



The Bulletin

A monthly newsletter of Temple Bnai Israel

Blending Jewish Traditions

with Modern Life

October 2023

Tishrei - Heshvan 5784

Eastern Connecticut Community Festival Celebration

SHEMINI ATZERET/
SIMCHAT TORAH

— ■ —
CONGREGATION
AHA VATH ACHIM

84 Lebanon Avenue, Colchester, CT

**Saturday, Oct. 7
10:00 AM**

— ■ —
**Festival Service for Shemini Atzeret
and Simchat Torah**

**Hakafot - Dancing and singing with
the Torah celebrating Simchat Torah**

Torah Reading - We will celebrate by completing the annual reading of the Torah with the actual reading of the final chapters of Devarim (Deuteronomy) and the beginning of the reading of the Bereisheet (Genesis), and by reestablishing our commitment to reading the Torah from its beginning.

Yizkor will be recited.

This service will be available via Zoom; link will be shared prior to the event.





THE BULLETIN

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Temple Bnai Israel

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♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Submission Deadline:

The 15th of each month.

The Rabbi and the editor reserve the right to reject submissions due to space limitations or content.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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Monday - Thursday

11:00A - 5:00P

Friday 10:00A - 2:00P

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Temple Bnai Israel

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Reconstructing Judaism

ReconstructingJudaism.org

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OCTOBER SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, October 7th at 10:00 AM - Eastern CT Shmini Atzeret/ Simchat Torah Celebration - See Front Cover

Saturday, October 14th at 9:30 AM - Gilad Stein Bar Mitzvah

Tuesday, October 17th at 6:00 PM - Brews, Views, Schmooze at Willimantic Brewing Company - All Welcome!

Saturday, October 21st at 10:00 AM - Nature Shabbat

Sunday, October 22nd at 11:00 AM - Learn with Rav Jeremy at Beth El Congregation of Mansfield

Bring those Beans!

Beans, beans, the magical fruit!

They're so delicious, and nutritious to boot!

To feed hungry neighbors, it really rocks

To go to the Temple lobby, and leave them in the box!

The Precious Nature of Simple Connections

During our Rosh Hashanah service last week, Rav Jeremy explained that the Ritual Committee decided "Connection" is the theme for this High Holidays. They recognized that many of us have been profoundly effected by the isolation and trauma caused by the last three years of the Covid-19 pandemic. He noted that the power of our connection to each other can help us overcome this tragedy. I really resonated with this theme and was inspired to start paying more attention to the connections that happen to me and around me.

In today's fast-paced and technologically driven world, it is easy to overlook the significance of simple connections between people. There is profound beauty and value that lies within these connections. As I sat in the back of the synagogue, I noticed my friends Anne and Doreen carefully enter holding Grace's arm. Grace has become frail and needs help getting to and from temple. I watched as they helped Grace settle into a seat. Then they made sure she was comfortable as they took their seats next to her. My heart was so touched by watching their genuine connection to each other and Grace.

One of my favorite things to do at TBI is to help set up the food for a kiddush or other event. I really enjoy the kibbitzing in the kitchen. It's in the kitchen, while we arrange the fruit platter or rummage through the cabinets, that we get to know about each other's lives. There is often a discussion about someone's challah recipe or a recent vacation or family get together. These casual connections often lead to some heartfelt conversations and provide a real sense of belonging.

In our pursuit of grand achievements and extraordinary experiences, we often overlook the magic that lies within seemingly ordinary moments. Last week the sanctuary was filled with families celebrating our Jewish New Year. As I looked at the crowd I saw a father quietly help his son arrange his Tallit on his shoulders. It was a simple but precious moment of connection that filled me with warmth. I

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YOU CAN DO IT!

Volunteer Opportunities

Fundraising and Development Committee invites membership!

Currently looking for help with an initiative to get advertisers on our website and public Facebook page.

Contact Sheila Amdur:

sheilabamdur@gmail.com

Library Committee invites volunteers!

Have updated computer hardware, now we need people to breathe life back into the library.

Contact Rochelle Marcus:

rochelle.marcus@gmail.com

Grounds Coordinator position open!

