



WINTER 5775  
2014-15

# G E S H E R

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS CONGREGATION

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שנה טובה ואברכת

Happy New Year  
from

The Washington Heights Congregation



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## *A Message From The Rabbi ...*

# “Facing Challenges”

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman


**F**or the most part, Judaism does not officially judge people based on their background and ancestry. For example, Shmaya and Avtalyon, two of the greatest Tannaim, were converts, and R' Akiva was a 'Baal Teshuvah.' Therefore, it should come as a surprise that our Parsha proscribes Amonites and Moabites from ever joining the Jewish people. Perhaps it is to assuage this surprise that the Torah, unlike its usual practice, feels the need to explain the reason for this mitzvah: “Because they did not greet you with bread and water on your way out of Egypt.”

But why was this so bad? In fact, we didn't even really need their help! During the period of the desert, God provided us with food and water.

The Beis Yosef explains that the fact that they didn't even offer their help was a reflection of their extremely poor character on a national level. This prevents them from joining the Jewish people because the very nation represents lack of concern for others, which is the very antithesis of what the Jewish people stand for.

We should bear this in mind when contemplating our behavior as born or current Jews. If we don't even allow converts from such a nation because their principles are so repugnant, what does it say about us if we fail to devote ourselves to performing acts of kindness to others?

The Torah chides the Amonites and Moabites for failing to “greet us” with bread and water, not just their failure to provide it. We must fulfill one of our main roles in life as Jews not just by grudgingly acceding to requests for help, but we must try to discern in advance what people need and offer it.

May our resolve to increase our kindness to others be a merit to us to be inscribed in the book of life this Rosh Hashana. 

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# Shul Events:

## Summer Update:

As we prepare for our first Rosh HaShanah of the post-Pinehurst era, Washington Heights Congregation can look back on our time so far in Mt. Sinai's Center for Torah & Tefilah Center with a sense of satisfaction and optimism. Throughout the summer we made all our Shabbat minyanim – a little narrowly at times, but consistently nonetheless.

Furthermore, while retaining most of the familiar faces from our previous location, we have welcomed several new friends. And as the autumn brings even more newcomers to the community, we are planning to greet them with a series of fun, inspiring, enlightening events.

## Events Past and Future:

Since moving into our new space in late May, WHC has maintained its tradition of weekly post-Mussaf kiddushim (some of them enhanced with cholent – thanks to the indispensable **Ilse Gruenspecht!**).

The September 2nd (Ki Tetzei) sit-down kiddush, sponsored by **Morris and Laura Whitcup**, featured a pair of speakers on the general theme of balabatishkayt: Y.U. archivist **Shuli Berger** showed how advertisements in the Yiddish press reflected the courtship of Jewish and American values, while our own **Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman** tackled the age-old question: “Jello – the Jewish Energy Food?”

It was a fascinating program, but merely the prelude to what the coming months offer. On November 2nd at 3 p.m. **Pinny Bulman** will read from his remarkable series of poems inspired in part by growing up in our old shul.

The following Friday, November 7th, we will host a dinner with our Rabbi Emeritus, **Ellis Bloch**, visiting from Israel, as the featured speaker.

And beyond that, we are looking forward to our annual Friday night Chinese banquet on December 26th. That's just for beginners: please check our website for more details and other events.

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## Chagim:

Of course, before everything else, we look forward to the Fall chagim, beginning this week. Please join us in our new space in the lower level of Mt. Sinai. **Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman** will lead services, and the chazzanim who were so superb last year, **Shmuel Gilbert** and **Daniel Baum**, will return to the amud. For times, check the attached schedule.

The shul will not organize meals for Sukkot this year. However, we will be able to use Mt. Sinai's sukkahs. Our kiddushim will be offered in the sukkah immediately outside the Torah and Tefilla Center. For seudot, you're welcome to bring your own food and join those of us who will be eating meals there!

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## מזל טוב / Congratulations

**Gloria and Max Spira** on the birth of two great-granddaughters

**Sidney and Sandy Goldschmidt** on the Bar Mitzvah of a grandson

**Sonia Jacobs** on the birth of a great-granddaughter and a wedding of a granddaughter

**Sue-Rae Rosenfeld** and **Frank Balazs**, our new Bulletin Editors

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## רפואה שלמה / Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery

**Mr. Gary Deutsch**

**Mrs. Trude Kahn**

**Mrs. Esther Morgenstern**

**Mrs. Rivka Rosenberg**

**Mr. Ira Schatten**

**Mr. Heinz Sondheim**

**Mr. Martin Spier**

**Mrs. Monica Spier**

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## Kiddush Sponsors:

