# A NEW QUARTERLY JOURNAL PROVIDING A WINDOW INTO WHAT IS HAPPENING AT CONGREGATION AHAVATH TORAH



סתיו תשפ"א/ Fall 2020

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WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY AND SWEET NEW YEAR!

CAT CHALANOT BULLETIN PREVIOUS AND CURRENT VERSIONS ON-LINE:

www.ahavathtorah.org/bulletin

## THE FALL EDITION

## MESSAGE FROM RABBI POUPKO, SENIOR RABBI

There is an idea in business theory called disruptive innovation. This is when a new business model or product creates a new market and, in the process, disrupts an existing market. Think of Uber and its impact on established transportation businesses.

The current pandemic is 'novel' and has been highly disruptive. Daily life for most has been radically changed or disrupted. Our communal Jewish practice, grounded heavily congregating together, has been and is recovering upended gradually. The articles already appearing in the Jewish media about the challenges facing Jewish institutions, shuls chiefly among them. The need for innovation in the face of such disruption is critical not just to the continuity of our community but, more importantly, to our individual spiritual lives.

Despite the novelty of our situation, though, I am reminded of the wisdom of Kohelet, whom we will be reading soon on Sukkot. Kohelet observed:

יֵשׁ דָּבָר שֶׁיאׁמַר רְאֵה זֶה חָדָשׁ הוּא כְּבָר הָיָה לְעֹלָמִים אֲשֶׁר הָיָה מִלְפָנֵנוּ. אֵין זִכְרוֹן לָרָאשׁׁנִים וְגַם לָאַחֲרֹנִים שָׁיִהְיוּ לֹא יִהְיֶה לָהֶם זִכָּרוֹן עִם שֵׁיִהִיוּ לָאַחֵרֹנָה.

Sometimes there is a phenomenon of which they say, "Look, this one is new!"—it occurred long since, in ages that went by before us. The earlier ones are not remembered; so too those that will occur later will no more be remembered than those that will occur at the very end.

The Jewish people have faced enormous, community-wide ruptures in our long, often difficult, history. Indeed, the most important foundation of our people – the Beit haMikdash – was destroyed not once but twice. And still we not only

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## MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL RATZKER, PRESIDENT



Following Tisha Haftorah Nachamu Nachamu Ami or **Comfort** Comfort, Mv

**People** as we prepare for the next seven weeks of consolation.

Like many of you who were young adults in the eighties, I remember Shabbat Nachamu as a time spent with close friends in the Catskills at the famous Grossingers Hotel. There we would feast, golf, attend shows and spend countless hours sipping cocktails while socializing with other singles in the Pink Elephant lounge.



As I matured, my focus shifted from Lou Goldstien's Simon Sez to Isaiah's the significance of powerful words Nachamu **Nachamu Ami**. While several offer different commentators explanations to these words. I have recently gravitated to the one that resonates most with me.

As president of this venerable institution, I was drawn to the commentary that emphasizes the words My people.

As a nation, we are comforted when Hashem refer to us as His **people**. The three weeks prior to Shabbat Nachamu characterized by a period of mourning over the destruction of the Beit Hamikdash culminating in Michaelratzker99@gmail.com Tisha B'av. In Megilat Eicha, B'nai Yisrael is depicted as a widow, feeling abandoned and possibly even ignored by God. Once we hear

Hashem refer to us as "My People," b'Av, we read the we are instantly comforted at being reunited with Him.

> This year with the pandemic preventing us from congregating and forcing us to close the doors to our house of worship, the meaning of Tisha B'Av struck a deeper chord.

> We are fortunate to have a strong supportive community and I am hopeful that we will return to life as we knew it shortly. Until then, I take comfort in knowing that there is always someone willing to lend a helping hand a mere phone call awav.

> Reminiscing back to Grossingers and the Bananarama song that continued to play on repeat in the lounge as we made our way to to our rooms in the the Jenny G wing - It's a cruel, cruel summer, leaving me here on my own, it's a cruel cruel summer comes to mind.



True it has been a **cruel summer**, but I implore you all to remember that you are not on your own! As a community, we are all here for each other.

With warmest wishes,

are Michael

201-310-2182

## LISTEN TO CAT SHIURIM ONLINE AND ON THE GO!

Did you miss a weekday class at Ahavath Torah? Don't sweat it! Now you can find all of our weekday classes online. Listen on the go and when it works for you.

Just visit our SoundCloud homepage at soundcloud.com/ahavathtorah

Particular playlists include...

