

The Year Ahead

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As this edition of the *Shofar* enters our inbox, so, too, have we entered the Hebrew month of *ELUL*. In every generation, this month sparks fear and trepidation as we prepare to bid farewell to an old year and welcome a new one. The “unknown” future can be quite unsettling, so our tradition encourages us to take control of the time allotted and fill it with far more than the errands and “to do lists” of early Fall.

Clearly, those with school-aged children are preoccupied with setting calendars, resuming activities, shopping for supplies and maintaining a sense of calm in the chaos of over scheduling. For others, the summer brought little respite from family responsibilities and the daily grind of work, so the day-to-day continues. Still others are preoccupied with life’s transitions; moving away to college, finding a new job, returning home to live with parents. The scenarios are endless.

Perhaps this is why our Jewish New Year takes place in the fall months. In the midst of the “busyness,” the High Holy Days force us to pause, reflect, recount and give gratitude. In addition, we are encouraged to connect with community, broaden our understanding of the world and take time for ourselves. It is in this spirit that we at Temple Har Shalom have worked to create multiple opportunities for you to engage, pray, learn, help and enjoy.

Within the *Shofar*, I encourage you to read about new *Shabbat* experiences, including the Hester Street Troupe. Mark your calendars for our opening Sunday, September 10th, and our *Selichot* night of learning. In truth, this month and throughout the entire year to follow, we have lined up speakers, social events, trips, family experiences, youth adventures and *mitzvah* opportunities in which to engage. Our greatest hope is that you will be our partners in our Jewish journey of 5778.

May you and your loved ones be blessed with God’s choicest blessings!