

# CONGREGATION AGUDATH JACOB

September Elul/Tishrei 5775-5776

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## From the Desk of

### Rabbi Ben-Zion Lanxner

The High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are two of the most sacred days in the Jewish calendar. They occur in the month of Tishrei and are celebrated ten days apart. They are the centerpiece of a season devoted to intense introspection and emotional spiritual work. These are the Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe.

Preparations for the Days of Awe actually begin a full month before Rosh Hashanah. The Hebrew month of Elul is dedicated to a process of personal reflection and repentance, called Teshuvah, which prepares us to make the most of the holidays when they finally arrive.

The origins of Elul as a month of special Divine grace and mercy go back to the time of Moses, in the year 2448 from creation (1313 BCE)-the first year after the Jewish people went out of Egypt.

Seven weeks after the exodus, the people of Israel received the Torah at Mount Sinai and entered into an eternal covenant with G-d as His chosen people. But quickly disappointed G-d by returning to their familiar idolatrous ways, just 40 days later, ( a practice they witnessed in Egypt over the past 400 years) while Moses was still up on the mountain, they violated their special relationship with G-d by worshipping a golden calf. Upon descending from the mountain and witnessing their transgression,

Moses smashed the two stone tablets on which G-d had inscribed the Ten Commandments; he then returned to Mount Sinai for a second 40 days to plead with G-d on Israel's behalf.

On the early morning of the 1st of Elul, Moses once again ascended Mount Sinai, taking with him the stone tablets he had hewn, by divine command, for G-d to re-inscribe the Ten Commandments. On the mountain, G-d allowed Moses to "see His back, but not His face" (which Maimonides interprets as a perception of G-d's reality but not His essence) . This is the closest any human being ever came to knowing G-d. At this time G-d also taught Moses the secret of His "Thirteen Attributes of Mercy" ([Exodus 33:18-34:8](#)).

Moses remained on the mountain for 40 days, from the 1st of Elul until the 10th of Tishrei (Yom Kippur), during which time He obtained G-d's whole-hearted forgiveness and reconciliation with the people of Israel. Ever since, the month of Elul serves as the "month of Divine mercy and forgiveness."

Elul is a haven in time, a "city of refuge" from the ravages of material life; a time to audit one's spiritual accounts and assess the year gone by; a time to prepare for the "Days of Awe" of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur by repenting the failings of the past and resolving for the future; a time to increase in Torah study, prayer and charitable activities, as it is mentioned

in our Machzor; “ U’tshuva, U’Tfilah, U’tzedakka Ma’avirin et Ro’a Haguezeira ( Repentance, Prayer and Acts of kindness can remove the severity of the decree).”

Elul is the opportune time for all, because it is a month in which G-d relates to us more open-heartedly and compassionately, than He does in the other months of the year.

By now, I am quite certain, most of you must have noticed that I have a deep interest in Kabbalah and I like to refer to it whenever the opportunity presents itself. According to Kabbalah, this is a time when G-d's "Thirteen Attributes of Mercy" is the strongest.

Elul, the last month of the Jewish Year, is a time of paradox –a time of what might be termed, “spiritual workdays.” Unlike Shabbat and the festivals, the days of Elul are workdays. On Shabbat, the Torah commands us to cease all physically constructive work (*melachah*). The festivals, too, are days on which *melachah* is forbidden. Regarding the month of Elul, however, there are no such restrictions. The transcendent activities of Elul are conducted amidst our workday lives in the field, shop or office.

Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi who wrote the phenomenal work of The Tanya ( which I am B”H going to be teaching after the High Holy Days) explains the reason of Elul with the following metaphor: The king's usual place is in the capital city, in the royal palace. Anyone wishing to approach the king must go through the appropriate channels in the palace bureaucracy and gain the approval of a succession of secretaries and ministers. He must journey to the capital and pass through the many gates, corridors and antechambers that lead to the throne room. His presentation must be meticulously prepared, and he must adhere to an exacting code of dress,

speech and mannerism upon entering into the royal presence.

However, there are times when the king comes out to the fields, outside of the palace walls. At such times, anyone can approach him; the king receives them all with a smiling face and a radiant countenance. The peasant behind his plow has access to the king in a manner unavailable to the highest ranking minister of the royal court.

