



# HaKol הקול The Voice

## Message from Rabbi Paul Citrin

Our reunion as a community of faith and friendship during the High Holy Days is an occasion to anticipate with pleasure. Whether you are actively and intimately involved with the TJC or less active but supportive, our gathering to affirm Jewish values and community is a sacred meeting. I hope our lay leaders, Cindy Grossman and I, together with the personal commitment of each of you, can help make this season one of moral renewal and spiritual energy.

One of the challenges of Jewish liturgy and prayer is to keep fresh what is ancient or familiar. We meet that challenge by bringing our life experience, our sorrow and joy, to understand the text in new ways.

In order to enhance the effort always to view the liturgy in a new light, the TJC Board has purchased copies of the experimental edition of *Mishkan Hanefesh* (Reform- CCAR Press).

We will use this book for the evening services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In the morning services, we will continue to pray from *On Wings of Awe*. The Yom Kippur afternoon service will be the liturgy I created and that we have been using for several years. It is my hope that the variety of expression we will share will open intellectual, emotional and spiritual gates for you. I hope, as Rabbi Abraham Kook said, “to make the old new, and to make what is new holy.” *Cont. on page 6*

## High Holy Days

### Erev Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 20

7:00 PM Doors Open

7:30 PM Service

### Rosh Hashanah 1st Morning

Thursday, September 21

8:45 – 9:30 AM Family Service

10:00 AM Morning Service

### Tashlich

Thursday, September 21

3:00 PM at the Lerman's home.

Ask for directions.

### Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day

Friday, September 22

8:30 AM Hike West Rim Trail at the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge

10:00 AM Study Session/Shofar Service.

Meet in the picnic area.

Bring a lawn chair. In case of rain, please meet at the TJC.



*L'shanah tovah tikatev v'taiבתem  
May you be inscribed and sealed  
for a good year.*

### Kol Nidre

Friday, September 29

7:00 PM Doors Open

7:30 PM Service

### Yom Kippur

Saturday, September 30

8:45 – 9:30 AM Family Service

10:00 AM Morning Service

1:30 - 3:30 PM Break with Study and Discussion

4:00 PM Afternoon Service

5:15 PM Yizkor and Neilah

Havdalah

Break the Fast Pot Luck Dinner

All High Holy Day Services are led by Rabbi Paul Citrin.

All are welcome. Please bring non-perishable foods for donation to area Food Banks.

HaKol is the voice of the Taos Jewish Center and is published quarterly.

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The Taos Jewish Center is dedicated to fostering a positive Jewish identity by providing programs and services that enrich the lives of the people it serves in Northern New Mexico. The Center is open to all who wish to explore and participate in these experiences that reflect and incorporate Jewish ethics, culture and observances.

HaKol is printed quarterly and is available on the TJC website: [taosjewishcenter.org](http://taosjewishcenter.org) Members receive the print version at no cost. Non-members may subscribe for \$36.00/year.

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Taos Jewish Center

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## Message from the President

The Taos Jewish Center has entered its 15th year. We are proud to have reached this important milestone. It has been the care, devotion, and commitment of many who have brought us to this great achievement. The Board presented a 15th Anniversary Celebration and Benefit on July 5. The party was held at the Taos Mesa Brewing Company. There was music by The Neighbors and The Rebbe's Orchestra. A great time was had by all with dancing led by Linda Brody of the Rikud Dance Troupe.

Once again our High Holy Day services will be led by Rabbi Paul Citrin. We look forward to a meaningful and moving ushering in of the New Year. May you and your loved ones be inscribed for a good year.

You will read in Rabbi Paul's message that he has decided to retire from his work with the TJC. It has been a blessing to have Rabbi Paul lead our worship and

studies these past five years. His wisdom, leadership and humor will be greatly missed. A Rabbi Committee has been formed to consider the next steps for the TJC. Please contact Susan Ressler to participate in this process.

My term as president will end in January. It has been an honor to serve the TJC community. I leave my position knowing that we can weather any storm. Our congregational family is secure and our Board is strong. Please continue to let the Board members know of your suggestions, comments, and concerns. We are here to listen.

