

Kehilla

THE BULLETIN OF CONGREGATION SHERITH ISRAEL

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Rabbi

Zalman Posner
Rabbi Emeritus

George Lieberman
Cantor

Coby Hanai
President

Holy Day Reflections

From the Desk of Rabbi Saul Strosberg



This past weekend, we were in Chicago, where I had the opportunity to officiate at the wedding of a close friend of Daniella. The bride, in addition to her beautiful bouquet of white flowers, carried a siddur with her down the aisle. Under the Chupah, I mentioned that the siddur she carried was also carried by her mother down the

aisle at her wedding, and by her grandmother, at her wedding, sixty years ago.

As I made mention of this, I saw tears streaming down faces. But why? Why was this so meaningful? One possibility is that as we go back in generations, when we think back to our parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents, we think about their values, their life-experiences, their traditions – and these are all things we look up to. We are touched by who they were, and we miss them.

The Jewish New Year is Yom HaDeen, Day of Judgment. But rather than wait passively for our judgment, let's take action and do what we can to elevate our thoughts, our actions, and our lives.

This Rosh Hashanah, rather than (or addition to) thinking about how difficult the year has been (we should have plenty of opportunity for thought and meditation over the Holy Days), I thought we could think about some realistic, personal, religious goals for the year, in hopes of bringing our own lives to the next level.

Relationships: One of the things we learned from the placement of the commandment to “Honor your mother and your father” on the First Tablet, is that our relationships with one another are the gateway to our relationship with God. If we can't get along well with one another, inevitably, we will not get along well with God. (Another manifestation of this reality

is when people who have dealt with a lot of suffering, sometimes, feel they have a difficult relationship with God.)

Pick one relationship that has been burned in the past, and think of one small step that can be taken to fix it. It can be as simple as saying hello, sending a card, or making a donation in his/her honor.

Prayer: Remember the days when you could see tears running down faces during davening? Our prayers still count. Praying can change the “harshness” of the decree. Prayers change us. Prayers change our reality. Let's commit to really focusing on our prayers this year, not just during the Holy Days, but on weekdays and on Shabbat.

Chesed: EVERY SINGLE PERSON should be engaged in at least one act of loving kindness each week. This requires stepping away from our own families, out of our comfort zones, daily schedules and commitments, and entering someone else's space to cheer up, offer support, or simply to listen.

Tzedakah: This year, however well or not-well we are doing, let us commit to giving more than we feel comfortable giving...after all, at the end of our days, would we rather be accused of giving away too little or too much? In our tradition, we believe whatever we give away comes back to us one way or another. Study: The Sages instruct us to set aside time to study each day. Commitments can begin with five-minutes a day, and can inspire us to learn about our History, the Land of Israel, Jewish Law and Tradition, Philosophy...anything that can deepen our understanding of who we are.

Wishing you all a Shanah Tovah Umetukah, a Sweet and Good Year filled with fulfillment, joy, and growth.

Warmest regards,
Rabbi Saul

PS See you in Shul.

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER 2009

TISHRI
HESHVAN 5770

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Marlene Yancey

GABBOIM

Richard Chalal, Louis Lipschutz, and David Naft

ACQUIRE A FRIEND TO STUDY WITH YOU

Rabbi Joshua ben Perachya said: "Get yourself a teacher; acquire a friend to study with you." -- Pirket Avot 1:

WEEKLY TORAH CLASS SCHEDULE

- **TUESDAY EVENING 5:15 - 6:30 PM**
Ginat Risya: Sisterhood's Beit Midrash
- **WEDNESDAY EVENING**
Mizmor L'Dovid
Men's Beit Midrash
One hour before Mincha
- **THURSDAY MORNING 10:00 AM**
Rabbi Saul's Torah Class
- **SHABBAT MORNING 8:00 AM**
Early Bird Torah Class
- **SHABBAT AFTERNOON 1:00 PM**
Cantor's Parsha Class

For more information, contact **Moshe (Martin) Nash** at either 269-7774 or Shabbosland@gmail.com.

CHEDER

begins on Wednesday, September 9TH at 4:00 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

begins on Sunday, September 13TH at 10:00 AM

Brand new **TEEN ONLY Minyan!** (grades 7-12)
Starting August 29TH after the Haftorah in the Library!
Special TEEN ONLY kiddush to follow.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE CEMETERY

Each year, prior to the High Holy Days, we gather at the Shul cemetery to remember those loved ones who passed away during the year. The service is open to everyone. This year, the service will take place on September 13th and will begin at 12:30 PM.

UNVEILING FOR DAVID MANAS

The unveiling for David Manas will be on September 13th at 1:00 PM at the Shul cemetery. Everyone is invited.

SHABBAT & YOM TOV HOSPITALITY

If you have an extra place at your table or if you would like to join others for a Shabbat or Yom Tov meal, please call Rabbi or Cantor or contact the Shul office.

THANKS TO OUR GREETERS!

