



Bulletin

*Happy
New Year!*



*L'Shanah
Tovah!*



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September/October 2018 Schedule of Services

August 31

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

September 1

9:30am Shabbat Service, Bat Mitzvah of Risa Rotstein

9:00pm Selichot, Beth El Stamford

September 7

6:59pm Candle Lighting

6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

September 8

9:30am Shabbat Services

September 9, Erev Rosh Hashanah

6:00pm Service

September 10, 1st Day Rosh Hashanah

9:30am Service

10:00am Youth Engagement
Apples & Honey following the Service, followed by Tashlich

8:00pm Service

September 11, 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah

9:30am Service

10:00am Youth Engagement

September 14

6:47pm Candle Lighting

6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

September 15

9:30am Shabbat Service

September 16

12:15pm Cemetery Service, Beth El Memorial Park

September 18, Kol Nidre

6:30pm Kol Nidre Service

September 19, Yom Kippur

9:00am Service, including Yizkor

10:30am Youth Engagement

4:45pm Study Session

5:20pm Mincha/Ne'ilah

7:45pm Ma'ariv/Havdalah/Final Shofar Blast/Break Fast

September 21

6:35pm Candle Lighting

6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

September 22

9:30am Shabbat Service

8:52pm Candle Lighting

September 23, Erev Sukkot

6:20pm Candle Lighting

September 24, Sukkot, First Day

9:30am Service

7:30pm Candle Lighting

September 25, Sukkot, Second Day

9:30am Service

7:34pm Havdalah (holiday continues)

September 28

6:23pm Candle Lighting

6:30pm Abbreviated Kabbalat

Shabbat Service

Farm-to-Table Sukkot Dinner

September 29

9:30am Shabbat Service

10:30am Shabbat Youth Services

September 30, Hoshana Rabbah

9:30am Minyan, Last Chance to Shake the Lulav

6:20pm Candle Lighting, Erev Shemini Atzeret

October 1, Shemini Atzeret

9:30am Service, including Yizkor

7:00pm Service, Erev Simchat Torah

October 2, Simchat Torah

9:30am Service, including Celebratory Kiddush

October 5

6:11pm Candle Lighting

6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

October 6

9:30am Shabbat Service

October 12

6:00pm Candle Lighting

6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

October 13

9:30am Shabbat Service

10:30am Shabbat Youth Services

October 19

5:49pm Candle Lighting

6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

October 20

9:00 am "Joe & Genesis" (Coffee, Bagels, and Torah Study)

9:45am Shabbat Service

October 26, Youth Shabbaton/Shul-In

5:39pm Candle Lighting

6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

October 27, Youth Shabbaton/Shul-In

9:30am Shabbat Service

CLOSINGS —

Office Closed:

September 4, 10, 11, 19, 24, 25

October 1, 2

Make a Minyan... No, not that minion, **our Minyan.** 8:00 am any and every weekday morning



THE BETH EL BULLETIN

Congregation Beth El-Norwalk

Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America

109 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851

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Rabbi's Table

by Rabbi Ita Paskind

Turning & Returning

Shalom, dear friends,

Each year at this time, we turn our attention to the approaching new year, and with it, the spiritual turning, or *teshuvah*, that accompanies it. For me, this time of turning goes hand in hand with my return to full-time service to our congregation after welcoming Noa into my family.

Parents the world over are constantly pulled in multiple directions: toward being the best we can be at work (and proving that we're still capable!), toward our children, and even toward finding a few minutes to recharge ourselves. As I've been told many times and am now learning first-hand, the struggle is real. There is much to learn, and during this season, much fodder for reflection.

Perhaps the most widespread *teshuvah* lesson we learn from our children is patience. Children demand so much attention because they are growing and learning constantly, and they need adult guidance and encouragement at every stage (not just in infancy!). It's natural to become frustrated and distracted—after all, there's so much else that needs to get done—but we can learn from our children's demands to slow down and practice patience, *savlanut*. During this season of *teshuvah*, we might embrace the fact that we are needed so essentially.

Children also teach us to let go of our expectations and preconceived notions. They will be who they are, and it's our job to nurture them. The same can be said of ourselves: We would do well, at least sometimes, to let go of the expectations we set for ourselves that cause us anxiety and even pain. Sometimes *teshuvah* is less about asking for forgiveness from the other and more about simply letting go.

