

The Shaliach

News and Views from the Young Israel of Plainview



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Are We Nuts?

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Nestled most comfortably amidst the sundry and often complicated laws of *Rosh Ha-Shana* and *Aseret Yemei Teshuva*, is an odd statement by the *Shulchan Aruch*, the code of Jewish Law (OC 483:5):



We eat the head of a lamb on Rosh Ha-Shanah so that we may be like the head and not the tail and so too to recall Isaac's ram.

Rabbi Moshe Issurles (Ramo), the Ashkenazic decisor adds:

Some are careful not to eat nuts for *egoz* in numerology is equal to *chet* (sin).

Customs based on numerology are of course shaky to begin with. Yet, checking the Ramo's math produces a more significant problem. The numerological value of *egoz* (nut, spelled with the full *vav*) is 17; the numerological value of *chet* is 18. This requires the discerning follower of this custom to drop the silent *aleph* that closes the word *chet* in order to produce true numerical equality.

The Ramo clearly recognizes the questionable basis for this practice and thus offers a second supporting claim:



(Continued on page 3)

**YOUNG ISRAEL OF
PLAINVIEW**

132 Southern Parkway
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Rabbi Moshe Portnoy z"l (1981—2005)

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The Shaliach

David L. Guterman.....Editor
yipshaliach@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear Friends

I heard the following story and wanted to share it with you. It was told by Rabbi Simcha Lefkowitz of Congregation Toras Chaim in Hewlett.

“A fundraiser came one sunny morning to a large home. Eagerly he rang the bell, and simultaneously knocked on the door. A woman, quite displeased, swung open the door to her home and, knowing the man’s intent, she began to shout.

What do you want? I never met you in my life! How do you expect me to give charity to someone I have never seen? I’m sorry, but this is my policy and I just can’t give you!

The fundraiser shrugged and slowly walked around the block. Fifteen minutes later, he was back at the same door. Again he rang the bell, and again the woman came out shouting. I told you I never met you in my life! How do you expect me to give charity to someone I have never seen! Didn’t I clearly explain my policy to you?

The fundraiser just smiled as he answered. You are absolutely correct. However, you forgot one small thing. You know me already! After all, we met fifteen minutes ago!”

This story brings two concepts home. 1-The weeks before Rosh Hashanah, we pray a little harder, we try to do good for our fellow man, we pray more the week before with Selichos, we try to get to shul a little earlier (Has anyone noticed what time I’ve been getting to shul on shabbos?) In other words, we might have to knock a few times to get into the door and ask Hashem to listen to our prayers. After all, if we knock again and again, Hashem will answer the door since he already knows us.

(Continued on page 6)

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

(Continued from page 1)

So too [nuts] produce immense salivation and may become a barrier to prayer.

This second reason, quite a vivid one, carries its own set of problems. Why only nuts? Custom should require us to drink and eat before prayer as well so we won't salivate out of hunger? Since when is salivation barrier to prayer?

There's a good rule of thumb to responding to this type of problem: the crazier the explicit reason, the more complex the real underlying issues really are. For this practice to have emerged in the extraordinarily discerning *Shulchan Aruch*, it must represent only the tip of a more conceptual iceberg.

Our exploration of this subject begins with the Ramo's primary source the *Maharil* (R. Yaakov Moelin, Germant 1365-1427). He enjoins his readers to take care about the build up of mucus on Rosh Ha-Shanah. It could potentially get into your ears, and obscure the clarity of the Shofar. The Maharil then lists foods which cause the build up of mucus, nuts among them, and declares that they should be avoided before the sounds of the Shofar have been heard. The Maharil's focus is not the nut itself, but the effects of the nut or any food which might interfere with perfect fulfillment of the biblical commandment to hear the Shofar.

Yet, why did custom choose the nuts of all the items on the list? Dr. Daniel Sperber in his work *Minhagei Yisrael* (volume 4) points out that nuts, or the nut tree more succinctly, carries a multifaceted literary image. R. Yosef Kimchi (Spain 1105-1170) interprets a line in Shir Ha-

Shirim (6:11) *el ginat egoz yaradti*, "I descended into the valley of the nut tree", as referring to Rome. The Midrash states the just as the nut tree kills all other trees in its shades, so too the Roman Empire destroyed all nations, including Israel, in its path. Alternatively, the Midrash later on declares the positive value of a nut. If it is dropped in the dirt, it can be cleaned and eaten. So to Israel, despite the vicissitudes of exile retain their internal strength and honor.

