

257 Garden Street
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The Roslyn Synagogue

Newsletter

Rosh Hashana 5775

Message from our Rabbinic Interns

Serve Hashem with Happiness and come before Him in song (Tehillim 100:2)

Schedule of Services

Monday to Friday morning:

Shacharit: 6:30am (*except Rosh Chodesh 6:20am*)

Sunday morning:

Shacharit: 8:30am

Sunday evening:

Mincha/Ma'ariv at the previous Friday's candle lighting time.

Erev Shabbat:

Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat at candlelighting time.

Shabbat morning:

Shacharit: 9:00am

Saturday evening:

Shiur 40 minutes before the previous Friday's candle lighting time.

Mincha:

Ten minutes before previous Friday's candle lighting time followed by Seudat Shlishit, Ma'ariv and Havdalah.

Beginning November 8th:

Mincha: immediately following kiddush on Shabbat

Ma'ariv and Havdalah:

18 minutes after the end of Shabbat.

Check the shul website for updated news, schedules and davening times.

As the Yomim Noraim approach, our anxiety levels might inevitably rise. Besides the logistics of simply planning a long Yom Tov, we all understand the spiritual gravity of these days. It is a time for introspection as the Rambam (Hil. Teshuva 3:4) so powerfully describes regarding the message of the Shofar: "Awake o sleepers from your slumber"... As we hear the startling blast of the Shofar during these days of Elul, the Rambam exhorts us not to miss the opportunity to examine our deeds and reflect on the inevitable missteps we have taken this past year. We focus on cleansing ourselves until our sins, as Isaiah (1:18) says, "are as white as snow". The Days of Judgment are upon us.

This is all true, of course, and yet perhaps we can balance this sense of trepidation with joy. Maybe we can temper our worries with a sense of confidence. What is there to be joyous and confident about, one may ask? Precisely the same thing we may be worried about: This past year.

Firstly, we must remember that our faults can be turned into merits. Teshuva connotes the call to re-visit Hashem and His Divine Service, and when we sincerely do so, we bring along our failures to be transformed into triumphs. We learn from our experiences and emerge stronger than ever.

Secondly, let's pause and reflect on all the good we did this past year. Let's recall the charity we gave, the Torah we learnt and the kindness we showed others. Let's remember the sacrifices we made for our children, our parents and our fellow Jews. Let's feel confident and joyous as we stand before our Father in Heaven during these days. Indeed, the Tur (beginning of Hilchot Rosh HaShana) describes the remarkable self-assurance that the Jewish People display as they enter the courtrooms of Yomim Noraim. Our self-assurance is validated by the recognition that the Judge is also our Father and that we will merit a most prosperous judgment for the new year.

Serve Hashem with Happiness and come before Him in song.

Rabbi Dinin Sarah and I are excited for the many new opportunities available this year. We're excited to teach and learn from your warm community. A New Yorker and a Californian, we hope to utilize our past life experiences in education, music, and Torah to contribute to the Roslyn Synagogue family.

Rabbi Lason Kayla and I look forward to spending the year with you, developing friendships with your entire families. We both hail from out of town communities — as do the Dinin's! - and have been involved in many shul and community related initiatives throughout the country. We are excited to bring our experiences to the Roslyn Synagogue.

The Shofar reminds us to begin a process of Teshuva, introspection, but it also heralds an inspiring future. Rav Sa'adiah Gaon — in one of his many explanations regarding the meaning of the Shofar — sees the Shofar as foreshadowing a return to a time of peace and freedom. A time when the world we are collectively building will culminate, with Hashem's help, in a glorious return to the Land of Israel and the time of the Mashiach.

May this year be one of outstanding growth and renewal as we joyously stroll along the path of Hashem.

Rabbi Joel Dinin

Rabbi Yaakov Lason

Message From the President

An interesting aspect of Rosh Hashana is that it is singularly a Jewish Holyday observed by Jews throughout the world and the most essential mitzvah of the Chag is the sounding/listening to the shofar. Yet, Rosh Hashana also has a universal aspect that applies to the entire world.