Looking for volunteer(s) to oversee the maintenance of the Temple grounds. Work with the Beautification Committee in coordinating the vendors who mow the lawn, prune the plants, plant flowers and shrubs, and keep the grounds tidy.

Contact Temple Office:

(860)423-3743,

office@templebnaiisrael.org

Caring Committee invites volunteers!

Help in the effort to offer support to our congregation members in need.

Contact Ellie Shane:

shaneellie01@gmail.com

or Fran Jaffe:

franjaffe@earthlink.net

Ritual Committee invites

volunteers! Help enrich our shabbat and holiday gatherings.

Contact Judy Stein:

jstein@medicareadvocacy.org



A Jewish Phoenix Myth

Several years ago, Merle and I went to a seminar at Wesleyan about an art project called “Black Phoenix Rising.” The project pushed against the essentialist association blackness and death, a result of racism, by creatively drawing on the resurrection myth of the Phoenix. That association can work its way into the souls of both white and black people, or people with lots of different relationships to racism and the history of racism in our society. It can lead to a numbing to the deaths of black people or devaluing their lives; it can lead to being stuck in an identity of victimhood.

The same issue applies to Jews. We, too, need to push against the notion that all we are is death, the Holocaust. I remember when Arielle was middle-school age and all the Jewish-themed YA books were Holocaust-themed. Like with blacks and racism, the identification of Jews with suffering and death is also dangerous from the outside and self-defeating from the inside.

At that Wesleyan seminar, it occurred to me that, in fact, we perform a kind of Phoenix myth every year, which might be understood as a push-back against the identification of Jews and death. It’s called Simchat Torah. Simchat Torah (literally, “Torah-Joy”) is the holiday at the end of the three-week fall holiday season, on which we celebrate the never-ending cycle of Torah. If you read the Torah reading for that morning as one story, this is that incredible story: “And Moses died... By beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

Through the Torah, which we sometimes refer to as a Tree of Life, we too triumph over death. Even in its most limited sense of a scroll with the Five Books of Moses written in it, the Torah is endless. Because we own it and perform it, we can choose to start again from the beginning, and we do so every year. “Torah,” in its broader sense as Jewish text-based learning, is also a bit more deathless. For millennia, we’ve continually found new, deeper or different meaning, adding new stories, interpretations, understandings, instructions. In “Torah’s” most broad sense, as the Jewish version of “praxis,” the human activity of communal seeking after understanding of our lives and surroundings in order to transform them for the better, Torah is literally a source of life. It’s our critical, questioning, listening, active, responsive enlivening of ourselves and the world around us.

That Phoenix-like insistence on living is worth celebrating! I hope you’ll do so at the joint Simchat Torah service detailed on the cover.

Rabbi Jeremy



TORAH READINGS FOR OCTOBER 2023

Tishrei - Heshvan, 5784

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

22 TISHREI, 5783

Shmini Atzeret / Simchat Torah

Deuteronomy 33:1 - 34:12,

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

Haftarah: Joshua 1:1-18

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

29 TISHREI, 5783

Parashat Breshit

Genesis 1:1 - 6:8

This year: 2:4 - 4:26

Haftarah: Isaiah 51:4-11

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

6 HESHVAN, 5784

Parashat Noah

Genesis 6:9 - 11:32

This year: 8:15 - 10:32

Haftarah: Isaiah 49:7-13

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023

13 HESHVAN, 5784

Parashat Leḥ L'ha

Genesis 12:1 - 17:27

This year: 14:1 - 15:21

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:17 - 41:16

A LITTLE NOTE OF AMAZED GRATITUDE FROM RAV JEREMY

Wasn't it great to see all those children on the High Holidays?! I'm writing before Yom Kippur, but there must have been over twenty that participated on Rosh Hashanah! That long Torah silver parade! And the stairs filled with children sitting with me and Daniel for Adon Olam on Rosh Hashanah! Naches!