Please also know that this is my last issue as Editor of HaKol. Karen Kerschen will be our next HaKol Editor. We wish her Mazel Tov as she launches a new chapter of our TJC HaKol.

Chag Sameach,  
Jude Goldman Núñez

## Chaverim of the TJC

The Chaverim of TJC can provide assistance and support to members of our congregational community, such as rides to appointments and to the TJC, picking up groceries, prescriptions, borrowing library books, etc.

Send your request to [tjc@newmex.com](mailto:tjc@newmex.com)

Put "Chaverim" in the subject line.

Or call the TJC at 575 758-8615

**Message from the New Editor**

My name is Karen Kerschen. With HaKol's next issue, I'm taking on its editorship. Having read from its archives, I hope to reprise its function as a journal, as well as newsletter, for the exploration of Judaism as manifested in this rustic corner of New Mexico. I'm intrigued by the stories and customs that unite us as Jews, particularly as we've all come from so many different places.

I was raised by first-generation Americans, Orthodox Jews of NYC's Lower East Side and Williamsburg. My mother's people were a serious lot, having fled the pogroms with the Lubavitch chasidim and maintained a perpetual angst of what I've come to think of as the Holocaust survivor generation. Yiddish was the language the grownups used to keep children from knowing what was being discussed (sadly effective - I never learned Yiddish) -- though I have vivid memories of my grandpa reading the Forward, NYC's Yiddish newspaper. My father's family was more light-hearted - immigrants raising many children in the NY's 'melting pot'.

I see myself as a secular Jew. From a very young age I disavowed the dogma of A Chosen People for the ideals of social justice that mandate equality and respect across cultural and racial lines. I identify strongly with the ethical precepts that link Jewishness with social justice. I see the Israel / Palestine conundrum most closely to views expressed by Rabbi Michael Lerner in Tikkun and the Network of Spiritual Progressives. It grieves me

that our ancient culture is so conflicted by the political dilemma of our young nation-state borne of warfare and tragedy. I have family in Israel and try to understand things from their perspective as well - things never seem to be clear-cut.

Mine was my family's first generation to graduate from college. My fine-art and humanities studies at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art taught me to see things in great detail, a trait central to Jewishness - the examination of things from every perspective.

I've been a wandering Jew for many years, and in many ways left unsaid. I've been a photojournalist and author, a single mom, and for much of the 80s and 90s, a technical writer and editor in Silicon Valley. Central to my thinking are cognitive psychology and a cosmic view based in science. I moved to Ojo Caliente NM just before Y2K, to do art, to write and to live a simpler life.

There's an innate spirituality about living close to nature, a quiet that beckons us to turn inward; alternatively to challenge ourselves against the elements. And I dare say, many of us came here from elsewhere with similar intentions, which give shape to the kind of Jewishness expressed in this community. The cycle of the Jewish year grounds us, calls to mind the seasons and what they teach us, each on our own personal journeys.

*Continued on page 7*

HaKol Submissions: We are a Jewish quarterly journal of local news, commentary and activities. Letters to the Editor should be 200 words or less, and essays such as memoir, Jewish travel and commentary between 200 and 350 words. We can accept documents by email in Word format. Please send to [tjchakol@gmail.com](mailto:tjchakol@gmail.com) We reserve the right to edit and publish at our discretion.

**Inside this Issue**

Rabbi Paul Citrin	1
High Holy Day Schedule	1
President's Message	2
Chaverim of TJC	2
Message from the Editor	3
Upcoming Events	4
Ongoing Activities	5
Torah Fund Donation	5
The Jewish Calendar	8
TJC Membership Form	9
Business Supporters	11
Make a Donation	12

## Upcoming Events

\*All Events take place at the TJC unless otherwise indicated.

### September

Friday September 15

5:30 PM Eretz Shalom Cemetery

The Jewish Cemetery of Taos will have its pre-High Holiday Clean-up. Directions to the cemetery are on the TJC website. Bring gloves and trash bags. Steve Natelson and Roger Lerman, cemetery administrators, are seeking involvement in this sacred task.

