## **HE PROBES OUR SOULS**

This is dedicated to Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald who has never ever oped believing in the Holiness of Am Yisrael. "Kain azamrah mcha la'ad, l'shalami n'daray yom yom." So will I sing praise thy name forever, as I perform my vows day by day (Ps. 61:9).

Some of the sweetest days of the year are the days of

Some of the sweetest days of the year are the days of the month of Elul. In Israel you feel it, mamash (really). Just as usually you don't need a clock to tell you, more or less, what time it is – in Israel you don't need a calendar to tell you what's happening Jewishly. Elul closes the year and leads us right into Rosh Hashana. It's the time of teshuvah (repentance), the time when we're all busy cleaning our neshamot (souls) in preparation for the Days of Awe, the days when the Master of the Universe ascends His throne and apportions the world His blessings for the coming year. Mostly, we are trying to purge ourselves of all the things of which we fell short that we perfected or

all the things of which we fell short, that we neglected, or, in moments of weakness or of habit, committed. Rarely do we stop to think about what we did do that was positive and good. We accept that the good will work to

our benefit, so we pay it no mind.

Years ago, when I was a regular at Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York, on Shabbat or Yom Tov afternoons we would walk to Roosevelt Hospital to visit Jewish patients. One Sukkot I walked in to a room and almost bumped into an older, not quite elderly man, who was caring for his wife. He wore a short brimmed, black hat, so I judged immediately that he was religious. The proof came when he saw the lulav and etrog in my hand and his eyes lit up. He asked if he could use my lulav and etrog to perform the mitzvah. When I replied "of course," he took the lulav and etrog from my hand, quickly made the blessing, and even more quickly shook them in all four directions. Despite his speed, a nurse walked in before he had finished, so he hastily put them down. I realized, then, that this man was one of those people who go to lengths to hide or at least not to exhibit their Jewishness (even though it is written all over them). He had almost gotten away with doing the mitzvah without being detected, when the nurse surprised him.

The nurse, who could not have cared less, was making a routine visit. She first attended to his wife, and when she finished she turned to the other patient in the room. As soon as the nurse left his wife's bedside, her husband picked up the lulav and etrog, walked over to his wife and asked softly, "Chana, do you want to ben'(bless) lulav and etrog?" His wife lifted her head and weakly nodded, "yes." He

in proceeded to help her perform the mitzvah, oblivious to everything and everyone that was in the room.

I cannot begin to describe to you the love, compassion, and reverence that poured from that man as he assisted his wife with this mitzvah (which she had absolutely no obligation to do). Not only her face but, even more, his face glowed, mamash, glowed. When she finished, and he was satisfied that his wife's needs had



only G-D knows!

by Daniel Nakonechny

been fulfilled, he quietly and calmly handed the lulav and etrog to me. I blessed them with a "good Yom Tov"

greeting, and departed.

Had I not seen it with my own eyes, I would not have believed it. Here was a man, a man I would describe as a "stiff," whom I would never suspect of having any particular ability to express any emotion about anything, let alone a mitzvah. I was right, too, because I saw how he performed the mitzvah for himself. Ahhhh! I was wrong, too, because I saw how he performed the mitzvah with his wife. For himself he was cold and hurried and only wanted to complete this thing that he had to do. And yet, for his wife, he was giving her and the mitzvah all his love and compassion and reverence because he wanted her to have the mitzvah. He was giving himself genuinely and wholeheartedly. Thank God, he's not the only one.

We know that our Holiness comes from God through the Torah, and we know that the whole giving of the Torah is God's giving Himself, His Holiness, to us. In giving us the Torah, God gives us the ability to be God-like, to be Holy. God, who only knows how to give, whose whole relationship with us is based on giving, demands that we, too, be like Him, that we give. Our God-likeness - our Holiness, therefore, is the sum of all of our giving from the entire year, of each and every single Jew, alone and together. When the Holy One ascends His throne on Rosh Hashana, He knows that we have scrubbed ourselves clean so that we won't be ashamed to stand before Him. Cleaning is important but there is something much more important. He's here to collect and gather the special goodness that can be provided AS A PEOPLE only by His Holy people, Am Yisrael. With infinite compassion and insatiable yearning, He probes our souls to gather the goodness that

her and you and me, He gathers the giving, our giving, the Holiness of Am Yisrael.

On Rosh Hashana, when He ascends to His seat of majesty, God takes this Holiness with Him so that He can weigh and measure what we've given to the world. On this basis, is the world judged, as it has been from the dawn of creation. The day will come, maybe this year, when we will have merited to see the completion of the task. The day will come when all the Holiness of all the generations of Am Yisrael will be combined. The day will come when no longer will the Master of Universe need to depart after the Days of Awe. The day will come when we will have made the world a place where God's Holiness and our Holiness can be One. BaYom HaHu Y'hiyeh Hashem Echad u'Shmo Echad!

resides there, the goodness that is the fruits of our last year's toil. From him and

B'Shalom, and with the sweetest of blessings that we have merited a really New Year.

