ENCOUNTERS

Samantha Maya Finch a rib was cracked. The prognosis for healing completely was one full year, but they wisely did not tell me this until much later.

My dear sister had arrived and was holding my hand. I later

Rosh Hashana - the "head" of the new year - is upon us. As Jews, we are actually promised four "new years" each year. Surely that should be enough for anyone. Nevertheless, when I found myself on the day before Thanksgiving in Salem, Oregon, trapped in my crushed car, I really needed one more new start, and Hashem, in His mercy, saw to it that I got one.

We have all noticed the many huge and intimidating SUVs that have taken over the roads lately. The one that broadsided me at sixty-five miles an hour was absolutely monumental: my last memory before impact was that the headlights which were closing in on me were higher than my whole car. Luckily, an off-duty EMS worker saw the whole thing as he drove by in the opposite direction and immediately stopped and came over to help.

"Hi, I'm Dave. What's your name?"

He is so calm and casual, I thought to myself, so how bad could it be? Forty minutes later, with me still trapped in the wreckage of my mother's old blue Mercedes, Dave was running out of questions. Only then did it occur to me that he may indeed have been a very friendly guy, but the questions were really about keeping me from losing consciousness.

The fire trucks and an ambulance had arrived right after Dave and had been working the whole time to get me out. The "Jaws of Life" were unable to pry open the car door, so they covered me with plastic and proceeded to knock out all the windows with a sledge hammer. Still no luck. They pulled out a blow torch at this point and severed the roof from the car; this somehow released the car door and they were able to lift me out. I had been pinned for a long time between the caved-in door and a center island between bucket seats and was starting to panic. (I never saw Dave again. Thank you, Dave. You were generous and kind and sent from Hashem. I never got to answer your last question: My favorite color is green.)

In the emergency room, I was none too pleased to see my best clothes cut from my body and thrown out. I was only on the way to the market; why was I wearing all of my favorite clothes, anyway? When the doctor came in after x-rays, I assured him I was fine and could probably go home later that day. How he listened to this without laughing out loud is beyond me. By then the massive doses of morphine were working just fine and he was probably used to patients on such heavy medication not really playing with a full deck. Of course by then he had seen the x-rays and knew that my pelvis was fractured in seven places, that there were additional fractures of the lower vertebrae, and that



found out how she had heard about the accident and about the "psychic" Divine Intervention that made her rush to her car and find me in the hospital: She had been at work just a few blocks from the collision waiting for a colleague to arrive so they could start a scheduled meeting. He arrived and apologized for being late carring there was a borrible accident out on the highway and

late, saying there was a horrible accident out on the highway and he had had trouble getting around it. On hearing this, and for no explainable reason, my sister froze and demanded to know the make and color of the car involved. When he answered that it was a green Mercedes, she wasn't relieved. Instead, she corrected

him saying no, it was a BLUE Mercedes and flew out of the meeting, somehow knowing it was me who had been hit.

As I write this, it has been nine months since the accident. The hospital stay was followed by a stint in rehab, and from rehab my wheelchair and I went to my sister's house and a rented hospital bed in her living room. With wonderful support from a visiting physical therapist, I could finally walk with a crutch three months later. This meant I could get on a plane and fly back home to New York.

Because I didn't die, because I was forced to spend so many weeks so far from home, wonderful things happened. Believe it or not, this horrible accident made possible scores of experiences and insights that will feed and support me for the rest of my life. The first gift was rediscovering my sister. Living such different lives and at opposite ends of the country, we had been drifting apart for years. After the accident, and with the natural generosity of her heart, she transformed her home and her life in a matter of hours to take care of me as I healed. This turned out to be a two-for-one blessing as I got to know her husband, Kyle, for the first time. They both learned to read the kosher certification symbols in the market and figured out the finer points of Shabbat, like finding candles that would burn the halachic minimum amount of time, not turning the flame off under the hot water, and not handing me the phone when someone called on Shabbat. They were kind, generous and supportive. Kyle even went to the lumber yard and built a ramp so I could get out the back door and up to the level of the driveway for much needed escapes into fresh air and civilization.

