginning the selection process.

**Mid-December 2019-February 2020:**
The Board will extend a provisional offer to the finalist candidate and negotiate proposed contract terms. Once the new rabbi and contract is confirmed by a special Congregational Meeting in February, the new rabbi is formally announced to the Congregation.

**Spring 2020:**
- The transition task force (to be selected) will meet with the incoming rabbi and their family to introduce our temple’s key constituents and begin the transition.
- Our temple holds a HUGE party to celebrate Rabbi Hirsch and Carole for the four years we shared together.

Our CCAR representative has told us The Village Temple is considered to be an attractive congregation and should draw a large number of applicants. We want all of you to be involved every step of the way! Thanks to everyone who participated in the Town Hall and online survey, to our search committee and to Rabbi Hirsch, Sandy Albert and Santiago for all the extra work this process entails for everyone.

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact us at rabbisearch@villagetemple.org or one of the co-presidents or search committee co-chairs.

Julie Salamon and Marlowe Greenberg
Shalom! EDUCATION NEWS

Bruchim HaBa'im! Shalom and welcome to the 2019-2020 / 5780 School year at The Village Temple!

It is a pleasure and honor to welcome back all students and their families to The Village Temple following a refreshing and memorable summer holiday. It is also an absolute delight to welcome our new students and their parents. I hope that the roots you 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 keep in mind that our clergy, staff and fellow families are here to welcome you and help you navigate your journey, as you become active in our many innovative programs and services.

This July was a month of anniversaries for me and my family. On July 1st I started my 15th year as the Director of Education at The Village Temple. It’s been a privilege to serve the amazing Village Temple community for such a long time and to be able to meet so many wonderful families and watch so many children grow right before my eyes. One week later, on July 8th, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our arrival in the United States as Jewish refugees from the Former Soviet Union. I had been in the United States for only 5 years when I assumed my current position at The Village Temple and that is why for me and my family our Village Temple experience almost equals our American one. I remember proudly sharing the milestones in my American journey by writing on the pages of Kesher about my naturalization process, passing my citizenship exam, and finally receiving my naturalization certificate and American passport. My own children grew up at The Village Temple, never missing a Sunday in Religious School. As a family, we grew up at The Village Temple by exploring and articulating our own identity as American Reform Jews. I want to use this opportunity to thank all members of The Village Temple who were part of our American journey and who supported us through the challenges and hard times.

This year in Religious School, we are planning on introducing new and exciting offerings inspired by our shared vision of excellence and by your feedback during the previous school year and over the summer. Below are some highlights of what we have in store for the next school year:

Religious School Highlights
• Join us on Sunday, September 15 at 10:00 am for the official Religious School kick-off party and Open House. Our block will be closed to traffic and we will have an amazing time reconnecting after the summer break, meeting new friends, and celebrating as a community. Our friend Clown Shmoogy will join our celebration to entertain kids and their parents with magic tricks, juggling, games, puppets, and more! Please invite your friends to join!

• We will introduce two Children’s Rosh Hashanah services designed to address the broad age range of our friends who join us at Cooper Union for our family services. Our youngest friends, ages 7 and younger are welcomed to join with their parents at 1:30 pm and our second service, designed for children ages 8-11 will start at 2:15 pm. Both services will feature our beloved Children’s Choir and will include age-appropriate readings, prayers, songs and stories. Please invite your friends to join our children’s services at The Cooper Union.

• Following successful pilot last year on Wednesdays, we will offer a new one day a week 5th -7th grade Religious School model. In addition to two hours in the classroom on Wednesdays, our students will receive a 30-minute long additional online learning session assigned by our Hebrew specialist. These virtual sessions will supplement our in-house learning in order to help our students meet their Hebrew educational requirements.

• In grades 4-7 we will introduce Hebrew in Harmony, a self-paced Hebrew prayer and ritual learning program designed to empower every child to learn Hebrew through exciting musical encounters, followed by games and exercises designed to help students succeed in their studies.

• This year will be holding our beloved Class Shabbat dinners and Shabbat services, parent socials, Shabbat dinners at home 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 and inspiring connections within it.

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 free introductory membership in our Temple family for one year! Please spread the word among your friends about our outstanding education program and warm and welcoming community.

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!