Daniel Nakonechny began his beginning at the original Beginner's Service at LSS (circa '76). He prays that he will always be beginning, that he will never lose the ability to see life as if he is only beginning. He resides in Beit El, Israel, with his wife, Shelley, and their seven children, where he is a self-avowed Jewish extremist - every one of his extremities is pro-Jewish!

# **CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV**

## **ENGAGEMENTS**

Shira Gila Beinacker and Yaakov Ehrlich Mazal Tov to parents Nan and Robert Ehrlich Tali Hochberg and Steve Eisenberg

## WEDDINGS

Yvette Borofsky and Eric Edidin Shuli Gertel and Avi Bossewitch Mazal Tov to parents Anne and Ken Bossewitch

Miriam Goldstein and Ephraim (Jared) Osgood Mazal Tov to parents Marilyn and Armin Osgood Cassandra Lentchner and Michael Greifinger Mazal Tov to mother Enid Langbert

Vivian Lerner and Seth Glass
Carrie Silberman and Omid Zareh
Sara Tillinger and David Wolkenfeld
Mazal Tov to mother Dr. Jo Lang Wolkenfeld

**BIRTHS** 

Rivka and Shia Cohen, on the birth of a girl, Tirtzah Sarah Mazal Toy to grandfather

Mazal Tov to grandfather

Dr. Stuart Blaustein and aunt Karen Burnham Gail and Richard Dukas, on the birth of a boy, Eitan Isaac

Judy Federbush and Rodney Greenwald, on the birth of a boy, Jacob Joseph ol and Alex Kotlyar, on the birth of a girl, Dina Eva

Sharon and Dr. Adam Lynn, on the birth of a boy, Ezra Dr. Ilene Reeman and Gary Miller, on the birth of a girl, Tova Aviva

## BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Lewis Steven Beck Mazal Tov to parents Sheryl and Martin Beck

Yoel Yitzchak Epstein Mazal Tov to parents Judith Weil and Lloyd Epstein

Daniella Salig

Mazal Tov to parents Michelle and Eli Salig Moshe Yair Simon

Mazal Toy to parents Toby and Bruce Simon

## CONDOLENCES

To the family of Ruth Gutradt Hanna Silbergeld Gordon,

on the loss of her brother, Dr. Bernie Silbergeld Jill Platovsky, on the loss of her father, Daniel Bankley Dr. Moshe Rothkopf, on the loss of his mother, Sara Rothkopf.

REFUAH SH'LEIMAH (SPEEDY RECOVERY) Golda Bracha Eichen (Golda Bracha bat Tzivia) Rabbi Simcha Weinberg

(Simcha Leib Gad Ezra ben Shaina Chana)

CONGRATULATIONS

Regina Ullendorf and family, for being honored by Dorot at their 26th Anniversary Gala Jennifer (Hammerstein) and Meir Solomon, for receiving the Kesser Shem Tov Award at the dinner of Congregation Ahavas Israel in Passaic, N.J.

TODAH RABBAH

To Dr. Leonard Davidman, who so ably conducted the Beginners Service throughout the summer. To Shlomo Dov Gewirtz, for filling in when Dr. Davidman was away.

#### RUTH GUTRADT

With the passing of Ruth Gutradt, at the age of 83, the Beginners community has lost a very special woman and a very dear friend. Always charming, upbeat and thoroughly elegant, Ruth quickly assumed the role of "Grandma" of the Beginners Service. The love that everyone had for her was surely a reflection of the incredibly abundant love she had for all.

May her memory be a blessing.

## HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

at the New York Historical Society West 77th Street and Central Park West

## Rosh Hashana

Fri, Sept. 64 - 6:45 pm Sat and Sun, Sept. 74 and Sept. 84 - 9:00 am Sat, Sept. 74 - 6:40 pm Sun, Sept. 84 - 6:40 pm @ Lincoln Square Syn.

