

257 Garden Street
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577
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www.roslynsynagogue.org

The Roslyn Synagogue

Newsletter

Summer 5771

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 6:45pm

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.

Message from the Rabbi

THIS PAST YEAR, FOR THE ROSLYN SYNAGOGUE, WAS A wonderful year of growth in membership and in quality programming. Much thanks goes to our "Youth Committee," Tamar, Elisheva, Sophia, and, of course, Rabbi Goon, whom we will miss greatly this coming year.

With the advent of summer there begins a relaxed atmosphere, before the heightened tension of the Month of Elul begins. We almost forget about the intervening period of the "Three Weeks." Tuesday, July 19, begins this year's observance of the "three weeks." Our tradition refers to this period of the calendar as "bain hematzarim," between the straits. These days, beginning with the 17th of Tamuz and culminating on Tisha B'av, are days of mourning in Jewish tradition — days in which we are directed to remember the destruction of the Temple and other tragedies that have befallen our people.

The traditions of this period are well-known. Jews, even the minimally observant, refrain from getting married. Also, it is customary not to get haircuts and arrange big parties — all intended to remind us of the calamities that have befallen our people.

A famous Chassidic Rebbe, known as the Bnei Yisaschar, notes a curious coincidence and asks an interesting question. Why, he queries, is the weekly Torah portion of Pinchas read virtually all the time during the three weeks? Particularly, he adds, when the portion of Pinchas contains all the sacrifices that are brought on the Jewish holidays — days of joy and celebration?

The Bnai Yisaschar answers that our Tradition attempts to remind us that too much mourning is also not good. Therefore, at the time of sadness and mourning we are reminded as well of joy and celebration.

The Jew is always admonished to keep a perspective, to engage in moderation and not to become extremist. Thus, for example, we see at the conclusion of a wedding that there is a moment's pause and the shattering of a glass, to remind us, even at this most joyous time, of the destruction of the Temple.

Tradition ascribes the Temple's destruction to the presence of baseless hate toward one another and a lack of sensitivity to humankind. May the Almighty bless us with good health and love of our fellow human beings so that the time will be not too distant when the three weeks will be transformed from a time of mourning to a period of celebration.

Have a wonderful summer!

Rabbi Robert D. Block



amazon.com

There's a new and convenient way to help support the shul financially through Amazon. Amazon.com donates at least 4% of the purchase amount to the shul for any purchases made through The Roslyn Synagogue link. It's a great way to raise money for the synagogue with purchases you would already make without any additional cost to you!

If you are going to make any type of purchase through Amazon online, those purchases can also generate a donation for the shul. You can find the search link at: www.roslynsynagogue.org. Click on Amazon on the left side and start shopping.

Shopping at Amazon through the synagogue's referral link doesn't cost anything extra and is an easy way to support the synagogue. It's secure and private. Please encourage your friends and family who shop at Amazon.com to use the synagogue's link to help raise money for The Roslyn Synagogue.

Please email roslynwebmaster@gmail.com with any questions about this program.

Shul News

Mazel tov to Bill, Monika, and Rachel Schlesinger on the Bat Mitzvah of Naomi.

Happy 90th birthday to Sam Levy!



Our condolences to Ezat Pourgal and family on the passing of Shlomo.

Our condolences to Marty Miller and family on the loss of his mother, Beatrice Miller.

Condolences to Denise Rosenblum and family on the loss of her mother, Sarah Golden.

*Hamakom Yinachem etchem b'toch sha'ar avelei
Tzion VeYerushalayim.*

May God comfort the mourners together with all Mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.



*Congratulations to all of
our graduates! Wishing
you success in all your
future endeavors!*

A Farewell from our Rabbinic Intern

As I left the Youssefzadehs for the train on Saturday night, I was struck by a profound sadness. I was leaving behind the community I had called home for the last nine months. I expected to return again, but I knew not when, and even so, I would no longer act in the same rewarding role I once had.

Of course, transitions are a reality of life.

Just look at our current weekly Torah portions. The Torah readings of summer shift our focus from the generation leaving Egypt to the generation entering Israel. From that moment in our nation's history, we see how transitions are endemic to humanity, marking our journey through the unstoppable passage of time.

Yet, there's something about a year devoted to giving that sticks with you. In his treatise on kindness as part of his mussar work *Michtav M'Eliyahu*, the 20th Century Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler noted that giving creates love. Through our investment in others, our bond deepens and our sense of kinship grows. After a year in Roslyn, I surely have forged such a bond with the community.

That also owes to the fact that, as much as I have given in my service as an intern to The Roslyn Synagogue, I have received even more back in return. The Torah I have learned from teaching, discussing, and debating in shul has both increased the content of my knowledge, as well as matured the way I approach the critical philosophical questions of Judaism. Equally important, through those Torah conversations, I have gained friendships filled with intense warmth and love, given back in kind. Not to be forgotten, those friends also fed me incredibly good home-cooked meals which, for a bachelor student, were a welcome reprieve from cereal and milk.

Most of all, though, I have received priceless guidance and mentorship from Rabbi Block. If you want to lead a community one day, you might as well take notes from the man who built one himself; the services, the classes, the very members themselves all started with him. And I think I learned the secret. From working with Rabbi, I have come to understand that communities are built one relationship at a time, and that the shiurim and Shabbat morning *divrei Torah* all serve as extensions of those relationships. Love comes first and foremost.

I may not be saying good-bye to Roslyn, but I am drawing a close to this period of opportunity. This formative stage, serving a greater family I called Roslyn, has ended. Its gifts will last a lifetime. Don't worry, though. I hope to return for a visit before then.



Shul Activities

The Roslyn Synagogue has been a very busy place this spring! Some of our recent events have included:

Shavuot

Tikkun Leil Shavuot included shiurim by our some of our members and friends, caffeine, cakes and ice cream.



Family Shabbat Luncheon

In addition to a delicious buffet lunch, we were treated to fun-filled family programming and learning for parents and children, led by Tamar, Rabbi Goon and other leaders of The Roslyn Synagogue Junior Congregation.



Lox n' Learn

An engaging and informative session along with bagels and lox. Special discussion led by our guest speaker, Rabbi David Shabtai, MD. His topic was: Defining the Moment: An Exploration of Brain Death in Contemporary and Ancient Sources.

Farewell Pizza Party

To thank Rabbi Michael Goon for his wonderful contributions as our Rabbinic Intern during the past year. Rabbi Goon was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation; a book called *The Pursuit of Justice and Jewish Law: Halakhic Perspectives on the Legal Profession* by Michael J. Broyde; a piece of Judaica about Justice; and a bottle of Scotch. Festivities included a parsha side session for the kids by Rabbi Goon.



Watch your e-mails for our exciting summer programming!