



FALL 5778
2017-18

G E S H E R

Washington Heights Congregation

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Happy
Rosh Hashana!

A Message From The Rabbi ...

Elul: We Are All Soldiers

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman

When the Jewish army has amassed for war, the anointed war-priest and his deputy call out various categories of people exempt from conscription. Taken at face value, the following exemption seems to be the most intuitive: **מִי הָאִישׁ הִירָא וּרְךָ הַלֵּבֵב יִלָּךְ**: **וַיֵּשֶׁב לְבֵיתוֹ וְלֹא יִמַּס אֶת לֵבָב אֶחָזוּ כְּלֵבָבוֹ**. If you faint at the sight of blood, your presence in battle might be counterproductive.

The Mishna (Sotah 44a), however, records an astonishing alternative interpretation, that of R. Yose HaGelili: **הִירָא וּרְךָ הַלֵּבֵב** זהו המתיירא מן העבירות שבידו. It does not mean that one is afraid of war per se, but is afraid of one's sins.

Although we may find this surprising, we might be able to wrap our minds around the idea that a heavy-duty sinner should not be in the armed forces. However, the Gemara (44b) notes that according to one opinion, this exemption applies even to one who speaks between putting on the hand-Tefillin and the head-Tefillin. This halacha is surely important, but is lack of care regarding it really sufficient grounds for being excluded from fighting on behalf of God and one's fellow Jews?

Perhaps we can understand this in light of the words of Rambam (Teshuvah 3:2). Sins affect not only the committer, but they affect the spiritual stature of the city in which he or she lives, and of the whole world. The fortunes of each person and locale depend on combined level of merit. If the combined quantity of sins amounts to a critical mass, the place will receive a negative judgment on Rosh Hashana.

Before committing any sin, one must not only be afraid that it will tip the balance of one's personal judgment, but that it will spell bad news for one's surroundings and perhaps for the whole world. You don't know how the rest of the community's merits and transgressions add up – maybe the sin you are about to commit, even a small one, is the one that will push it over the edge for a negative judgment! If you go ahead

(continued next page)

and do it anyway, it displays a certain lack of care, however subtle, for others' welfare.

This idea can help us comprehend what sin has to do with participation in the military. In an army, you have to be a team player. You must always concern yourself with how your actions will impact others. One who sins on any level demonstrates that one cannot keep oneself in check by thinking about how this deed impacts the rest of the "team." Such a person should not participate in battle.

Even outside its army, the Jewish nation is a "team" dedicated to serving God. During Elul, we strive individually and as a community to repent and commit to better behavior in the future. We can look to the rules governing a Jewish army to strengthen our resolve to repent properly, by recognizing that our sins affect not only ourselves. They also are a breach of our responsibility to our community and our people. 🏛️

Shul Events:

The annual Aaron Bulman Memorial Lecture was held this year on Sunday, September 10th. **Rabbi Netanel Wiederblank** spoke about "Teshuva on Sins or Teshuva on Traits: What Are We Truly Seeking to Change?"

We look forward to the **Yomim Noraim**, with **Nafi Schwarzenberger** as our ba'al shacharit, **Avi Heinberg** as our ba'al tokea and, as he has been for the past several years, **Shmuel Gilbert** as ba'al musaf.

מזל טוב / Congratulations

To **Rabbi Yaakov & Giti Hoffman** on the birth of a daughter and to **Pesachya** on the arrival of a sister

Sonya Jacobs on the engagement of a granddaughter, **Jessica (Yocheved) Jacobs**, to **Ira Fox**, and to Jessica's parents, **Dr. Baruch & Mrs. Robin Jacobs**

To **Dvora Hersh** on the birth of twin grandchildren (a boy and a girl) and to the parents, **Chaim & Rebecca Hersh**

To **Ina Sondheim** on the marriage of her grandson, **Shmulie Sondheim** to **Shelly Silverstein**, and to his parents, **David & Carol Sondheim**

To **Dvora Hersh** on the engagement of her daughter **Shanna** to **Joel Mann**

To **Moxé Meiri**, his mother **Helena**, and his entire family, on his becoming Bar Mitzvah