There were so many more blessings over the months. The Jewish community in Salem (who knew there was one?) sent visitors to the hospital and lent me a siddur and candlesticks. Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald called every week from (cont. on reverse)

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

WEDDINGS

Jamie Gluckstadt and David Chubak

Mazal Tov to parents

Shari and Maurice Gluckstadt Joelle Levine and Richard Horowitz

Mazal Tov to parents Renee and Irwin Levine Sarah Ruth Steinberg and Chananel Greenwald

Mazal Tov to parents

Shaindel and Yaakov (Tom) Steinberg

Dr. Evelyn Slade and Howard Sickles

BIRTHS

Melissa and Neil Bane, on the birth of a girl, Eliana Danielle

Shani and Sam Bernhaut, on the birth of a girl, Leeza Rachel

Mazal Tov to grandfather Charles Bernhaut Hadassah and Gerald Blitzer, on the birth of twin boys Blanch and Yedidiah Buchwald,

on the birth of a girl, Talia Eliana Mazal Toy to grandparents

Mazal Tov to grandparents

Aidel and Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald

Karen and Gary Glanz, on the birth of a girl, Beth Leah

Shira and Rabbi Shlomo Einhorn, on the birth of a girl, Esther

Mazal Tov to grandparents Monica Gordon and David Fishof

Sacha and Elon Gold, on the birth of a girl, Audrey Emma

Mazal Tov to grandparents Lynn and Sid Gold Shoshana Batya and Shlomo Greenwald,

on the birth of a boy, Sholom Mazal Tov to grandparents

Debby and Rabbi Simcha Weinberg and Dodi Lee Lamm

Rachel and Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot, on the birth of a boy, Nachemia D ror Mazal Tov to grandmother Dr. Rose Helfgot and to Uncle Reuben Helfgot

Jennifer Paradise and Dr. Lawrence Maayan,

on the birth of a girl, Michal Naomi Nancy and Alan Miller, on the birth of a girl, Shoshana Rivka Jill and Rabbi Mark Wildes, on the birth of a girl, Avigayil Ruth

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Aaron Joseph Adler

Mazal Tov to parents Karen and Stuart Adler Rachel Shifra Belfer

Mazal Tow to parents Dr. Michelle Friedman Belfer and Benjamin Belfer

Jacques Emery

Mazal Tov to mother Lori Singer

Avraham Yosef Gilman

Mazal Tovtoparents Zev and Pat (Chana) Gilman Margolit Salig

Mazal Tov to parents Midhelle and Eli Salig Max Weiner

Mazal Tov to parents Sandy and Marc Weiner

CONDOLENCES

Jane Fuchsberg, on the loss of her mother,
Esta Fuchsberg

Lou Jacobi, on the loss of his wife, Ruth Jacobi Steve Reich, on the loss of his mother, Jane Canroll Barbara Sommer, on the untimely loss of her daughter, Jennifer Sommer

Dr. Marc Wilkenfeld, on the loss of his father, Max Wilkenfeld

The family of Jeff Levinson

SPEEDYRECOVERY
Shlomo Dov ben Sarah Rachel

CONGRATULATIONS

Miriam and Dr. Marvin Belsky, on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Charlie Bernhaut, on the launch of his weekly onehour radio program of cantorial music (for time and station: www.cantorsworld.com)

Norton Goodman, on the celebration of his 85th

birthday (Correction) .

Stuart Hample, on the opening of his new musical Children's Letters to G-d, at the Lamb's Theatre, based on his international best-selling

It. Colonel (Ret.) Scott Rutter, who will be serving as the lead military analyst in Iraq for Rox News for 3 months starting September 7, 2004. Jonathan Spanbock, on being honored by the Abraham Joshua Heschel School for his exceptional dedication and service.

