

HAVING MY EYES OPENED AT A BEGINNERS SERVICE

Hindi Silber

Rosh Hashana commemorates the creation of the human being.

Every year, on this day, we have the opportunity for renewal. We, and all of G-d's creations, have the very special opportunity to begin anew. While on Rosh Hashana we only look forward, on the days leading up to Rosh Hashana, we look backward on the past year. This is particularly beneficial to help gain an understanding of what will help propel us forward into the coming new year.

For me, attending the Beginners Service at Lincoln Square Synagogue during this past year, initiated a personal growth experience, and is what will, hopefully, contribute to my continued progress in the year to come.

Last year, I walked into the Shabbat Beginners Service not knowing what to expect. When Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald looked up and said, "Who are you?!" I knew it was going to be an interesting experience. I continued attending for many weeks. I often ask myself now why I kept returning when I was entirely accustomed and perfectly literate in a full halachic service. After all, I grew up in a Modern Orthodox home in Brooklyn and attended yeshiva for all my elementary and high school years. I even became known as the "Yeshiva Girl" at the Beginners Service.

During one Beginners Service, Rabbi Buchwald said something that deeply resonated within me and seemed very relevant to my previous religious experiences. He said, "You need to focus on the 'joys,' and not the 'oys' of being Jewish." While at the time, his intention was to get everyone to laugh, it elicited a more visceral feeling within me. I realized that I was living my life as a Jew with a case of the "oys." It became clear to me that I, too often, focused on the prohibitive aspects of Judaism instead of on the positive attributes of being Jewish. Celebrating Shabbat and festivals had become mechanical and routine, obscuring the purpose for why or what I was doing or celebrating.

At the service, I met all different kinds of people, ranging in Jewish knowledge and practice. However, what unified everyone was their joy in partaking in Jewish experiences, values, culture and traditions, and it was this joy that I saw in them that pushed me to change my attitude. As William James, the American philosopher, said, "The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes of mind." When one Beginner said to me, "I wish I could have gone to yeshiva, you are so

lucky," it made me take a step back and reassess the privilege of my religious Jewish upbringing. Seeing what I had from another person's perspective, changed my own personal outlook.

Rabbi Buchwald's in-depth exploration of prayer and of the weekly parasha, emphasizing its applicability to our everyday life, was strengthening. Stressing that Judaism values questioning and learning, I began to deeply appreciate a setting that was open to conversation, even when it related to the more controversial parts of Judaism. But, most importantly, the conversations awakened in me memories of what I learned in yeshiva, reminding me that the Torah is a guidebook on how to live.

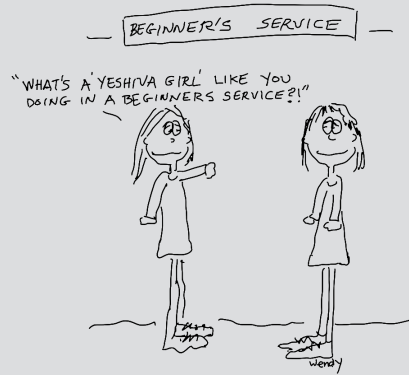
The Beginners Service has given me a chance to reconnect with our rich and deep traditions, and for this, I am deeply grateful.

Last Rosh Hashana, my original intention was to attend the main service, after all, it was Rosh Hashana! But, instead I found myself at the Beginners High Holiday Service. I quickly recognized the face of the man who was co-leading the service with Rabbi Buchwald, Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich, ז"ל. Rabbi Reich's photo hangs prominently in the Beginners' room, and throughout the year, Rabbi Buchwald frequently mentions him and recalls some of his Torah thoughts and stories. The service was like no other Rosh Hashana service I've ever attended. Together they truly created a most meaningful and uplifting service that I will never forget. Rabbi Reich, who tragically passed away this summer after a long illness, will truly be missed.

There comes a time when we decide it is time to move on. While my time at the Beginners Service has been so special and memorable, I know the time has come to "graduate" and go back upstairs to the main service. I am so appreciative of Rabbi Buchwald and the Beginners I have met. They have opened my eyes and it has given me the chance to start anew, overcoming my "oys" and getting back the "joys." I also know that the Beginners Service is just a short walk downstairs and I can always go visit, as Rabbi Buchwald often says, "JFK," just for Kiddush.

