



WINTER 5776
2015-16

G E S H E R

Washington Heights Congregation

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A Message From The Rabbi ...

Shofar and Others

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman

Rav Nosson Tzvi Finkel, the late, beloved Mirrer Rosh Yeshiva, once reflected that everyone wants to know what special spiritual focus, *kavvanah*, they should have while listening to the Shofar. He offered a suggestion of his own: during the Shofar blasts, focus on someone else.

While focusing on another is always an excellent idea, what was Rav Nosson Tzvi getting at by connecting this to the mitzvah of Shofar specifically? I think it may be related to the Rambam's famous statement that **שׁוֹפָר רָמַז י' שׁ בָּו**: although the Shofar is a divine decree, we can try to find a rational reason for it as well – it is like an alarm clock to wake us up from our spiritual slumber and encourage us to repent.

But we have the day of Rosh Hashana itself and the recitation of Selichot to do this, so why the Shofar also? I think the answer may be that during the prayers and activities of Rosh Hashana, we are “doing stuff.” However connected to God we feel during this time, the days can be so hectic that we miss being attuned to the needs of those around us.

It is during the Shofar specifically that we must pause and contemplate, listening passively rather than being active. Thus it provides a particularly good opportunity during this busy season to truly “listen” to what others are telling us and focus on what we can do for our fellow people. 🏙️



Upcoming Events:

We look forward to the Yomim Noraim, with **Leibie Sternberg** as our ba'al shacharit and, as he has been for the past two years, **Shmuel Gilbert** as ba'al musaf.

Plans for the fall include having a scholar-in-residence and a film program. Details will be announced after the yom tovim.

מזל טוב / Congratulations

To **Dvora Hersh** on the marriage of her son **Chaim** to **Rebecca Gotlib**
To **Rabbi Yaakov & Giti Hoffman** and all of their families on the birth of **פנתחיה/Pesachya (Steven Paul)**

To **Rabbi Dr. Ben Elton** and **Hinda Young** on their marriage. They will be moving to Sydney, Australia, where he will be the Chief Minister at the Great Synagogue.

Kiddush Sponsors:

August 1, Shabbat Nachmu: **Morris & Laura Whitcup**

August 15, Re'eh: **Marjorie & Charlie Gregor** to celebrate the upcoming marriage of **Hinda Young** and **Rabbi Ben Elton**, our former rabbinical intern

August 22, Shoftim: **Margot Fein** on the yahrzeit of her grandmother **Anna Finestone**

August 29, Ki Teitzei: **Morris & Laura Whitcup** on the yahrzeit of his mother **Cecilia B. Whitcup**

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

טובת / Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery

Mrs. Trude Kahn
Mrs. Rivka Rosenberg

Mr. Ira Schatten
Mrs. Sheva Shtaygrud

Condolences to:

Condolences to the family of our long-time member **Betty Hecker** o”h
Condolences to **Babette Seidenberg** and her family on the passing of her mother **Mrs. Oestreicher** o”h

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

Sefer Ha-Chinuch Shiur

Rabbi Hoffman leads a fascinating class on Sefer HaChinuch. The weekly shiur meets Sundays at 9 am in the downstairs conference room of Mt. Sinai Jewish Center. The shiur is currently on hiatus for the Yomim Tovim and will next meet after Sukkot, on Sunday, October 11. Come and join us!

The Sefer HaChinuch is a classic exposition of all the mitzvot in the Torah, in the order of the parshiyot. The class is appropriate for all levels of Judaic background. In addition to reading and translating the text, Rabbi Hoffman discusses sources and issues related to the laws derived from each week's Torah portion. Participants may submit questions in advance to rabbihoff@gmail.com.

Past shiurim can be found on [yutorah.org](http://www.yutorah.org) at:
http://www.yutorah.org/Rabbi_Yaakov_Hoffman.

Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

Winter 5776

SHABBAT PARASHAT KI TAVO

SEPTEMBER 4-5

Candle lighting	7:06
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:05
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:04

SHABBAT PARASHAT NITZAVIM

SEPTEMBER 11-12

Candle lighting	6:54
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:50
Maariv/Shabbat ends	7:51

EREV ROSH HASHANA SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Candle lighting	6:51
Mincha/Maariv	7:00

ROSH HASHANA DAY 1 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Shacharit	7:40
Tashlich	
Mincha	6:50
Maariv/Candle lighting	7:48

No preparation for Day 2 before 7:48

ROSH HASHANA DAY 2 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Shacharit	7:40
Mincha	6:50
Maariv/Havdalah	7:46

FAST OF GEDALIA WEDNESDAY,

SEPTEMBER 16

Fast begins	4:54
Fast ends	7:37

SHABBAT SHUVA PARASHAT VAYEILECH

SEPTEMBER 18-19

Candle lighting	6:42
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:50
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:20
(followed by a special shiur)	
Maariv/Shabbat ends	7:39

YOM KIPPUR TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY,

SEPTEMBER 22-23

Mincha with Mt. Sinai	
Candle lighting	6:35
Kol Nidrei	6:45
Maariv	7:30
Shacharit	8:10
Mincha	4:25
Neilah	6:00
Maariv/Fast ends	7:32

SHABBAT PARASHAT HA'AZINU

SEPTEMBER 25-26

Candle lighting	6:30
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:40
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:25
Maariv/Shabbat ends	7:27

EREV SUKKOT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Candle lighting	6:27
Mincha/Maariv	6:35
Kiddush not before	7:18

SUKKOT DAY 1

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:30
Maariv/Candle lighting	7:24

No preparation for Day 2 before 7:24

SUKKOT DAY 2

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:30
Maariv/Havdalah	7:22

SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED

OCTOBER 2-3

Candle lighting	6:19
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:25
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:55
Maariv/Shabbat ends	7:15

EREV SHMINI ATZERET

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

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

SHMINI ATZERET

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

Shacharit	8:40 with Yizkor
Mincha	6:20
Maariv/Candle lighting	7:12

No preparation for Simchat Torah before 7:12

SIMCHAT TORAH

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Shacharit	8:20
Mincha	6:15
Maariv/Havdalah	7:11

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM

PARASHAT BERESHIT

OCTOBER 9-10

Candle lighting	6:07
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:15
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:05
Maariv/Shabbat ends	7:04

SHABBAT PARASHAT

NOACH

OCTOBER 16-17

Candle lighting	5:56
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:05
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:55
Maariv/Shabbat ends	6:54

SHABBAT PARASHAT

LECH LECHA

OCTOBER 23-24

Candle lighting	5:46
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:55
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:45
Maariv/Shabbat ends	6:44

SHABBAT PARASHAT

VAYERA

OCTOBER 30-31

Candle lighting	5:37
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:45
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:35
Maariv/Shabbat ends	6:35

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM

PARASHAT CHAYEI SARA

NOVEMBER 6-7

Candle lighting	4:28
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:35
Shacharit (Note change)	8:30
Mincha	4:25
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:28

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
TOLDOT**

NOVEMBER 13-14

Candle lighting	4:21
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:30
Shacharit (Note change)	8:30
Mincha	4:20
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:22

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
VAYETZEI**

NOVEMBER 20-21

Candle lighting	4:16
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:25
Shacharit (Note change)	8:35
Mincha	4:15
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:17

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
VAYISHLACH**

NOVEMBER 27-28

Candle lighting	4:12
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:14

**SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
PARASHAT VAYESHEV**

DECEMBER 4-5

Candle lighting	4:10
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:13

**SHABBAT CHANUKAH
ROSH CHODESH TEVET
PARASHAT MIKETZ**

DECEMBER 11-12

Earliest Chanukah candles	3:40
Shabbat candle lighting	4:10
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:15
Shacharit (Note change)	8:30
Midday	11:49
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:14

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
VAYIGASH**

DECEMBER 18-19

Candle lighting	4:12
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:16

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
VAYECHI**

DECEMBER 25-26

Candle lighting	4:15
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:25
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:15
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:19



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



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of the
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call the Eruv Hotline:
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