



FALL
2019/5780

G E S H E R

Washington Heights Congregation

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A Message From The Rabbi ...

Spiritual Snooze Button

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman

The actual mitzvah to blow Shofar is, of course, on Rosh Hashana. The custom, however, is to blow the Shofar daily for the entire preceding month of Elul.

Contrast this with Passover. The Torah mandates eating matzah on the first night. Following the pattern of Rosh Hashana and Elul, we should begin to eat a bit of matzah daily starting a month before Pesach – i.e., just after Purim.

In reality, the opposite is true. *Halacha* forbids eating matzah on Erev Pesach to ensure the experience is fresh and special at the Seder. In order to heighten the anticipation, many people have the minhag to refrain from eating any matzah for a longer period leading up to Passover – some as long as a month beforehand.


These customs are seemingly contradictory. In anticipation of Passover, we avoid matzah so as not to spoil our appetite for the actual fulfillment of the mitzvah. Approaching Rosh Hashana, we make it a point to perform the holiday's unique observance every day. Shouldn't we be concerned that we will become inured to the Shofar and less able to appreciate it at the main event?

There is a fundamental difference between matzah and Shofar. Matzah is a food; something we may even enjoy, but at least something we can get used to. The blast of the Shofar, on the other hand, is supposed to awaken us from our spiritual slumber and move us to repent (cf. Rambam, *Hilchos Teshuvah* 3:4). Shofar is like a religious alarm clock, if you will. No one gets used to an alarm clock – it wakes you up no matter how many times you hear it.

Although we may wake up when hearing an alarm, we sometimes press the snooze button. Unfortunately, the same is true when we hear the Shofar. The sound of the Shofar moves us; at any given time when we hear it, however, we may not harness the inspiration to repent as much as we should.

(continued next page)

Sounding the Shofar for a month gives us many opportunities to hit the spiritual snooze button. Not that doing so is ideal, but in reality it is likely to happen. But just as with physical slumber, we can hit the snooze button on our spiritual slumber only so many times before we eventually realize it's really time to wake up.

The more we hear the Shofar before Rosh Hashana, the more likely it is that one of the blasts during Elul will catch us in a receptive frame of mind – when we might hesitate to touch the snooze button – and make us really commit to changing our behavior for the better. Then, when we hear the “real” Shofar blasts on Rosh Hashana, we will be in an even better position to realize that we have come to the end of snoozing. We need to wake up and do Teshuvah – now. 

Shul Events:

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

We are delighted to announce that **Rabbi Ezra Schwartz** will be giving his **Shabbat afternoon Gemara shiur** under the auspices of the Bridge Shul beginning after Sukkot. Details to follow.

The Bridge shul extends a warm welcome to **Rabbi Yaakov Taubes**, the new rabbi at Mt Sinai, and to his family. **ברוכים הבאים**

מזל טוב / Congratulations

To **Michelle Bender** on her special birthday

To **Isaac (Yitzi) Wolf** on his graduation, cum laude, from Binghamton University

Kiddush Sponsors:

June 29, Sh'lach: Brad & Jenny Nassau

July 27, Pinchas: Michelle Bender, in celebration of her special birthday

Aug. 3, Matot-Masei: Charlie & Marjorie Gregor, in celebration of the 6th birthday of their grandson, Noah Gregor

Aug. 24, Eikev: Michael Rapoport, on the 12th yearzeit of his mother, Leya Rapoport

Aug. 31, Re'eh: Ira & Sara Saiger, in celebration of the b'nai mitzvah of their sons, Amitai and Uriel

Sept. 7, Shoftim: Yoseph Ainbinder, on the yearzeit of his father, Avraham Ainbinder

Sept. 14, Ki Tetze: Morris & Laura Whitcup, on the yearzeit of Morris's mother, Cecilia B. Whitcup

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

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was founded in 1974 to serve seniors of all ethnicities in Washington Heights and Inwood – two communities which contain the highest percentage of seniors in the New York area. Moriah creates an atmosphere of warmth, comfort and emotional support as it serves fresh, nutritious, hot lunches daily to approximately 100 seniors.

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The program includes nutrition education, music, discussion groups, craft classes, chair dancing, movies, computer lab and computer education, exercise and bingo. We also feature a book club and periodic concerts. Holiday parties and birthday parties are an integral part of our program.

This year, we expanded our program to include a Wellness Project, offering weekly yoga classes and monthly massage therapy sessions.