The Ramo decides to promote the practice of refraining from eating nuts. The potential physical effects of nuts, that may prevent full appreciation of the Shofar, however are insufficient. Were the nut's only problem its tendency to produce excessive mucus, we may still leave it on our tables, or eat it on Rosh Ha-Shanah afternoon. The appearance of nuts on our tables, however, may conjure the image of defeat. Indeed, the Chatam Sofer (OC 583) points out that both images of the nut tree found in the Midrash imply the current beleaguered Diaspora existence. On Rosh Ha-Shanah we remove that image from our repertoire.

Rosh Ha-Shanah is a time when we not only declare God's majesty, but the majesty of Israel His people as well. R. Moshe Issurles associates the nut with sin in order that we remove the image of exiles from our minds; that on this unique day we remind ourselves of our chosen status as princes and princesses, chosen children of the King. The Ramo's "nutty" explanation can be viewed as a subtle inspiration for religious and national self-esteem.

Though throughout the year you may feel like a nut, on Rosh Ha-Shanah you don't.

Sisterhood Happenings

YIP Sisterhood has been very busy. Following up on our very successful "Woman of the Year " Dinner on June 6th, we had a great turnout for our "Stained Glass Workshop" on July 25th (see article below). The Book Club is now well into its second year (see article on pg 5).

We are planning future events for the Fall which will include the following offerings: (1) "Colors and Makeover Night"; (2) Our new Rosh Chodesh series entitled "Middah of the Month" that is scheduled to begin on Monday night October 1st at the Weissman's Sukkah; and (3) A "Kosher Comedy Night at Cafe YIP" on Motzei Shabbat December 22nd at 8:00 pm for men and women.

Sheryl Cohen will be honored on Sunday afternoon November 18th at the National Council of Young Israel's annual Fall Festival at the Great Neck Synagogue. Please come and show Hakoras Hatov to Sheryl for her dedication and devotion to Sisterhood and Youth. Invitations will follow soon.

We hope that you will come and enjoy these various events, and as always we welcome your suggestions.

Looking forward to a productive and fulfilling year together, L'Shanah Tovah,

Andrea & Rhonda
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

"Stained Glass Artist Visits YIP Sisterhood"

Artist Roberta Flatow treated us to a wonderful sisterhood event on July 25th. She demonstrated how to assemble "Lovestar Pins" made of stained glass and various decorative pieces, all in iridescent colors. Participants fashioned their various ornaments into a pin or pendant. Women continue to wear their handmade originals to shul.

Lilli Herskowitz
Co-Vice President
Sisterhood

We are happy to announce the start of what we are calling "The YIP Sisterhood Virtual Gemach". Sisterhood Vice President, Linda Chusid will be organizing, maintaining an inventory of goods/objects that families within our community are willing to lend and making the arrangements for those individuals/families looking for that one-time/short-term use of something they need. There will be no fee for borrowing, just a form to fill out stating the details of the loan and from whom you are borrowing.

Please scan your closets, house, basement and garage. We are looking for ALL kinds of goods such as special outfits for all ages, hats, purses, coats, etc., baby equipment, entertaining items such as tables, chairs, linens, yard items such as mowers, hedge cutters, wheel barrows and shop tools. The items you are willing to lend are placed on a confidential list but kept in your possession.

More information including an inventory application is on the way.

We hope to have a huge response from all of you as we embrace our own Gemach, and knowing that we are helping others in a unique special way.

YIP Sisterhood presents . . .

Please save the date of Saturday Night December 22nd at 8:00 p.m.

Comedy & Kosher Cafe at YIP. We will feature comedian Stuart Rappaport and Italian food catered by Hunki's. This will be our first Motzei Shabbos social for men and women.

Sisterhood Book Club

The Sisterhood's book club continues to meet once per month. The meetings provide a fun and stimulating opportunity to discuss popular books. All women are welcome and all reading suggestions are welcome as well.

Thanks to Ann Cohn and Mindy Pfeffer who coordinate with the Plainview Public Library and keep us informed of upcoming meetings.