**August 9th, Shabbat Nachamu:** Charles and Marjorie Gregor, Margot Fein, Laura and Morris Whitcup in honor of Tzahal

**August 23rd, Parshat Re'eh:** Harry Epstein in honor of Ari Tawil and family

**September 6th, Parshat Ki-Tetze:** Laura and Morris Whitcup lavish sit-down Kiddush on the Yahrzeit of Morris's Mother

**September 13th, Parshat Ki Tavo:** Margot Fein on the yahrzeit of her maternal grandmother Anna Finestone

**September 20th, Parshat Nitzavim/Vayelech:** Aharon and Avigail Charnov

**September 27th, Parshat Haazinu, Shabbat Shuva:** Rabbi Yaakov and Giti Hoffman

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## Welcome New Member:

Carla Hanauer

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## Condolences to:

**Eric and Pam Goldschmidt, Sidney and Sandy Goldschmidt, Debby and Marc Blechner** on the loss of their mother, **Ilse Goldschmidt**

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# Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

## Rosh Hashana-Hanukkah 5775

### EREV ROSH HASHANA, SEPTEMBER 24

Candle Lighting	6:31
Mincha	6:40
Shma after	7:22

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### ROSH HASHANA DAY 1, SEPTEMBER 25

Shacharit	7:40
Tashlich	5:45
Mincha	6:35
Maariv/Candle Lighting	7:28
No Prep for Second Day before	7:28

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### ROSH HASHANA DAY 2, SEPTEMBER 26

Shacharit	7:40
Candle Lighting	6:28
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:30
Shma after	7:20

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### SHABBAT SHUVAH, SEPTEMBER 27

Shacharit with Drasha	8:40
Mincha (followed by a special shiur)	6:05
Maariv/Shabbat ends	7:25

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### FAST OF GEDALIAH, SEPTEMBER 28

Fast begins	5:18
Fast ends	7:15

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### YOM KIPPUR / SHABBAT, OCTOBER 3-4

Mincha (with MSJC)	1:20 or 4:15
Candle Lighting	6:16
Kol Nidrei	6:25

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Maariv	7:10
Shacharit	8:10
Maariv/Fast ends	7:13

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### EREV SUKKOT, OCTOBER 8

Candle Lighting	6:08
Mincha	6:20
Shma/Kiddush after	7:00

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### SUKKOT DAY 1, OCTOBER 9

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:15
Maariv/Candle Lighting	7:05
No Prep for Second Day before	7:05

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### SUKKOT DAY 2, OCTOBER 10

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:15
Shma after	6:55

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### SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED, OCTOBER 11

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:00
Maariv/Shabbat ends	7:02

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### EREV SHMINI ATZERET, OCTOBER 15

Candle Lighting	5:57
Mincha	6:05
Shma/Kiddush after	6:50

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### SHMINI ATZERET, OCTOBER 16

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:00
Maariv/Candle Lighting	6:55
No Prep for Second Day before	6:55

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**SIMCHAT TORAH, OCTOBER 17**

Candle Lighting	5:54
Shacharit	TBA
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00
Shma after	6:45

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**SHABBAT PARASHAT BEREISHIT,  
OCTOBER 18**

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:50
Maariv/Shabbat ends	6:52

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**SHABBAT PARASHAT NOACH /  
ROSH CHODESH MARCHESHVAN,  
OCTOBER 24-25**

Candle Lighting	5:44
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:55
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:40
Maariv/Shabbat ends	6:42

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**SHABBAT PARASHAT LECH LECHA,  
OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1**

Candle Lighting	5:35
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:45
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:35
Maariv/Shabbat ends	6:34

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**SHABBAT PARASHAT VAYERA,  
NOVEMBER 7-8**

Candle Lighting	4:27
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:35
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:25
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:27

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**SHABBAT PARASHAT CHAYEI  
SARAH, NOVEMBER 14-15**

Candle Lighting	4:20
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:30
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:20
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:21

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**SHABBAT PARASHAT TOLDOT,  
NOVEMBER 21-22**

Candle Lighting	4:15
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:25
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:15
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:16

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**SHABBAT PARASHAT VAYEITZEL,  
NOVEMBER 28-29**

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

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**SHABBAT PARASHAT  
VAYISHLACH,  
DECEMBER 5-6**

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

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**SHABBAT PARASHAT VAYESHEV,  
DECEMBER 12-13**

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

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**SHABBAT PARASHAT  
MIKEITZ/CHANUKAH,  
DECEMBER 19-20**

Chanukah Candles not before	3:40
Candle Lighting	4:12
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:20
Shacharit	8:30
Mincha	4:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	5:16

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