Wishing everyone a year filled only with much joy, and no oys! *Shana Tova!*

Hindi Silber, a hedge fund controller, grew up in Brooklyn and attended the Yeshiva of Flatbush. She currently resides on the Upper West Side.



CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV



ENGAGEMENTS

Talia Gerber and Ari Amsterdam
Mazal Tov to parents, Tracy and Sander Gerber
Shoham Adani and Uriya Buiumsohn
Mazal Tov parents, Gail and Gady Buiumsohn
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Helga Weisburger
Tovy Kaplan and Cobi Citron
Mazal Tov to parents, Drs. Chava and Steven Kaplan
Leah Ruth (Caitlin) Phillips and Michael Klein
Tali Levi and Zev Marcus
Mazal Tov to parents, Anat and Dr. Gabriel Levi
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Helga Weisburger

MARRIAGES

Batya Bousbib and Yehoshua Naor
Mazal Tov to parents, Polly and Gabriel Bousbib
Aiden Ruskin and Yoni Menaged
Mazal Tov to parents, Maura and Adam Ruskin
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Mrs. Sylvia Freyer
Nicole Safir and Isaac Shapiro
Mazal Tov to parents, Amy and David Shapiro
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Ruth Bernstein

BIRTHS

Masako (Ruth) Otani and Stephen Baker on the birth of a son,
Ethan

Estee and Efraim Buiumsohn on the birth of a daughter,
Neta
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Gail and Gady Buiumsohn
Mazal Tov to great-grandmother, Helga Weisburger
Avigayil and Emanuel Dotch on the birth of a daughter,
Shilat Bracha
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Miriam and Dr. Mordecai Savir
Sara and Jason Genrich on the birth of a daughter,
Elle Juliet
Mazal Tov to grandmother,
Carol Spanbock (and her late husband, Jonathan, z"l)
Leah and Seth Goldberg on the birth of a son,
Saul Reuben (Shaul Reuven)
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Robin and Neil Goldberg
Miriam and Jeremy Klaben on the birth of a son,
Oren Brendan (Oren Baruch)
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Robin and Neil Goldberg
Michele Meises and Lawrence Loeb on the birth of a son,
Alexander Max
Adva and Nadav Ruskin on the birth of a son,
Oz Yisrael
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Maura and Adam Ruskin
Mazal Tov to great-grandmother, Mrs. Sylvia Freyer
Daniella and Sam Schertz on the birth of a son,
Abie (Avraham Yitzchak)
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Michelle and Eli Salig

BARBARA KAUFMAN

Barbara Kaufman and Rabbi Buchwald went back many years to kindergarten in PS 67 in the Bronx. Her keen intellect and feisty personality, will be fondly remembered by many.

RABBI DR. MORDECHAI REICH

Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich leaves our entire community profoundly brokenhearted. He was a source of great inspiration to us all, for almost 40 years, conducting the High Holiday Beginners Service and inspiring the masses. We've lost our teacher, our mentor, our friend, our brother. Condolences to the entire family.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Geraldine Katz, *Gershona Yehudit bat Rochel*
Ruth Nelkin, *Rochel bat Sarah*
Barbara Reader, *Baila bat Clarissa*
Angelo Verga, *Malachi Yosef ben Miriam*
Louis Vynereb, *Elazar HaCohen ben Malka*

CONDOLENCES

Charles Bernhaut, on the loss of his beloved, Helen Freedman
Steven Greene, on the loss of his sister, Sheri Greene
Sara Gurwitz, on the loss of her father, Binyomin Linz
Passing of Barbara Kaufman
The family of Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich, z"l

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Fri Sept. 18, 2019 - 29th of Elul
EREV ROSH HASHANA
 Selichot/Morning Services
 5:45 & 6:45 AM
 Light Candles 6:41 PM
 Mincha/Maariv 6:45 PM

Sat Sept. 19, 2020 - 1st of Tishrei
ROSH HASHANA
 Main Sanctuary & Ballroom ... 8:00 AM
 Beginners Service 11:00 AM
 Mincha 6:30 PM
 Yom Tov Candlelighting ... after 7:39 PM
 Maariv 7:40 PM

Sun Sept. 20, 2020 - 2nd of Tishrei
ROSH HASHANA
 Main Sanctuary & Ballroom ... 8:00 AM
 Beginners Service 11:00 AM
 Tashlich 5:45 PM
 Mincha 6:35 PM
 Maariv 7:38 PM