PRESIDENT'S PEN

(Continued from page 2)

2-Of course, we are discussing charity here and as being President, you all know me by now and I feel we can talk. As President and former treasurer, I have an obligation to you and the shul. I take that obligation very seriously. We must have a financially sound shul to provide all of the services we provide to you and the Plainview community. Please be as generous as you can at this time of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

As you all know, we have an annual appeal for Kol Nidre. It is the second largest fundraiser we have. Last year, we raised almost \$34,000. Let's try to beat last year, not only with your annual pledge but with the number of members that give. Any amount is greatly appreciated. We are a wonderful organization but we need resources to stay that way and grow.

Thank you,
Shana Tova U'Metukah-Happy, Healthy, and Sweet new year to all.

Ken & Sherri Malc

Mail addressed to the **Rabbi, president, treasurer, or MALI** is received and read within a reasonable amount of time.

All other mail should be mailed directly to the recipient to insure it is read in a timely fashion. For example, all Sisterhood mail **must** be mailed to the **home address** of the person in charge of the activity that you desire (Calendar, Mishloach Manot, Wine, Siddurim & Chumashim, etc.). **Information about where to direct your mail is usually included in the flyers.**

Thank you for your cooperation

Dear Friends,

This past year in Israel I had the opportunity to give physical therapy to a young boy in dire need. This young boy's name was Chiam. Towards the end of my year studying abroad in Israel, I came up with an idea to raise money for him. I was shocked to see how quickly and how many donations I was receiving. Your generosity and kindness has been depicted in all of your actions. Chiam currently sees a physical therapist 5 times a week for 2 hours. Fortunately, Chiam is noticeably improving as the summer progresses and comes to an end. Thanks to each and every one of you, you've given Chiam hope, a chance to overcome his illness.

Thank You All From the Bottom of My Heart,

Adam Feldstein



 **New York** Blood Center

A special thank you to Sharon Albert for coordinating the annual YIP summer blood drive. During the summer months when blood supplies are at critical levels, YIP members donated 36 pints! Congratulations to all of those who participated.!

Halacha teaches us that certain holy items, even when they are no longer usable, still must be treated with dignity and must be disposed of with respect. This leads to the laws of "shamos" which govern how we must dispose of siddurim, tfillin, chumashim, mezuzah parchments and other holy objects, and which require that shamos items be buried.

To better allow for the proper and dignified disposal of shamos, we have installed a shamos closet below the mailboxes near the lockers at the front entrance to the Beit Medrash. Shamos, and only shamos, should be placed into the closet through the slot provided for that purpose. Please be sure, however, that you use this facility to dispose of only shamos. Many items which people believe are shamos are in fact not shamos and therefore must not be left with shamos. If you have any questions about what is or is not shamos, please ask Rabbi Weissman.

YIP Flower Sale

As we sit with family at the Yom Tov table, enjoying the flower arrangements bought during the YIP Flower Sale, a special thank you is due to those who participated and to Marc Lieberstein for his effort in running another successful fundraising event.



YIP sisterhood sells Bar / Bat Mitzvah and Wedding Invitations, Informals, Birth Announcements, etc...

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Stuart and I want to thank the Young Israel of Plainview community for all their support given us during my surgery and recuperation.

Your visits, phone calls, offers of assistance, and care packages had a tremendous impact on our physical and emotional well being. I can not imagine how hard it would have been for my family without "family" like you!

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, Stu and I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year. May the midot exhibited by our shul be a zechut for a good year for everyone.

Marlene and Stu

Dear Members,

It has come to my attention that some Shul doors have been left open all night. I am sure it is done by accident and there is no intent to let that happen.

Despite that, it is so important that we are all vigilant towards our Shul. We all need to make sure the doors are closed and locked behind us when we leave. This Shul belongs to all of us and as you all know, we have valuable items in the Shul both from a monetary point of view and valuable items that we could never replace, no matter the cost.

Also, we must always remember that we are a Shul first and davening occurs at least three times per day especially in the Beit Medrash. We also use the Shul for social and learning events. If we do, then that group must and I repeat, must, make sure that the Beit Medrash is ready for davening the next morning. All too many times, Shul members and non Shul members that show up for the 6:30AM minyan are cleaning up and setting up for davening. It is not fair to them and is embarrassing to our community. Even, during and after kiddushes, it is important that we clean up as best we can and always show respect for our Shul. Remember it belongs to all of us.