Thanks to **Sarah Stein** and to **Alan Halbert** for making our members and guests feel welcome. We appreciate you welcoming members and guests to our Shul.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR YOUTH GROUP

The Sherith Israel Youth Department is now looking for volunteers. Please contact the Youth Director, **Daniel Shulman** for more information at youthdirector@sherithisrael.com or call 712-5103.

SHUL TRIP TO ISRAEL AT CHANUKKAH

December 17 - 26 for ten magical days! For more information contact Rabbi Saul at rabbisaul@sherithisrael.com.

REMINDER: Date of Sisterhood Meeting

Monday, September 14th, 7:00 PM at the Shul.

HAT SHOW FOLLOWING THE MEETING!

ROUND CHALLAHS FOR THE HOLY DAYS

Special Challahs for Rosh Hashanah will be available at Shul after Labor Day weekend. Orders must be placed through Janet in the office. Each Challah costs \$7. Call and order your Challah today!

LULAV AND ETROG – V'LAKACHTEM LACHEM PRI ETZ HADAR

There is a Mitzvah in the Torah for every Jewish family to acquire a set of Four Species in celebration of the Festival of Sukkot! This year, each set costs \$50. (Deluxe available for \$95). Send your checks in no later than September 18TH.



...following the Blasts
of the Shofar...



Please join us for a
YOM KIPPUR
FREE BREAK FAST

Cookies and Juice followed by
A Buffet Dinner hosted by
the Chalals
the Garbers
and the Amsels

HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES

September 18 **Erev Rosh Hashanah**

6:32 PM Candle Lighting
6:30 PM Evening Services

September 19 **First Day Rosh Hashanah**

8:00 AM Shacharit
9:30 AM Torah Reading
10:15 AM Rabbi's Address
10:40 AM Musaf
6:20 PM Mincha/Maariv
7:27 PM Earliest Candle Lighting

September 20 **Second Day Rosh Hashanah**

8:00 AM Shacharit
9:30 AM Torah Reading
10:15 AM Rabbi's Address / Shofar
10:40 AM Musaf
3:00 PM Tashlich at Richland Creek
6:20 PM Mincha/Maariv

September 27 **Erev Yom Kippur**

3:00 PM Mincha
5:30 PM Late Mincha
6:19 PM Candle Lighting
6:15 PM Kol Nidre

September 28 **Yom Kippur**

8:00 AM Shacharit
10:00 AM Torah Reading
10:50 AM Rabbi's Address
11:10 AM Yizkor
11:30 AM Musaf
4:15 PM Mincha / Neilah
7:11 PM Shofar

October 3 **First Day Sukkot**

9:00 AM Shacharit
6:00 PM Mincha
7:06 PM Earliest Candle Lighting

October 4 **Second Day Sukkot**

9:00 AM Shacharit
6:00 PM Mincha
6:48 PM Maariv and Havdalla

October 10 **Shemini Atzeret**

9:00 AM Shacharit
10:30 AM Yizkor
5:50 PM Mincha
6:56 PM Earliest Candle Lighting
6:50 PM Maariv / Hakafot

October 11 **Simchat Torah**

9:00 AM Shacharit
10:30 AM Hakafot
12:30 PM Musaf
5:55 PM Mincha
6:40 PM Maariv and Havdalla

Do High Holy Day Services leave you confused?
Do High Holy Day Services leave you uninspired?
Do you find yourself counting down pages until kiddush?



**This Rosh Hashanah, September 12...
Why not try our User-Friendly Explanatory Service!**

You'll find:

**Clear explanations • Interactive discussion • Family seating
Suggestions on how to make this Rosh Hashanah relevant**

**Come join Reb Josh Strosberg following Rabbi's Drush
(approximately 11:00 am in the library)**

* Photo borrowed from: "Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Survival Kit"

**This will not be a minyan kihalacha and therefore one may wish to daven beforehand*

MORE MEMBERSHIP NEWS

OPEN HOUSE SEPTEMBER 12

Due to a scheduling conflict, the **Open House Shabbat has been changed to September 12**. The Open House welcomes visitors to come and have a taste of an Open Orthodox service, meet Rabbi Saul Strosberg, and mingle with the members at Kiddush after services. The Open House is the first part of a Selichot double-header to usher in the High Holiday season. We will present our annual Selichot concert at 8:30 PM, followed by refreshments. Selichot services will begin at 11:30 PM. There is no charge for the concert, but folks will have the opportunity to make an optional \$5 donation to benefit the needy. Newcomers, long-time Nashville residents, and anyone in between are warmly invited to attend these events. For questions, call Evelyn Koch, 292-6087, of Welcome Committee chair.

MIA GWIRTSMAN, daughter of **Sandra Fox** and **Dr. Harry Gwirtsman** and **Karen Rosenthal Gwirtsman**, spent the summer at boot camp and is now beginning her first year at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. **Mia** demonstrated exceptional military and leadership skills during four years of involvement in a large, very active ROTC unit at Blackman High School (Murfreesboro), rising quickly through the ranks to serve as the Battalion Commander--the highest ranking officer. Those who have known Mia since her Akiva days are not at all surprised by her success—nor are we surprised to learn that she made the actual decision to attend a Service Academy several years ago. Her natural intelligence and strength made her goal a serious possibility, and her extraordinary focus and hard work made it a reality. Mazel tov to her parents for helping her to become the young woman she's become, and deepest, most heartfelt thanks to Mia, for her commitment to serving our Country.

