YAMIM NORA’IM (DAYS OF AWE) 5779/2018

**THE HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES**

*conducted by Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach and Cantor Martin Levson*

**SELICHOT ...........................................................................Saturday, September 1 at 8:00 PM**

The climax of the Hebrew month of Elul comes during the service of *Selichot,* an important exercise in spiritual preparation for the Days of Awe. At midnight on the Saturday night/Sunday morning before Rosh Hashanah, Jews around the world gather together for what is, truly, the first of the High Holy Day services, a brief but intense experience during which the music and liturgy of the season are used for the first time. The service is filled with drama and awe, as in the dark of the night we begin to bare our souls, and plead for forgiveness.

We will not… quite… wait as late as midnight, however. At the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas, we begin our evening of Selichot, and this sacred season, at Lilienfeld House

on Saturday, September 1, at 8:00 PM, for our third Israeli film:

**Walk on Water**



We come together to watch *Lalechet Al HaMayim* (Walk on Water).
A stirring film, featuring the incomparable Lior Ashkenazi, about justice, revenge, terrorism,

the Holocaust, retribution, repentance, reconciliation, masculinity, sexual identity, family, loyalty, power, and the meaning of life. (Brief disturbing scenes and very brief revealing ones.) Despite deep themes, it is mixed with charm and humor, and the film is more “watchable” than our last offering.

(See trailer [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_-_w_jm1NY).)

Following the film, we enter the Sanctuary at 10:00 PM to the background melodies of the season, where our youth will lead us in *Havdalah* (the ceremony marking the end of Shabbat) and then, in candlelight and to the call of the Shofar, the actual service of *Selichot* begins.

**Special Educational Program………………………………Wednesday, September 5 at 7:00 PM**

*The Wide World of Jewish Music Today*, with Cantor Martin Levson

Come learn about trends in the Jewish music world today,
and experience much of the music we will use during

these coming Days of Awe. At Lilienfeld House.

**Children at services at HCST:
*Always* welcome, but options provided during the High Holy Days as well**

 **Childcare will be available by advance request and arrangement at Erev (evening) services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and all daytime services for the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur, as well as for the Yom Kippur Afternoon and Concluding Services. Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary at all services of our congregation, but we know that some of our youngest children may be happier in a play-oriented and supervised environment than they would be at a Sanctuary service.**

# ROSH HASHANAH

**EREV ROSH HASHANAH . . . . . . . . . . Sunday, September 9**

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Service...................................6:00 PM**

The Jewish calendar year turns with the setting of the sun on Erev Rosh Hashanah. We welcome the new year of 5779 with hope and prayer for a time of fulfillment and peace.

Childcare provided by advance request.

 Rabbi Feshbach will speak on “The New View”

**Rosh Hashanah Dinner……………………………Following the service, in Lilienfeld House**

We come together for a communal dinner at Lilienfeld House. All are welcome; please RSVP to shop@synagogue.vi or call Agi Rampino at 340-774-4312, by September 3.

**ROSH HASHANAH . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Monday, September 10**

**Congregational Morning Service...............................10:00 AM**

Once again we help the community through our High Holy Day Hunger Drive. Return the empty grocery bag we will provide, complete with items from the list enclosed with the bag. (Filled bags should be brought back to the Temple on Yom Kippur itself. For security reasons we cannot accept bags brought to the building during the intermediate days.)

Childcare provided by advance request.

Rabbi Feshbach will speak on “So You Say.”

**Making Waves: Pot-Luck Picnic Brunch………..from 1:30 PM**Rosh Hashanah is, according to tradition, the completion of creation, the birthday of the world. We gather at Magen’s Bay, Shed Three, to break bread and enjoy the beauty of the beach. Please contact l Agi Rampino at shop@synagogue.vi or 340-774-4312 for suggestions about what to bring.

**Rosh Hashanah Family Service and Communal Observance of Tashlich..........................3:30 PM**

Our Rosh Hashanah celebration for all ages, and all takers, combining a Children’s and Tot’s experience into a single service with a new, age-appropriate prayerbook. We come together for this family experience of story and song, in an upbeat spirit, the sound of the shofar, and the taste of apples and honey. The Family Service will be led by Rabbi Feshbach and Cantor Martin Levson, followed immediately by the ancient rite of Tashlich, the symbolic casting off of our sins into a body of water. BYOB (bring your own bread or breadcrumbs).