Thanks to everyone who provided activities and snacks for them on the holidays: Stephanie, Dara, Rebecca, Jill, and Gideon! Thanks to Dara for her insistence on "build it and they will come!" Thanks for Stephanie also for joyfully and skillfully shepherding our program for the last several years! Thanks to Ishay and the Marketing and Membership committee for making sure we were really reaching out and welcoming to all who might benefit from and contribute to our wonderful community!

INTRO TO JUDAISM CLASS COMING SOON!

Rav Jeremy will teach an Intro to Judaism class beginning in November. All are welcome to join! Maybe you're Jewish and would like to deepen your understanding of the rich variety of Judaism's resources. Maybe you're not Jewish and would like to learn what it's all about. Maybe you're interested in becoming Jewish or are raising Jewish kids. Come explore together! Watch for details very soon.



OCTOBER SHABBAT SERVICES AND CELEBRATIONS

Please note Zoom and In-Person availability for each week and watch your email for last minute changes!

Friday, October 6, 2023 7:30 PM Shabbat Shmini Atzeret Service - In Person & by Zoom

Saturday, October 7, 2023 10:00 AM Eastern CT Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah - In Person at Ahavath Achim & by Zoom

Hosted by Ahavath Achim in Colchester. We encourage you to join us for this fun festival celebration! See the Front Cover for details.

Friday, October 13, 2023 6:15 PM T.G.I.Shabbes - In Person, Zoom opens at 6:45 PM

"Rise up, for you have the power. You have wings of the spirit, wings of powerful eagles." – Rabbi Avraham Yitzchak Kook. Let's welcome Shabbat with wine (or sparkling grape juice), some nosh, some socializing, and muse on Rav Kook's invitation.

Saturday, October 14, 2023 9:30 AM Gilad Stein Bar Mitzvah - In Person & by Zoom

Ravit and Ishay Stein joyfully invite our Temple Bnai Israel family to celebrate with them as Gilad is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. There will be a Kiddush luncheon to follow in the social hall.

Friday, October 20, 2023 7:30 PM Tikkun Olam vaNefesh Service - In Person & by Zoom

Saturday, October 21, 2023 10:00 AM Nature Shabbat - In Person

Join us for a fun, outdoor, nature-themed Shabbat Service! We'll gather at Mansfield Hollow State Park Recreation Area in Mansfield Center at the Picnic Pavillion area. Make sure to dress for the weather, wear shoes for walking on dirt trails and bring hiking poles if you need them - there will be some moderate hills to walk on. Everyone is welcome!

Please Note: In case of rain, our Nature Shabbat Service will be held at Temple Bnai Israel. Changes due to rain will be announced via email.

Friday, October 27, 2023 6:30 PM Shabbes Dinner - In Person

We're looking for a volunteer to host October's dinner! Contact Jackie at 860-423-3743 or office@templebnaiisrael.org if you'd like to volunteer.

Saturday, October 28, 2023 10:00 AM Shabbat Service - In Person & by Zoom



SAVE THE DATE FOR KRISTALLNACHT

This year's Kristallnacht event sponsored by the Hochberg Committee will take place on November 5, 2023 at 3:00 PM. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

TEMPLE FAMILY NEWS

Mazel Tov - Congratulations! מזל טוב



To Fay Stoloff and Matthew Istrin on their wedding, and to parents of the bride David and Debbie Stoloff!

Hamakom yenachem - Condolences המקום ינחם



To Jeanne Morascini's family and our whole Temple community for whom she provided loving leadership in the promotion of peace, human rights, and remembrance of the Holocaust.



New Members - Welcome!

We're happy to welcome new member Melinda Wright to both the congregation and the community!

CARING COMMITTEE - Caring For Each Other In Times Of Need

Fran Jaffe
860-228-2390

franjaffe@earthlink.net

Ellie Shane
860-428-5392

shaneellie01@gmail.com

Thanks to Carol and Fran, our leaders for September. Fortunately, it was a quiet month.

We continue to bring little gift bags to the Jewish residents of the local assisted living centers and nursing homes during this holiday season. This month, Debbie, Carol and Ellie took on Rosh Hashanah. In December, we'll do the same for Hanukkah. We would love to have more volunteers!