Finding Meaning through the Machzor with Rabbi Poupko

In-Depth Halacha with Rabbi Kuessous

An Introduction to Melacha on Shabbat with Rabbi Goldberg Dr. Shoshana Poupko: Reflecting with the Rebbetzin

New editions to the playlist:

WhatsApp Teshuva Challenge

Rabbi Poupko: Ki Tavo





## **MESSAGE FROM RABBI POUPKO (continued from page 1)**



survived, but thrived. Disruption is embedded into our identity and our destiny.

This is why I believe we are so well-equipped to deal with the challenges we face today. The halachah we live by and

the traditions we maintain are not only designed to adapt to such crises, but they can also offer guidance and support. And while some of the challenges can be overcome and some cannot -Jewish life has proven resilient time and again.

Technology has enabled us to stay connected virtually and find new ways to daven and learn together. Creative thinking combined with adherence to physical-distancing guidelines has helped us provide support to those isolated or in need in safe and meaningful ways. The new skills

we have learned to connect with each other during the pandemic will guide us in the new year of 5781 to further advance our communal efforts.

Physical-distancing will still be the norm for some time. That is why our innovative focus this year will be on ways to expand the reach of the shul into our homes and get more of our members actively engaged in their Jewish experience. The ways in which we conduct classes, daven, hold events, and do chesed, will be further tailored to the meet the current challenges. At the same time, life within the shul building continues to regain some of its normal elements at a safe pace. Those who are able to attend services in the building help to maintain the shul as the center of our community and the base for all that we do throughout the neighborhood.

May the coming year bring happiness, health, some more normalcy, and greater connectedness within our community. Ketivah v'Chatimah Tovah to all.

## Order Lulav & Etrog by September 25

Due to the current pandemic, we will be having a drive-up distribution. All sets will have been pre-checked. All those who order sets will drive up to the front door of the synagogue and their order will be brought out to their car. Unfortunately, circumstances do not allow for people to choose their own set. Distribution will be Thursday night, October 1 from 7:30 -9:30 pm

## CLICK HERE TO PLACE THE ORDER





## YOM KIPPUR APPEAL - CLICK HERE

NEW OPTION: PLEDGE BY TEXT
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PLEDGE TO 833-712-1074
THE AMOUNT OF YOUR PLEDGE WILL
BE ADDED TO YOUR CAT ACCOUNT

## **Erev Rosh HaShana**

Friday, September 18 Candle Lighting: 6:41 pm

## Rosh HaShana Day 1

Shabbat, September 19 Candle Lighting: after 7:38 pm

## Rosh HaShana Day 2

Sunday, September 20 Yom Tov ends: 7:36 pm

## RABBI GOLDBERG, ASSISTANT RABBI



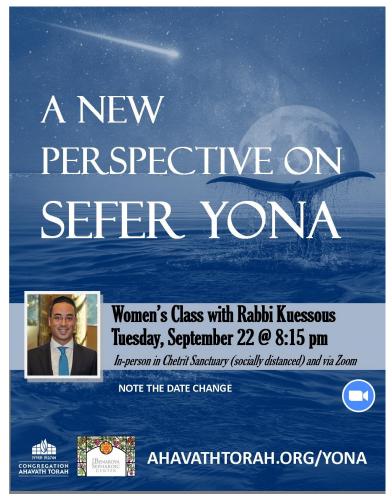
Every year the shofar sounds exactly the same. But each year we *hear* it differently. We are different and our world is different. There are so many layers to the seemingly simple blast. It is a call to change, to reform, and improve who we are. It evokes the

tears of a bereft mother. It stirs memories of the binding of Isaac. It is a rallying cry to battle. It announces the coronation of God as our king. And it proclaims liberty to the enslaved.

Of course, the shofar blast is all of these things at the same time every year. But if we attune our ears, hearts, minds we will realize that a specific dimension of the shofar expresses itself most fully in each year. One of these sounds inevitably takes center stage. This Elul, hearing the shofar sounded each day after shacharit I cannot help but hear the distinct sound of Har Sinai piercing through. The Torah tells us that at that awesome and auspicious moment "קוֹל הַשֹּׁפֶר, הוֹלֵךְ וְחָזֵק מְאֹד " the sound of the Shofar grew louder and louder. I hear this sound in particular because the Har Sinai experience binds us together as a nation with one identity, mission, and destiny. It is a call that *today* beckons us from the private and separate lives that we have led over the past months and calls us back to shul and back to a sense of sacred community.

The shofar of 2020, of Rosh Hashana 5781 is the shofar of unity and togetherness. May we all hear this call. May we all answer it. And may we be inscribed as a community for a year of health and blessing.