Elul, says Rabbi Schneur Zalman, is when “the king is in the field with the people”. The medieval mystics of Safed wrote that the Hebrew word “Elul” can be read as an acronym for “Ani Ledodi, Vedodi Li” , a line from the biblical love poem Song of Songs that means ” I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine.”

They understood the month of Elul as comparable to a courtship. Just as we can renew our love for a beloved, so too can we return to G-d even after having strayed from the path of righteousness. Part of preparing for the Days of Awe is taking time to repair the relationships in our own lives, before we come to the Synagogue to heal our relationship with G-d.

Here is a suggestion for you to consider:: to make the High Holy Days more meaningful this year, make a list of the friends and acquaintances you have had a conflict with in the past year. Write each one a short note to express your feelings and get out any lingering negativity you might have about the situation. If it is too difficult for you, you do not have to send the letters. but who knows, this might inspire you to make a coffee date to clear the air.

Jewish tradition says we can seek forgiveness from G-d only for transgressions we have committed against G-d. We are all flawed, imperfect creatures. At one time or

another, as children or as adults, we fail to live up to our ideals of being honest, generous, forgiving or loving. Almost every day in ways large and small we find we have hurt others, most often those closest to us, in ways we regret. If we have wronged people in our lives, family, friends or even co-workers, we must seek forgiveness from them directly. Judaism teaches us that we are obligated to acknowledge our misdeeds to those we have harmed, to ask for forgiveness and, when necessary, to make restitution. We are also taught that we should engage in “Heshbon Hanefesh” (soul searching) to determine what caused us to transgress in the first place and resolve to avoid the same mistakes in the future. This all process is called “Teshuvah”.

I just heard recently a remarkable story on the radio. A man in his seventies returned to his elementary school to repay seventy five cents he had secretly stolen when he was a child. While the commentator treated this as a quaint human interest story, it actually highlights the profound issues of guilt and responsibilities we each face throughout our lives. It reminds us that transgressions, even small ones committed many years earlier, can cause feelings of guilt that remain with us for a lifetime. It also reminds us that it is never too late to go back and correct mistakes. In this case the offense may have been trivial, but the

lessons to be learned from his act of repentance are profound and can be life transforming.

I also would like to take this opportunity to clarify some misunderstanding which I often hear from congregants. Judaism does not believe in the concept of original sin. Our Jewish tradition maintains that human beings are born pure and essentially good, as we were created in the image of G-d as Genesis has it, “Betzelem Elo-him Bara et Ha’adam”, with the power to make choices. We have free will, as we read a few weeks ago in the parsha Re’eh, Here are the blessings or the curses, it is up to us to make the right choices to bring us closer to G-d, our Father, our King, Avinu Malkeinu.

May we and the entire House of Israel be inscribed for life, blessing, sustenance, and peace in the Book of Life.

May it be your will, Our G-d, and G-d of our ancestors, that we be renewed for a good and sweet New Year.

She’tchadesh aleinu Shanah Tovah Um’tukah.

In closing, I would like to add that my wife Susan and I are both honored and delighted to share in the sweetness of this coming New Year with our new Agudath Jacob family.

We look forward to building strong relations with each and every member of the congregation.

# *September & High Holiday Service Schedule*

## Friday, September 4

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.  
Candle Lighting 7:31 p.m.

## Saturday, September 5

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Ends 8:24 p.m.  
Havdalah/Selichot 8:30 p.m.

## Friday, September 11

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.  
Candle Lighting 7:22 p.m.

## Saturday, September 12

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Ends 8:15 p.m.

## Sunday, September 13

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Candle Lighting 7:19 p.m.  
Evening Service 8:00 p.m.

\*\*\*Oneg Following Service\*\*\*

## Monday, September 14

1<sup>st</sup> Day Rosh Hashanah

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.  
Tashlich followed by Mincha Ma'ariv  
At Koehne Park 6:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, September 15

2<sup>nd</sup> Day Rosh Hashanah

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.

## Friday, September 18

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.  
Candle Lighting 7:13 p.m.

## Saturday, September 19

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Ends 8:06 p.m.

## Sunday, September 20

Kever Avot 9:30 a.m.