And the deepest kind of *teshuvah* in which we must engage is forgiving ourselves for missing the mark. As 21st-century Americans, we are intimately familiar with the desire for efficiency and accuracy, and sometimes that means we need to choose between work and family and friends and self-care, and we feel guilty. Make all the jokes about Jewish guilt you want, but guilt is a real feeling, and it's not all that helpful. Engaging in *teshuvah* may help us to find the compassion for ourselves that we easily find for our children.

As the year 5779 approaches, I am grateful to have returned to serving our community, and I invite you to join me in the process of *teshuvah*, turning toward love, toward compassion, toward a new year brimming with hope.

Shanah Tovah,
Rabbi Ita Paskind



Shanah Tovah Tikatevu

Congregation Beth El's Gift & Simcha Shop has been busy over the summer and is ready for the High Holidays!

We have

- A Lovely Array of Tallitot
- Beautiful Honey Pots and Dishes
- Shofars... Large and Small
- Kiddush Cups & Candlesticks
- Challah Boards, Knives and Covers
- And so much more!!!

On September 9th, the gift shop resumes its Sunday hours. Join us on that Sunday and September 16th for a

Talit Extravaganza

Meet us in the Lobby from 9:30 am – Noon and enjoy coffee and a nosh!!

Need an appointment? Contact Nancy Oberst (nancy@oberstlaw.com) or Hilary Shaefitz (shaef@optonline.net) and we will be glad to help you.

Let's Talk.

Rob Maquat, SVP

203-254-6667

robert.maquat@peoples.com

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President's Greeting by David Hirshfield

As I sit down to write these remarks, amidst waves of early-August humidity, the High Holidays are almost exactly a month away. As I do each year, I always smile as I hear others characterize the timing of the Days of Awe as either “early” or “late”— and when (too predictably, I’m afraid) I point out that Rosh Hashanah falls on the first of Tishrei this year, as it always does, (“exactly on time!”) I generally elicit a reaction, filled with eye-rolling and groans, reserved for a bad pun. Still, I like to think that repeating this modest joke is one example of my attempts to preserve an important tradition; my father learned this from his father, and I hope my kids will someday pass along this seasonal one-liner to their children.

Of course our tradition is built on precedent and relies heavily on ritual and practice based on the calendar and the clock: the seasonal timing of the Jewish holidays; the weekly march through the Torah portions; and the adjustment, each Friday and Saturday evenings, to the start and end of Shabbat. More prosaic rhythms inform our lives as well: the promise of summer brought by the end of the school year; the fresh opportunities that late August, and a new academic year, brings — even for those that graduated decades ago.

There is comfort in the predictability and constancy that our tradition provides. When we gather at the Seder table to sing *Dayenu*, join as a congregation to hear the *Kol Nidre*, and raise our voices together in *Avinu Malkeinu* those moments have meaning for us — year after year — precisely because those relived experiences are both familiar and predictable. Speaking for myself, I’m not interested in changing or updating any of those musical lynchpins; I suspect the majesty of those ritual moments would be diminished for me were that familiarity and predictability to be set aside.

And yet, in nearly all other parts of our lives change is the norm. We grow older and less flexible; our school-aged children go off to college; our parents age; and — inevitably — familiar faces are gone from our lives. While we all cope with this differently we understand — as the cliché reminds us — change is the only constant.

Which brings me to our Congregation, and to a theme I’ll be exploring when I give the President’s annual State of the Synagogue address. Specifically, I’ll be discussing the ways that our shul is changing and the challenges and opportunities that those changes bring.

I’ll also be introducing an important initiative for the coming year: a new emphasis on developing innovative programming that meets congregants’ needs and interests; strengthens our bonds within our community; and helps our membership to

grow. I called a special meeting of the Board of Trustees in July to focus on this topic, and I’m pleased to announce the following programs:

- Friday Night Farm to Table Dinner in the Sukkah: September 28
- Beth El Game Night – Poker, Mah Jong, Bridge, Beer and Martinis: Mid-October
- Comedy Night: Saturday, November 10
- Thanksgiving Interfaith Community Lunch: Sunday, November 18
- Chanukah-themed Shabbat Dinner: Friday, Dec. 7

We’re already hard at work on events during 2019. Please contact me if you’d like to get involved, and look for more details in the coming weeks on these and other events.

So as we begin the late-summer cycle of renewal, preparing to face the changes that 5779 will bring, let me be the first to wish us all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life – *L’Shana Tova Tikatevu!*



שנה טובה ומתוקה

Wishing you a Healthy, Happy, Peaceful New Year!