## **WOMEN'S CLASSES**





## **UPCOMING EVENTS**











# TING PRIORITIES FOR THE VEAR TO COME A COMMUNITY-WIDE PRE-SELICHOT PROGRAM



MOTZEI SHABBAT SEPTEMBER 12 AT 9:30 PM











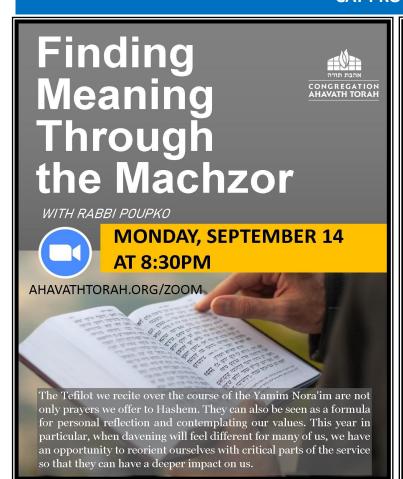
Rabbi Chaim Poupko Rabbi Menachem Genack

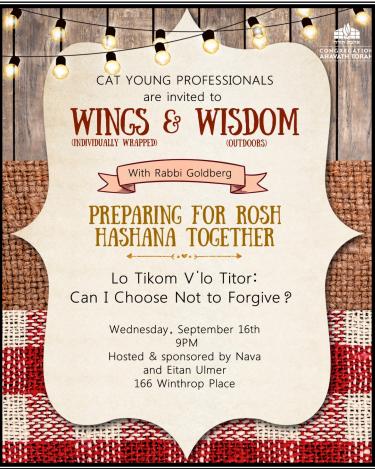
Rabbi Zev Reichman

Rabbi Akiva Block

Rabbi Shmuel Konikov

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The Benaroya Sephardic Center of Congregation Ahavath Torah

proudly presents a special guest lecture by

## Rabbi Eli J. Mansour

speaking about the Yamim Noraim



Rabbi Eli Joseph Mansour is the Rabbi of Congregation Bet Yaakob and world renowned speaker. Rabbi Mansour operates the Jewish learning outlet iTorah.com. He is also a featured speaker on the Aish HaTorah website and a regular contributor to Community Magazine, a Sephardic monthly publication.

## Wednesday, September 23rd at 8:00 pm

### Location:

Benaroya Sephardic Center
Outdoor Tent (socially distanced)
Congregation Ahavath Torah
240 Broad Avenue in Englewood

### In Memory of:

Nechama Bat Avraham Shmuel Ben Gershon Hacohen Dovid Ben Shmuel Hacohen SHABBAT SHUVA DERASHA WITH RABBI POUPKO THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AT 7:30 PM

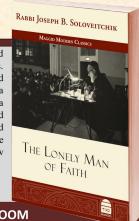


## READING THE LONELY MAN OF FAITH

**DURING CORONA** 

The current pandemic has wrought new social and religious challenges not seen before in our lifetimes. Rabbi Dr. Joseph B. Soloveitchik's seminal and timeless essay, the Lonely Man of Faith, offers a probing analysis of the religious personality and how a person of faith interacts with the modern world around us. The Rav's insights can provide us the language and concepts to deepen our understanding of the pandemic's impact on our faith-community and draw lessons from the crisis.

The essay can be downloaded here: <a href="https://traditiononline.org/the-lonely-man-of-faith/">https://traditiononline.org/the-lonely-man-of-faith/</a>



WWW.AHAVATHTORAH.ORG/ZOOM



## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 @ 8 PM

on the Shul's rear lawn



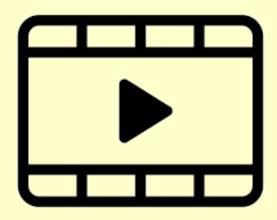
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WhatsApp Elul Teshuva Challenge – Daily Short Lessons from Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz z"l on Teshuva Listen each weekday throughout Elul to a brief audio lesson on Teshuvah based on the writings of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz. Sign up by visiting https://ahavathtorah.org/whatsappteshuvah to join the WhatsApp group. Only the lessons and any info pertinent to the topic will be posted by the admin in the group.

WWW.AHAVATHTORAH.ORG/WHATSAPPTESHUVAH

## VIDEO RECORDINGS OF RECENT CLASSES



The Rabbi Poupko Parsha Project Click <u>here</u> to watch (Parshat Ki Tavo)

Finding Meaning Through The Machzor Click <u>here</u> to watch (Part I)

### YOUTH DEPARTMENT



The summer was definitely one to remember! Even as the pandemic shut down our regularly scheduled Shabbat morning groups, we were still able to have some awesome programs to safely bring people together, both virtually

and in-person. Beginning on the 17th of Tamuz and running through Tisha B'Av, we began a campaign of kindness together with 50 other shuls across the country and beyond! Our goal was to promote achdut and togetherness in a time period on our calendar marked with division and machloket. It was beautiful to see so many acts of chessed done!