\*\*\*At CAJ Cemetery\*\*\*

## Tuesday, September 22

Erev Yom Kippur

Mincha/Kol Nidre 6:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, September 23

Yom Kippur

Shacharit 10:00 a.m.  
\*\*\*Break approx 3:00 p.m.\*\*\*

Mincha 6:00 p.m.  
Neilah 7:00 p.m.  
Break the Fast 8:00 p.m.

## Friday, September 25

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.  
Candle Lighting 7:04 p.m.

## Saturday, September 26

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Ends 7:56 p.m.

## Sunday, September 27

Erev Sukkot

Erev Sukkot 8:00 p.m.  
Candle Lighting 7:01 p.m.

## Monday, September 28

1<sup>st</sup> Day Sukkot

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.  
Ends 7:54 p.m.

## Friday, October 2

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.  
Candle Lighting 6:55 p.m.

## Saturday October 3

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Ends 7:48 p.m.

## Sunday, October 4

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Simchat Torah 5:30 p.m.

## Monday, October 5

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.  
Yizkor (approx) 10:30 a.m.

# Office Closed

The office will be closed in observance of the Holidays on:

- ❖ Monday, September 7 (Labor Day)
- ❖ Monday, September 28
- ❖ Monday, September 14
- ❖ Tuesday, September 29
- ❖ Tuesday, September 15
- ❖ Monday, October 5
- ❖ Wednesday, September 23
- ❖ Tuesday, October 6

Amanda will be away on vacation Thursday & Friday, October 1 & 2

## Special Donations

JEFF & LEA LEVIN  
CAROLYN NEUWIRTH  
MICHAEL & MARSHA LEV  
INEZ RONNEVILLE  
MORTON BENJAMIN  
LESLEY & DAVID ROSEN  
GEORGE & JENNY  
WANKMUELLER



### Birth of Kam & Shauna Bauer's Daughter

Stanley & Florence Hersh

### Birth of Benjy & Betty Bauer's Granddaughter

Stanley & Florence Hersh

### Birth of Jake & Simone Bauer's Great Granddaughter

Stanley & Florence Hersh

### Birth of Evan & Kari Winik's Daughter

Steve & Lilia Schwarz



**FOOD FROM THE FAITHFUL**

**WE WILL BRING CEREALS & PASTAS ON AN ON-GOING BASIS. PLEASE BRING PACKAGES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND SUSAN SILVER WILL SEE THAT THEY ARE DELIVERED TO CARITAS**



