

CONGREGATION B'NAI AVRAHAM of Brooklyn Heights NEWSLETTER

Nitzavim • Sept 3 to 10, 2021 • Elul 26, 5781 to Tishrei 4, 5782

Ketivah V'Chatima Tova

High Holy Days Schedule ON BACK PAGE

Reserve your seats NOW

Rosh Hashana begins on Labor Day, Monday night, Sept. 6.

If you haven't yet done so, please reserve your seats. ALL services will be outdoors under a giant tent (with Remsen Street closed to traffic). While we would like everyone to attend, space is limited so reservations are necessary.

Tickets to services (and an under-the-tent dinner on the first night of Rosh Hashana) can easily be ordered online. Visit the shul's new website, BnaiAvraham.org, and click **High Holiday Seats 5782** at top right.

If you have ANY questions, please email office@BnaiAvraham.org

**INSIDE: Sukkot and Simchat Torah preview
AND: Young Families Cider Tasting Sept 12**



THIS SHABBAT (Sept 3-4) Parashat Nitzavim

Candlelighting 7:06 pm
Fri Mincha-Maariv 7:15 pm
Sat Early Minyan 8 am
Sat Main Minyan 10 am
Sat Mincha-Maariv 7:15 pm
Havdalah 8:04 pm

Kiddush follows each minyan.

This week's sponsors are:

Robert Sutton for the early minyan, in memory of the yahrtzeit of his father Jack Sutton z"l (Yakov Chaim Yehuda ben Moshe Gad.)

Alyssa Lappen for the main 10 am minyan, in honor of her 44th anniversary and in memory of Teep (Yisrael Ben Avraham).

For future sponsorship opportunities, contact MichaelMBast@gmail.com

NEXT SHABBAT (Sept 10-11) Parashat Vayelech

Candlelighting 6:55 pm
Fri Mincha-Maariv 7:05 pm
Sat Early Minyan 8 am
Sat Main Minyan 10 am
Sat Mincha-Maariv 6:55 pm
Havdalah 7:52 pm

Want to learn? Visit our website for latest schedule of shiurim.

www.BnaiAvraham.Org



Rav Raskin's Mnemonics: Netzavim

Reprinted from a book by Rabbi Aaron L. Raskin, "Parsha Mnemonics: Decoding the # of Verses in the Torah Portion"

Isaac and Sarah got married and left on their honeymoon. When they got back, Sarah immediately telephoned her mother Leah. "Well," said Leah, "how was the honeymoon, darling?"

"Oh mom," Sarah replies, "the honeymoon was fantastic. It was so romantic, and ...and ..." Then Sarah starts to cry.

"Oh mom, as soon as we got back, Isaac started using terrible language. He said things I'd never hoped to hear, all those 4-letter words. Please mom, get into your car now, come and take me home."

"Calm down, darling," says Leah, "Tell your mother what could be that awful. Don't be shy, tell me what 4-letter words Isaac used."

"Please mom, I'm too embarrassed to tell you, they're terrible words. Just come and take me away," says Sarah.

"But bubeleh, you must tell me, you must tell me what the 4-letter words were."

Still crying, Sarah replies:

"Oh mom, he used words like W-A-S-H, C-O-O-K, I-R-O-N, D-U-S-T..."

The Parsha of Nitzavim contains 40 pesukim and its mnemonic is Levavo ו ל ב ו

$$40 = 6+2+2+30$$

What is the connection between 40, Levavo and the month of Elul.

The Parsha of Nitzavim is always read in the month of Elul, the Shabbos before Rosh Hashana.

Second Tablets

Historically, it was on the first of Elul that Moshe went up on mount—40 days and nights—for the third time. This time he went to do Teshuva (repentance) on behalf of the Jewish people because of the sin they committed building a golden calf. At the end of the 40 days G-d awarded Moshe with the second pair of Luchos and said, "I have forgiven you as you have requested"

The day Moshe descended the mountain became the day of atonement for all generations to come—better known as Yom Kippur.

The number 40 represents "transformation," similar to a mikvah, that transforms a person from a state of impurity to a state of purity—requiring 40 se'ah.

These 40 days are a gift from G-d, helping us to change and become better, more productive people.

His heart

In our parsha we find the mnemonic, Levavo—however it is in a negative context, as it states, "Perhaps there is among you a man, woman, family or tribe whose heart (Levavo) is straying today. ... However in the end you will return, "and God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your children, to love G-d your G-d, etc."

Continued on next page

Tzom Gedaliah Thurs Sept 9 • Fast begins 5:02 am, ends 7:42 pm

Your shul needs you more than ever! Support B'nai Avraham's annual KOL NIDRE APPEAL

The success of our Kol Nidre Appeal is essential to sustaining and growing our congregation. B'nai Avraham is on the cusp bouncing back after the devastating past 18 months of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our shul has a full schedule of events planned to attract new members and foster Torah-true Judaism in Brooklyn Heights. Rabbi Raskin and the entire B'nai Avraham team are working overtime to insure that, B"H, 5782 will be a wonderful year.

Whether you'll be davening this Yom Kippur with us in person or not, please join in supporting your shul. **Go to the following web page on BnaiAvraham.org to make your Kol Nidre Appeal contribution now: bit.ly/3BI0jG9**



Order lulav & esrog

Israeli \$105 • Italian \$150
Contact Rabbi Raskin
ravraskin@gmail.com, 718-510-6905
LAST DAY TO ORDER IS FRI SEPT 17

Sukkot

Yom Tov Tues-Wed, Sept 21-22*
Hoshana Rabba, Mon, Sept 27*
Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor),
Tues, Sept 28*

*Holiday begins previous evening



Simchat Torah

Dance with the Torah on
Tuesday night, Sept 28,
and Wednesday morning, Sept 29

Second Sunday Cider Tasting

A Brooklyn Heights event for young families, couples and singles

SUNDAY • SEPT 12 • 2-4 PM



FREE admission • FREE childcare

Meet your Jewish neighbors and sample a curated variety of ciders.

