



# JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THE HILL COUNTRY

August - September, 2023

## The High Holy Days are Almost Here!

Another year is passing and the High Holy Days will soon be upon us. As is our custom, we will have four days of services, including *Tashlich* and Breaking the Fast. A complete schedule is below and schedules for Shabbats and Torah Studies for August and September are on the next page. We will, as always, keep you informed and reminded by emails.

Also, it's that time of year when we renew our membership and pay our dues. A mailing will be sent to you the first week of September. And if you're not a member and wish to join, just let us know. Thank you so much for your support during this past year!

In your service,  
Don Burda, President



## High Holy Days

### **Rosh Hashanah Evening Service:**

Friday, September 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Rosh Hashanah Morning Service:**

Saturday, September 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

(*Tashlich* following the morning Service)

### **Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Evening Service:**

Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Short Yizkor and Closing Service:**

Monday, September 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

(Followed by blessings and Break the Fast)



## Shabbat Services

Friday, August 11, 2023 at 6:00pm

Friday, August 25, 2023 at 6:00pm

September 2023:

No services due to the High Holy Days



## Torah Study

Saturday, August 5, 2023 at 11:30am to 1:00pm

Saturday, August 19, 2023 at 11:30am to 1:00pm

September 2023:

No study due to the High Holy Days

## Don's Wine Cake

I've been asked many times to provide this recipe, so here 'tis. It's quick and easy to make. Any sweet wine can be used but I favor blackberry. Bon appétit!

### Ingredients:

#### Cake:

1 box Duncan Hines yellow cake mix  
1 small package instant vanilla pudding mix  
½ Cup blackberry wine  
½ Cup water  
½ Cup oil  
4 large eggs  
Bundt pan

#### Glaze:

1 Cup sugar  
1 Stick butter  
½ Cup blackberry wine  
Small saucepan

### Technique:

Set oven to 325°F. Grease well and flour Bundt pan. Combine cake mix and pudding mix in a large bowl. In another bowl combine liquids and eggs; beat well. Pour liquids and eggs into dry ingredients; using a whisk, beat until well incorporated. Pour into Bundt pan and bake for 55 – 60 minutes until interior reads 190°F or until a probe inserted in cake comes out clean.

About 10 minutes before cake comes out of oven, put glaze ingredients in saucepan and heat until butter melts and liquid is at a slow boil; boil for 3 minutes. When cake is ready, take from oven and poke 20 – 25 holes in the surface. Then pour the glaze over the hot cake. Pour carefully so the glaze does not run over the sides of the pan. Let cake cool in pan for 30 minutes after glazing. Turn onto serving plate and let cool completely.

# Nosh 'n' Watch



Beginning at the left and moving clockwise: Peg, Rayleen, George, Robert, Robby, Ginger and Shirley

As the poet Robert Burns wrote, “The best laid schemes o’ Mice an’ Men Gang aft agley.” And so it was with the “Watch” portion of our event. Due to a faulty modem, we could not view “The New York Cantors.” Robert valiantly tried to beat Don’s laptop and the modem into submission, but alas, it was not to be.

But everyone took it in stride. The food was great, the company even more so. As Robby put it, “We had a wonderful meal and met new people—no complaints!” On a brighter note, the problem with the modem was easily remedied later and plans for a “rerun” are in the works for after the High Holy Days.



## Looking Ahead...

### Sukkot

We will celebrate Sukkot this year at the home of Greg and Ellen Bitkower on Friday, October 6, 2023 at 6:00pm. Their patio will be transformed into a sukkah and this will be the first time in several years that we will celebrate the feast outdoors. We will have a short ceremony, then enjoy a potluck dinner. More information will be forthcoming.

### Hanukkah

This year, our public celebration of Hanukkah and the lighting of our 12-foot Menorah will take place on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 6:00pm on the Courthouse lawn. Members of the New Buddy Holly Band will again provide seasonal music. And this year, for the first time, the Kerrville Board of Realtors will be present to provide coffee and hot chocolate!



## Final Thoughts

When a person inquires about the JCHC, one of their first questions is, "With what movement are you associated?" They expect the answer to be Orthodox, Conservative, Reform or Reconstructionist. But it's not that simple. There are forty-six contemporary (2021) movements that are considered to be officially "recognized," three "unrecognized" and about four to five hundred "splinter" movements throughout the world. Our answer is, at times, disconcerting to them, "We are not affiliated with nor do we consider our congregation to be part of any specific sect, stream, or movement

of Judaism. We encourage our members to embrace Judaism and interpret Scripture in their own way, free from denominational strictures." While this may appear to be a radical stance, in truth, it isn't. A 2020 study by the Pew Research Center, found that 67% of adult Jews do not identify with a specific denomination. The reason? Their religion is no longer as relevant in their lives. And it is this that the JCHC, with its emphasis on true community, strives to address in the lives of all its members. Shalom!

*Don Burda, President*