

Kesher

THE NEWSLETTER



Co-Presidents Jill Wilkinson and Katherine Lipton with Rabbi Fersko at our Gala in May

Come as you are. Discover who you are.

September-October 2022 / 5782-5783

Welcome
to Kesher

Connection is the force
that binds members and
clergy to Judaism and
to The Village Temple.

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ימים נוראים HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE –5783

IMPORTANT: We are looking forward to celebrating the New Year with you! Please RSVP as soon as possible to reserve your seats for the High Holy Days as seats are limited. All services will be available via Livestream. Livestream links will be available in the coming days. Please check our weekly eblast for links to buy tickets, visit our website, villagetemple.org/holidays, or contact the office.

<i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i>	Sunday, September 25, 2022 6:00 pm – Service held at The Village Temple
<i>Rosh Hashanah, Day 1</i>	Monday, September 26, 2022 9:30 am - Morning Service at City Winery* 12:30 pm - Children's Service at City Winery 1:30 pm- <i>Tashlich</i> Service outside City Winery (south of CW)
<i>Rosh Hashanah, Day 2</i>	Tuesday, September 27, 2022 10:00 am – Rosh Hashanah Community Baking at The Village Temple ; prior sign-up required
<i>Kol Nidre</i>	Tuesday, October 4, 2022 6:00 pm – Service held at The Village Temple
<i>Yom Kippur</i>	Wednesday, October 5, 2022 9:30 am – Morning Service at City Winery 12:30 pm - Children's Service at City Winery 4:30 pm – Rabbi Fersko teaches The Book of Jonah, Afternoon <i>Torah</i> Service, <i>Yizkor</i> and <i>Ne'ilah</i> at The Village Temple

All Services will be available through Livestreaming
Services led by Rabbi Diana Fersko and Student Cantor Emma Maier
Children's Choir led by Anita Hollander
R.S.V.P. required to attend all services

* *City Winery* is located at 25 Eleventh Ave at 15th Street – Hudson River Park

The Newsletter of The Village Temple

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We invite all who wish to join us to enter our doors: Jews by birth, Jews by choice, interfaith families. Inside you will find a community of people who are on a quest to reshape Shabbat and holiday worship, reinvigorate Jewish learning, and renew our commitment to tikkun olam through social action and justice.



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FROM RABBI FERSKO



The High Holy Days: A Time of Pride

As we enter this holiday season, and I anticipate seeing the room at **City Winery** full of Village Temple members, one word comes to mind for me: **Pride**. The Village Temple is a special community—one unlike any I have been a part of before. We are artists and writers and teachers and architects and learners and speakers and seekers. We are high-level professionals who carve out time to volunteer at our soup kitchen and lend expert advice to critical downtown institutions. We are creative and spiritual and sincere. We are social action activists. And we are a community bursting with children—children who form real relationships with each other and are comfortable asking real questions to Jewish educators and clergy. We are a proudly diverse community—one of the most diverse in the country—with members from a far-reaching array of racial, religious, geographic, and economic backgrounds. We are a special community. **We pray together, we eat together, we drink together, we laugh together, we get sick together (I wish we didn't!) and we heal together.** We've made our own culture at The Village Temple and I could not be more proud to be a part of it.

It is taught that one must ready themselves to receive Torah. How? Through pride. We must feel proud of who we are in order to receive divine words and to know we are worthy of hearing them. As we enter

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this High Holiday season, may we all feel that spirit of pride in who we are and what we are becoming. May the divine words of God's *Torah* fill us up. May we experience a season of spirituality, satisfaction, optimism, and opportunity. May we be granted good health, happiness, and peace for ourselves, our loved ones, and for the world entire. Shana Tovah!

Rabbi Diana Fersko
rabbifersko@villagetemple.org



Meet our **B'nei Mitzvah**:

- September 10: **Alix and Abby Caceres** – Parshat Ki Teitzei
- October 15: **Adam Kanter** – Parshat Chol Hamoed Sukkot
- October 22: **Ruby Belloff** – Parshat Bereishit
- October 29: **Sophie Lipman** – Parshat Noach

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS



It's a New Year



As the summer winds down, and visions of cooler temps (finally!) and sending our kiddies back to school (yay!) dance in our heads, it's also a great reminder that our High Holidays are just around the corner. This is a time to close the chapter on the prior year, as we welcome in a new year, and a sign of hope and renewal. We hope you and your families have enjoyed some much-deserved time off and have recharged and are ready for a new year, full of strength and happiness.