Individual and Group Counseling
Case Management and Emergency Assistance
Employment and Training Services
Jewish Family Life Education
Kosher Food Pantry
Home Companion Program
Camp Scholarship
Jewish Twenties and Thirties

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Nitzan News by Amy SantaLucia, Director

What an amazing summer we had at Nitzan Nursery School – Summer Fun Camp. Camp was filled with not only some of our regular students, but we also had several new families in the community join us for some fun. It’s great to see that our name and reputation are getting out there!!

Besides being involved with our summer camp, much of my summer was spent preparing for the new school year. My staff and I are always working to create new and innovative ways to challenge our students and get them to love learning and coming to school. We can not wait to get the new school year rolling!



Do you know any 2, 3 or 4 year olds? Let them know about our wonderful Nitzan Nursery School!

website or in the synagogue office. Please contact Amy at Nitzan@congbethel.org with any questions. Looking forward to catching up with many friends that evening. Thank you in advance for supporting our school.



BOXTOPS... your trash is my treasure. Please check your pantry for items with a BOXTOP on it. Nitzan collects \$0.10 for each BOXTOP saved and sent in. Please consider saving them – they can be turned in to the synagogue office.



During the month of September Nitzan Nursery School will be running our fall Mitzvah project. We will be collecting school supplies to donate to Jewish Family Services. Jewish Family Services will then find students in need and distribute the supplies to them. If you would like to make a donation to our project, there will be a container outside Morah Amy’s office in which you may place your supplies. Thank you for helping out a good cause.

Keep an eye out for our Fall Fundraiser – Mixed Bag Designs. More details shortly.



Make sure to mark Tuesday, September 4th on your calendar for Nitzan’s third annual “Dining for Dollars” at Bertucci’s Restaurant on the Post Road in Darien. The event takes place all day. In order for Nitzan to get credit for your meal, you must present a coupon. Coupons can be found on our

The month of August must mean Watermelon Wednesday was back in session. It was wonderful to see so many children and their parents show up each Wednesday. Rabbi and I like to think it’s because they love to sing and read stories with us but... I think it may have been for the yummy watermelon!!



As summer draws to a close, I can’t wait to get the new school year rolling – it is always such an exciting time in the life of an



educator. I am eager to meet our new friends and get everyone settled into their new school routines. Lots of learning to be done as well... apples and honey, Tashlich walks, having snack in the Sukkah... many exciting things will be happening at Nitzan!!! Please feel free to stop by and join in the fun!!

Navasky News by Danielle Mittleman

Summer is coming to a close and soon I will get to hear voices of young children. This is what I look forward to every fall. Summer always goes too fast but the reward is getting to be back together with renewed energy and excitement. I'm truly looking forward to meeting all of your children and their families. I'm starting to settle in to my new surroundings so feel free to stop by, introduce yourself and take a moment for us to get to know each other.

This year's holidays are primarily in the month of September which will make for a slow start for our young ones. However, there is so much to look forward to. Here are some important dates to put on your calendar.

September 9th from 9:30-10:30. Opening day for Navasky Explorers. Yes, it's the day of Erev Rosh Hashanah but I can't wait to meet you all! Come join together as a school community to start the excitement of Rosh Hashanah, meet the new director and meet your teacher.

September 16th. This is the first full day of Navasky Explorers. At 11:15, parents will be given the chance to see what this year has in store for their student and to have some coffee with the new director.

September 23rd. This will be a fun morning with Sukkah decorating.

September 30th. Fulfilling the mitzvah of eating in the sukkah with "Pizza in the hut."

October 26th -27th. This is going to be a big event for our **5th-8th graders!** This is our Shabbaton/Shul-In but it is going to look different than in the past. We are hosting a regional event for kids in Kadima! Children in these grades throughout our region are being invited to join us for this amazing event. We are partnering with The Conservative Synagogue in Westport to help us run this event as well as our leaders in USY. Our four Young Israeli Emissaries will also be there to help run a program and enjoy being with our youth. Look for more information to come.

As High Holiday season is approaching, I would like to wish all of you a L'Shana Tova U metukah.

SOUP KITCHEN

Join us at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk to prepare and serve lunch on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Come for one or both shifts:
11am-12pm – Prep or 12:30-2pm – Serve

Any questions, please contact
Stephanie Gordon, ng3364@aol.com

High Holiday Youth Activities

High Holiday youth activities are available to children age 2 through 6th graders. Each activity will be led by an adult professional assisted by teen volunteers. We are fortunate to already have some teens that have volunteered but we could use some more. If you have a son/daughter in grades 8-12 who is still interested in helping, s/he should contact Danielle Mittleman at 203-838-2710 or via email at Danielle.teacher@yahoo.com. Students will be assigned based upon our needs and on a first come/first serve basis.