There is a famous machlochet (dispute) in the Talmud between Rabbi Eliezer who maintains that the world was created in Tishrei on Rosh Hashana, and Rabbi Yehoshua who maintains it was created in Nissan. Of course, the opinion of Rabbi Eliezer is followed and we celebrate Rosh Hashana on the first of Tishrei.



The ideas of both the very special nature of the observance of Rosh Hashana and the universal nature of the creation of the world is expressed in the Musaf davening for Rosh Hashana.

As we know, the shofar is sounded during the repetition of the Amidah of Musaf, corresponding to the three central blessing of the Amidah, Malchiot (Kingship), Zichronot (Remembrance) and Shofarot (Shofar Blasts). Each of these sections concludes with a bracha just before the sounding of the shofar, ...Blessed are Hashem King over the whole world, Who sanctifies (the Sabbath) Israel and the day of Remembrance for Malchiot; Blessed are you Hashem Who remembers the covenant for Zichronot; and Blessed are you Hashem, Who hears the shofar sound of His people Israel with mercy for Shofarot. These three blessings correspond to the uniquely Jewish character of the Yom Tov, and our observance of the mitzvot.

Interestingly, the paragraph after each of these soundings of the shofar of Musaf, states a universal idea, "Today is the birth(day) of the world. Today all creatures of the world stand in judgment..." Perhaps this comes to teach us that as committed observant Jews, we must always remember that we are part of the world that the Almighty created. We must always keep in mind the preceding berachot, which are uniquely Jewish and directed to us alone among the nations of the world. Our approach to the world must always be in a way that is uniquely Jewish, by fulfilling the commandments of Torah and tradition and always being guided by Halacha. Wishing you all a happy healthy sweet New Year, L'shanah tovah tikatevu v'taykhataymu,

Marc Yunis

Why Now?

Why do the chaggim fall as they do? Why is Sukkot just two weeks after Rosh Hashana and under a week after Yom Kippur, two of the most awesome and solemn days of the year? It's no coincidence that these chaggim fall one after another. Sukkot is referred to as Zman Simchateinu, the time of our happiness, and the Torah uses variations of this word when describing Sukkot, most notably in the verse "VeSamachta B'Chagecha.. VeHayita Ach Sameach". But of all of the times throughout the year during which Sukkot could fall, why is it most fitting that it fall so close to the Yamim Noraim? A similar question can be asked regarding the reading of Kohelet on Shabbat Chol HaMoed Sukkot. Why would we choose to read a Megilla whose message is that all of life is empty and meaningless on the day in which we celebrate both Sukkot and Shabbat? A possible answer to these questions can be found in our attempts to achieve balance in our lives. On the happiest days of the year, we choose to remember the sadness that remains in this world, whether it be under a chuppah or on Shabbat Chol HaMoed. In the same light, on the saddest day of the year, Tisha B'Av, when we mourn the destruction of the Temples among other tragedies, we read in Megillat Eicha the words:



Hashivenu Hashem Aleicha VeNashuva, “Restore us to You, Hashem, that we may be restored,” a ray of hope in a time of darkness. Even when reading the words of Kohelet, exclaiming that life is devoid of meaning, we proclaim at the end, “The end of matter, everything having been heard, fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the entire man.” As Jews, we understand that life is the reflection of the meaning we ascribe to it, through the celebration of holidays and the mourning of tragedies. We strive to create balance between celebration and mourning, always recognizing that we have not reached our ultimate goal and that there is still work to do. The paradigm for this balance is given through the timing of these holidays, reminding us that, although there is a necessity for serious moments of judgment, we must always keep in mind the words of Ivdu et Hashem B’Simcha (Worship Hashem in happiness).

Gmar Chatima Tova and Chag Sameach.

