



September-October, 2022 Congregation House of Israel

5 Elul, 5782 - 6 Cheshvan, 5783



*...In the seventh month, on the first of the month, there shall be a sabbath for you, a remembrance with shofar blasts, a holy convocation. -Leviticus 16:24*

## *L'Shanah Tovah*

The complete schedule of High Holiday Services is on page 4 and also on our website at [www.hschi.org](http://www.hschi.org).

## Thank You

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*In appreciation of CHI Sisterhood*

### The Shofar

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## ARZA - World Union

### Do You Love Me?

**By Rabbi Josh Weinberg**

"But do you love me?" asks Tevye of his wife Golde in the famous scene from "Fiddler on the Roof."

"What do you mean???" she retorts and lists all they did for each other for over 25 years.

Of course, they love each other. All those things they did for each other are part of what it means to love one another.

Israelis (apologies for the broad generalization) are much like Tevye. Americans are much like Golde. Beneath the many interactions, diplomatic relationships, State visits, pomp and circumstance, lies the question of the insecure almost 75-year-old Jewish state: Do you love me?

Yes! A resounding "Yes," exclaimed President Biden on the tarmac at Ben Gurion airport this week. Our love for one another "It's bone deep. Bone deep!" he exclaimed during his welcome ceremony.

Phew. Now we don't have to worry.

That said, Israel is like a traumatized child with an ongoing fear of rejection. On the cognitive level, Israelis worry about rejection as our worst fear—that we're unlovable, destined to be alone, and have little chance of being accepted by the international community. Though Israelis like to appear tough and independent and that "we don't care what the world thinks of us," as Ben Gurion said in Yiddish "Oom Shmoom," (referring to the United Nations).

On the contrary, we Israelis have a deep need for love and acceptance. It's what pushes Israel to remind the world that it is the ultimate victim. No message is more clear than President Biden being taken to see the Iron Dome and Iron Beam missile defense system acquired from Israel's

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## Reb Shelly's Desk

### A coronavirus story that took place in Italy



A 93-year-old man was stricken with COVID-19 and in spite of his age he somehow survived. Upon being discharged from the hospital, he was presented with a very large bill. Part of it was for payment for the ventilator which he had been put on for

one day.

Reading the amount that was due, the old man began to cry. The hospital felt a sense of compassion and told him not to worry – surely something could be worked out to reduce the cost to something more manageable. What the old man responded made the hospital workers weep.

I cry because I've just come to realize after all these many years on earth I've been breathing God's air for 93 years, yet I have never had to pay for it.

The old man explained, "I don't cry because of the money I have to pay. Thankfully I am able to afford it. I cry for another reason. I cry because I've just come to realize after all these many years on earth I've been breathing God's air for 93 years, yet I have never had to pay for it. It seems it takes over €500 to use a ventilator in the hospital for one day. Do you know how much I owe God? Why haven't I ever truly thanked Him all the days of my life for the miracle of this divine gift which I took for granted?"

There is so much in this world that we take for granted as if it were ours by automatic right or well-deserved reward. We complain about the things we lack and hardly ever take the time to thank the Almighty for the priceless favors of his divine blessings.

Eric Hoffer put it beautifully when he said the most difficult mathematics for almost all people is the ability to count their blessings.

## Yom Kippur: My Favorite Holiday

By Sherrill Nicolosi

Yom Kippur, considered by Jews to be the holiest day of the year, begins on the evening of October 4, 2022 (10 Tishrei 5783), and ends at nightfall, October 5, 2022. It is my favorite Jewish holiday. Most readers will say, "Is she meshuganah? No Hamantashan cookies, no chocolate covered Matzah, no latkes- in fact, no food or drinks for more than twenty-four hours!"

Yes, it is my favorite Jewish celebration and perhaps should be yours, too. It is a beautiful, awesome time of reflection, atonement, repentance, forgiveness, forgiving, and intense prayer. It is so special, Jews have a separate prayer book, the Machzor, for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. It is so special that some Jews who do not observe any other Jewish holidays or celebrations or customs repent and join in the sounding of the Shofar at the conclusion of the day, hoping for a renewal of body and spirit, and inspiration to do better in all endeavors.

The Day of Atonement is an opportunity to ask to be "sealed in the Book of Life" for one more year. Jews are not perfect, and Yom Kippur allows us to review the year of our imperfections and misdeeds.

We repeatedly cite the *Vidui*, the Confessions (Vidui, singular) during the services, to confront those imperfections. So it is good to say, "Happy Yom Kippur", and enjoy all that the day gives us.