On Tisha B'Av day itself, with many kids home from camp, "Zoom"ed out, and with not a lot to keep them busy, we had a virtual scavenger hunt that was very meaningful. We had a list of different action items, some reflective and others having to do with Jerusalem or doing chessed. Some activities were: making a birthday card for Mashiach (the day the Mashiach is said to be born), taking a picture of something having to do with Jerusalem in their house, writing a chessed comic, building a Kotel out of something, finding an Tisha B'Av addition to our tefillot, and more.

It was a beautiful, sunny day as what is usually the Ahavath Torah parking lot was magically transformed into the best mini golf course in Bergen County! The CAT Youth Classic was an absolute blast and it was so awesome to be able to see people face-to-face. All golfers wore masks and each family had their own staggered start time as not to have too many people congregating at once. It was fun for all ages, and there were a number of holes in one!

The fun continued with our Make-Your-Own Pizza night! Families signed up for personal pizza kits and a pizza making video tutorial from Englewood's own pizza aficionado, Teddy Cohen of Jerusalem Pizza! It was definitely our tastiest summer event!

We are looking forward to continuing the momentum over the course of the Chagim and beyond. While our events will continue to be formatted differently than usual, we're looking forward to kicking off an excellent year! Here are some of the awesome things to get excited about: Rosh HaShanah to-go bags, Virtual Sukkah Hop and Edible Sukkah Competition, Drive Thru Sukkah Party, and more! Get pumped!



## **ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT**

We're excited to introduce you to a series of videos, made to inform and entertain you and your families about the recent history and many unique facets of our beloved State of Israel. The first in the series you'll be receiving from us is called "Israel Explained".

The 50 videos in this unit, each lasting between 6 to 12 minutes, cover topics such as biographies of Modern Israel's leaders and Eli Cohen, the Mossad Master Spy. Events including the 1972 Olympics Munich Massacre and the sinking of the Altalena and topics such as the origins of the National Anthem.

These videos have been generously made available to the public free of charge by OpenDorMedia,((formerly knows as Jerusalem U).

You may view all of the OpenDorMedia videos on their YouTube Channel.





Whether you have strong opinions on Israel or are just curious, this 50-part series casts a new perspective that will challenge what you thought you knew about this unique country. What is the meaning of the Israeli national anthem? What's the idea behind exchanging land for peace? Is Zionism a form of racism?



If you've ever wondered about the origins of the toughest issues facing Israel today – the settlements, Jerusalem, the two-state solution – then this is the perfect starting point. Experience the dramatic events of 1967 and discover how they transformed the State of Israel.

No matter where you stand on the current situation, or what you think Israel should do, this series presents irrefutable historical facts, as they happened.

## Click <u>here</u> for the short videos that explore big questions and untangle complex topics

The Israel Engagement Committee's mission is to engage our community with Israel through information about local culture and events, advocacy, programming and education. Through emails and bulletin board postings, our committee draws attention to important action alerts or events or interest regarding Israel. We welcome input and suggestions from all Ahavath Torah members.

Please contact Irene Gottesman at igottesman@gmail.com if you have any suggestions or are interested in joining the committee.

## Thank you to our Ner Tamid Circle Members!

## **Keruvim** Ron Yeffet

## Aron

The Orbach Family

## **Parochet**

The Kolatch Family Dana & Adam Sasouness Zahava & Moshael Straus Joy & Mark Sultan

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Please Note: Names printed in **BOLD** signify Donors increasing their pledge by at least one category from last year. Names followed by an asterisk \* signify a donation increased from last year by at least 10%. Names followed by a diamond \* are new members to the Ner Tamid Circle

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

- Mr Elliot & Mrs Michelle Pines
- Mr Raviv & Mrs Ashley Gailor
- Mr Murray & Mrs Linda Laulicht
- Mr Jorge & Mrs Hannah Dabah
- Dr Jacob and Mrs Gabrielle Moskovitz