758-0710 Roger or 758-1094 Steve

### Erev Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 20

7:00 PM Doors Open

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5:15 PM Yizkor and Neilah

Havdalah

Break the Fast Pot Luck Dinner

### October

Sunday, October 8, Sukkot

3:00 PM At the home of Bette Myerson. Please bring something to hang from the Sukkah and a pot luck dish to share.

Contact Bette 575 758-3376 [bette@taosnet.com](mailto:bette@taosnet.com)

October Shabbaton with Rabbi Paul

Friday, October 12, Simchat Torah

6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner

7:00 PM Simchat Torah Celebration

Saturday, October 13

10:30 AM Torah Study

### November

November Shabbaton

Friday, November 10

6:00 PM Pot Luck

7:00 PM Shabbat



## Ongoing Activities and Announcements

### **TJC Monthly Shabbaton**

2<sup>nd</sup> Shabbat of each month.

See the Upcoming Events for dates and details.

### **TJC Women's Book Group**

We welcome all, so please do come, even if you haven't read the book, and experience the lively and warm ambiance and our stimulating discussions. We meet the third Monday of the month at 11:30. We begin with a brown bag repast and catch up with one another; our book discussion starts at 12:15. For more information please contact Diane Friedman: dianecda5@gmail.com

### **Library**

The TJC houses an extensive Jewish community lending library. Topics : Torah & Talmud and commentaries; Mysticism, including Zohar; Jewish life cycle events & traditions; Jewish Literature & Art; History, including Holocaust, Israel & communities around the world; Biographies; Fiction; Encyclopedia Judaica; some films & music; and an extensive children's collection. The Library supports information, learning, teaching, and research relating to the Jewish experience.

### **Chaverim of TJC**

Meets the first Monday of each month at 5:30 PM.

All are welcome to attend.

Contact Jude: tjchakol@gmail.com

### **Men's Shelter Meals**

Men's Homeless Shelter, Distribution of Meals: every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. Food is collected at the TJC. Please consider becoming part of this important community mitzvah.

Contact Roberta: rlerman57@gmail.com.

### **Eretz Shalom Cemetery**

Located on the Llano mesa south of town, is the only stand-alone Jewish Cemetery in New Mexico. Dedicated in 1993, affordable plots are available on a pre-need or as-needed basis. It is important to you and your family to have your arrangements planned out. Steve Natelson & Roger Lerman, the cemetery administrators, are seeking persons interested in being involved in this sacred task.

758-0710 (R) or 758-1094 (S)

### **Program Committee**

We welcome volunteers to create interesting and entertaining programs for the TJC community.

Please contact Lucy Melamed: lucymel@hotmail.com

## T a o s J e w i s h C e n t e r T o r a h F u n d

Contribute to the TJC Torah Scroll fund. Make a donation that will last a lifetime.

Please choose the contribution level that works for you:

Donate a Book of the Torah \$1,800 to \$7,200

Donate your favorite Parasha \$180 to \$1,800

Donate Chai \$18 to \$180

A Donation of \$180 or more includes your inscription on our Torah Plaque.

## Rabbi Paul's Message

*Continued from page 1*

Our society and our world of late feel more broken and in need of repair than in previous years. The Holy Days are meant to be a season of healing. I hope our services will be a first aid to pessimism, despair, disappointment and cynicism. It is my intention to address issues and feelings which confront us with regularity through a sermon theme entitled, "A Season for Healing." Under this rubric, these will be my four sermon messages:

- Erev Rosh Hashanah "Healing Dr. B. from His Common Cold." This talk will address a widespread sense of alienation from prayer and Judaism which Dr. B expressed in an op-ed in the *Link*.
- Rosh Hashanah Morning "Healing the Plague of Me-ism." Two parables from the Torah will help us consider and distinguish between Jewish values and American mores regarding the relationship between the individual and the community.
- Erev Yom Kippur "Healing Our Israel Myopia." This discussion will focus on viewing Israel with balanced evaluation, caring and fair criticism and loving connection.
- Yom Kippur Morning "Healing Our Inner Jonah"

Jonah, the star of the Yom Kippur afternoon Haftarah, learned some astounding things about himself and about God. We will examine what he discovered, and think about how it applies to our own healing.

