

## Rabbi's Column

Rabbi Jack Schlachter gave a very good presentation explaining the science behind the darkness on Monday, along with his differences with the traditional reactions to viewing an eclipse. We had a minyan that morning which gave everyone the opportunity to recite part of the Amidah out loud as well as hear the Torah being read.

As of Tuesday night, there is just one more month to get yourself ready for the High Holidays. The idea every year is for us to strive to do better in those areas of life in which we can improve.

This coming Sunday, from 11 to 1, I will be leading a review of Dr. Joel Hoffman's books (this is a rescheduling of an event from last year's program, as some people could not attend then). Dr. Hoffman is a philologist who helps make clear how little we know about Biblical Hebrew, and why it is we know so little. He also clarifies the nature of translation compromises, and why it does take a lot of skill to do a good translation.

This week's Torah portion reminds us to take doing the right thing very seriously. Our focus for improvement should be ourselves and not the people around us. Teshuvah is a very private affair, even if we sometimes disguise it as part of the High Holiday services.

Have a good, safe week, and a spiritually uplifting Elul.