**CALLING ALL PIT MASTERS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 IN MEMPHIS**

The annual Kosher Barbecue Competition in Memphis will be held Sunday, October 18.

If anyone is interested in fielding a team I can give you all of the details. Due to some extended family health issues I cannot commit to leading the team, but will give as much or as little advice as requested. The day is a great family day with lots of things for children, 3 on 3 basketball and great food. If you've never been, it's a fun time. There are usually over 50 teams, this year from as far away as Maryland.

If you would like more information, please contact me:

Shelly Lutz
615.353.9111
shellutz@comcast.net

TZEDAKAH FOR THE NEEDY

During this time of the year, it is customary to donate Tzedakah to the RDF and other charities. This year, we will be helping various families in need connected to our Shul and community. We will also be supporting a family in Israel.

Send checks to RDF, memo: Holy Day Tzedakah Drive

CLOTHES FOR KIDS IN SAFED ISRAEL

The city of Safed has about 8000 families living there, with approximately 40 % below poverty lines (3000 families). The Chasdei Lev organization distributes food and clothing, and gives financial counseling to many families who have been hit hard by the recent economic meltdown.

In 2008, the population of Safed was 32,000. 43.2% of the residents are 19 years of age or younger.

Chasdei Lev Family Clothing Store:

This shop looks like any clothing store in your local mall, and shoppers feel comfortable shopping there for their clothing. Yet, everything costs only between two and ten shekel, (fifty cents to two dollars and fifty cents), so that it is affordable for all to purchase their children's clothing there. This is done in a dignified way, with great respect to the shoppers, not to make them feel they are taking Tzedakah.

Our mission: To collect good children's clothing between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in the Shul lobby (the other Nashville congregations will be doing the same!), and this will be sent to Safed right after the High Holy Days. There will be a huge bin in the Shul lobby.

THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE...

Laurie Moore's film *The Forgotten People...* will be presented at the Cornerstone Church in Madison on September 10, 7-9 PM. **Rabbi Saul** will be participating in the panel discussion.

IN NEED OF A CAR

Elaine, from Israel, is in town for the fall semester on a Fullbright Fellowship and is looking to buy (or rent) an inexpensive car for use around town etc. If anyone can help, please email elaine@talpiot.ac.il

NICE JEWISH GIRL Seeks Room in Exchange for Help around the house. For more info, see flyer at Shul, or call Angelica at (805) 450-3784.

**NEW CLASS OFFERED
TIME TBA
INSTRUCTOR: RABBI SAUL**

Do you find yourself following (*or not following*) the Shabbos service by rote? Do you have general questions about Jewish Law you would like answered? Would you like to be more proficient in Hebrew? What better way to learn than right here at the shul. This class, with great interest, will commence in the fall so please be sure to take advantage of this exciting opportunity. The more participants we have the merrier. To get on the class list, call **Janet** in the Shul office, 292.6614.

2009
Nashville
Community
Event



Ambassador Brad Gordon

Director of Policy & Government Affairs, AIPAC

Wednesday, September 30, 2009
6:30 p.m. ~ Dessert Reception
7:00 p.m. ~ Briefing

at the home of

Lynn & Scott Ghertner
3619 Trimble Road, Nashville, TN

RSVP by Friday, September 25th to Seth Baron,

AIPAC Southern States Area Director at (770) 541-7610 or sbaron@aipac.org

Minimum 2009 AIPAC Gift of \$250

About Ambassador Brad Gordon

Mr. Gordon is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee Director of Policy and Government Affairs, a new position created in Oct. 2005. He had been AIPAC's Legislative Director since January 1995. From February 1993 to January 1995, he was Staff Director of the International Operations Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA), oversaw the operations of the Department of State, the Agency for International Development, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the U.S. Information Agency.

From March 1990 to January 1993, Mr. Gordon was Assistant Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency for Nonproliferation Policy. He was responsible for issues related to the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and the missiles to deliver them. Mr. Gordon was also U.S. Ambassador to the Fourth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) held in Geneva in August and September 1990.

Between 1985 and 1989, Mr. Gordon was legislative advisor for foreign policy to Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R-MN), and between 1985 and 1987 was the professional staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee responsible for the Middle East and South Asia.

Mr. Gordon worked as a political analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency from 1979 to 1985 in the office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis.

Mr. Gordon graduated cum laude and with Honors in Politics from Brandeis University in 1971. He received a Master of Arts degree in political science in 1974 from the University of Vermont. He received a Masters of Philosophy degree from Columbia University in 1978 and a Certificate from its Middle East Institute in 1977. While at Columbia, Mr. Gordon was a National Defense Foreign Language Fellow in Arabic and was selected Research Assistant for its Middle East Institute.

The most
important
organization
affecting
America's
relationship
with Israel

— *The New York Times*

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