TZEITCHEM L'SHALOM/FAREWELL (To live and/or study in Israel)

Yuliya (Yæl Tamar) Vladymyrova

THANK YOU

Dr. Leonard Davidman, for his selfless devotion to the Beginners Service and for leading the Service

Ruth Jacobi

The passing of Ruth Jacobi is a great loss for the Beginners community. Wife of famed actor Lou Jacobi, Ruth simply loved Yiddishkeit. After "graduating" the Beginners Service, Ruth spent many hours each week studying Torah with great enthusiasm. She will be sorely missed.

Jeff Levinson

The Lincoln Square Synagogue family mourns the untimely loss of our beloved Executive Director, Jeffrey Levinson. Jeffrey was thoroughly devoted to our synagogue and to the Beginners Service 24/7. His kindness and sweet manner will be deeply missed. Condolences to his entire family.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

	SCHEDULI
Fri September 10, 2004 -	Thu September 23, 2004 - 8th of Tishro
Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM Candle Lighting 6:56 PM	Selichot & Morning Services 6:40 & 7:30 A
Mincha 7:00 PM Sat September 11, 2004 - 25th of Elul	Fri September 24, 2004 - 9th of Tishrei
Nitzavim-Vayeilech Daf Yomi 7:00 AM Bible Class 8:30 AM Morning Services 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM Talmud & Bible Class 5:50 PM Mincha 6:50 PM Shabbat Ends 7:56 PM Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:50 PM Early Selichot 10:00 PM Late Selichot 12:52 AM	Selichot & Morning Services 6:50 & 7:40 / Mincha 1:30, 3:00 & 4:20 / Candle Lighting 6:32 F Kol Nidre 6:35 F Daf Yomi after Maa Sat September 25, 2004 - 10th of Tishr YOM KIPPUR Kollel Minyan 7:30 A
Sun September 12, 2004 - 26th of Elul Morning Services 7:10 & 8:30 AM Mon September 13, 2004 - 27th of Elul	Main Sanétuary 8:00 A Ballroom 9:00 A Beginners 9:00 A Final Shofar Blast 7:32 F
Selichot & Morning Services 6:40 & 7:30 AM	Daily Mincha & Maariv6:30 F
Tue September 14, 2004 - 28th of Elul Selichot	Wed September 29, 2004 - 14th of Tish EREV SUKKOT Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 A
& Morning Services 6:40 & 7:30 AM Late Selichot	REMEMBER TO MAKE AN ERUV TAVSHIL Candle Lighting 6:24 F Mincha 6:30 F
EREV ROSH HASHANA	Begin Meal in Sukkah after 7:13 F
Selichot & Morning Services 5:45 & 6:45 AM REMEMBER TO MAKE AN ERUV TAVSHILIN Candle Lighting 6:47 PM Mincha 6:50 PM	Thu September 30, 2004 - 15th of Tish SUKKOT Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 / Daf Yomi 5:45 F Mincha 6:30 F
Thu September 16, 2004 - 1st of Tishrei ROSH HASHANA 5765 Kollel Minyan 7:30 AM	Yom Tov Candles after. 7:24 F Maariv 7:24 F Begin Meal in Sukkah after 7:24 F
Main Sanctuary 7:45 AM Ballroom 7:45 AM Beginners 9:00 AM Tashlich 5:45 PM Mincha 6:45 PM Yom Tov Candles after 7:47 PM Maariv 7:47 PM Daf Yomi after Maariv	Fri October 1, 2004 - 16th of Tishrei SUKKOT Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 / Daf Yomi 5:45 F Mincha 6:30 F Shabbat Candles before 6:20 F Sat October 2, 2004 - 17th of Tishrei
Fri September 17, 2004 - 2nd of Tishrei	SUKKOT (CHOL HAMOED) Daf Yomi
ROSH HASHANA 7:30 AM Kollel Minyan 7:30 AM Main Sanctuary 7:45 AM Ballroom 7:45 AM Beginners 9:00 AM Daf Yomi 6:00 PM Mincha 6:45 PM Shabbat Candles before 6:44 PM	Bible Class
Sat September 18, 2004 - 3rd of Tishrei Ha'azinu SHABBAT SHUVA	Morning Services 6:45 & 8:30 A
Daf Yomi 7:00 AM Bible Class 8:30 AM Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Mon October 4, 2004 - 19th of Tishrei SUKKOT (CHOL HAMOED) Morning Services. 6:45, 7:30 & 8:30 / Tue October 5, 2004 - 20th of Tishrei
Mincha	SUKKOT (CHOL HAMOED) Morning Services . 6:45, 7:30 & 8:30 / Wed October 6, 2004 - 21st of Tishrei
Sun September 19, 2004 - 4th of Tishrei TZOM GEDALIAH Fast Begins	SUKKOT (HOSHANA RABA) Morning Services . 6:15, 7:00 & 8:00 / REMEMBER TO MAKE AN ERUV TAVSHIL Candle Lighting 6:12 F
Selichot & Services6:30 & 8:00 AM Mincha6:25 PM Fast Ends7:30 PM	Mincha 6:20 F Thu October 7, 2004 - 22nd of Tishrei
Mon September 20, 2004 - 5th of Tishrei	SHMINI ATZERET
Selichot & Morning Services 6:30 & 7:15 AM	Daf Yomi
Tue September 21, 2004 - 6th of Tishrei Selichot & Morning Services 6:40 & 7:30 AM	Mincha 6:15 F Yom Tov Candles after 7:12 F Maariv & Hakafos 7:12 F
Wed September 22, 2004 - 7th of Tishrei Selichot & Morning Services 6:40 & 7:30 AM	

