

## CHOICES IN PARLOUS TIMES

David A. Andelman

For 108 years, from before the Russian Revolution through the entire reign of communism and into the capitalist period of the 21st century, the stately building known as the Moscow Choral Synagogue has defined the nature of Judaism and sustained worship in this nation whose leaders despised any form of religion, and especially that of the Jews. I like to think, in some of its darkest hours, I played a small role in its survival.

The year was 1982, a moment when an atheistic communism that bordered too often on the anti-Semitic, seemed destined to reign, as Hitler had pledged of his ill-fated Nazi empire, for a thousand years. We couldn't know then that communism in the Russian nation was barely seven years from its own utter collapse. At the time, I was a CBS News correspondent, based in Paris. Since I was somewhat familiar with Eastern and Central Europe, I was often dispatched on temporary assignments to what was then the Soviet Union.

These were desperate times in Moscow when Jews were being shipped to Siberia as dissidents and worship was tolerated, but only just barely. The new, young rabbi of what was then the only functioning synagogue in Moscow was Rabbi Adolf Shayevich. I had met him four years earlier when I visited the Rabbinical Seminary in Budapest as a young *New York Times* correspondent. He was the first rabbinical student since the arrival of communism to be allowed by the leaders of the Soviet Union to study for the rabbinate in a legitimate institution for rabbinical training outside of Russia. He had just returned to take up his position as the only practicing Rabbi in the Soviet capital.

Five days before Rosh Hashana, I called on Adolf, and he threw his arms around me. "How can I help you?" I asked. He thought for a moment. "You can come and do a story about the High Holidays in our synagogue."

It was a daring and desperate choice. But the visibility of such a story when it was broadcast on the premier television station, he believed, would guarantee the safety of his congregation and his mission. No communist leader would dare attack such an institution.

So on Erev Rosh Hashana, just before sundown on Friday, September 17, 1982, I arrived at the synagogue with my camera crew. How could I work on the Shabbat, especially a Shabbat of Rosh Hashana? This was a unique and unprecedented opportunity, defined sometimes in Jewish law as *Pikuach Nefesh*--violating the Sabbath or Jewish holiday in order to save a life. In this case, it could be many thousands of people who were not free to worship their religion. Although we did not consult with a rabbi, we went ahead with the plan.

The High Holidays, especially Yom Kippur, are about choices--between good and evil, right and wrong. I would be making several. One was to work on the High Holidays--a choice effectively made for me by Rabbi Shayevich.

The second was a more difficult one. In those days, two services took place simultaneously on the High Holidays--one a traditional Orthodox service



inside, led by Rabbi Shayevich and not dissimilar to services I'd seen at a Rumanian shtetl or Jerusalem or Lincoln Square. Inside the synagogue, women--in the balcony--and men--mostly old, with gray beards and large-brimmed hats--prayed much as their fathers and their fathers' fathers had for centuries.

The other service was less traditional. It took place in the street. There, with no rabbi present, young Jewish dissidents gathered--a joyous celebration with dancing in the streets, music by the most talented musicians, all observed most carefully by grim-faced, black clad agents of the KGB who recorded faces with cameras and words in notebooks.

Please, Rabbi Shayevich told me, film our service inside, but do not film the young people in the streets. That will be terrible for us all.

In the narration of my story, I alluded to the dissidents' New Year, but on tape, their images never appeared. In my diary, I recorded that segment on the CBS Evening News, which ran 2 minutes and 20 seconds as "Moscow: Young Rabbi and Old Flock."

I've thought a lot about these choices in the years since then. Today, the synagogue, newly restored, thrives in the same Kitai Gorod neighborhood it has occupied for 108 years. Rabbi Shayevich is still its rabbi, and he is considered by many the chief Rabbi of Russia, although the government of Vladimir Putin does not recognize him.

