

**Temple
Shabbat Shalom**

Volume 12 Issue 3 **High Holydays**
2010 5770/5771

**Temple Shabbat Shalom
Birthday Reflections
2010
5771**

In the United States we celebrate the birthdays of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King as holidays.

Bar/t Mitzvah is a type of birthday, and reaching 18 and 21 milestones of the day we were born.

Whatever the year, we all look forward to receiving gifts on our special day.

Rosh Hashanah marks the birthday of the world.

One year at services a child asked why we were gathered for study and prayer. She led us all in a heartfelt "Happy Birthday to You." We sang to "Mother Earth", but could also have included "Father Time."

This Rosh Hashanah we begin a ritual of renewal for all congregants that gives deep meaning to birthdays. Each of us has a story to tell. We also have a history together as a people once we understand religion as a call to unity. We sanctify all of this by celebration and ritual.

On our birthdays we eat sweet cake and put on fun caps and sometimes blow into a noise maker to express our joy. So too on New Years Eve, adding some spirits and a fine meal. On Rosh Hashanah we sound a shofar, put on our finest, wear a Yarmulke, sanctify wine, and pray.

On Rosh Hashanah we pray:

Today is the birthday of the world
Today humanity is judged.

Of course we remember each and every day as a day of judgment. As we sanctify time we acknowledge that eternity holds within itself every moment of existence. In fact, we daily thank our good Lord for renewing, every minute, of every day, the inner workings of Creation. The "inner workings of creation" in the Hebrew prayer also may be translated to mean, "The Story of Creation."

Birthdays are important because they focus on your story. The truth is revealed in the telling, and I suggest you put together a Birthday *Haggadah*.

Be prepared to tell your story on your day with your favorite wine and people surrounding you. Sanctify the meal with candles and whole wheat challah loaves, lively conversation and a grace after meals. Take pictures.

Share. Transform your birthday into a holyday.

Rosh Hashanah is a communal experience.

Your birthday is personal, and a community event. Kindly send us your birthday dates to print in the bulletin.

Kindly notice how we are updating our Temple Shabbat Shalom website to be more user- friendly and personal.

Call or email for guidance on how to construct your own birthday Seder.

A sweet and connected New Year,

Rabbi and Karen

Rosh Hashanah begins at Sundown September 8th

Temple Shabbat Shalom will have Rosh Hashanah Services on September 9th:

- 11am Prayer Service and Tashlich
- Noon Potluck Picnic lunch
- 1pm Study

Yom Kipper begins at Sunset September 17

Temple Shabbat Shalom will have Services on September 18th

- 6pm Yizkor followed by a structured Pot Luck
Contact Karen regarding the Pot Luck

Succoth begins at Sundown September 22

Temple Shabbat Shalom will celebrate Thursday September 30th at 2pm

**Please contact Karen by phone or email no later than August 31st
Regarding which Services you and your family will be able to attend.**

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Mazel Tov to Rachel Botsman on the launching of her newest book:

“What’s Mine is Yours: the rise of collaborative consumption

[We want to welcome our Newest Congregants](#)

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