Mon Sept. 21, 2020 - 3rd of Tishrei
TZOM GEDALIAH
 Fast Begins 5:31 AM
 Selichot/Morning Services
 6:20 & 7:15 AM
 Mincha & Maariv 6:15 PM
 Fast ends 7:25 PM

Tues Sept. 22, 2020 - 4th of Tishrei
 Selichot/Morning Services
 6:30 & 7:15 AM
 Mincha & Maariv 6:35 PM

Fri Sept. 25, 2020 - 7th of Tishrei
 Selichot/Morning Services
 6:30 & 7:15 AM
 Candlelighting 6:29 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:35 PM

Sat Sept. 26, 2020 - 8th of Tishrei
SHABBAT SHUVA Ha'azinu
 Morning Services ... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Services 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot 4:45 PM
 Mincha 6:00 PM
 Shabbat Shuva Drasha 6:25 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 7:28 PM

Sun Sept. 27, 2020 - 9th of Tishrei
EREV YOM KIPPUR
 Selichot/Morning Services
 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Mincha 1:45, 3:00 & 4:00 PM
 Candlelighting 6:26 PM
 Fast begins 6:26 PM
 Kol Nidre 6:30 PM

Mon Sept. 28, 2020 - 10th of Tishrei
YOM KIPPUR
 Main Sanctuary & Ballroom ... 8:30 AM
 Beginners Service 10:00 AM
 Mincha Main Sanctuary 4:30 PM
 Neilah 6:00 PM
 Ma'ariv/Yom Tov ends 7:25 PM

Tues Sept. 29, 2020 - 11th of Tishrei
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Mincha/Ma'ariv 6:30 PM

Fri Oct. 2, 2020 - 14th of Tishrei
EREV SUKKOT
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candlelighting 6:17 PM
 Mincha/Maariv 6:25 PM
 Begin meal in Sukkah ... after 7:07 PM

Sat Oct. 3, 2020 - 15th of Tishrei
SUKKOT
 Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
 Mincha 6:05 PM
 Yom Tov Candlelighting ... after 7:15 PM
 Ma'ariv and begin meal ... after 7:16 PM

Sun Oct. 4, 2020 - 16th of Tishrei
SUKKOT
 Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
 Mincha 6:20 PM
 Maariv 7:15 PM

Mon Oct. 5, 2020 - 17th of Tishrei
CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT
 Morning Services 6:45 & 7:30 AM
 Mincha & Maariv 6:20 PM

Tues Oct. 6, 2020 - 18th of Tishrei
CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT
 Morning Services 6:45 & 7:30 AM
 Mincha & Maariv 6:20 PM

Wed Oct. 7, 2020 - 19th of Tishrei
CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT
 Morning Services 6:45 & 7:30 AM
 Mincha & Maariv 6:15 PM

Thur Oct. 8, 2020 - 20th of Tishrei
CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT
 Morning Services 6:45 & 7:30 AM
 Mincha & Maariv 6:15 PM

Fri Oct. 9, 2020 - 21st of Tishrei
HOSHANA RABA
 Morning Services ... 6:40, 7:00 & 8:00 AM
 Candlelighting 6:06 PM
 Mincha & Maariv 6:10 PM

Sat Oct. 10, 2020 - 22nd of Tishrei
SHEMINI ATZERET
 Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
 Mincha 5:55 PM
 Yom Tov Candlelighting ... after 7:04 PM
 Ma'ariv/Hakafot 7:05 PM

Sun Oct. 11, 2020 - 23rd of Tishrei
SIMCHAT TORAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
 Mincha 6:10 PM
 Maariv 7:03 PM

Mon Oct. 12, 2020 - 24th of Tishrei
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:50 AM
 Mincha/Ma'ariv 6:10 PM

Tues Oct. 13, 2020 - 25th of Tishrei
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Mincha/Ma'ariv 6:05 PM

Fri Oct. 16, 2020 - 28th of Tishrei
 Candlelighting 5:55 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:45 PM

Sat Oct. 17, 2020 - 29th of Tishrei
Bereshith
 Morning Services
 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Services 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot 4:10 PM
 Talmud & Bible Classes 4:40 PM
 Mincha 5:40 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:54 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:00 PM

Sun Oct. 18, 2020 - 30th of Tishrei
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
 Mincha/Maariv 6:00 PM

Mon Oct. 19, 2020 - 1st of Cheshvan
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Mincha/Maariv 6:00 PM

Fri Oct. 23, 2020 - 5th of Cheshvan
 Candlelighting 5:45 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:50 PM