### September 12

Abbye Silver

### September 14

Charles Levy

### September 19

Lesley Rosen

### September 25

Marian Siedhoff

### September 28

Audrey Koss

Martin Birnbach

Ashira Wolpo

Benjamin Wolpo

### September 29

Dianne deMerville

### September 30

Mikkah Bauer

## Speedy Recovery

Kathy Alpert

Pearl Jacobson

Stanley Hersh

Steve & Lilia Schwarz

Paul Farmer

Steve & Lilia Schwarz

### BOARD MEETING

**The next board meeting  
will be held Wednesday,**

**September 9th at**

**6:00 p.m.**

# In Loving Memory



Mark Smith

Jeff & Colleen Wolf

Bobbye Brickman

Melvin & Lynne Lipsitz

Jake & Simone Bauer

M. Ellis

Harry & Bev Harelik

Haskell Harelik

Harry & Bev Harelik

Daniel Kamenetsky

Harold & Chava Kamenetsky

Julius Jacobson

Naman & Esther Lipinsky

Fannie Lieberman

Jeff & Lea Levin

**Happy Anniversary**

September 1

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Schwartz

September 2

Dr. & Mrs. Stanley Hersh

September 5

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Bonneville

September 6

Mr. & Mrs. David Wolpo

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## Shabbat Donations

July 25

Jake & Simone Bauer

Jerry Gerson

Stanley & Florence Hersh

Jeff & Lea Levin

Abbye & Susan Silver

Pearl Jacobson

Steve & Lilia Schwarz

August 1

Stanley & Florence Hersh

Judy Hersh

Jake & Simone Bauer

Ilisa Burns

Pearl Jacobson

Steve & Lilia Schwarz

August 8

Stanley & Florence Hersh

Jake & Simone Bauer

Inez Bonneville

Aislinn Brooks

Harold & Chava Kamenetsky

Pearl Jacobson

Steve & Lilia Schwarz

August 15

Jake & Simone Bauer

Brent & Dianne deMerville

Jerry Gerson

Stanley & Florence Hersh

Abbye & Susan Silver

Pearl Jacobson

Steve & Lilia Schwarz

August 22

Jake & Simone Bauer

Stanley & Florence Hersh

Jeff & Lea Levin

Abbye & Susan Silver

Elliot & Barbara Wolpo

Pearl Jacobson

Steve & Lilia Schwarz

### HOW TO OBSERVE THE YAHRZEIT

It is traditional to kindle a Yahrzeit Candle in the home on the evening Yahrzeit begins. It should remain lighted until sunset the next day. Possible prayer before lighting a Yahrzeit candle: Eternal God, I/we light this candle in memory of (name) \_\_\_\_\_, my/our beloved (relationship) \_\_\_\_\_. The light of the flame rekindles all the warm memories of the moment we shared together, and reassures me /us that a piece of his/her soul dwells in my/our heart(s) forever. May his/her soul be bound up with the bonds of eternal life.

Amen. Candles are available at the Gift Shop. Every effort should be made to say Kaddish at congregational services. It is meritorious to perform some Mitzvah or to contribute to the synagogue in commemoration of the deceased.

#### Kaddish will be read on September 4

Elul 20	Johanna Levy	Tishri 8	David Chozick
Elul 21	Charles Harris		Chaya Silevitch
Elul 22	Morris Kleiman		Sadie Hoppenstein
	Myron Rubel	Tishri 9	Hyman Miller
Elul 23	Mollie Feldt		Dr Eli Berkman
	Gerald Smith		L. Ginsberg
Elul 25	Morris Chernoff		Anna Hoffman
	Rae Trustman		Miss Mary Levy
	Zell Tobolowsky Wizig	Tishri 10	Jack Schaevitz
Elul 26	I. Diamond		M. Markman
	Ronnie Hoppenstein		Mrs. M. Markman
Elul 26	Edith (Sandy) Sacks		Lillian Epstein

#### Kaddish will be read on September 11

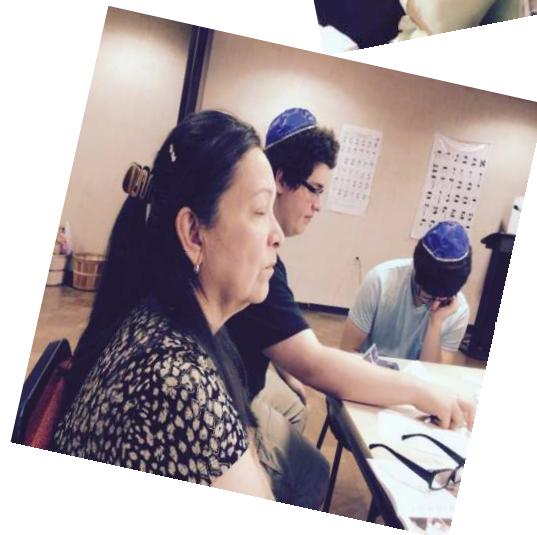
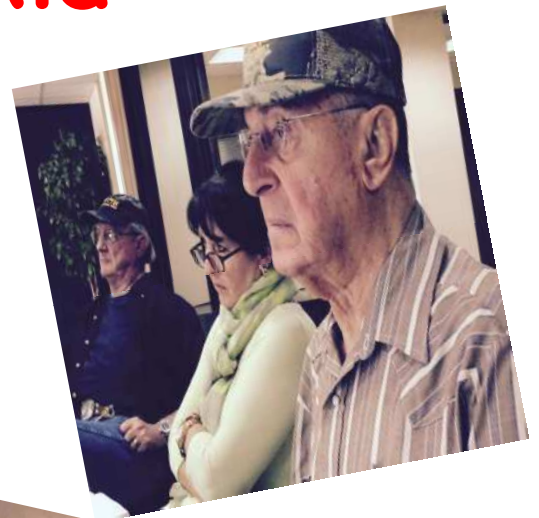
Elul 27	Mrs. I. J. Golob	Tishri 11	Irving Frankfort
Elul 28	Abe Taub		J. Markusfeld
	Sam Schaevitz	<u>Kaddish will be read on September 25</u>	Jules Bloch
	Meyer Koppman	Tishri 12	Friedman Goldberg
	Sarah Jacobson		Albert Rubenstein
	Michael Stewart	Tishri 13	Perry Segal
	Ellen Schwartz		Emma Gallo
Tishri 1	Jake Sampson		Harry Levine
Tishri 2	Louis Meinstein	Tishri 14	Evelyn Dalkowitz
Tishri 4	P. Markusfeld		Jacob Kroll
	Lillie Siegel		Sarah Harris