Here are the times and locations of the programs:

1st and 2nd Day of Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 10 and 11): 10:00am – 12:30 pm

Yom Kippur (Sept. 19): 10:30am – 1:00 pm

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Babysitting (2 and 3 year olds) – Classroom 3

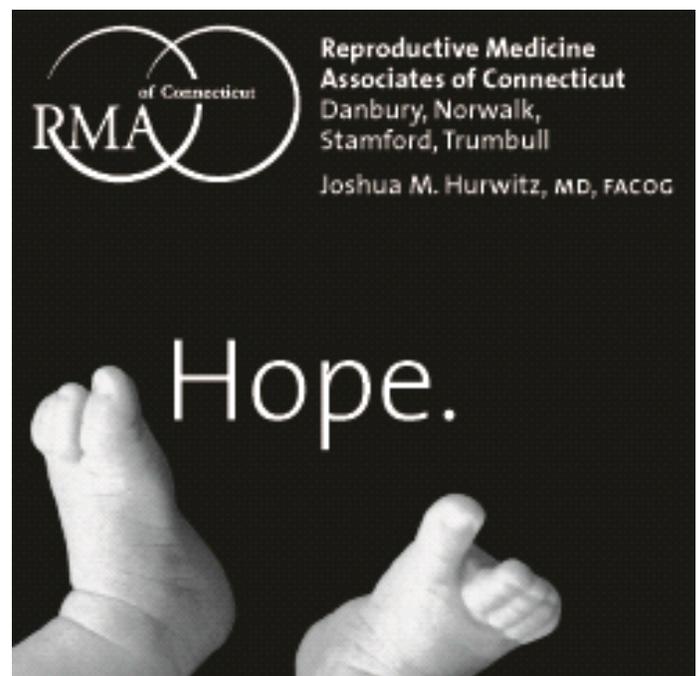
3, 4 and 5 year olds – Classroom 2

1st – 3rd graders – Classroom 5

4th – 6th graders – Library

Children ages 2-5 must be wearing a name tag with his/her name and parent's name on it. Each child should bring a favorite toy with him/her. Parents are responsible for changing of diapers for their children.

We ask that parents be punctual in picking up their child(ren). Wishing you and yours a very special and meaningful High Holiday season.



Reproductive Medicine
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Hope.

Shalom To Our New Shinshinim Our 2018-19 Federation Israeli Emissaries



Welcome to Shay Eshel, Eyal Marom, Yuval Shahar and Rotem Sharon who will be joining our community in the fall as part of the Israeli Emissary program sponsored by the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County. Now in its 20th year, the program's goal is to build a living bridge between Israel and our community. Shay, Eyal, Yuval and Rotem are recent high school graduates who have chosen to postpone their army service to spend the year in Upper Fairfield County to share their love of Israel with our preschools and religious schools as well as in our adult education programs, local high schools, day schools and Jewish Senior Services. While all four will work together on community events, they will have primary responsibilities at individual synagogues.

This is a wonderful opportunity to add some cross-cultural enrichment to your family life. Please reach out to these special young ambassadors. Invite them to your home for a Shabbat dinner or to spend a day with your family going apple picking or to a baseball game. Show them a bit about life in the United States and listen as they share their thoughts on life in Israel. This program is not just for the youth of our community. Invite them to one of your adult dinner parties, and let them share their observations about politics, culture and societal issues in Israel. This wonderful opportunity to build bridges is made possible through our Federation's relationship with the Jewish Agency for Israel.

If you are interested in inviting any or all of the Shinshinim to have a meal with your family or would like to explore the possibility of becoming a host family for three months, please contact Stacy Kamisar at skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org or Judy Blumenthal at jblumenthal@jewishphilanthropyct.org.

Eyal Marom

I'm from Daverat, a beautiful kibbutz near Afula. My father, Jonathan, is a colonel in the IDF air force. My mother, Yifat, is an accountant in Afula. I have two younger sisters, Aya and Shir, both of whom are in elementary school.

In high school, I majored in both Software Engineering and Music. I have been studying jazz music and playing the piano since the age of seven. In addition, in my last three years of high school, I participated in the IDF program 'Magshimim', the National Cyber Program, that trains young students from tenth to twelfth grade to become an intelligence cyber officer in the army. I also was a part of Bnai-Hamoshavim youth movement, where I was a counselor for two years.