L’shalom,
Alex Tansky
Director of Education
atansky@villagetemple.org

September-October 2019 / 5779/5780 • Kesher 5
TEENS AT THE VILLAGE TEMPLE

Shalom and welcome to another exciting year for the Village Temple Youth Group! 5780 brings more wonderful opportunities for teenagers to be involved at VT. Our post b’ni 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, our teen schedule will be posted online with programs and events throughout the year: 8th/9th grade madrich leadership classes, 10th-12th grade confirmation with Rabbi Hirsch, and youth group activities such as NFTY events, lounge nights, Broadway shows, sporting events, social action projects, and learning opportunities. We are collaborating with other synagogues for more community gatherings with Jewish teens from around NYC. We are also looking into a teen trip for high school students this year.

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 VT give back to the community by helping in the school.

This year, we are also going to have a few Junior Youth Group programs for middle school students to give them a taste of what they can experience after they become b’ni mitzvah.

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!

Liotte Greenbaum
Director of Community Engagement
lgreenbaum@village TEMPLE.org

save the date

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15:
First Day of Sunday Religious School, 9:00 am.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17:
First Day of Tuesday Religious School, 3:45 pm.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18:
First Day of Wednesday Religious School, 3:45 pm.
Youth Group 8th-12th Grade Welcome Back Night, 6:00 pm.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20:
Bim Bam Shabbat, 5:30 pm.
Welcome Back Shabbat and Community Dinner, 6:45 pm.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:
Selichot Shabbat, 7:15 pm.
Dinner, movie, and service

OCTOBER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13:
Adult Sukkah Decorating and Wine Party, 5:30 pm.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18:
Family Sukkah Decorating and Shabbat Dinner, 5:45 pm.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20:
Simchat Torah celebration and new student Consecration, 6:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23:
Bucket List End of Life Issues Seminar, 6:30 pm.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25:
Bim Bam Shabbat, 6:30 pm.

Meet our B’nai Mitzvah:

Bar Mitzvah of Lawrence Schwartzman, September 14, Parashat Ki Teitzei
Bat Mitzvah of Emily Wilkinson, September 21, Parashat Ki Tavo
Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Brothers, October 19, Parashat Chol HaMo-eid Sukkot
Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Tucker, October 26, Parashat Bereshit

6 Kehe • September-October 2019 / 5779/5780
### SEPTEMBER 2019/5779

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<td>5:00 am-1:00 pm</td>
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**Welcoming cantorial student Kalix Jacobson**

One of the benefits of being a part of the Reform Movement is our relationship with Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC, where Rabbi Hirsch, Cantor Bach, Alex Tansky, and Liotte Greenbaum were all trained). Our proximity to the college, which is on 4th Street just West of Broadway, gives us a wealth of resources to draw from, while at the same time helping to give important work experience to those training to be leaders of our Movement. This year, cantorial student Kalix Jacobson will be teaching music to all grades in the religious school throughout the year, and also joining Rabbi Hirsch and Cantor Bach on the bimah, approximately once a month. Kalix is a joy to have on our team for the coming year, and we invite you to come and meet them in the early Fall at The Village Temple.

Kalix Jacobson is an incoming second-year cantorial student at Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, recently returning from a year abroad in Israel. They are from St. Louis, MO, are brand new to the New York Area and are very excited to call Washington Heights their home! Kalix is a long time professional musician and songwriter, and is excited to be bringing their talents this year to The Village Temple and Stephen Wise Synagogue. When they’re not playing music or studying, they like to spend their time learning about economics and finance, or eating delicious vegetarian or vegan food with their (carnivore) fiancée.
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<td>6:00 pm Torah Study</td>
<td>6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services</td>
<td>9:00–11:00 am Soup Kitchen</td>
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<td>9:00 am-1:00 pm Religious School</td>
<td>9:30-10:45 am Parparim</td>
<td>1:00-2:00 pm Children’s Choir</td>
<td>7:30 pm Kol Nidre Services at The Cooper Union</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm Adult Sukkah Decorating</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 pm Children’s Choir</td>
<td>3:45-5:45 pm Religious School</td>
<td>3:45-6:00 pm Religious School</td>
<td>6:00–7:00 pm Madrich</td>
<td>6:00 pm Family Shabbat Sukkot Dinner for 1st-4th Grade</td>
<td>5:45 pm Family Sukkot Shabbat Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm Religious School</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 pm Children’s Choir</td>
<td>3:45-5:45 pm Religious School</td>
<td>3:45-5:45 pm Religious School</td>
<td>8:30-8:00 pm Bucket List for End of Life Planning: Panel Discussion</td>
<td>5:30 pm Lunch and Learn</td>
<td>6:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Services</td>
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<td>26</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-11:00 am Pre-K/Kindergarten</td>
<td>9:00 am-1:00 pm Religious School</td>
<td>3:45-5:45 pm Religious School</td>
<td>3:45-6:00 pm Religious School</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 pm Madrich</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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