#### Kaddish will be read on September 18

Tishri 5	Fannie Klein	Tishri 15	Jacob Kessler
	Grace Goldsmith		Morris Chazonow
	Louis Wolfe Wizig		Meyer Jerwick
	Sadie Wizig	Tishri 16	Sophie Adams
	Lionel Ellis		Estelle Falgout
	Sarah Kirschner		Bertha Wood
Tishri 6	Dora Woolf	Tishri 17	Isaac Comer
	Sarah Brockman	Tishri 18	Mrs. Sam Katz
Tishri 7	Shirley Greenberg		Zalman Tannenbaum
	William Bell		Hannah Knop
	Germaine Caron		Sidney Samet
			Helen Fitterman
			Lorraine Hoppenstein



# CPR/First Aid Training







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of this rich spiritual tradition.*



# INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

*Basic Judaism  
(6 sessions)*

*For Beginners &  
Intermediate*



**RABBI BEN-ZION  
LANXNER**

**1ST SESSION,  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11**

The series is free  
to members.

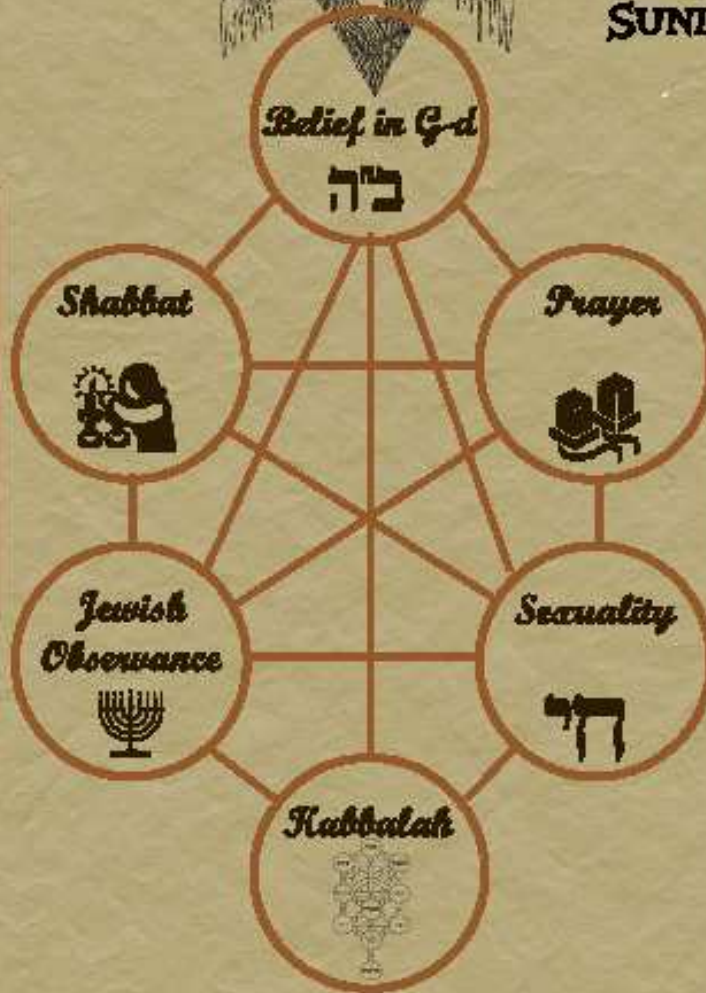


The registration  
fee for others is  
\$60

**Register at:**

**Congregation  
Agudath Jacob  
4925 Hillcrest Dr.  
Waco, TX 76710**

**(254) 772-1451**







**TANYA**  
מכתב אהבה



Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi

## **EXPLORE HASIDIC MYSTICISM**

 Rabbi Ben-Zion Lanxner will be offering a study session on the Likkutei Amarim, better known by its opening word, Tanya. This work by Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi was written in 1797. It delves into Jewish spirituality, psychology, and theology in light of Hasidic philosophy and the explanations from the Kabbalah. 