## **MAZEL TOV TO:**

## June/July

- Jacob & Ann Moyal on the marriage of their son Remy to Alexa Gornizky
- Rabbi and Mrs. Genack on the engagement of their son, Rabbi Moshe Genack to Jenny Grad of Livingston, NJ
- Sheilah & Michael Galanti on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Matan Galanti. Mazal Tov as well to great-grandmother Esther Strobel
- Sylvia Eisman on the forthcoming marriage of her grandson, Andrew Sohn of Teaneck, to Allison Rabinowitz, daughter of Charni and Jeffrey Rabinowitz
- Charni and Jeffrey Rabinowitz on the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Allison, to Andrew Sohn of Teaneck, grandson of Sylvia Eisman
- Mazal tov all members elected to the 2020-21 Board of Trustees
- Mazal tov to the Benaroya Sephardic Center's newly elected Executive Committee: MB Klyman, Jacob Almo, Jacky Cohen, Joe Cohen, and Alphonse Soued
- Marly Herscovici & Jeff Bogursky on the birth of a granddaughter, Rut bat Shmuel Yerachmiel, Savannah Riley, born to parents Sasha & Jordan Savitsky
- ◆ Lori & Martin Schlakman on the engagement of their son Nathaniel to Carly Korman

## **August**

- Thalia and Danny Federbush on the engagement of their son, Justin, to Daniella Aryeh of NYC.
- ◆ Loree & Elazar Cohen on the birth of a grandson, born to parents Susanna & Ikey Cohen

## LIFECYCLE EVENTS

- Eden & Jeffrey Aronoff on the Aufruf and upcoming wedding of their son Joseph
- Rabbi Meier Brueckheimer on the forthcoming marriage of his grandson Nafi, son of Elana & Yoni Lieber to Tamar, daughter of Miriam & Michael Gartenberg
- Melody & Earl Sandor on the engagement of their daughter, Liana, to Danny Binyaminov of Staten Island, NY
- Sylvia (Dubby) Eisman upon the marriage of her grandson, Jonathan Silverman, to Ariana Brody
- Segal and Eli Benatar on the birth of a grandson
- Sylvia & Mike Krinitz and Rabbi Meier Brueckheimer on the forthcoming marriage of their granddaughter, Margalit Silver to Matan Goldman. Mazal Tov to the parents, Leah & Yitzy Silver and Stacey & Amir Goldman.
- Gila Alpert on the upcoming marriage of her granddaughter, Hadassa, to Shlomo Zalman Skulnick. Mazel tov as well to parents Ori & Elisa Alpert
- Ruth & Louis Schapiro on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Isaac, son of Adina & Jack Almo
- Debra & Jonathan Joels on the engagement of their son, Daniel to Andie Engelbert of New York, NY
- ◆ Debra & Jonathan Joels on the birth of a grandson, born to parents Joanna & Maury Slevin

Bon Voyage to Judy, Shmuel, and Ari Davidovics upon their forthcoming Aliyah.

May they find only good health and success as they return to our national home.

continued on page 17

## **MAZEL TOV TO:**

## **September**

- Monique & Mordecai Katz and Marleen & Ken Wolf on the marriage of their grandson Andrew to Ronit Langer. Mazel tov as well to parents Elissa & Michael Katz
- Cathy & Allen Weiss on the marriage of their son James to Sydney Novetsky
- Eve & Heshy Feldman on the marriage of their daughter Jessica to Dean Ofer of Manhattan
- Reba & Akiva Wulkan on the birth of a grandson, born to Rachayl & Brian Platt in Israel
- Ricki Kudowitz on the marriage of her daughter Sabrina to Arthur Greenfield of West Orange, NJ

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## **CONDOLENCES TO:**

## **July**

Malka Herman on the passing of her mother, Mazal Beinwoll, ob"m

## **August**

- Billy Weiss on the passing of his brother, Mr. Lewis Weiss, ob"m
- Debra Hirsch on the passing of her father, Rabbi Paul Teicher, z"l
- Mr. Danny Federbush on the passing of his father, Dr. Uriel Paul Federbush, ob"m
- Kobi Afek on the passing of his brother, Ofer Afek, ob"m
- Olga Gal on the passing of her mother, Raya Zevulanov, ob"m
- Dr. Burton Wisotsky on the passing of his father, Mr. Morris Wisotsky, ob"m
- Dr. David Wisotsky on the passing of his brother, Mr. Morris Wisotsky

## **September**

- Sara Csillag on the passing of her father, Warren Enker, ob"m
- Marilyn Rosen on the passing of her mother, Angie Goldfeier, ob"m
- Rachelle Weisberger on the passing of her mother, Anne Hiltzik Bloomstein, ob"m
- Nella Presser on the passing of her mother, Rita Zayats, ob"m

## LIFECYCLE EVENTS

## SUPPORT OUR CATERERS

OUR CATERERS ARE OFFERING TAKE OUT/DELIVERY MENU – CLICK ON THEIR LOGOS BELOW OR VISIT: <u>HTTPS://www.ahavathtorah.org/menus</u>

















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