## Yom Kippur

Sun, Sept. 15th - 6:50 pm Mon, Sept. 16th - 9:00 am

		112110 200 11E 110
	SCHEDULE OF SERVICES	
Fri August 30, 2002 - 22nd of Elul  Morning Services	Mon September 16, 2002 - 10th of Tishrei YOM KIPPUR Kollel Minyan	Fri October 18, 2002 - 12th of Cheshvan  Morning Services
Sat August 31, 2002 - 23rd of Elul Nitzavim-Vayeilech         Daf Yomi       7:00 AM         Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning services       7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM         Bible Class       6:10 PM         Perek class       6:10 PM         Mincha       7:10 PM	Fri September 20, 2002 - 14th of Tishrei EREV SUKKOT Morning Services	Daf Yomi       7:00 AM         Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning services       7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AN         Talmud & Bible class       4:50 PM         Mincha       5:50 PM         Shabbat Ends       6:54 PM         Daily Mincha & Maariv       5:50 PM
Shabbat Ends       8:14 PM         Daily Mincha & Maariv       7:10 PM         Early Selichot       10:00 PM         Late Selichot       12:56 AM         Sun September 1, 2002 - 24th of Elul	Sat September 21, 2002 - 15th of Tishrel SUKKOT         Morning Services       8:00 & 9:00 AM         Daf Yomi       5:50 PM         Mincha       6:35 PM         Yom Tov candles after       7:39 PM         Maariv       7:39 PM	Fri October 25, 2002 - 19th of Cheshvan Morning Services
Morning Services	Begin Meal in Sukkah after	Sat October 26, 2002 - 20th of Cheshvan <i>Vayera</i> Daf Yomi
Selichot & Morning Services 6:40 & 8:30 AM  Tue September 3, 2002 - 26th of Elul Selichot & Morning Services 6:40 & 7:30 AM	Morning Services	Morning services
Wed September 4, 2002 - 27th of Elui Selichot & Morning Services6:40 & 7:30 AM	Yom Tov ends	REMEMBER to set your clocks backwards Daily Mincha & Maariv
Thu September 5, 2002 - 28th of Eiul Selichot & Morning Services6:40 & 7:30 AM Late Selichot9:00 PM	Mon September 23, 2002 - 17th of Tishrei SUKKOT (CHOL HAMOED) Morning Services6:45, 7:30 & 8:30 AM	Fri November 1, 2002 - 26th of Cheshvan Morning Services
Fri September 6, 2002 - 29th of Elul EREV ROSH HASHANA Selichot & Services	Tue September 24, 2002 - 18th of Tishrei SUKKOT (CHOL HAMOED) Morning Services6:45, 7:30 & 8:30 AM Wed September 25, 2002 - 19th of Tishrei	Mincha
Mincha	SUKKOT (CHOL HAMOED) Morning Services 6:45, 7:30 & 8:30 AM Thu September 26, 2002 - 20th of Tishrei	Morning services
Main Sanctuary       7:45 AM         Ballroom       7:45 AM         Beginners       9:00 AM         Daf Yomi       6:15 & after Maariv         Mincha       7:00 PM         Yom Tov candles after       8:03 PM	SUKKOT (CHOL HAMOED) Morning Services	Daily Mincha & Maariv
Maariv	Mincha	Morning Services
Tashlich       6:00 PM         Mincha       7:00 PM         Maariv       8:03 PM         Yom Tov ends       8:03 PM         Daily Mincha & Maariv       6:50 PM	Maariv & Hakafos	Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning services       7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM         Talmud & Bible class       3:35 PM         Mincha       4:20 PM         Shabbat Ends       5:27 PM
Mon September 9, 2002 - 3rd of Tishrei TZOM GEDALIAH Fast Begins	Daf Yomi       5:35 PM         Mincha       6:20 PM         Maariv       7:27 PM         Yom Tov ends       7:27 PM         Daily Mincha & Maariv       6:15 PM	Daily Mincha & Maariv       .4:25 PM         Fri November 15, 2002 - 10th of Kislev       .7:10 & 7:50 AM         Morning Services       .7:10 & 7:50 AM         Candle Lighting       .4:20 PM         Mincha       .4:25 PM
Tue September 10, 2002 - 4th of Tishrei Selichot & Morning Services 6:35 & 7:15 AM Wed September 11, 2002 - 5th of Tishrei	Fri October 4, 2002 - 28th of Tishrei  Morning Services	Sat November 16, 2002 - 11th of Kislev Vayetzei         Daf Yomi       .7:00 AM         Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning services       7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Selichot & Morning Services 6:35 & 7:15 AM  Thu September 12, 2002 - 6th of Tishrei	Sat October 5, 2002 - 29th of Tishrei Bereshit Dat Yomi	Talmud & Bible class
Selichot & Morning Services6:35 & 7:15 AM  Fri September 13, 2002 - 7th of Tishrei Selichot & Morning Services6:35 & 7:15 AM Candle Lighting6:51 PM Mincha6:55 PM	Bible Class	Daily Mincha & Maariv
Sat September 14, 2002 - 8th of Tishrei Ha'Azinu         SHABBAT SHUVA         Daf Yomi       .7:00 AM         Bible Class       .8:30 AM         Morning services       .7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM         Mincha       .5:55 PM         Shabbat Shuva Drasha       .6:20 PM         Shabbat Ends       .7:51 PM         Daily Mincha & Maariv       .6:45 PM	Daily Mincha & Maariv	Mincha
Sun September 15, 2002 - 9th of Tishrei         EREV YOM KIPPUR       6:50 & 8:30 AM         Selichot & Services       1:30, 3:00 & 4:35 PM         Mincha       6:47 PM         Candle Lighting       6:47 PM         Kol Nidre       6:50 PM         Daf Yomi       after Maariv	Candle Lighting       6:04 PM         Mincha       6:10 PM         Sat October 12, 2002 - 6th of Cheshvan Noach       7:00 AM         Daf Yomi       7:00 AM         Bible Class       8:30 AM         Morning services       7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM         Talmud & Bible class       5:00 PM         Mincha       6:00 PM         Shabbat Ends       7:04 PM         Daily Mincha & Maariv       6:00 PM	Thu November 28, 2002 - 23rd of Kislev THANKSGIVING Morning Services