 Story: The First New Year

**SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH . . ……………………. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Tuesday, September 11**

**Informal Brunch and Discussion……………………...10:00 AM at the home of Mark and Dorothy Isaacs**

For the first time in many years we come together on the Second Day of Rosh Hashanah, in this case for an intimate and informal Brunch and Discussion, exploring the themes of the Days of Awe and sharing meaningful moments in our spiritual journeys. To RSVP and for directions, call the office at 340-774-4312, or write to info@synagogue.vi with the subject line “Second Day Brunch.”

**SHABBAT SHUVAH (The Sabbath of Repentance)**

The Shabbat in between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is one of the most significant occasions in Jewish life: the liturgy contains references to and wording from the High Holy Days in a way which is unique to this Shabbat.

**EREV SHABBAT . . ………………………………………. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Friday, September 14**

**Erev Shabbat Service ………………………………………………………………..............6:30 PM** Rabbi Feshbach will speak on “Hanging in the Balance: Ten Days to Change the World.”

**SHABBAT MORNING . . . …………………………………………. . . . . . . . . . Saturday, September 15**

**Congregational Shabbat Morning Service (in the Sanctuary)..…………………………10:00 AM**

**Study and Discussion (in Lilienfeld House)…….……………………………………….. 11:00 AM**

We come together in study and exploration of Parashat Vayeilech, the Haftarah portions specially chosen for Shabbat Shuvah, and the themes of the High Holy Days.

**KEVER AVOT Graveside Memorial Services**

It is a custom to visit the graves of loved ones in the period leading up to or in between the High Holy Days – or to visit a cemetery in the community in which you live, as a catalyst for remembering those buried far away. It has been a tradition of our congregation to conduct memorial prayers, similar but not identical to the words recited during the Yizkor Memorial service on Yom Kippur, at both of our historical cemeteries. (For those new to the community or who need directions to either of the cemeteries, please contact the office at info@synagogue.vi.)

**GRAVESIDE MEMORIAL SERVICES……………………………. . . . . . . . . . Sunday, September 16**

**Memorial Service at the Savan Cemetery…………………………………………………9:00 AM
Memorial Service at the Altona Cemetery………………………………………………..10:00 AM**

**Special Educational Program……………………………………………….Sunday, September 16**

*Up, Up and Oy, Vey: Jews and Superheroes*, with Cantor Martin Levson

Sunday Brunch at the home of Rabbi Michael Feshbach and Julie Novick

Pot Luck Dairy/Vegetarian Brunch,

11:30AM-1 PM.

**YOM KIPPUR**

**EREV YOM KIPPUR…………. . . . . . . . . ……………………………………..Tuesday, September 18**

**Kol Nidrei/Erev Yom Kippur Service……. ..................................8:00 PM**

The lights are dim, the candles are lit, and the haunting sound of Kol Nidrei echoes in the Sanctuary. Once more, Atonement Day has come. We come together and we face ourselves in a way which only this day can evoke.

Childcare provided by advance request.

Rabbi Feshbach will speak on “A Bridge to Somewhere.”

**YOM KIPPUR DAY . ……. . . . . . . . . . . ……………………………………..Wednesday, September 19**

**Congregational Morning Service...............................10:00 AM**

Childcare provided.

Rabbi Feshbach will speak on “Dust and Ashes: The Spirituality of Imperfection”

**Personal and Guided Study……................................1:00 PM**

One tradition in the observance of Yom Kippur is to remain in the synagogue throughout the entire day. For those who wish to do so, there will be texts available for self-study and exploration at Lilienfeld House throughout the morning, and especially following the Morning service.

**Texts That Talk: Study with the Clergy……………1:30 PM**

**Yom Kippur Mid-Day Opportunities.........................2:00 PM**

 **Details To Be Determined.
 Possible topics or sessions include:**

 Journeys: Sharing Stories and Spiritual Paths

 Prayers in Practice: Words to Action

In My Midnight Confessions: Teen Talk on Forgiveness,

 Fixing Mistakes, and Repairing Relationships

**Yom Kippur Family Service........................................3:30 PM**

We focus on the themes of the Day of Atonement through music and liturgy appropriate for young children. This service will be led by Rabbi Feshbach and Cantor Levson.