ei	Fri October 8, 2004 - 23rd of Tishrei SIMCHAT TORAH
AM	Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
ei	Womens' Tefillah Group9:00 AM
:1	Daf Yomi 5:30 PM
	Mincha 6:15 PM Shabbat Candles before 6:09 PM
AM	Sat October 9, 2004 - 24th of Tishrei
PM PM	Bereshit
PM	Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
ariv	Bible Class
rei	Talmud & Bible Class 5:05 PM
AM	Mincha 6:05 PM
AM	Shabbat Ends 7:09 PM
AM	Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:00 PM
AM	Fri October 15, 2004 - 30th of Tishrei ROSH CHODESH
PM PM	Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM
nrei	Candle Lighting 5:58 PM
	Mincha 6:05 PM
AM	Sat October 16, 2004 - 1st of Cheshvan Noach ROSH CHODESH
₋IN PM	Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
PM	Bible Class8:30 AM
PM	Morning Services . 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
nrei	Talmud & Bible Class 4:55 PM Mincha 5:55 PM
	Shabbat Ends 6:58 PM
AM PM	Daily Mincha & Maariv5:55 PM
PM	Fri October 22, 2004 - 7th of Cheshvan
PM	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
PM	Candle Lighting 5:48 PM Mincha 5:55 PM
PM	Sat October 23, 2004 - 8th of Cheshvan
	Lech-Lecha
AM	Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
PM	Bible Class 8:30 AM Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
PM PM	Talmud & Bible Class 4:45 PM
PIVI	Mincha 5:45 PM
	Shabbat Ends 6:48 PM
AM	Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:45 PM
AM	Fri October 29, 2004 - 14th of Cheshvan Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
AM PM	Candle Lighting 5:38 PM
PM	Mincha 5:45 PM
PM	Sat October 30, 2004 - 15th of Cheshvan
PM	Vayera Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
	Bible Class 8:30 AM
AM	Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
i	Talmud & Bible Class 4:35 PM
	Mincha 5:35 PM Shabbat Ends 6:38 PM
AM	REMEMBER to set your clocks backwards
	Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:40 PM EST
AM	Tue November 2, 2004 - 18th of Cheshvan
i	ELECTION DAY Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
•	Fri November 5, 2004 - 21st of Cheshvan
AM	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
₋IN PM	Candle Lighting 4:30 PM
PM	Mincha 4:35 PM
i	Sat November 6, 2004 - 22nd of Cheshvan
	Chayei Sara Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
AM	Bible Class 8:30 AM
AM PM	Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
PM	Talmud & Bible Class 3:40 PM Mincha 4:25 PM
PM	Shabbat Ends 5:30 PM
	Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:30 PM
	ing sining to shoring and Trush and 3