I chose to do shlichut because I believe that the connection between our communities is both important and meaningful. I feel strongly that this connection is necessary in order to keep the Jewish people together. Therefore, my goals for this year are to become a part of the "living bridge" by taking a larger role in connecting Jewish life across the world.

Shay Eshel

My name is Shay Eshel. I live in Moshav Ram-On in the Yizrael Valley. I love living in the Moshav because it keeps me very close to all my friends, and I like it that I am attached to my neighbors and to my Moshav community.

We are a family of four – Amir my father, Yael my mother, my little brother Reyi and me. My brother is two years younger than me and I like that age difference because we're very close to each other. My mother works as a CPA and my father is a lawyer.

I have been dancing professional Classical Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Tap for eleven years. I do it for 4-5 times a week, sometimes even more. I dance the syllabus of the Royal Academy of Dance – in London. I also have other hobbies such as scuba diving, swimming, watching TV, meeting with friends and going to the beach. I consider myself an adventurous person, and I really like to try new things and get to know new people and new places.

I chose to do the shlichut because I love the Jewish life and community and I believe that the connection of the Jews in Israel and the Jews in the Diaspora is inseparable. Moreover, I want to serve the State of Israel by giving my time and skills to represent my country in the Jewish community abroad. I'm so excited for the upcoming year, and I'm thrilled to share my love for Israel with you guys.

Rotem Sharon

My name is Rotem Sharon. I'm 18 years old. I live in Alloney Abba. I have two older siblings. My sister, Adi, is 24 years old; she is a student for physical therapy in Haifa's university. My brother Tomer is 22 years old; he just finished his service in the IDF. My father, Dror, is the CEO of a company called Magal. My mother, Yael, is the COO of a company called DGA.

continued on page 12

B'nai Mitzvah



Risa Rotstein

My name is Risa Rotstein. My parents are Marguerite Felsenfeld and Steven Rotstein. I have a sister, Miranda, and a brother, Benjamin. I live in Stamford, CT, and go to Turn of River Middle School where I will be starting the 8th grade this September. I love reading and sketching, as well as anything to do with computers.

For me, becoming a bat mitzvah means I have to be responsible and follow mitzvot. I will also be responsible for helping to make a minyan, reading from the Torah, and leading services.

For my mitzvah project, I am collecting new and gently used books for kids in kindergarten through eighth grade. These books will be donated to a project called Bookends, a program affiliated with 3Square, which provides food for school children in Stamford who otherwise wouldn't have enough to eat over the weekends. If these kids don't have food to eat, they almost certainly don't have money to pay for books.

I'd like to thank Bracha Moshe, Rabbi Paskind, and Mr. Treidel for helping to prepare me for my bat mitzvah. Please join us for services on September 1st.



Hello! My name is Dina Silberman and I'm excited to be the new Beth El Norwalk (BEN) Youth Advisor! I grew up at Congregation Beth El and became a bat mitzvah here in 2008. My parents have been members since 2003 when we moved from

New Jersey to Westport, CT. I participated in youth services on high holidays and became USY chapter president at Beth El where I was very active regionally. Since graduating from Staples high school, I earned my associates degree at Norwalk Community College and Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Connecticut last May. While at UConn, I served on the Hillel executive student board for 2017 as VP of Shabbat and holidays. I believe that Jewish education is important in all forms. It is my privilege to work with the kids at Beth El Norwalk creating fun programs and helping them to make connections and explore their Jewish identity. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to e-mail me at teens@congbethel.org.



At Carmel Academy, we dare to:

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Editorial Page by Rhonda & Larry Ginsberg

The High Holy Days are both a time of contemplation and a time of hope for the future. It is a time when we remember our past, our ancestors, and our actions to make our world a better place for all. We remember our efforts on behalf of the State of Israel, our marches for civil rights, peace in the Vietnam era, the struggle on behalf of the Jews of the former Soviet Union, and against anti-Semitism. We remember those less fortunate and those in need.

We Jews in the United States, at this time, are for the most part fortunate. However, there is so much more to do. People in our community, our nation, and the world go to bed hungry and must pray for their next meal. Most of the world faces a lack of potable water. Millions of people are homeless. Millions more suffer from disease. Millions suffer discrimination and inequality. We must strive to alleviate their pain and misery.

This issue's editorial page presents two articles. One by our own Riva Silverman discusses the Jewish principles of charity and justice. Judaism requires us to strengthen social and economic justice in our community, our nation, and our world. The second by Larry Domnitch from the October 2005 edition of the *Jewish Magazine* entitled "The Shofar of Courage and Hope" which reminds us of a time when Jews were not allowed freedom of worship in British Mandatory Palestine, present day Jerusalem, and Israel.