**Yom Kippur Afternoon Service, Yizkor and Ne’ilah ..........................................4:15 PM**

We gather in the Sanctuary for a revised Yom Kippur Afternoon Service. This unique service includes reading the ethical heart of the Holiness Code from the Torah, telling the tale of Jonah as the Haftarah the Grand *Aleinu,* a poetic reconstruction of the history of our people, aspects of the traditional *Avodah* service (the moment when the High Priest of old sought atonement for the entire people), and the *Eleh Ezkerah* martryology. In our new *machzor* (High Holy Day prayerbook), this service is also the most “different” in tone and content from what we have seen in prayerbooks in the past.

The *Yizkor Memorial Service* begins immediately upon the completion of the Afternoon service, with no defined break. We estimate that Yizkor might begin at approximately 5:30 PM. Once again, this is an estimate and not an exact time.

The *Ne’ilah Concluding Service* begins immediately upon the completion of the Yizkor prayers. **Please remain in the Sanctuary through the conclusion of *Ne’ilah.***

The final sounding of the shofar will take place sometime before 7 PM. **If you wish to blow shofar, please bring it with you to the sanctuary for the final Tekiah Gedolah**. All children present in the Sanctuary at that time will be called forward to participate in leading the congregation in a very brief ceremony of Havdalah.

**Communal Break Fast…………………………………….………………………..following Ne’ilah**,

One of the few real “high” points of the High Holy Days last year was the treat of an imported-from New York Break Fast in Lilienfeld House. While we cannot promise the same spread, our congregation has a long-standing tradition of coming together for this final moment of Yom Kippur. This is a dairy/vegetarian Pot Luck meal. Join us, again or for the first time, at this important communal moment.

**SUKKOT and SIMCHAT TORAH**

**EREV SUKKOT . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ………………………………….. Sunday, September 23**

**Israel Trip Planning Meeting………………………………….............5:00 PM**

A first meeting of exploration and explanation, for those contemplating participation in the congregational trip to Israel July 7-21, 2019. If there is any chance at all of coming on this trip, please try to attend this gathering, in the Social Hall at Lilienfeld House. This is your chance to not only ask questions but also have some influence on the itinerary and the choices we will make about where to go and what to include.

**Snack and Schmoozing………………………………………………..5:45 PM**

**Outdoor Family-Style Erev Sukkot Service .…….........................6:00 PM**

Bring your *lulav* and *etrog,* or shake ours during *Kiddush.*

**Sushi and Saki Under the Sukkah………………………………….6:45 PM**

A festive combination of cultures as we celebrate Sukkot in style.

Free and open to all.

**FIRST DAY OF SUKKOT . . . ………………………………………......... Monday, September 24**

**Sukkot Festival Morning Service (in the Sanctuary)………..……8:00 AM**

**SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT (The Shabbat in the Middle of Sukkot)**

**EREV SHABBAT CHOL HAMO’ED SUKKOT ………………………... Friday, September 28**

**Erev Shabbat Family Style Service Under the Sukkah…………..6:00 PM
Picnic Dinner Under the Sukkah…..………………………………6:45 PM**

We provide Challah and Wine and Dessert; bring your own kosher-style dinner with

 a little extra to share. (Meat/fish/parve meal; call 340-774-4312 with any questions.)

**SHABBAT MORNING CHOL HAMO’ED SUKKOT …………………... Saturday, September 29**

**Watch for further details; time and location TBD**

**EREV SIMCHAT TORAH…………….………………………… Sunday, September 30 (Reform)**

**Erev Simchat Torah Service………………………..…….............6:00 PM**

The end touches the beginning; the ancient words are new again. Come celebrate the cycle of Torah as we unroll the scroll, we hear the very last and the very first verses of the Torah, we march with flags and we dance with the scrolls throughout the synagogue**.**

**SH’MINI ATZERET/SIMCHAT TORAH……………………….Monday, October 1 (Reform)
Simchat Torah Festival and Yizkor Memorial Service..............8:00 AM**

The unique joy of Simchat Torah and festive celebration of the season, along with the remembrance of the past, through the traditional memorial prayers of Yizkor. (We hold the service early in the morning in order to accommodate those who wish to participate – especially for the Yizkor prayers – and then continue with what they otherwise need to do that day.)