Two years ago, my wife, Pamela Title, and I returned to Moscow and to the Choral Synagogue. Russia was now a capitalist mecca lined with glittering shops and lavish hotels. A now aging Rabbi Shayevich greeted us again, with his characteristic bear hug. How pleased he was to show off the thriving Jewish community of Russia, though so many have fled in the intervening years, most to Israel, many to America. On Shabbat, the synagogue was filled, as it never was during the depths of the Cold War and communism.

I've made many visits over the years in my travels through more than 70 nations. Some even turned into Mitzvot--my reports leading to unexpected, often unintended, consequences of promoting the most positive outcomes for those individuals and institutions most in need. At times, it's simply letting light shine on otherwise dark places, as was the case with my report from the Moscow Choral Synagogue. One of the most bitterly attacked "refuseniks" (named for the Soviet government's refusal to allow them to emigrate to Israel) of that era, Anatoly Shcharansky, once told me that the mere mention of the plight of an individual or an institution in communist Russia could be a supreme act of protection. With this kind of attention, authorities would think twice whether to turn up the heat at a critical moment. At other times, it is simply the act of telling a tale that enriches the lives of those who hear it as much as those who tell it. The choices we all make in these parlous times are vital to our future and that of our people.

David A. Andelman is the editor-in-chief of World Policy Journal and author of *A Shattered Peace: Versailles 1919 and the Price We Pay Today*.

## CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

## ENGAGEMENTS

Leah Rothkopf and Avi Zolty  
Mazal Tov to parents,  
Tzipora and Dr. Moshe Rothkopf



## Marriages

Miriam Bates and Yossi (Jeremy) Apple  
Mazal Tov to parents, Robin Gordon and Steve Apple  
Rina Bock and Andrew (Aviel) Fleisch  
Julia Aliza Joseph and Daniel Joseph Fleisch  
Mazal Tov to father, Andrew Fleisch  
Estefania (Sarah) Matute and Aaron Greenblatt  
Rissi Zweig and Shelly Aron

## BIRTHS

Shira and Jared Boschan, on the birth of a daughter, Danya Golda  
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Robin and Neil Goldberg  
Dr. Shira and Hayyim Danzig, on the birth of a son, Michah Shmuel (Micah Samuel)  
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Dr. Gale and James Kaufman  
Ariella and Yisrael Friedman, on the birth of a daughter, Yael  
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Vardi and Dr. Lenny Jacober  
Dr. Shanna and Adam Herbst, on the birth of a daughter, Maya Batya Joanna and Sam Kaufman, on the birth of a son, Mitchell Joseph-Zvi  
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Dr. Gale and James Kaufman  
Carly and Andrew Lebwohl, on the birth of a son,  
Nachman Simcha (Ronan)

Aliza and Shmuel O'Connor, on the birth of a daughter,  
Lucy (Leba Yutel)  
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Hadassah and William Greenbaum  
Rebecca and Yerucham Pliner, on the birth of a daughter, Ora Ayla  
Mazal Tov to grandfather, Marc Weiner  
Esther and Yosef Potesky, on the birth of a daughter, Tzirilah (Tziri)  
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Elishava and Yaakov Potesky  
Daniella and Sam Schertz, on the birth of a son,  
Yehuda Leib (Julius Maxwell)  
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Michelle and Eli Salig  
Rachael and Mendel Simons, on the birth of a son, Zev Yosef  
Mazal Tov to grandparents,  
Sharone D'vora and Shmuel Goodman  
Dr. Lidia Lidagoster-Villegas and Pablo Villegas,  
on the birth of a son, Benjamin Asher  
Leah Gittel and Yaakov Weiner, on the birth of a daughter,  
Shoshana Bayla  
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Drs. Janice and Richard Bennett

## BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Chana Tova Gerber  
Mazal Tov to parents, Tracy and Sander Gerber  
Colette Rose Vyrnerib  
Mazal Tov to parents, Jennifer and David Vyrnerib  
Mazal Tov to grandparents, Ilene and Louis Vyrnerib

