

COMMUNITY-WIDE SELICHOT



Program and Service

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Congregation Beth Torah (6100 W. 127th St. OP, KS 66209)

8:00 p.m. Dessert Reception Sponsored by Congregational Sisterhoods

8:30 p.m. Havdalah

8:50-9:50 p.m. Spiritual Preparation Sessions

As Jews, we customarily shroud ourselves in white clothing for the High Holy Days. The custom penetrates to the heart of the season of repentance. Human spirituality and mortality are constant companions as we consider our deeds, because if we lived infinite lives we would never have to prioritize our actions. There would always be another tomorrow. Join the community's rabbis at Selichot study, conversation and worship for spiritual ramifications of our limited lives. As Isaiah put it, "Come, let us reach an understanding." (Isaiah 1:18)

**Select a first and second choice from session options below and respond with your letter choice by email to afprogram@aol.com or by phone to (913) 327-4622 by September 20th*

A. "KADDISH: VARIETIES, TRADITIONS, AND SPIRIT" - Half-Kaddish, Full-Kaddish, Rabbis' Kaddish, Mourners' Kaddish -- Learn how and why the "doxology" has come to have its many and varied functions, formats and melodies in our liturgy.

(Rabbi Arthur Nemitoff, The Temple Congregation B'nai Jehudah and Rabbi Scott White, Congregation Ohev Sholom)

B. THE ROAD BACK TO LIFE: THE FIRST 30 DAYS - Beginning with the moment of death, what do we do and why do we do it? What are some of the Jewish customs and their meanings such as covering the mirrors? What is the meal of consolation after burial (Se'udat havra'ah) and who provides it? Are shiva and minyan one and the same? Can I still observe shiva if my loved one was buried out of town or if my loved one was not Jewish?

(Rabbi Mark Levin, Congregation Beth Torah and Rabbi Linda Steigman, MSS)

C. DIVINE COMPASSION, RAYS OF LIGHT, AND THE DIVINE COUNTENANCE: MOSES CONFRONTS HIS MORTALITY - We will study the narrative from Exodus in the aftermath of the Golden Calf episode as they relate to man's mortality in the face of God's presence.

(Rabbi Daniel Rockoff, Beth Israel Abraham Voliner)

D. "KOL NIDREI AND THE BOOK OF JONAH: ARE THEY RELEVANT IN 2011?" - A discussion of the relevancy of major core prayers and readings of the High Holy Days in 2011.

(Rabbi Herbert Mandl, Kehilath Israel Synagogue and Rabbi Alan Londy, New Reform Temple)

E. ARE YOU AFRAID TO CONFRONT YOUR MORTALITY? MOST OF US ARE BUT THE HIGH HOLIDAYS FORCE US TO - We will have an open conversation on how the liturgy, the dress and the general preparations are akin to readying ourselves for death. Each year is "an end of life" experience.

(Rabbi Alan Cohen, Congregation Beth Shalom and Doug Alpert, Spiritual Leader, Kol Ami)

F. HEALING AND THE WRITTEN WORD

- Our tradition teaches that there is a time for living and a time for dying. Confronting death introduces a myriad of feelings that we bring on our spiritual journey. Using modern Jewish poetry and personal journaling exercises, participants will reflect on the state of their spirit, experiences coping with death of loved ones, and the power of Jewish tradition to help us heal. *(Rabbi Vered Harris, Congregation Beth Torah and Rabbi Jonathan Rudnick, Jewish Community Chaplain)*



10:00 p.m. – Selichot Service

Led by Rabbis Cohen, Levin, Londy, Nemitoff, Shual-Weiner, White, Rudnick, and Steigman, Spiritual Leader Doug Alpert, along with Beth Torah Music Director Linda Sweeney, Cantors Kohn and Menes, and a community choir. Selichot services also begin at: 12:15 a.m at KI, 1:10 a.m. at BIAV

The late hour and the themes articulated in the liturgy will prepare the congregation for the Days of Awe and set the tone for the days ahead.

Visit kcrabbis.org for additional information or contact Annette Fish, Rabbinical Association Administrator/Program Director, (913) 327-4622 or email afprogram@aol.com

Sponsored by the Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City, Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, in collaboration with participating congregations