 This will be a challenging exploration into one of the more esoteric but rich areas of Judaism. 

**Dates and times will be announced after the Holy Days.**

**Free to members of the congregation**

**Congregation Agudath Jacob · 4925 Hillcrest Drive · Waco, TX · (254) 772-1451**

# September 2015

## 17 Elul 5775 - 17 Tishri 5776

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:04AM/8:54PM       17 Elul Nazir 10	2 8:05AM/8:53PM       18 Elul Nazir 11	3 8:06AM/8:52PM       19 Elul Nazir 12	4 8:06AM/8:50PM ij8:32PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. Candle Lighting 7:31 p.m.   20 Elul Nazir 13	5 8:07AM/8:49PM §9:34PM Selihot Shacharit 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Ends 8:24 p.m. Havdalah/Selichot 8:30 p.m.   21 Elul Nazir 14
6 8:07AM/8:48PM       22 Elul Nazir 15	7 8:08AM/8:47PM Office Closed       23 Elul Nazir 16	8 8:09AM/8:45PM Last Day for Aliyah Bids       24 Elul Nazir 17	9 8:09AM/8:44PM Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.       25 Elul Nazir 18	10 8:10AM/8:43PM       26 Elul Nazir 19	11 8:10AM/8:41PM ij8:23PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. Candle Lighting 7:22 p.m.   27 Elul Nazir 20	12 8:11AM/8:40PM §9:25PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Ends 8:15 p.m.   28 Elul Nazir 21
13 8:12AM/8:39PM ij8:21PM Erev Rosh Hashanah Erev Rosh Hashanah Candle Lighting 7:19 p.m. Evening Service 8:00 p.m. Oneg Following service   29 Elul Nazir 22	14 8:12AM/8:38PM §9:23PM/ij9:23PM Rosh Hashanah I Shacharit 9:30 a.m. Tashlich 6:00 p.m. Office Closed   1 Tishri Nazir 23	15 8:13AM/8:36PM §9:21PM Rosh Hashanah II Shacharit 9:30 a.m. Office Closed   2 Tishri Nazir 24	16 8:13AM/8:35PM §9:20PM Fast of Gedaliah       3 Tishri Nazir 25	17 8:14AM/8:34PM       4 Tishri Nazir 26	18 8:15AM/8:32PM ij8:14PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. Candle Lighting 7:13 p.m.   5 Tishri Nazir 27	19 8:15AM/8:31PM §9:16PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Ends 8:06 p.m.   6 Tishri Nazir 28
20 8:16AM/8:30PM Kever Avot 9:30 a.m.      7 Tishri Nazir 29	21 8:16AM/8:28PM       8 Tishri Nazir 30	22 8:17AM/8:27PM ij8:09PM Erev Yom Kippur Mincha/Kol Nidre 6:30 p.m. Office Closed   9 Tishri Nazir 31	23 8:18AM/8:26PM §9:11PM Yom Kippur (Yizkor) Shacharit 10:00 a.m. Mincha 6:00 p.m. Neilah 7:00 p.m. Break the Fast 8:00 p.m. Office Closed   10 Tishri Nazir 32	24 8:18AM/8:24PM       11 Tishri Nazir 33	25 8:19AM/8:23PM ij8:05PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. Candle Lighting 7:04 p.m.   12 Tishri Nazir 34	26 8:19AM/8:22PM §9:07PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Ends 7:56 p.m.   13 Tishri Nazir 35
27 8:20AM/8:21PM ij8:03PM Erev Sukkot Erev Sukkot 8:00 p.m. Candle Lighting 7:01 p.m.   14 Tishri Nazir 36	28 8:21AM/8:19PM §9:04PM/ij9:04PM Sukkot I Shacharit 9:30 a.m. Ends 7:54 p.m. Office Closed   15 Tishri Nazir 37	29 8:21AM/8:18PM §9:03PM Sukkot II Office Closed   16 Tishri Nazir 38	30 8:22AM/8:17PM Hol Hamoed Sukkot I      17 Tishri Nazir 39			