## CONDOLENCES

Bayla Sheva Jacobs Brenner,  
on the loss of her mother, Mala Jacobs  
Miriam Gluck, on the loss of her father, Bernard Weiss  
Hadassah Gerber Greenbaum,  
on the loss of her mother, Rosalyn Gerber  
Rachel Kontorovich, on the loss of her father, James Rosner  
Dr. Jo Lang, on the loss of her mother, Gertrude Lang  
Doug Leblang, on the loss of his brother, Allan Leblang  
**SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA**  
Regina Ullendorff, Rachel bat Feige  
**TZEITCHEM L'SHALOM (TO LIVE OR STUDY IN ISRAEL)**  
Shlomo Dov Gewirtz

## TODAH RABBAH

Dr. Leonard Davidman, for brilliantly conducting the LSS Beginners Service over the entire summer  
William (Bill) Greenbaum, for filling in for Dr. Leonard Davidman on one Shabbat and leading the LSS Beginners Service

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

**Wed Sept. 24, 2014 - 29th of Elul**  
**EREV ROSH HASHANA**  
 Selichot/Morning Services  
 ..... 6:00 & 6:45 AM  
*Eruv Tavshilin*  
 Light Candles..... 6:32 PM  
 Mincha..... 6:40 PM

**Thurs Sept. 25, 2014 - 1st of Tishrei**  
**ROSH HASHANA**  
 Main Sanctuary..... 7:45 AM  
 Ballroom..... 7:45 AM  
 Beginners..... 9:00 AM  
 Tashlich..... 5:35 PM  
 Beginners Mincha..... 6:35 PM  
 Mincha..... 6:35 PM  
 Yom Tov Candles..... after 7:30 PM  
 Maariv..... 7:31 PM

**Fri Sept. 26, 2014 - 2nd of Tishrei**  
**ROSH HASHANA**  
 Main Sanctuary..... 7:45 AM  
 Ballroom..... 7:45 AM  
 Beginners..... 9:00 AM  
 Candlelighting..... 6:29 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:35 PM

**Sat Sept. 27, 2014 - 3rd of Tishrei**  
**Ha'azinu SHABBAT SHUVA**  
 Morning Services  
 ..... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Services..... 9:15 AM  
 Mincha..... 6:00 PM  
 Shabbat Shuva Drasha..... 6:25 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends..... 7:28 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv..... 6:25 PM

**Sun Sept. 28, 2014 - 4th of Tishrei**  
**TZOM GEDALIAH**  
 Fast begins..... 5:37 AM  
 Selichot/Morning Services  
 ..... 6:20 & 8:00 AM  
 Daf Yomi..... 6:45 AM  
 Mincha/Maariv..... 6:15 PM  
 Fast ends..... 7:15 PM

**Mon Sept. 29, 2014 - 5th of Tishrei**  
 Selichot/Morning Services  
 ..... 6:30 & 7:15 AM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv..... 6:25 PM

**Tue Sept. 30, 2014 - 6th of Tishrei**  
 Selichot/Morning Services  
 ..... 6:30 & 7:15 AM

**Wed Oct. 1, 2014 - 7th of Tishrei**  
 Selichot/Morning Services  
 ..... 6:30 & 7:15 AM

**Thu Oct. 2, 2014 - 8th of Tishrei**  
 Selichot/Morning Services  
 ..... 6:30 & 7:15 AM

**Fri Oct. 3, 2014 - 9th of Tishrei**  
**EREV YOM KIPPUR**  
 Daf Yomi..... 6:15 AM  
 Selichot/Morning Services  
 ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM  
 Mincha..... 1:30, 3:00 & 4:00 PM  
 Candlelighting..... 6:17 PM  
 Fast begins..... 6:18 AM  
 Kol Nidre..... 6:20 PM  
 Daf Yomi..... after Ma'ariv