Although I write this when the summer is just ending, I know the cooler weather is coming. I'm happy that we can continue to bring warmth and comfort to those in need. Unfortunately, we have no one on hand for November or beyond. If you can help out over the next few months, please let us know.

If you or anyone you know needs some assistance, call or email our monthly leaders or the committee co-chairs, Fran Jaffe and Ellie Shane.

Let's all hope that the nice weather continues into the fall and that this winter will be gentle. Best wishes for healthy, peaceful and sweet New Year!

Fran and Ellie



Happy New Year, chaverim/ot!

What an incredible feeling it was on the second day of Rosh Hashanah to watch Rav Jeremy daven Adon Olam at the end of services while sitting on the bimah in the sanctuary with 17 Jewish Explorations children! And that feeling was extended the following Wednesday when our Jewish Explorations program was full of smiling, happy children who came to form a learning community and get to know each other before meeting with our new Israeli emissaries, Hila and Netanel. It was wonderful to start our school-year journey together, and I can't wait to see what this year brings!

We have hired a wonderful Early Childhood teacher, Morah Becca Bowling, who will be working with our youngest Jewish Explorations students for Shabbat Experience as well as with our Early Childhood friends! Morah Becca comes to us with years of experience in child care and in elementary school, and is herself a Jewish Explorations alumna. We are so thrilled to have her with us. Welcome, Morah Becca!

We are still looking for a teacher for the upper grades, so if you or someone you know is interested, please refer them to the ad in the Employment section of our Temple website.

We are so excited to welcome new faces, and to welcome back returning friends as well! Please remember that if you know of any students who would like to join our Jewish Explorations program, we are enrolling grades K-7 in our school-age program as well as younger students in our Early Childhood program. Please feel free to reach out to me for more information at morahdarabowling@gmail.com, or Jackie in the Temple office at office@templebnaiisrael.org.

Until I see you again, be well and do good.

B'shalom,
Morah Dara Bowling

THANK YOU SUKKAHNATORS!

The Sukkahnators for 5784 erected the Temple sukkah in world record time this year! Special swag buttons are available for anyone who helps us take down the sukkah after the holiday.



We hope you have had a wonderful high holiday season and are enjoying the brisk autumnal month of October. Speaking of weather, it used to be that folks would talk about the weather when they were not so sure what to talk to someone about. Now weather has become a much more serious topic of conversation. And if you recall, the Tikkun Olam Committee was to host a weatherization/energy efficiency event in July which had to be postponed for a weather event (tornado watch to be exact). Our event will be rescheduled for the Spring and I will keep you updated on when.

Meanwhile, I encourage you to register with EnergizeCT for an energy assessment, as members of our synagogue community. Through an energy assessment, you may be eligible to receive upgrades in the form of efficient light bulbs and weather-stripping of doors, and for incentives and rebates for major energy upgrades for your home such as heat pumps, insulation, and Energy Star appliances. Go to this website to get started: <https://energizect.com/energy-evaluations/HES>. If you are income-eligible, please apply here: <https://energizect.com/energy-evaluations/income-eligible-options>. If you rent property, your tenants and you are eligible to take advantage of these savings and programs.

Several households in our community have already taken advantage of this program and we hope you will too! Please let Merle or Jackie in the Temple Office know if you have an appointment scheduled for your home or have already had the energy audit, as we are trying to get at least 20-30% of members to commit to this program. Thank you so much to those who have already done so!

We are also doing the work to keep our spiritual home as energy efficient as possible and will keep you updated on that, as well as the possible acquisition of Federal grant funding to make significant upgrades. Initial surveys have been submitted and now we are in the waiting phase.

Please join us for WAIM's Walk for Warmth this November 19th preceded by the Interfaith Thanksgiving service. This is a major fundraising event for WAIM to be certain to have funding in place for the winter energy season that will help our neighbors struggling to stay warm. More about this event to come. You can register as part of the Temple Bnai Israel team on the runreg site that will soon be set up and linked to waimct.org. Our WAIM Delegate, Peggy Beckett-Rinker is also looking for help volunteering at WAIM. If you can lend some Hours, regularly or once in a while, please contact Peggy: peggybeckettrinker1@gmail.com.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)**Hillary Stern**

was reminded of my childhood, fidgeting in the temple pews during services as my grandmother searched her bag for candy to keep us kids quiet. This memory of my connection to my own family brought me joy.