Mon November 8, 2004 - 24th of Cheshvar VETERANS DAY
Morning Services 7:00 & 7:50 AM
Fri November 12, 2004 - 28th of Cheshvar Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting 4:23 PM
Mincha
Sat November 13, 2004 - 29th of Cheshvar Toldot
Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
Bible Class8:30 AM Morning Services. 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class 3:35 PM Mincha 4:20 PM
Shabbat Ends 5:23 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:25 PM Sun November 14, 2004 - 1st of Kislev
ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM Fri November 19, 2004 - 6th of Kislev
Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting 4:17 PM Mincha 4:20 PM
Sat November 20, 2004 - 7th of Kislev
Vayetzei Daf Yomi
Bible Class 8:30 AM
Bible Class 8:30 AM Morning Services . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AN Talmud & Bible Class 3:25 PM Mincha
Mincha
Daily Mincha & Maariv4:20 PM
Thu November 25, 2004 - 12th of Kislev THANKSGIVING
Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
Fri November 26, 2004 - 13th of Kislev Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting 4:13 PM
Mincha 4:20 PM Sat November 27, 2004 - 14th of Kislev
Vayishlach
Daf Yomi 7:00 AM Bible Class 8:30 AM
Bible Class
Talmud & Bible Class3:25 PM Mincha4:10 PM
Mincha
Daily Mincha & Maariv4:15 PM Fri December 3, 2004 - 20th of Kislev
Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting 4:11 PM Mincha 4:15 PM
Sat December 4, 2004 - 21st of Kislev Vayeshev
Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
Bible Class

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES at the New York Historical Society

Talmud & Bible Class. 3:20 PM

Daily Mincha & Maariv.....4:15 PM

. 5:11 PM

West 77th Street and Central Park West

ROSH HASHANA

Wed. Sept. 15, 6:50 pm Thurs. and Fri. Sept. 16 and 17, 9:00 am Thurs. Sept.16, 6:40 pm

YOM KIPPUR

Fri. Sept. 24, 6:35 pm Sat. Sept. 25, 9:00 am

ENCOUNTERS (cont. from other side)...New York as did friends and members of my synagogue there, reminding me once again how we Jews rally for each other in hard times. Several Christians at the hospital and at rehab were fascinated that I was Jewish and had such respectful questions about what that meant. (One nurse burst into tears as - at her request - I read her the Hebrew on the Shabbat candlesticks and translated it for her.) And more blessings, and more blessings....

But this is an article about Rosh Hashana, not just any new beginning, no matter how dramatic. Conventional wisdom in the non-Jewish world has it that the Jewish God is a vengeful God, and many Jews believe that the Days of Awe are about punishment, guilt, and fear. Our rabbis, however, tell us that "fear" is a loose and misleading translation for respectful awe. That G-d is loving and merciful should be obvious to anyone who understands the holidays. What do we know after a week of pray-

ing, giving to charity, and Torah study? What do we know after fasting and praying for hours on Yom Kippur, after asking others for forgiveness before asking Hashem, after "the closing of the gates"? We know that we are promised another clean slate only moments after the holy day ends! No encounters with SUVs are necessary.

Samantha Maya Finch is a member of the Lincoln Square Beginners Service.