Thanking Our Outgoing Co-President and Welcoming Our New Co-President

As many of you know, Fred Basch, who has served as a co-president for many years, has stepped down from his role (but not from the Board, whew!) and we thank him for all the heart and soul he poured into his co-presidency, and into our amazing shul. Thank you for your leadership, and thoughtfulness, Fred! And we welcome Katherine Lipton as our new co-president! We look forward to working together to continue to take our community forward.

Please be sure to mark the High Holiday dates on your calendar. We are excited that we will be back at **City Winery** again this year for another round of joyful worship in a beautiful setting along the Hudson River, with a community full of love and gratitude.

Thank you for being a part of our community!

Katherine and Jill
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DAYENU
A Jewish Call to Climate Action

Dayenu Circle: A Jewish Call to Climate Action



The Village Temple Dayenu Circle meets monthly to discuss Climate Action and ways to get involved as a Jewish community.

The VT Dayenu Circle looks forward to getting together online and perhaps even in person this fall to advance climate justice from a

Jewish perspective. We are thinking of projects as small and local as organizing composting for the Village Temple Soup Kitchen and community meals, and as large as getting involved in New York State and national campaigns. Dayenu's [newest campaign](#), launching September 7 is called "Chutzpah" and we like that!

Dayenu Circles at synagogues and Jewish community centers are affiliated with Dayenu: A Jewish call to Climate Action (www.dayenu.org).

To learn more: vtdayenucircle@gmail.com.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS



Bruchim HaBa'im! Shalom and welcome to the new 2022-2023/5783 School year at The Village Temple!

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome back all students and their families to The Village Temple following a refreshing and memorable summer holiday. It is also an absolute delight to welcome our new students and their parents as new members of our wonderful Temple community!

This July 1st marked a very special milestone in my professional journey here at The Village Temple. On this day back in 2005, I started my tenure as the newly appointed Director of Education at The Village Temple and this new, 2022-2023/5783 school year will be my 18th year in this role. It has been a great privilege and honor to serve the amazing Village Temple community for such a long time, to be able to meet so many wonderful families and watch so many children grow right before my eyes. It is amazing to realize that so many of my former preschoolers are college graduates now! It gives me a deep sense of joy and accomplishment that hundreds of children participated in our education program during my tenure. As a result of their Religious School education, *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* preparation and teen programming, they have developed a deep sense of Jewishness, a devotion to Jewish values and ethics and a lifelong commitment to Jewish community and social justice.

To our new members: I am certain that the roots you plant here at The Village Temple this season will offer a deep and meaningful connection to this vibrant Jewish community for many years to come. Please keep in mind that our clergy, staff and fellow members are here to welcome you and help you navigate your journey as you become active in our many innovative and engaging programs and services.

During the previous, 2021-2022/5782 school year when we resumed our in-person programming, we learned a great deal about navigating COVID-related protocols and restrictions, about keeping the health of our students, faculty, and staff a priority, and about reintroducing our most beloved programs and activities into our Religious School operation. It was a challenging year but toward the end of it in April and May we resumed most of those special features that make our Religious School what it is—the place where kids want to be, where their friends are, and where their time in the classrooms is filled with fun games, creative learning, and engaging hands-on projects.

What This Fall Will Bring

Throughout this year we will be offering many opportunities for family engagement ranging from holiday celebrations to family services and parent socials.

When we begin our Religious School programming this Fall, we will use this knowledge and expertise combined with our vision for excellence and offer an amazing Religious School

experience that inspires learners of all ages, that makes them realize that their Temple is their spiritual home, and that teaches them important lessons about our heritage, traditions, ethics and commitment to social justice. This year our younger students will continue their exploration of Jewish symbols and stories, Jewish heroes and *mensch*s, the Jewish holiday cycle, and our Jewish values. Our older students will delve into exciting learning structured around the weekly *Torah* reading cycle. Their weekly exploration of our most sacred text, its stories, commentaries, and teachings will provide learners with a solid foundation in preparation for their *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah*. And all students will be working and making solid progress on Hebrew *alef-bet* and Hebrew reading according to their grade levels and individual skills.

Throughout this year we will be offering many opportunities for family engagement ranging from holiday celebrations to family services and parent socials. Please stay tuned for upcoming announcements. As always, expect to receive my personal invitations to these events in addition to the temple e-blast and *Kesher* announcements.

I would like to encourage all of you to bring a friend or two to our High Holiday services, *Tashlich*, *Sukkot* or *Simchat Torah* celebrations at The Village Temple, or to the school **Open House on September 18 at 10:00 AM**. If you know anyone who is interested in learning more about us, please ask them to give me a phone call (212-674- 2340x308) or send me an email (atansky@villagetemple.org) and I will be sure to follow up.

