



SERVICES

Shabbat Evening Services – Friday, 7:30 p.m.,
September 5, 12, 19 and 26

Shabbat Morning Services – Saturday 10:00 a.m.,
September 6 and 20

Selichot Services – Saturday, September 13, 8:15 p.m.,
at Congregation Brith Sholom (see page 3 for details)

High Holy Day Services (see page 5 for details)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ritual Meeting – Tuesday, September 2, at 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting – Tuesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING CLASSES

High Holy Days Refresher Class, Monday,
September 15, at 7:30 p.m., and Monday, September 29,
at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom (see page 8 for details)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Club – Sunday, September 7, at 10:30 a.m.
(see page 10 for details)

Bingo – Sunday, September 7, at 1:00 p.m. Doors open
at 12:00 p.m. (see page 10 for details)

Sisterhood New Year's Greeting Clover Honey Bears
Fundraiser (see page 4 for details)

The Lehigh Valley Jewish Clergy Group Strings of Hope
Concert and Selichot Services – Saturday, September 13,
8:15 p.m., at Congregation Brith Sholom (see page 3 for
details)

Knitting Club – Wednesday, September 17, at 10:30 a.m.

Coffee and Conversation with the Rabbi – Wednesday,
September 17, at 3:00 p.m.

PJ Library Rosh Hashanah Tot Shabbat at Bnai Shalom,
Friday, September 19, at 3:30 p.m. (see page 8 for details)

Rosh Hashanah Community Luncheon – Tuesday,
September 23, following services (see page 6 for details)

Break-the-Fast – Approximately 7:30 p.m., Thursday,
October 1 (see page 7 for details)



A Word From Rabbi Adrienne

Shalom to my Bnai Shalom Family!

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, in *The Book of Jewish Values*, tells the story of Rabbi Yisrael Lipkin Salanter, the father of the

Musar movement, who once saw a cobbler working late by the light of a flickering candle. The Rabbi pointed out that the candle was about to go out and asked the man why he was still working. The cobbler replied, “As long as the candle is burning, it is still possible to mend.” Rabbi Salanter repeated those words for weeks: “As long as the candle is burning, it is still possible to mend.”

Isn't this the central message of the High Holy Days? That as long as we are alive, it is still possible for us to return, to repent, to right our wrongs? The *Yamim Nora'im*, the Days of Awe, remind us that none of us is perfect. We all make mistakes. The work of this season is not to deny our mistakes, but to face them honestly and accept our responsibility for them. As we take stock, we can begin to repair the harms we have caused, and we can make amends. In Telushkin's words, “We can reconcile with those from whom we've become estranged, help make peace within our families, give charity, aid a friend in financial straits to establish themselves in business, and work on learning to express our anger fairly.”

As we prepare for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we can embrace and take to heart the words of Rabbi Tarfon in Pirkei Avot: “It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it.” Taking that first step is hard, but it can be done. If we need to repair a relationship, we can start with a text or a phone call. If we've fallen out of touch with someone, we can write them a note. If we've spoken harshly, we can offer a sincere apology. If we've turned away from a cause or commitment we once valued, we can begin again. If we have been holding onto anger, we can start, or at least try to start, letting it go. If we've been distant from our community, we can show up.

As long as the candle is burning, it is still possible to mend. If we've fallen short of who we want to be, we can begin again. And there is no time like the present.

L'shanah tovah tikateivu v'teichateimu. May we all be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life for a good year.

Rabbi Adrienne :)

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