Tikkun olam requires us as Jews to strive to better our world.

— Rhonda & Larry Ginsberg

Tzedakah in the Community

by Riva Silverman

As we approach the High Holiday season, many of us begin thinking about charity, giving back, and the value of philanthropy. Looking back on our deeds of the past year, we aspire to do better. Therefore, it is natural to think about how we can contribute more to our community and society at large. Indeed, the words of the *U'netaneh Tokef* prayer remind us of the redemptive power of *tzedakah*.

In fact, the connection of giving to others while we celebrate holidays surrounded by friends and loved ones — particularly when that celebration involves festive meals — has been part of Jewish life and law for centuries. Maimonides, in his legal treatise, *Mishneh Torah*, discusses what it is to celebrate on a holiday:

And when the members of the household eat and drink, they are obligated to feed strangers, orphans and widows as well as all other poor people. However, if they lock their doors and eat and drink with their family and do not feed the poor and

others going through hard times, this is not the joy which was commanded, but merely satisfying their stomachs.

We cannot truly celebrate a holiday, according to Maimonides, if we limit our celebration and feasting to ourselves alone. Rather, we must tend to the needs of others in our community. This clear, simple message resonates in the holiday season.

But I believe our tradition has even more to teach us about giving.

The Hebrew word *tzedakah*, which is usually translated as charity, philanthropy, or giving, has a much more profound meaning. It comes from the same root as the word *tzedek*, justice, and implies that giving charity alone is not nearly enough. Jewish tradition demands that we do all we can to ensure that our society is built on the pillars of economic and social justice.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, in an essay titled *Tzedakah: The Untranslatable Virtue*, writes:

Tzedakah cannot be translated because it joins together two concepts that in other languages are opposites, namely charity and justice. It is the idea that no one should be without the basic requirements of existence, and that those who have more than they need must share some of that surplus with those who have less. This is fundamental to the kind of society the Israelites were charged with creating, namely one in which everyone has a basic right to a dignified life and equal worth as citizens in the community.

And this type of pursuit of justice is precisely what is laid out in the Haftorah for Yom Kippur. The words of Isaiah are as relevant today as they were thousands of years ago:

*They ask Me for the right way,
They are eager for the nearness of God:
"Why, when we fasted, did You not see?
When we starved our bodies, did You pay no heed?"
Because on your fast day
You see to your business
And oppress all your laborers!
Because you fast in strife and contention,
And you strike with a wicked fist!
Your fasting today is not such
As to make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast I desire,
A day for men to starve their bodies?
Is it bowing the head like a bulrush
And lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Do you call that a fast,
A day when the LORD is favorable?*

continued on page 11

Photo Album: The Holidays



New Years card, New York, 19th century



Rosh Hashanah at the Western Wall, Jerusalem



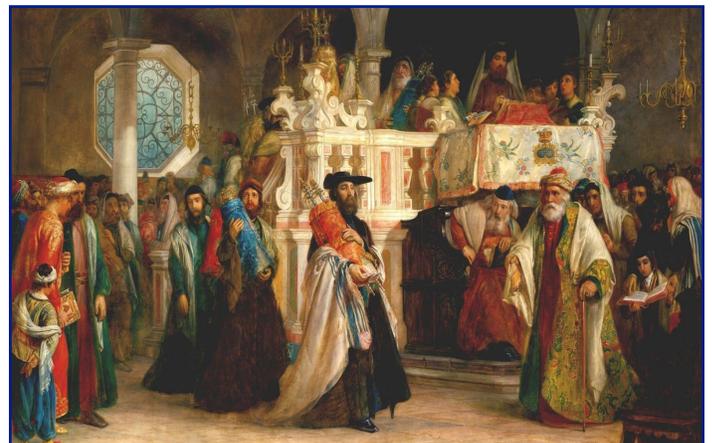
Yom Kippur, Amsterdam



Simchat Torah, Women at the Wall



Sukkot in Jerusalem



Simchat Torah, Livorno, Italy by Solomon Alexander Hart, 1850

Editorial continued from page 9

*No, this is the fast I desire:
To unlock the fetters of wickedness,
And untie the cords of the yoke
To let the oppressed go free;
To break off every yoke.
It is to share your bread with the hungry,
And to take the wretched poor into your home;
When you see the naked, to clothe him,
And not to ignore your own kin.*

As we enter the High Holiday season and undertake a process of true self-assessment, let us take the opportunity to live out one of the most fundamental teachings of our tradition. Whether we choose to support our Congregation's work with the local food pantry or national anti-poverty organizations, get-out-the-vote efforts, or helping Israel live up to the values of democracy and pluralism, we must all do our part to strengthen social and economic justice in the world.