Sat Oct. 24, 2020 - 6th of Cheshvan
Noach
 Morning Services
 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Services 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot 4:00 PM
 Talmud & Bible Classes 4:30 PM
 Mincha 5:30 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:44 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:50 PM

Fri Oct. 30, 2020 - 12th of Cheshvan
 Candlelighting 5:36 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 5:40 PM

Sat Oct. 31, 2020 - 13th of Cheshvan
Lech Lecha

Morning Services
 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Services 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot 4:05 PM
 Talmud & Bible Classes 4:35 PM
 Mincha 5:20 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 6:35 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:40 PM
 Standard time: move clocks back

Fri Nov. 6, 2020 - 19th of Cheshvan
 Candlelighting 4:28 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:30 PM

Sat Nov. 7, 2020 - 20th of Cheshvan
Vayera
 Morning Services
 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Services 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot 3:00 PM
 Talmud & Bible Classes 3:30 PM
 Mincha 4:15 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:27 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:35 PM

Fri Nov. 13, 2020 - 26th of Cheshvan
 Candlelighting 4:21 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:25 PM

Sat Nov. 14, 2020 - 27th of Cheshvan
Chayei Sara
 Morning Services
 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Services 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot 2:50 PM
 Talmud & Bible Classes 3:20 PM
 Mincha 4:05 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:21 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:25 PM

Tues Nov. 17, 2020 - 1st of Kislev
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
 Mincha/Ma'ariv 4:25 PM

Fri Nov. 20, 2020 - 4th of Kislev
 Candlelighting 4:16 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:20 PM

Sat Nov. 21, 2020 - 2nd of Kislev
Toldot
 Morning Services
 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Services 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot 2:45 PM
 Talmud & Bible Classes 3:15 PM
 Mincha 4:00 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:16 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM

Thur Nov. 26, 2020 - 10th of Kislev
Thanksgiving Day
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
 Mincha/Maariv 4:20 PM

Fri Nov. 27, 2020 - 11th of Kislev
 Candlelighting 4:12 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:15 PM

Sat Nov. 28, 2020 - 12th of Kislev
Vayetzei
 Morning Services
 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Services 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot 2:45 PM
 Talmud & Bible Classes 3:15 PM
 Mincha 4:00 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:13 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM

Fri Dec. 4, 2020 - 18th of Kislev
 Candlelighting 4:11 PM
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 4:15 PM

Sat Dec. 5, 2018 - 19th of Kislev
Vayishlach
 Morning Services
 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Beginners Services 9:15 AM
 Beginners Mishnayot 2:40 PM
 Talmud & Bible Classes 3:10 PM
 Mincha 3:55 PM
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends 5:11 PM

Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM

In Memory of Rabbi Mordechai Reich
July 2020
 HaRav Mordechai Menashe ben Moshe Tzvi
Loved by all

The Saddest Day Ever

When flight was a danger, he knew no fear
 With bravery and determination,
 he desired to be near
 Near to his loved ones, his colleagues, his wife
 Still holding strong to his pure love of life
 When he was told he could not travel
 Not for a moment did his faith unravel
 When others would have folded,
 with bravery he fought
 When others would have rested,
 with wisdom he taught
 When our prayers go unanswered,
 and we don't know why
 When we read the Psalms daily,
 and now left to cry
 When we aspire to be as good as it gets,
 The memory of Rabbi Mordechai Reich
 we shall never forget

By Rachelle Lewis

HELEN FREEDMAN

Helen Freedman was a big-time contemporary hero, who headed a very important pro-Israel group, called Americans for a Safe Israel. Her devotion to the Jewish people was unbounded, and her impact was profound. She will be missed by many, including the entire Beginners family. May her memory be a blessing to all.

SAVE THE DATES
Special Events

Sukkot Shopping: Wed., Sept. 30
 7:00 PM

Intro To Bible Class Begins
 8 Sessions
 Tues., Oct. 13, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

BEGINNERS HIGH
HOLIDAY SERVICES
 at the Lincoln Square Synagogue
 180 Amsterdam Avenue (68th St.)
 Beit Midrash (2nd. Floor)

ROSH HASHANA
 Fri. night, Sept. 18
 Sat. & Sun., Sept. 19 & 20

YOM KIPPUR
 Sun. night, Sept. 27
 Mon., Sept. 28
 Please visit lss.org/beginners