It is my intention that when the final *Tekiah Gedolah* is sounded, that our prayer and study, our singing and our oneness will bring you to strength and renewed purpose as we enter 5778.

Finally, I wish to share a personal word with you. I began my tenure with the TJC in December of 2012. Over nearly five years, it has been my privilege to lead you in prayer and study each month and during the Holy Days. I have been touched by the TJC leadership's dedication, hard work and vision. Your participation has been gratifying to me as well. I have decided, however, that it is the appropriate time for me to retire from my work with the TJC. My decision is due in no small part to doing more travel as well as more teaching in Albuquerque. My final Shabbat at the TJC will be on *Simchat Torah*, Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, and on Shabbat morning, October 14<sup>th</sup> for Torah study. I hope you will be able to participate in a Shabbat which celebrates Torah, and which is a meaningful time to say farewell to one another.

Susan joins me in wishing you a new year of health, fulfillment and peace.

L'shanah tovah tikateivu,

Rabbi Paul

## Message from Karen Kerschen

*Continued from page 3*

For years I was estranged from Judaism. As I age I've found myself returning to the magnitude of our culture, its rituals, iconic imagery and food, folkloric oral teachings and hidden stories. These elements contribute to my interest in HaKol.

But there is also a very personal reason: I pray the work will help me cope with a great sorrow. I was widowed on June 21, 2017, when my beloved husband and companion of 26 years, Sandy Sommers, died suddenly of a heart attack. The shock of losing my precious, funny, loving, creative life partner left me feeling barely tethered to the world around me. In grief, I surrender to tradition and time to resculpt my rended identity. Prayerful thought echoes in my psyche and I find myself seeking out the community of our Jewish center.

In this introspective time, I nurture a thready light in the cave. (As Judy Collins noted in a song, 'sometimes darkness is your friend.') The next issue of HaKol will come out before Chanukah, approaching the winter equinox, the year's shortest days.

My story is not wholly unique, for none of us is exempted from the melodrama of life. But to go on, to offer up my skills to a community purpose feels like meaningful work.

As editor of HaKol, I invite you to submit poetry, personal narrative, illustrations (line drawings best), historical vignettes, sayings and anecdotes that evoke the textures of our culture, whether purely Jewish or of multi-cultural spirituality. In each quarterly issue, I want to honor how we see ourselves as Jews.

Obviously, this is a work-in-progress - fluid, inclusive.  
Email is my friend; I'm learning (after many asocial years) to get more comfortable by phone as well.

Shalom,  
Karen Kerschen  
mosaics@valornet.com  
505-583-2180



## The Jewish Calendar

By STEPHEN J. EINSTEIN AND LYDIA KUKOFF

ReformJudaism.org

Jews often say: "The holidays are late this year" or "The holidays are early this year." In fact, the holidays never are early or late; they are always on time, according to the Jewish calendar. Unlike the Gregorian (civil) calendar, which is based on the sun (solar), the Jewish calendar is based primarily on the moon (lunar), with periodic adjustments made to account for the differences between the solar and lunar cycles. Therefore, the Jewish calendar might be described as both solar and lunar.

The moon takes an average of twenty-nine and one-half days to complete its cycle; twelve lunar months equal 354 days. A solar year is 365 1/4 days. There is a difference of eleven days per year. To ensure that the Jewish holidays always fall in the proper season, an extra month is added to the Hebrew calendar seven times out of every nineteen years. If this were not done, the fall harvest festival of Sukkot, for instance, would sometimes be celebrated in the summer, or the spring holiday of Passover would sometimes occur in the winter.

Jewish days are reckoned from sunset to sunset rather than from dawn or midnight. The basis for this is biblical. In the story of Creation (Genesis 1), each day concludes with the phrase: "And there was evening and there was morning. . ." Since evening is mentioned first, the ancient rabbis concluded that in a day evening precedes morning.