For more information and/or to receive their e-mail news letter please go to <http://www.moriahseniorcenter.org> or call 212-923-5715

Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

Fall 2019 / 5780

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

SHABBAT PARASHAT NITZAVIM

SEPTEMBER 27-28

Candle Lighting	6:27
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:35
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:25
Maariv/Havdalah	7:24

EREV ROSH HASHANA SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Candle Lighting	6:24
Mincha/Maariv	6:25

ROSH HASHANA DAY 1 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Shacharit	7:40
Shofar	approx. 9:45
Conclusion of services	approx. 12:15
Mincha	6:25
Maariv	7:20
Candle Lighting from an existing flame not before	7:20

ROSH HASHANA DAY 2 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Shacharit	7:40
Shofar	approx. 9:45
Conclusion of services	approx. 12:15
Mincha	6:25
Maariv/Havdalah	7:19

FAST OF GEDALIAH WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Fast begins	4:59
Fast ends	7:10

SHABBAT SHUVA PARASHAT VAYEILECH

OCTOBER 4-5

Candle Lighting	6:15
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:25
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:50
Maariv/Havdalah	7:12

EREV YOM KIPPUR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Candle Lighting	6:09
Kol Nidrei	6:15
Maariv	7:00

YOM KIPPUR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Shacharit	8:10
Yizkor	approx. 11:15
Mincha	4:00
Neilah	5:35
Maariv/Havdalah	7:06

SHABBAT PARASHAT HA'AZINU

OCTOBER 11-12

Candle Lighting	6:04
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:10
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:00
Maariv/Havdalah	7:01

EREV SUKKOT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Candle Lighting	6:01
Mincha/Maariv	6:05
Shema and Kiddush	after 6:52

SUKKOT DAY 1
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:05
Maariv	6:58
Candle Lighting from an existing flame after	6:58

SUKKOT DAY 2
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:05
Maariv/Havdalah	6:57

SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED
SUKKOT

OCTOBER 18-19

Candle Lighting	5:53
Mincha/Maariv	6:00
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:30
Maariv/Havdalah	6:51

SHMINI ATZERET
SUNDAY-MONDAY,
OCTOBER 20-21

Candle Lighting	5:50
Mincha/Maariv	5:55
Shema and Kiddush	after 6:42
Shacharit with Yizkor	8:40
Mincha	5:55
Hakafot immediately following Mincha	
Candle Lighting from an existing flame after	6:48
Maariv	approx. 6:55

SIMCHAT TORAH
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Shacharit (note early start)	8:20
Mincha	5:55
Maariv/Havdalah	6:47

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
PARASHAT BERESHIT
OCTOBER 25-26

Candle Lighting	5:43
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:50
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:40
Maariv/Havdalah	6:41

SHABBAT PARASHAT
NOACH

NOVEMBER 1-2

Candle Lighting	5:34
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:40
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:30
Maariv/Havdalah	6:33

SHABBAT PARASHAT
LECH LECHA
NOVEMBER 8-9

Candle Lighting	4:26
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:35
Shacharit (note early start)	8:25
Mincha	4:25
Maariv/Havdalah	5:26

SHABBAT PARASHAT
VAYERA

NOVEMBER 15-16

Candle Lighting	4:20
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:25
Shacharit (note early start)	8:30
Mincha	4:15
Maariv/Havdalah	5:20

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
PARASHAT CHAYEI SARA
NOVEMBER 22-23

Candle Lighting	4:15
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit (note early start)	8:35
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Havdalah	5:16

SHABBAT PARASHAT
TOLDOT

NOVEMBER 29-30

Candle Lighting	4:11
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Havdalah	5:14

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
VAYETZEI**

DECEMBER 6-7

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

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
VAYISHLACH**

DECEMBER 13-14

Candle Lighting	4:10
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Havdalah	5:17

**SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
PARASHAT VAYESHEV**

DECEMBER 20-21

Candle Lighting	4:13
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Havdalah	5:17

**SHABBAT CHANUKAH
ROSH CHODESH TEVET
PARASHAT MIKETZ**

DECEMBER 27-28

Earliest Chanukah Candles	3:45
Candle Lighting	4:17
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:25
Shacharit (note early start)	8:30
Mincha	4:15
Maariv/Havdalah	5:21

If you have any questions or needs,
please call the Shul office at **(212) 923-4407**
The answering machine is checked frequently.
You may also consult our website at www.bridgeshul.com



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The Eruv

Information about the boundaries of the Washington Heights and YU Eruvin can be found at http://images.shulcloud.com/131/attachments/6279_DOC082112-003.pdf.

Note that the eruv does not extend into Fort Tryon Park or Gorman Park.

Find the CURRENT STATUS of both eruvin at <http://www.mtsinaishul.com/>, or call 646-450-ERUV, or send a text message (SMS) to 412-213-8991. If only the YU eruv is listed as unchecked, check www.yueruv.org closer to Shabbat, or listen to announcements in shul on Friday night.



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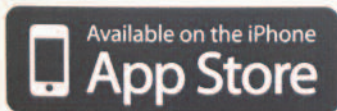
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