**Sat Oct. 4, 2014 - 10th of Tishrei**  
**YOM KIPPUR**  
 Main Sanctuary..... 8:30 AM  
 Ballroom..... 8:30 AM  
 Beginners..... 9:00 AM  
 Mincha Main Sanctuary..... 4:20 PM  
 Neilah..... 5:50 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat & Yom Tov ends  
 ..... 7:16 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv..... 6:15 PM

**Wed Oct. 8, 2014 - 14th of Tishrei**  
**EREV SUKKOT**  
 Daf Yomi..... 6:20 AM  
 Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
*Eruv Tavshilin*  
 Candlelighting..... 6:09 PM  
 Mincha/Maariv..... 6:15 PM  
 Begin meal in Sukkah..... after 6:59 PM

**Thu Oct. 9, 2014 - 15th of Tishrei**  
**SUKKOT**  
 Morning Services..... 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Mincha..... 6:15 PM  
 Yom Tov Candles  
 Light in Sukkah..... after 7:07 PM  
 Ma'ariv and begin meal..... after 7:08 PM

**Fri Oct. 10, 2014 - 16th of Tishrei**  
**SUKKOT**  
 Morning Services..... 8:00 & 9:00 AM  
 Candlelighting..... 6:06 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:10 PM

**Sat Oct. 11, 2014 - 17th of Tishrei**  
**CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT**  
 Morning Services..... 8:00 & 8:45 AM  
 Talmud Class..... 4:55 PM  
 Mincha..... 5:55 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends..... 7:05 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv..... 6:10 PM

**Sun Oct. 12, 2014 - 18th of Tishrei**  
**CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT**  
 Morning Services..... 6:45 & 8:30 AM  
 Daf Yomi..... 7:55 AM  
 Mincha & Maariv..... 6:10 PM

**Mon Oct. 13, 2014 - 19th of Tishrei**  
**CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT**  
 Morning Services..... 6:45 & 7:30 AM  
 Mincha & Maariv..... 6:10 PM

**Tue Oct. 14, 2014 - 20th of Tishrei**  
**CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT**  
 Morning Services..... 6:45 & 7:30 AM  
 Mincha & Maariv..... 6:10 PM  
 Beginners Sukkah Party..... 7:00 PM

**Wed Oct. 15, 2014 - 21st of Tishrei**  
**HOSHANA RABA**  
 Morning Services  
 ..... 6:15, 7:00 & 8:00 AM  
*Eruv Tavshilin*  
 Candlelighting..... 5:58 PM  
 Mincha & Maariv..... 6:00 PM

**Thu Oct. 16, 2014 - 22nd of Tishrei**  
**SHEMINI ATZERET**  
 Morning Services..... 8:00 & 8:45 AM  
 Mincha..... 6:05 PM  
 Yom Tov Candles..... after 6:56 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Hakafot..... 6:57 PM

**Fri Oct. 17, 2014 - 23rd of Tishrei**  
**SIMCHAT TORAH**  
 Morning Services..... 7:00 & 8:30 AM  
 Candlelighting..... 5:55 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat..... 6:00 PM

**HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES**  
 at the Lincoln Square Synagogue  
 180 Amsterdam Avenue  
 Beit Midrash (2nd. Floor)

**ROSH HASHANA**  
 Wed., Sept. 24, 6:40 pm  
 Thur. & Fri., Sept. 25 & 26, 9:00 am  
 Thur., Sept. 25, 6:35 pm  
 Fri., Sept. 26, 6:35 pm @ LSS

**YOM KIPPUR**  
 Fri., Oct. 3, 6:20 pm  
 Sat., Oct. 4, 9:00 am

**Tickets**  
 LSS Members \$75, Non-Members \$125

**Sat Oct. 18, 2014 - 24th of Tishrei**  
**Bereshit**  
 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..... 5:55 PM

**Fri Oct. 24, 2014 - 30th of Tishrei**  
**ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM  
 Candlelighting..... 5:45 PM  
 Mincha..... 5:50 PM