For the counting of *months*, *Nisan*—the month that begins spring—is considered the first. However, the Jewish *year* is reckoned from the month of *Tishri*--the month that begins autumn. This would seem to be the superimposition of one calendar system upon another, which took place during the Babylonian Exile (sixth pre-Christian century).

According to Jewish tradition, history is reckoned from the time of Creation; Jewish years, therefore, are numbered from then. For instance, Israel declared its independence on 5 *Iyar* 5708 (corresponding to May 14, 1948). The year 5708 (and every Jewish year) was figured by commencing the count from the beginning of Genesis.

Christian custom has been to divide history into two periods: before the time of Jesus (called B.C. = before Christ) and after Jesus' birth (called A.D. = *anno Domini* = in the year of the Lord). Jewish books generally refer to these periods as B.C.E. (before the common era) and C.E. (of the common era).

The subject of the calendar is rather complex. We have, therefore, touched only its broadest outlines.

*Le-Shana Tova Tikatevu ve-Techatemu*

"May You Be Written Down And Inscribed For A Good Year"



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Membership \_\_\_\_\_ New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Family

The TJC depends upon the financial support of its membership for maintaining services, programs and our facility. Membership at any level includes participation at all High Holy Day Services. Please consider a donation equal to 1% of your annual household income. The suggested minimum donations are listed. Please donate to the best of your ability! *No individual or family will be turned away for lack of funds. To discuss your donation (575) 758 – 8615. To pay by Pay Pal: taosjewishcenter.org*

Membership Level:

Patron: \_\_\_\_\_ Above \$1854

Sustaining: \_\_\_\_\_ \$1854

Platinum: \_\_\_\_\_ \$1440

Contributing: \_\_\_\_\_ \$720

Community: Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$360 *Includes Shabbat Family School enrollment.*

Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$180

Non -Resident \_\_\_\_\_ \$118

Student \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 90

Other \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Please call to discuss what you can afford.*

Rabbi Fund: \_\_\_\_\_ \$720 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ \$360 Co-Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ \$180 Associate Sponsor

Torah Fund: \_\_\_\_\_ Additional TJC Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE make an additional pledge for the High Holy Days: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

I pledge to make my payments: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment in Full \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly

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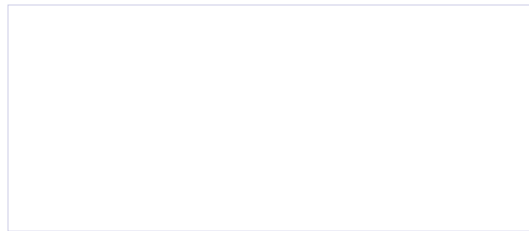
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High Holy Day Services  
 See page 1



## Support the TJC

### TJC Membership

Membership at any level includes participation at all High Holy Day Services. Family Membership includes Shabbat Family School enrollment. No family or individual will be turned away for lack of funds. The Taos Jewish Center depends upon the financial support of its membership for maintaining our facility, services, and programs. Please consider a donation equal to 1% of your annual household income. The suggested donations are minimum levels. Please donate to the best of your ability!

### Donate: Rabbi Fund

Your generous donation to the Rabbi Fund supports the TJC monthly Shabbaton weekends:

Friday night Pot Luck dinner  
 Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Torah Study

Sponsor: \$600.00  
 Co-Sponsor: \$300.00  
 Associate Sponsor: \$150.00

### Donate: Torah Fund

Contribute to the TJC Torah Scroll fund. Make a donation that will last a lifetime. Your name will be added to our commemorative plaque to mark this joyous and important occasion. Choose the contribution level that works best for you.

Donate a Book of the Torah:  
 \$1,800 to \$7,200

Donate your favorite Parasha:  
 \$180 to \$1,800

Donate Chai: \$18 to \$180  
 Make a Donation  
 in any amount.

The Taos Jewish Center, a Faith Based Non-Profit 501c3, is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico. All donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

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