Selichot: A Time of New Beginnings
Saturday night, September 20, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

“In the days of the Messiah, people will no longer quarrel with their neighbors, but with themselves—they will struggle to hold themselves accountable for their own behavior, rather than demanding others be responsible for it.”

—Rabbi Israel of Rizhin

Please join us for our Selichot evening—a short film and discussion, music, and “heartsearching” as we begin the last week of the old year and welcome the season of the High Holy Days.

Selichot is a kind of preview of themes from the High Holy Days, including celebrating creation, acknowledging personal imperfections, discarding worn habits of thought and action, and moving closer to achieving spiritual goals or closeness with God. Selichot weaves together issues of personal and communal well-being, gently reminding us that tikkun olam—"repairing the world"—begins with tikkun atzmi—healing oneself and aiding others to do the same.

Although many Jews begin this process at the start of the month of Elul, most of us will begin at the close of the last Shabbat of the old year on Saturday night, September 20, 2014, beginning with Havdalah and potluck refreshments at 7:30.

After that, we’ll watch a 26-minute episode of Twilight Zone written by Rod Serling, a nice Jewish boy from Binghamton, NY, who used his series to examine many issues of social justice and conscience in the early days of broadcast television. We’ll discuss the show, connect it to classical Jewish texts, and end with a brief taste of familiar meditative prayer and music from the High Holy Days.