I am looking forward to seeing you and your children soon and to celebrating the High Holidays with you! To the entire Village Temple community, I wish a *Shana Tova U'Metuka*—a good and sweet year, a year blessed with new friendships, awe, wonder, joyous learning, meaningful connections, and a love of Judaism!

Lshalom,
Alex Tansky, Director of Education
atansky@villagetemple.org

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The 2022 Mid-term Elections are coming! The VT Social Action Committee (SAC) is leading the way and encourages ALL congregants to take part in [Every Voice, Every Vote](#)—a non-partisan postcarding campaign. The [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism \(RAC\)](#) and [Center for Common Ground](#) provide a culturally sensitive script, which includes key issues at stake and addresses and names of under-represented voters.

Handwritten postcards are a form of personal connection and can “be a bridge” for infrequent voters to become empowered voters! **In North Carolina for example, postcarding efforts resulted in a 23% increase of Black voters re-registering to vote, and in Georgia, 3.3% of 143,000 purged voters registered to vote. In some cases, these voters were “unreached” by other modalities such as those without phone numbers or with new addresses (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V_Ep0KF3TnewrbMSYOV_n2OHsLgNLysY/view).** Additionally, postcarding can be a fun, simple and meaningful social activity for friends and family.

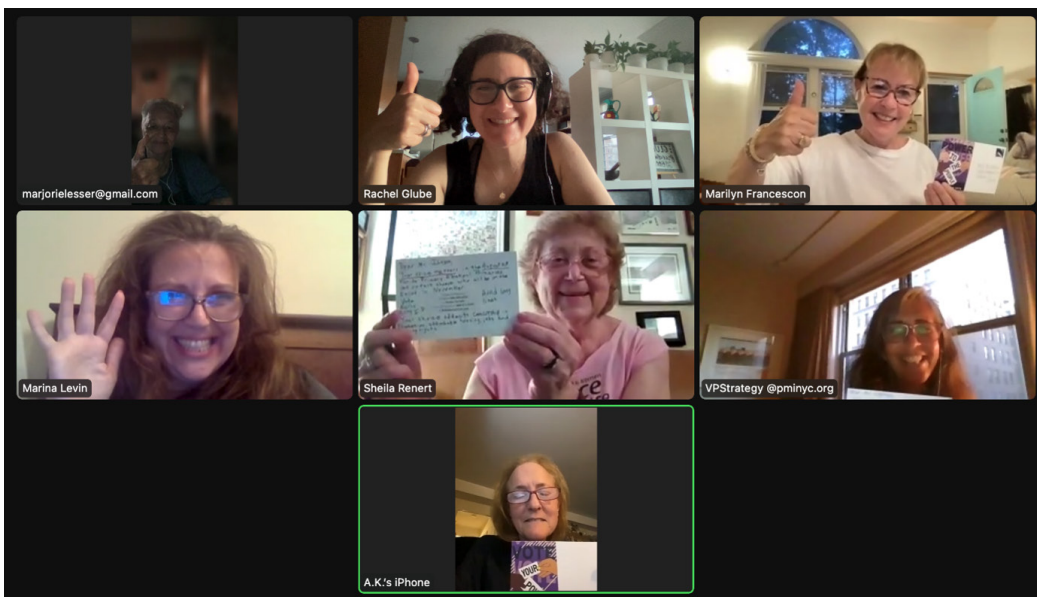
As of time of this writing, The Village Temple members have written and sent over 900 postcards to citizens for the Florida and



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Virginia primary elections. Please join us in reaching our goal of 1800 (18 x 10) and support our country’s democracy.

Please email Rachel Glube (glubefriedman@icloud.com) if you are interested in attending our next postcard writing event.



save the date



SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13:
6:00-7:00 PM: Children's Choir meeting

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16:
6:00 PM: Welcome Back Dinner following
Shabbat Services



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17:
8:00 PM: *Selichot* service on Zoom

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18:
9:00 AM: Religious School starts



OCTOBER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11:
6:30 PM: Adult *Sukkah* decorating

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16:
9:00 AM: *Yizkor* on Zoom
11:00 AM: Family *Sukkot* Social



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18:
5:30 PM: Services and *Simchat Torah* Party
(dancing in the street)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21:
5:30 PM: Bim Bam *Shabbat*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28:
6:00 PM: Family *Shabbat* Dinner