To **Sonya Jacobs** on the wedding of a grandson, **Dovid Horowitz**, to **Shaindy Franklin**, and to Dovid's parents, **Nechama & Tovia Horowitz**

To **Amitai Saiger** and his family on his graduation from Beit Rabban Day School

To **Shelley Bulman** on the 8th grade graduation from SAR of her granddaughter **Ariella Bulman**, and to Ariella's parents, **Pinny & Melissa Bulman**

Kiddush Sponsors:

June 24, Rosh Chodesh Tammuz/Korach: **Helena Meiri** in celebration of **Moxé's** Bar Mitzvah

July 1, Chukat: **Yeshaya Sanchez Soto & Esther Rodriguez** in celebration of **Elaine Manning's** special birthday

July 8, Balak: **Morris & Laura Whitcup** in honor of the **Treitel Family**

July 15, Pinchas: **Charlie & Marjorie Gregor** in celebration of the 4th birthday of their grandson **Noach Gregor**

August 5, Shabbat Nachamu/Vaetchanan: **Michael Rapaport** on the 10th yearzeit of his mother, **Leah bat Mordechai**

August 12, Eikev: **Gary & May Deutsch**

August 19, Re'eh: **Joseph Ainbinder** on the yearzeit of his father, **Abraham Ainbinder (Avraham ben Zion HaLevi)**

August 26, Shoftim: Elaine Manning, Yeshaya Sanchez Soto & Esther Rodriguez, and Shuli Berger & Jai Zion, in celebration of Freda Birnbaum's birthday

September 2, Ki Teitzei: Abe & Nancy Sclar welcoming David, Yafit, Noa, Avi and Ayala back from their trip to Israel

September 9, Ki Tavo: Morris & Laura Whitcup on the yahrzeit of Morris's mother, Cecilia B. Whitcup

If you are interested in sponsoring a Kiddush, please call the Shul office (212) 923-4407

Condolences to:

We regret to inform you of the passing of long-time member Sheva Shtaygrad o"n.

We regret to inform you of the passing of the father of Rachel Reiss, Rabbi Israel Reiss o"n.

May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem
המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

A New Sefer Torah For The First Time

Mitzvah 613 of the taryag mitzvot is for every Jew to participate in the writing of a Sefer Torah: "Therefore write down this poem and teach it to the people of Israel." (Dvarim 31:19)

The Board of the Washington Heights Congregation has authorized the writing of a new Sefer Torah for the first time in our collective memory! Not only will the Sefer be aesthetically beautiful; it is also being written in a halachically-desirable way, on full parchment (gvil) with new, technologically-advanced ink that does not fade or crack. We anticipate that this new Sefer Torah will enable us to fulfill the mitzvah of Kri'at HaTorah – reading the weekly Torah portion – without the interruptions and need for repairs that we have recently experienced due to flaws in our aging Torah scrolls.

The commissioning of this Sefer Torah is a significant milestone in the long history of our kehillah and we now offer you the opportunity of joining us in this mitzvah. You can participate by sponsoring a Sefer, Parshah, Maftir, special section, verse, or letter. Don't miss this unique opportunity! The submission form can be found on our website www.bridgeshul.com or by calling our shul office at 212-923-4407.

Save The Date

The ceremony of Hachnasat Sefer Torah is scheduled for Sunday, November 5th, at 2 PM in the TTC at Mt. Sinai. Details to follow.

Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

Fall 5778

Zmanim subject to change: please consult the website and weekly e-mails for the latest times

SHABBAT PARASHAT NITZAVIM-VAYEILECH

SEPTEMBER 15-16

Candle Lighting	6:47
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:55
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:45
Maariv/Havdalah	7:44

EREV ROSH HASHANA

WED., SEPTEMBER 20

Candle Lighting	6:39
Mincha/Maariv	6:45

ROSH HASHANA DAY 1

THUR., SEPTEMBER 21

Shacharit	7:40
Shofar (approx.)	9:45
Service ends (approx.)	12:15
Mincha	6:40
Maariv	7:36
Candle lighting Day 2 not before	7:36

ROSH HASHANA DAY 2

FRI., SEPTEMBER 22

Shacharit	7:40
Shofar (approx.)	9:45
Service ends (approx.)	12:15

SHABBAT SHUVA PARASHAT HA'AZINU

SEPTEMBER 22-23

Shabbat Candle Lighting	6:35
Mincha/Maariv	6:40
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:10
Maariv/Havdalah	7:32

FAST OF GEDALIAH SUN., SEPTEMBER 24

Fast begins	5:14
Fast ends	7:23

YOM KIPPUR

SEPTEMBER 29-30

Candle Lighting	6:24
Kol Nidre	6:30
Maariv	7:15
Shacharit (with Yizkor)	8:10
Mincha	4:15
Neilah	5:50
Maariv/Havdalah	7:20

EREV SUKKOT

WED., OCTOBER 4

Candle Lighting	6:15
Mincha/Maariv	6:25
Kiddush not before	7:06

SUKKOT DAY 1

THUR., OCTOBER 5

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:20
Maariv	7:12
Candle Lighting Day 2 not before	7:12

SUKKOT DAY 2

FRI., OCTOBER 6

Shacharit	8:40
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SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED

OCTOBER 6-7

Shabbat Candle Lighting	6:12
Mincha/Maariv	6:15
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:50
Maariv/Havdalah	7:09

SHMINI ATZERET**WED.-THUR., OCTOBER 11-12**

Candle Lighting	6:04
Mincha/Maariv	6:10
Kiddush not before	6:55
Shacharit (with Yizkor)	8:40
Mincha	6:10

SIMCHAT TORAH**THUR.-FRI., OCTOBER 12-13**

Candle Lighting not before	7:01
Maariv	7:01
Shacharit	8:20

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM**BERESHIT****OCTOBER 13-14**

Candle Lighting	6:01
Mincha/Maariv	6:05
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:00
Maariv/Havdalah	6:58

ROSH CHODESH CHESHVAN**PARASHAT NOACH****OCTOBER 20-21**

Candle Lighting	5:50
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:45
Maariv/Havdalah	6:48

SHABBAT PARASHAT LECH**LECHA****OCTOBER 27-28**

Candle Lighting	5:40
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:50
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:40
Maariv/Havdalah	6:39

SHABBAT PARASHAT VAYERA**NOVEMBER 3-4**

Candle Lighting	5:32
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:40
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:30
Maariv/Havdalah	6:31

SHABBAT PARASHAT**CHAYEI SARA****NOVEMBER 10-11**

Candle Lighting	4:24
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:30
Shacharit	8:25
Mincha	4:20
Maariv/Havdalah	5:24

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM**PARASHAT TOLDOT****NOVEMBER 17-18**

Candle Lighting	4:18
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:25
Shacharit	8:30
Mincha	4:15
Maariv/Havdalah	5:19

SHABBAT PARASHAT**VAYETZEI****NOVEMBER 24-25**

Candle Lighting	4:13
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit	8:35
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Havdalah	5:15

SHABBAT PARASHAT**VAYISHLACH****DECEMBER 1-2**

Candle Lighting	4:11
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Havdalah	5:13



**SHABBAT PARASHAT
VAYESHEV
DECEMBER 8-9**

Candle Lighting	4:10
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:15
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Havdalah	5:13

**CHANUKAH
SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
MIKETZ
DECEMBER 15-16**

Earliest Chanukah Candles	3:40
Candle Lighting	4:11
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit	8:30
Midday	11:51
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Havdalah	5:15

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
VAYIGASH
DECEMBER 22-23**

Candle Lighting	4:13
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:15
Maariv/Havdalah	5:18

**FAST OF TEVET
THUR., DECEMBER 28**

Fast begins	5:31
Fast ends	5:12

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
VAYECHI
DECEMBER 29-30**

Candle Lighting	4:18
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:25
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:15
Maariv/Havdalah	5:22

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