Thank you, Rav Jeremy and the Ritual Committee for reminding me that in a world that can often feel disconnected and impersonal, it is essential to recognize the precious nature of simple connections between people. The shared experiences, emotional support, and sense of belonging that these connections provide are invaluable. Let us cultivate and celebrate these connections, for they hold the power to enrich our lives, foster a sense of community, and bring out the best in us all.

OCTOBER YAHRZEITS

Remember to light your Yahrzeit candle on the night before the date shown. It is also appropriate to join our Shabbat celebration to say Kaddish on the Shabbat when your loved one's name is read, and to give tzedakah in your loved one's memory. May their memory be a blessing.

Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on October 6th and 7th			
Mary Mangino	Mother of Annette Shapiro	22 Tishrei	October 7
Adam Brown	Cousin of Rochelle Marcus	22 Tishrei	October 7
Martha Saunders	Mother of Marjorie Golden-Mossberg	22 Tishrei	October 7
Estelle Weiner		23 Tishrei	October 8
Wolfe Rosen		26 Tishrei	October 11
Rose Kenton	Mother of Stephen Kenton	26 Tishrei	October 11
Gloria Joy Cantor	Mother of Gail Petrowsky	28 Tishrei	October 13
Hinda Solotaroff		28 Tishrei	October 13
Sadie Abeshaus	Mother of Marla Hauslaib	28 Tishrei	October 13
Fannie Rosenstein		28 Tishrei	October 13
Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on October 13th and 14th			
Stephen Schwirck	Father of Anne Willenborg	29 Tishrei	October 14
Jack Mayerson		29 Tishrei	October 14
Elsie Wolf Starger		29 Tishrei	October 14
Nehemia Brettschneider	Great-Grandfather of Bruce Brettschneider	30 Tishrei	October 15
Gifford Loomer	Father of Leanna Loomer	1 Heshvan	October 16
Jerome Schochet		1 Heshvan	October 16
Chaye Leah Berkowitz	Grandmother of Cheryl Lejfer.	1 Heshvan	October 16
Milton Foster		2 Heshvan	October 17
Ethel Kirschenbaum	Mother of Arthur Kirschenbaum	2 Heshvan	October 17
Bertha Rumanoff Levin		3 Heshvan	October 18
Abraham Beller		3 Heshvan	October 18
Armand Friedland	Father of Todd Friedland	3 Heshvan	October 18
Ruby Rose Gerald	Mother-in-law of Gloria Gerald	3 Heshvan	October 18
Marian Cohen	Mother of Fran Jaffe	3 Heshvan	October 18

CHEVRA KADISHA

After a Jew dies, a burial society, the *Chevra Kadisha* (literally, "holy society") prepares the body for interment. This process, called *Taharah* (purification), involves the ritual cleansing and subsequent dressing of the body, by men for males and by women for females, in preparation for burial. This requires training in the traditions and prescribed methods involved in traditional Jewish burials. This is a very personal and meaningful mitzvah we perform to support our fellow members.

We welcome anyone interested in joining us in this sacred work. Please contact Fran Jaffe (franjaffe@earthlink.net) or Ken Dardick (kdardick@gmail.com), Co-Chairs, or Rav Jeremy (ravjeremy@templebnaiisrael.org).

OCTOBER YAHRZEITS (continued)

Remember to light your Yahrzeit candle on the night before the date shown. It is also appropriate to join our Shabbat celebration to say Kaddish on the Shabbat when your loved one's name is read, and to give tzedakah in your loved one's memory. May their memory be a blessing.

Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on October 20th and 21st			
Meyer Rosen		6 Heshvan	October 21
Marjory Mayer Curnen	Mother-in-law of Jesse Brockell	6 Heshvan	October 21
Anita Zweighaft	Grandmother of David Meslin	6 Heshvan	October 21
Sonny Reiner		8 Heshvan	October 23
Fannie Pollack-Siegal	Mother-in-Law of Rita Pollack	8 Heshvan	October 23
Jeanette Shapiro-Finsmith	Mother of Ellen Marshall	10 Heshvan	October 25
Mark Hancock Adams	Father of Grace Adams	10 Heshvan	October 25
Gloria Ostrach	Grandmother of Bayla Ostrach	10 Heshvan	October 25
Samuel A. Berkman	Father of Eleanor Shane	10 Heshvan	October 25
Robert Christopher Cushing	Husband of Ellen Diane Cushing	10 Heshvan	October 25
David Cohen	Father of Fran Jaffe	11 Heshvan	October 26
Kaddish will be said for the following yahrzeits on October 27th and 28th			
Eva Rosen		13 Heshvan	October 28
Jeannette L Mandell		15 Heshvan	October 30
Paul Michael Glasner		15 Heshvan	October 30
Alan Wollner	Brother of David Wollner	15 Heshvan	October 30
Joe Loy	Husband of Leanna Loomer	15 Heshvan	October 30
Laura Lassow	Wife of Michael Lassow (mother of Avital, Benjamin, and Aaron)	16 Heshvan	October 31
Israel Mislin		16 Heshvan	October 31
Sumner M. Cohen	Father of Carol Colombo	16 Heshvan	October 31
Max Rothblat		17 Heshvan	November 1
Aaron (Archie) Berkowitz	Grandfather of Cheryl Lejfer	17 Heshvan	November 1
Rabbi Alexander Schindler	Friend of Judy Stein and Ken Dardick	17 Heshvan	November 1
Irena Herscovici	Sister of Ze'ev Herscovici	17 Heshvan	November 1
Eugene Mittelman	Husband of Georgia Mittelman	19 Heshvan	November 3
Paula Lee Schiller	Cousin of Roberta Schwane	19 Heshvan	November 3



May their memories be a
source of strength
and a blessing.



October 2023 16 Tishre 5784 - 16 Cheshvan 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 16 TISHRE  Sukkot II 10:30am Mussar Va'ad	2 17 TISHRE  Sukkot III	3 18 TISHRE  Sukkot IV	4 19 TISHRE  Sukkot V 4:30pm Jewish Explorations 7:00pm Ritual Committee	5 20 TISHRE  Sukkot VI	6 21 TISHRE  Sukkot VII (Hoshanah Rabbah)  6:04 7:30pm Shabbat Shmini Atzeret Service	7 22 TISHRE  Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah 10:00am Eastern CT Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah Celebration at Ahavath Achim
8 23 TISHRE 9:30am Tikkun Olam Comm. Meeting	9 24 TISHRE  Columbus Day	10 25 TISHRE	11 26 TISHRE 4:30pm Jewish Explorations	12 27 TISHRE	13 28 TISHRE  5:53 6:15pm T.G.I. Shabbes	14 29 TISHRE 9:30am Gilad Stein Bar Mitzvah
15 30 TISHRE  Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan BULLETIN DEADLINE	16 1 CHESHVAN  Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan	17 2 CHESHVAN 6:00pm Brews, Views, Schmooze at WilliBrew All Welcome!	18 3 CHESHVAN 4:30pm Jewish Explorations 7:00pm Board Meeting	19 4 CHESHVAN	20 5 CHESHVAN  5:42 7:30pm Tikkun Olam vaNefesh Service	21 6 CHESHVAN 10:00am Nature Shabbat at Mansfield Hollow
22 7 CHESHVAN 10:00am Sandwich-making at Soup Kitchen joined by Jewish Explorations 11:00am Learn with Rav Jeremy at Beth El of Mansfield	23 8 CHESHVAN	24 9 CHESHVAN	25 10 CHESHVAN 4:30pm Jewish Explorations	26 11 CHESHVAN	27 12 CHESHVAN  5:32 6:30pm Shabbes Dinner	28 13 CHESHVAN 10:00am Shabbat Service and Jewish Explorations Shabbat Experience
29 14 CHESHVAN	30 15 CHESHVAN	31 16 CHESHVAN				