This 21+ event is hosted by the Second Sunday Committee of Congregation B'nai Avraham. (Open to all. No synagogue affiliation required.)

All drinking and eating outdoors; masking required inside.
Subject to cancellation for inclement weather.

Free child-care and entertainment available (toilet-trained through 8).



WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 12, 2-4 pm.
WHERE: 117 Remsen St, Brooklyn Heights
PRICE: Free.
TO REGISTER visit: bit.ly/3ytfSh

Questions? Contact EventsAtCBA@gmail.com

The Congregation B'nai Avraham team

Rabbi Aaron L. Raskin, Spiritual Leader

Stephen and Penny Rosen, Founders

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This Pasuk teaches us how G-d will help us to do Teshuva. However, earlier in the Parsha of Eikev, it states that, "you shall circumcise the foreskin of your heart" implying how the individual must do teshuva on his own. What then is the difference if God is circumcising your heart or if you do it yourself.

The Rebbe explains this as follows: in the portion of Eikev the individual did his or her own Teshuva and soul searching—however it was done out of fear of punishment. Here in our Parsha G-d will assist you to do teshuva out of love. Furthermore when the eyes see the heart desires. G-d thus circumcises your heart—performs an operation—he separates the heart from the eyes. As such one will not be negatively influenced by what the eyes see, and will truly come to love G-d!

The above theme of returning to G-d through love rather than fear is underscored by the acronym of the month of Elul—"I am to my Beloved and my beloved is to Me. Which means we the people see G-d as our beloved and G-d reciprocates out of love." Similarly the Alter Rebbe teaches that in the month of Elul the king is in the field and "receives everyone with a happy countenance and shows a smiley face to all."

Pertaining to Avraham of whom G-d says "I love him" Levavo is used in a positive context, as it states "I have found his heart to be faithful before him."

Through Teshuva out of love we can transform the Levavo of straying to the Levavo of Avraham and Truly be loved by G-d.

May you be inscribed for a happy and healthy sweet New Year!

Story

In 1950 shortly before the passing of the The Rebbe Rayatz, he instructed his son-in-law the future Rebbe to send Rabbi Shlomo Matasov to Morocco in order to bolster Jewish Education by opening up new schools for Jewish children, subsequently Rabbi Matasov opened over seventy schools in Morocco.

When R'Shlomo Matasov met with the Tzadik the Baba Sali in order to open a school, The Baba Sali asked, what will you teach. He responded Chumash, Gemarah, Halacha... The Baba Sali asked, and what else? He responded...and some Tanya.

The Baba Sali said to teach Chumash we don't need you but if you will teach Tanya you have my blessings to start the school.

The Baba Sali then showed Rabbi Matasov his personal well-worn Tanya from one of the first printings, and exclaimed, "I study the Tanya every day." In this generation, one cannot be G-d fearing unless one studies the Tanya.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW • HIGH HOLY DAYS IN A TENT

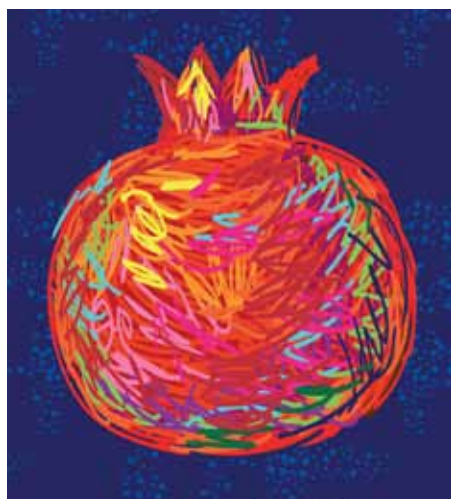
B'nai Avraham of Brooklyn Heights

The Orthodox Shul in Brooklyn Heights

ALL services outdoors in a tent (Remsen St closed to traffic)

Questions? office@BnaiAvraham.org

Easily order and pay for tickets on the shul's new website – BnaiAvraham.org



Rosh Hashana

Monday Evening, Sept 6 (Labor Day)

- Light Candles 7:01 pm
- Evening Service 7 pm
- Rosh Hashana Dinner (outside in tent) 8 pm. \$45. To reserve visit BnaiAvraham.org/event/dinner-in-tent.html

Tuesday, Sept 7 (First Day)

- Morning Service 9 am to 2 pm
- Shofar 11:30 am
- Junior Congregation 11 am to 1 pm
- Rambam Class 5:30 pm
- Afternoon Service 6 pm
- Tashlich Procession and Shofar (leave from shul at 117 Remsen St to walk to Pier 5) 6:30 pm
- Tehillim followed by Evening Service 7:30 pm
- Light Candles after 7:59 pm

Wednesday, Sept 8 (Second Day)

- Morning Service 9 am to 2 pm
- Shofar 11:30 am
- Junior Congregation 11 am to 1 pm
- Rambam Class 6:30 pm
- Evening Service 7 pm
- Yom Tov Ends 7:57 pm



Yom Kippur

Wednesday, Sept 15

- Mikvah open for men 7:30 am to 2 pm
- Light Candles and Fast Begins by 6:46 pm
- Kol Nidre Services 6:55 pm
- Junior Congregation 7 to 9 pm

Thursday, Sept 16

- Morning Services 9 am
- Yizkor Memorial Service 12 pm
- Mincha followed by Ne'ilah 5:45 pm
- Ne'ilah 6:15 pm
- Shofar sounds the end of the fast 7:43 pm