Sarah and Hannah Baumgarten

Meet Our New Rabbinic Interns



Joel Dinin was raised in West Hills California. He is currently in his fourth and final year at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School. Joel received his undergraduate BA in Jewish studies and religious studies from Indiana University, and then spent some time learning in Prague and Israel. Joel was in the first Jewish a cappella group from IU to sing in the White House. Joel spent several years as a teacher at a Hebrew school and a summer camp and served as an assistant youth director.

Last year Joel served as the rabbinic intern at Congregation Beth Tefilah in Paramus New Jersey where he gave regular divrei Torah, led shiurum, and planned youth events. Joel’s wife Sarah works as an administrator for the Orchestra of St. Lukes. She is a classically trained flutist, and his greatest inspiration.

Yaakov Lasson hails from Baltimore, MD. The oldest of 3 siblings, Yaakov attended T.A .of Baltimore for 12 years and then learned at Yeshivat Sha’alvim for 2. He then attended Y.U. and completed his undergraduate degree in Psychology while studying under Roshei Yeshiva: Rav Elchanan Adler and Rav Baruch Simon.

He is currently entering his 4th and final year of Semicha studies at Y.U., while simultaneously completing his Master’s degree from the Azrieli School of Jewish Education. He will be spending a couple days a week observing and instructing students at Yeshivat Noam in Paramus, New Jersey.

Yaakov has been a part of organizations such as Y.U.’s Center for the Jewish Future, NCSY, and the O.U.’s dept. of Synagogue Services. He enjoys giving drashot and shiurim at both his father-in-law’s shul, the Touro Synagogue in Newport, R.I., as well as Shenk Shul in Washington Heights.

In his spare time, Yaakov enjoys sports (basketball and football), music (playing the drums) and fiction (John Grisham books).

Yaakov lives in Washington Heights with his wife Kayla who is completing her Master’s degree in Occupational Therapy from Touro College.



Schedule of Services

Selichot

Saturday Night – September 20th

- Collation – 11:30 pm
- Services – 12:00 Midnight

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday Eve – September 24th

- Mincha-Ma'ariv Services – 6:25pm

Thursday – September 25th

- Shacharit – Morning Services – 8:00 am
- Sermon – 10:30 am
- Tashlich Services at Roslyn Pond Park 5:00 pm
- Mincha-Ma'ariv Services – 6:25 pm

Friday – September 26th

- Shacharit – Morning Services – 8:00 pm
- Sermon – 10:30 pm
- Mincha-Ma'ariv Services – 6:25 pm

Yom Kippur

Friday Eve – October 3rd

- Kol Nidre – 6:10 pm
- Saturday – October 4th
- Shacharit – Morning Services – 8:00 am
- Sermon – 10:30 am
- Yizkor – 11:00 am
- Mincha – 4:00 pm
- Neilah – 5:30 pm
- Sounding of Shofar – 7:14 pm

Shul News

Mazel tov to Edith and Paul Tolins on the birth of a son, Raphael Jonah, to Shira and Benjamin Roth.

Mazel tov to Edith and Sam Levy on the birth of their 20th great-grandchild, Shayna Beile, to their grandchildren, Talia and Isaac Hametz.

Mazel tov to Miriam and Marc Yunis on Ben's engagement to Layla Dabby of Montreal, Canada.

Mazel tov to Hedva and Eli Nhaissi on Oren's engagement to Melissa Sideroff.

Kiddush sponsors wanted.

Members can make a kiddush to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or new baby, commemorate a yahrzeit, or for no reason at all. Kiddushes can range from the simple to the elaborate.

If you are interested in sponsoring a kiddush, please contact Miriam Yunis at miriamyunis@aol.com.

Coming Events

Sukkah Dinner – Sunday, October 12th – watch your email for details

Sisterhood Book Club Meeting – Tuesday, October 28th – at the home of Andrea Schulman. We are reading *We are all Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler.

Sisterhood Membership Dinner/Meeting – Wednesday, November 5th – location and time TBD.

Watch your e-mail for information about our upcoming Journal Dinner!

To order Lulav & Etrog for Sukkot, please email Rabbi Block at razleeners@aol.com
The price is \$40 per set.