Our tradition demands nothing less.

The Shofar of Courage and Hope

by Larry Domnitch

During British mandatory rule over Eretz Yisrael, Jews who ventured to the Western Wall braved adversity. They were subject to frequent harassment by local Arabs who understood its significance to the Jews. They did what they could to make life as difficult as possible for Jewish worshipers there. Then, there were other challenges.

On May 19, 1931, in one of many gestures of appeasement toward the Arabs, the British declared the pavement in front of the Western Wall as Moslem property. Jews were granted free access to pray there as long as the traditional 'Mechitzah' (partition) was not used, and voices were not raised in prayer. In addition, the sounding of the Shofar was prohibited. However, one individual was determined to ensure that the Shofar would be heard at the Western Wall during the most sanctified moment of the Jewish year – the conclusion of Yom Kippur.

A few months later, as Yom Kippur was drawing to a close, as Rabbi Moshe Segal was praying at the Western Wall, he overheard people saying to each other, "Where will we go to hear the Shofar? It's impossible to blow here. They have as many policemen as people." The Rabbi thought to himself, "How can we miss out on this important Shofar that proclaims G-D's sovereignty and echoes the redemption of Israel?"

Rabbi Segal approached Rabbi Yitzchak Horenstein, who served as Rabbi of the group and asked for a Shofar.

"What for?" He asked.

"I'll blow it"

"Sh-h! Sh-h! What are you talking about? Don't you see the police all over?"

"I'll blow it anyway"

The Rabbi turned his face away but cast a glance at a prayer stand at the end of the alley, indicating the Shofar's location.

Rabbi Segal approached the stand, and quietly opened the drawer as he slipped the Shofar into his shirt. Unmarried at the time, he was not wearing a Talit (prayer shawl), so in order to cover the Shofar, he asked another person there to borrow his for cover. Wrapped in the Talit, the "contraband" shofar was safely concealed.

The defiant and determined young Rabbi thought to himself, "All around me, the police hover and a foreign government oppresses and restricts our people even on our holiest day, at our holiest place. But here under this Tallit is a whole other domain. Here I am under the rule of my Father in Heaven. Here I shall do as He commands me, and no force will prevent me."

Rabbi Segal waited anxiously as the final verses of the closing Neilah prayer were pronounced, "Hear O Israel," "Blessed be the name," and "The L-rd is G-D." Mustering all his strength and courage, he foisted the Shofar and sounded a thunderous blast.¹

Immediately, British soldiers converged upon the scene and whisked Rabbi Segal away.

Taken to a prison in the Old City, and placed under guard, the Rabbi's fast continued as he was held without food or water until mid-night. Then, suddenly, orders were received to have him released.

Chief Rabbi Avraham Yitzchak Kook had intervened; he contacted the British High Commissioner and requested Rabbi Segal's release. When his request was denied, he insisted that he would himself not break his fast until Rabbi Segal was released. The High Commissioner replied, "But that man broke a government order," to which Rav Kook replied, "He fulfilled a religious commandment." Finally, after several hours, the High Commissioner relented.

In the following years, others inspired by Rabbi Segal, followed his example and Shofars were sounded at the Western Wall as Yom Kippur ended. Each year, the inevitable arrests had followed. In 1948, when the Arab legions held the Old City and Jewish entry was prohibited, Jews prayed at the conclusion of Yom Kippur, nearby on Mount Zion; the 'Israeli' side of

continued on page 12

¹ This section of the story was adapted from Rabbi Segal's memoirs.

Welcome To Our New Shinshinim continued from page 7

In high school I majored in both physics and media, which included production of documentary films. I really like music and playing the piano and guitar. In addition, I love hand crafting such as knitting, crocheting, embroidery etc. I was also a part of Bnei Hamoshavim youth movement, where I was a counselor for 2 years.

I chose to do this shlichut because it gives me the opportunity to maintain this important connection with the Jewish communities in the diaspora and strengthen it along with having new experiences that will develop my personality. It's an opportunity to spread the Israeli culture as I experience it every day. I'm sure it will be a beautiful adventure that I will not forget and can't wait to start.

Thank you, I really can't wait to start.