**Sat Oct. 25, 2014 - 1st of Cheshvan**  
**ROSH CHODESH Noach**  
 Morning Services  
 ..... 7:40, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Services..... 9:15 AM  
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 4:05 PM  
 Talmud & Bible Classes..... 4:35 PM  
 Mincha..... 5:35 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends..... 6:44 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv..... 5:45 PM

**Fri Oct. 31, 2014 - 7th of Cheshvan**  
 Candlelighting..... 5:36 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat..... 5:40 PM

**Sat Nov. 1, 2014 - 8th of Cheshvan**  
**Lech Lecha**  
 Morning Services  
 ..... 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM  
 Beginners Services..... 9:15 AM  
 Beginners Luncheon..... 12:30 PM  
 Beginners Mishnayot..... 3:50 PM  
 Talmud & Bible Classes..... 4:20 PM  
 Mincha..... 5:20 PM  
 Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends..... 6:35 PM  
 Move clocks back one hour  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv..... 4:35 PM

**Fri Nov. 7, 2014 - 14th of Cheshvan**  
 Candlelighting..... 4:28 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:30 PM

**Sat Nov. 8, 2014 - 15th of Cheshvan**  
**Vayeira**  
 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..... 4:30 PM

**Fri Nov. 14, 2014 - 21st of Cheshvan**  
 Candlelighting..... 4:21 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:25 PM

**Sat Nov. 15, 2014 - 22nd 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

**Fri Nov. 21, 2014 - 28th of Cheshvan**  
 Candlelighting..... 4:16 PM  
 Mincha..... 4:20 PM

**Sat Nov. 22, 2014 - 29th of Cheshvan**  
**ROSH CHODESH 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

**Sun Nov. 23, 2014 - 1st of Kislev**  
**ROSH CHODESH**  
 Morning Services..... 7:00 & 8:30 AM  
 Daf Yomi..... 7:55 AM  
 Mincha..... 4:20 PM

**Thur Nov. 27, 2014 - 5th of Kislev**  
**THANKSGIVING DAY**  
 Morning Services..... 7:00 & 8:30 AM

**Fri Nov. 28, 2014 - 6th of Kislev**  
 Candlelighting..... 4:12 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:15 PM

**Sat Nov. 29, 2014 - 7th of Kislev**  
**Vayeitzei**  
 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..... 4:15 PM

**Fri Dec. 5, 2014 - 13th of Kislev**  
 Candlelighting..... 4:11 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:15 PM

**Sat Dec. 6, 2014 - 14th 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..... 4:15 PM

**Fri Dec. 12, 2014 - 20th of Kislev**  
 Beginners Chanukah Shabbaton  
 ..... 3:15 PM  
 Candlelighting..... 4:11 PM  
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat..... 4:15 PM

**Sat Dec. 13, 2014 - 21st of Kislev**  
**Vayeishev**  
 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..... 5:12 PM  
 Daily Mincha & Maariv..... 4:15 PM

**Tue Dec. 16, 2014 - 24th of Kislev**  
**EREV CHANUKAH**  
 Daf Yomi..... 6:20 PM  
 Morning Services..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM  
 Mincha/Maariv..... 4:15 PM  
 Light Chanukah Candles  
 ..... after 5:01 PM

**SAVE THE DATES**  
**Special Events**

**Sukkot Shopping:** Tue., Oct. 7  
**Sukkot, Simchat Beit Hashoeva:**  
 Tue., Oct. 14, 7:00 PM  
 @ Ramaz Middle School

**Simchat Torah Celebration**  
 Thu., Oct. 16, 6:57 PM

**Intro To Bible Class Begins**  
 Tue., Oct. 21, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

**Beginners Shabbat Luncheon - \$20**  
 Nov. 1, 12:30 PM

**Beginners Shmooze - Free**  
 Mon., Nov. 3, 8:15 PM

**Beginners Chanukah Shabbaton**  
 Fri.-Sat., Dec. 12 - 13

**Chanukah Bash:** Mon., Dec. 22