Thank you,

Ken Malc

Dear YIP family,

My brother Richard and I would like to express our sincere thanks for all the personal warmth and emotional support during our Shiva. I consider myself so fortunate to have married into such a caring and cohesive community.

May Schulz Sclair

The Shul is in need of Siddurim and Chumashim.

Through Sisterhood you can make a donation to the Shul in honor or memory of someone.

The cost of an RCA Siddur is \$36 and the cost of a Stone Chumash is \$54.



For more details
Please contact:
LIZ VILKAS,
931-6848

My family and I want to thank the entire YIP community for their support and many kindnesses during our recent loss.

Jack Nass

My family and I would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the prayers, love and support during Craig's illness and while we sat shiva. We were very touched that the community reached out to us.

Thank you from Tara Stier and family.

YIP YAHRZEIT BOARD

To place an order for a yahrzeit plaque or for additional information, please contact
David Guterman

Inadvertently, a note from Cathie and Alex Stern was left out of the last issue of the Shaliach. The Stern family would like to thank the community for their kindness and generosity while Alex was sitting shiva for his mother, Magda Stern.

Jewish Learning for Women of Plainview

B"II

Women's Weekly Tehillim Group

"Each and every word in Tehillim has a meaning whose power and ability to protect us cannot be imagined... Women in particular have a special z'chus. They have unconditional belief and know how to love, and know how to feel the love of Hashem for the Jewish people." (Galia - Messages From Heaven)



Every Tuesday Evening

8:45pm-9:30pm

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At the home of Sharon Stoehel

(516) 827-1055

We silently read (in English or Hebrew) as individuals while our collective strength as women changes the world.

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For Family

For Klal Yisroel

Going on now!!!

The entire Sefer Tehillim has been completed every Tuesday evening on behalf of those in need in our Plainview community since August 2004!

PLEASE JOIN US!

KIDDUSH / SHUL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2007

9/13/2007 ROSH HASHONAH (1ST DAY)
 9/14/2007 ROSH HASHONAH (2ND DAY)
 9/15/2007 FAST OF GEDALIA
 9/22/2007 YOM KIPPUR
 9/27/2007 SUKKOS (1ST DAY)
 9/28/2007 SUKKOS (2ND DAY)

OCTOBER 2007

10/3/2007 HASHONAH RABBAH
 10/4/2007 SHIMINI ATZERET
 10/5/2007 SIMCHAT TORAH

NOVEMBER 2007

11/4/2007 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS—SET CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR
 11/6/2007 ELECTION DAY
 11/10/2007 VETERANS DAY
 11/22/2007 THANKSGIVING DAY

DECEMBER 2007

12/2/2007 9:00 AM MALI BREAKFAST
 12/8/2007 SIMPSON (DOVID BAR MITZVAH)
 12/5/2007—12/12/2007 HANUKAH
 12/19/2007 ASAR B'TEVES

MARCH 2008

3/9/2008 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS—SET CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR
 3/15/2008 KESSLER (TIMOTHY BAR MITZVAH)
 3/20/2008 TA'ANIS ESTHER
 3/21/2008 PURIM
 3/22/2008 SHUSHAN PURIM

APRIL 2008

4/12/2008 ALBERT (DANIEL BAR MITZVAH)
 4/20/2008—4/27/2008 PASSOVER

MAY 2008

5/6/2008 LAG B'OMER
 5/10/2008 SPINDEL (MICHAEL)
 5/11/2008 MOTHER'S DAY
 5/24/2008 KESSLER (JACOB BAR MITZVAH)
 5/26/2008 GREENBERG (JOSHUA BAR MITZVAH)

JUNE 2008

6/2/2008 YOM YERUSHALAYIM
 6/7/2008 GUTERMAN (SHOSHANA BAT MITZVAH)
 6/9/2008—6/10/2008 SHAVUOS
 6/15/2008 FATHER'S DAY

JULY 2008

7/20/2008 SHEVA ASAR B'TAMMUZ

AUGUST 2008

8/10/2008 TISHA B'AV
 8/30/2008 BERTEL (YONATAN BAR MITZVAH)

SEPTEMBER 2008

9/10/2008 YOM HA'ATZMAUT
 9/27/2008 RAPHAEL (JOSHUA BAR MITZVAH)
 9/30/2008—10/01/2008 ROSH HASHONAH

OCTOBER 2008

10/25/2008 MLOTOK (JEREMY BAR MITZVAH)

FEBRUARY 2009

2/14/2009 KAHN (MAX BAR MITZVAH)

JUNE 2009

6/27/2009 EISMAN (ALEC BAR MITZVAH)

AUGUST 2009

8/1/2009 ROSENTHAL (SHMUEL BAR MITZVAH)

(Continued on page 13)

LIFE CYCLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazel Tov to . . .