Yuval Shahaar

I have a small and very close family. My father Hanan is a police officer and my mom Esther is an artist and English and art teacher. My brother's name is Roi and he is 23 years old and

serves as an officer in the IDF. We live in a small communal village called Gan Ner in the beautiful Gilboa area. I have very good friends with whom I spend a lot of my time.

I studied two majors in high school. The first one was Arabic (reading, writing and talking). My second major was Theater in which I learned acting skills, writing and more. I enjoyed every minute on stage. I have four years of "Hadracha" and volunteering experience in two different organizations – one with disabled children and the second as an instructor and mentor for a group of 30 kids in "Bnai Hamoshavim" youth movement. I like sports very much and playing soccer with my friends. Since I was a little boy I participated in athletic competitions. Music and dancing have a huge part in my life and I enjoy both very much.

I want to do the "Shlichut" because I believe that the best way to learn and understand Israel is to meet an Israeli like me, who grew up in Israel and can tell about it from his point of view. I love to be an instructor and I enjoy it very much. I love Israel and I hope to represent Israel in the best way I can. I want to be a meaningful instructor and "Shaliach" in the community.

Editorial continued from page 11

the city from where the Kotel was visible. They sounded the Shofar there, and prayed for the day when once again, its voice could be heard at the Western Wall.

In June 1967, one of the first acts of the victorious paratroopers at the newly liberated Western Wall was the sounding of the Shofar. At the end of Yom Kippur that year, the man who blew the Shofar at the Kotel was none other than Moshe Segal. His acts of courage and faith eventually had a triumphant finale.

Larry Domnitch is the author of "The Cantonists: The Jewish Children's Army of the Tsar," recently released by Devora Publishing.

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Carol & Carl Samrock in honor of Laura & Jim Sugarman's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Ellen & Robert Gordon in memory of Deborah Deliyannides' father John Deliyannides

Linda & Stephen Stein in memory of Deborah Deliyannides' father, John Deliyannides

Linda & Stephen Stein in memory of Sharon Karp's father, Dr. Alfred Wolfsohn

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Marvin Rosenbaum in honor of Laura & Jim Sugarman's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Marvin Rosenbaum in memory of Regina Young's father Dr. Heinz Munter

Marvin Rosenbaum in honor of Gloria Walkoff's granddaughter's wedding

Marvin Rosenbaum in memory of Sharon Karp's father, Dr. Alfred Wolfsohn

Ellen & Robert Gordon in memory of Sharon Karp's father, Dr. Alfred Wolfsohn

Jayne & David Hirshfield in memory of Sharon Karp's father, Dr. Alfred Wolfsohn

Hilda Schwartz in honor of her family and wishing them a healthy and happy New Year

The Karp family in memory of Dr. Alfred Wolfsohn and his extraordinary life

Doug & Dr. Sharon Karp in appreciation of Ronni and Paul Ginsberg's wonderful kindness and friendship

Doug & Dr. Sharon Karp in honor of Herman London family's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund

Doug & Dr. Sharon Karp in honor of the Schwam family's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund

Doug & Dr. Sharon Karp in honor of the Rossen family's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund

Doug & Dr. Sharon Karp in honor of Marvin Rosenbaum's support of the Kiddush Fund, and his support during Shiva

Doug & Dr. Sharon Karp in honor of the Sherman family's support of the Rosenbaum Kiddush Fund

The Karp Family and the Wolfsohn Family in appreciation of Eric Fanwick's kindness and consideration during Shiva

The Karp Family and the Wolfsohn Family in appreciation of Marvin Rosenbaum's support during Shiva and contribution to Beth El

The Karp Family and the Wolfsohn Family in appreciation of Bob Gordon's support during Shiva and kind contribution to Beth El

The Karp Family and the Wolfsohn Family in appreciation of Linda & Stephen Stein's contribution in memory of Dr. Alfred Wolfsohn

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continued on page 15

The deadline for the Nov./Dec. Bulletin is **October 9**. Please submit articles on disk or via email to bulletins@congbethel.org. All charitable contributions must be submitted to the office by the last day of the month (**September 30**) to be included. Donations made between **August-September** will be included. Charitable contributions to all funds received after the deadline will be included in the following issue's Bulletin Funds listing.

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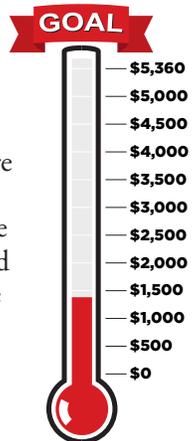
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