- Judy & Alvin Smilow on the marriage of Josh & Miriam
- Debbie & Marty Taub on the marriage of Eric & Danit
- Meryl & Aaron Chaitovsky on the marriage of Josh & Devorah
- Mae & Max Sclair on the marriage of Josh & Ahuva
- Barbara & Marty Cohen on the marriage their granddaughter Esther & Semach
- The Gonens on the marriage of their son Avial
- Leah & Asher Baer on Reut's Bat Mitzvah.
- Rabbi & Avital Weissman on the birth of a son, Noam Dovid
- Rebbetzin Shelly Portnoy and the entire Portnoy family on the birth of a daughter to Shira and Yossi .
- Vered & David Wolfstein and grandfather Abe on the birth of a daughter, Ariella
- Larry Bruckner on the birth of a granddaughter.
- Suri & Eddie Ehrlich on the birth of a grandson, Moshe Yisroel, to Rachayl & Uri
- Marlene & Stu Horowitz on the birth of a granddaughter, Devorah Miriam to Sara & Daniel

Condolences

- Rick Baer on the loss of his father, Sidney Baer.
- Tara Steir & family on their loss of Craig.
- May Sclair on the loss of her father, William Schulz.
- Lisa Budow on the loss of her mother, Lillian Mayerson.

May the Omnipresent console you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

(Continued from page 12)

AUGUST 2009

8/15/2009 STOCHEL (NOAH BAR MITZVAH)

SEPTEMBER 2009

9/12/2009 AZOULAY (ERIC BAR MITZVAH)

9/26/2009 MALC (MICHAEL BAR MITZVAH)

DECEMBER 2009

12/26/2009 EISMAN (EMILY BAT MITZVAH)

SISTERHOOD
COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

Bikur Cholim	Shelley Katz
Calendar	Linda Chusid, Sarah Gross, Marci Karoll
Invitations	Sherry Brunner, Shaina Halegoua
Entertainment Books	Arlene Meisner
Mishloach Manot	Leah Sclair, Suri Gotowner
New Year's Cards	Ann Cohn, Marci Karoll
Simcha & Condolence Cards	Deborah Plutzer
Siddurim & Chumashim	Liz Vilkas
Welcome Wagon	Shani Kaufman, Ariane Eisman Lisa Floumanhaft
Wine Sales	Aryela Rosenberg
Special Events	Linda Ben-Hamo, Ellen Zimmerman

To reserve, remove or correct a date on the Shul calendar, please contact Ed Ehrlich by e-mail at "eehrlich@twrgrp.com", or at work at 212-655-5002, or at home at 516-935-3009, in that order of preference.

No food may be brought into the Shul by anyone for any purpose or event without the knowledge and approval of Abe Alper.

All kiddushes must be paid in full, 2 weeks in advance.

If you are making a Meat Kiddush, you must be available to receive deliveries of food and equipment. Speak to Abe Alper for details.

www.yiplainview.com

The Shul email – yip@yiplainview.com
The Rabbi's email – rabbi@yiplainview.com
The President's email – president@yiplainview.com

SHUL COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

Beit Medrash Renovation	David Gross
Beit Medrash Renovation	Gary Katz
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Gemilas Chesed	Bernie Reisner
Gemilas Chesed	Bob Thaler
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Journal Dinner	Alex Stern
Kiddush and Catering	Abe Alper
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Kol Nidre	Barry Helprin
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Marketing	Lou Sroka
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Ritual	Alvin Smilow
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Special Gifts	Marty Taub
Youth	Sheryl Cohen
Youth	Lynda Last
Youth	Tara Stier

The Board of Trustees and a vote of the Membership, in keeping with current law governing minors and drinking, adopted the following Shul policy:

It is the policy of the Shul that there be no consumption of alcohol by anyone under 21 years of age on synagogue premises or at synagogue events.

Your support in maintaining this policy is appreciated.

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The deadline for the
Hannukah issue of the
Shaliach will be
November 11, 2007

The Shaliach

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Stamp