# High Holiday Service Schedule

## Rosh Hashanah

Sunday	September 25	7:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Evening Service Oneg to follow
Monday	September 26	10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Morning Service Reception / Tashlich Service (Address/Location to be announced during services.)

## Kver Avot \*

Sunday	October 2	11:00 a.m.	Kver Avot Service, Jewish Rest Cemetery
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## Yom Kippur Services

Tuesday	October 4	7:30 p.m.	Kol Nidre
Wednesday	October 5	10:00 a.m.	Yom Kippur Morning Service
		3:30 p.m.	Yom Kippur Afternoon Service
		4:30 p.m.	Yizkor Service
		5:30 p.m.	Neilah Service
		6:00 p.m.	Havdalah & Break-the-Fast

## Sukkot

Friday	October 14	6:00 p.m.	Oneg Shabbat and service in the sukkah
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**Jews Praying In the Synagogue on Yom Kippur**

Artist: Maurycy Gottlieb

Year: 1878

Type: Oil on canvas

Location: Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv

# Meet Our Cantor

## Leslie Melinda Morgan



Rabbi Leslie Melinda Morgan is a born and raised and practicing conservative Jew in the State of Texas, where she currently resides.

She was ordained as a liberal Rabbi in 2013 through the Jewish Spiritual Leadership Institute. She has been active in formal capacities in synagogue life for over 40 years.

Leslie has taught and mentored over 500 students for their B'nai Mitzvah and has been a religious schoolteacher for 30+ years and has taught, elementary, middle school, high school, adults and confirmation classes.

Leslie loves to sing and lead organized prayer and is a regular service leader with a focus on P'sukay D'zimrah, Shacharit, Kabbalat Shabbat and Torah Services. She is a regular Torah reader and Haftarah chanter and has led Family High Holiday Services for over 10 years.

Leslie has a BS in Mechanical Engineering and worked in "Corporate America" for IBM for 34 years. She is currently a small business owner and owns a wheelchair ramp and accessibility franchise in Texas.

However, Leslie's true love is Torah and teaching all aspects of Judaism. She also loves helping those in love "tie the knot" and has officiated over 300 weddings.

Leslie is a proud Mom to 5 grown children and a *Softa* (grandma) to 5 grandchildren.

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*Joining us for lunch at Ambrosia Mary Klompus, Betty Kleinman and our 2 guests of honor -- BLAKELY WAXLER (daughter of Brian and Torie Waxler) and BROOKS BAKER (son of Carli and Chris Baker of Dallas).*



# Sisterhood



Labor Day is just around the corner, the school year is beginning and these hot days will soon cool to more pleasant temperatures. It's hard to believe summer is almost over! This is true however and our Sisterhood will meet on

Monday, September 12th when Ruth Sedler and Betty Kleinman will once again treat those who have renewed their annual dues to a delicious and free luncheon. We will conduct a lot of business on this very first meeting of the year!

We will begin by reviewing our financial commitments with treasurer Ruth, and then plan for both the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur holidays which begin the final week of September. Our Sisterhood plays a vital role in the social part of our gatherings and everyone's assistance will be much appreciated!

Our long time support of Jackson House will also begin with our semi-annual food drive for their food pantry. During the holiday season we request temple members bring non-perishable food items to services as a donation for this important organization. The Kleinman boys, West, Jacob and Zev will assist us in delivering the items we collect.

We are all looking forward to fellowship and in person worship this coming year. Sisterhood continues to be essential to our temple life and together we share our faith and support each other. We are a small group of hard workers but we have fun along the way! Please join us as we eat, pray, and plan together!

*Patti*

## Sisterhood Mmbers

*(As of July 1, 2022)*

- Kim Baron
- Millie Baron
- Madeline Bull
- Betty Feir
- Kay Fleischner
- Patti Fleischner
- Betty Forshberg
- Diane Goltz
- Gail Greenberg
- Lynda Kass
- Glenda Kirsch
- Betty Kleinman
- Carol Kleinman
- Mary Klompus
- Sue Koppel
- Melissa Lax
- Barbara Morgan
- Sherrill Nicolosi'
- Karen Reagler
- Rachel Schulman
- Ruth Sedler
- Susan Siegel
- Diana Surfas
- Myrna Taxer
- Sharon Waxler
- Anita Williams

## Daughters of CHI

- Mattea Fleischner
- Leah Fleischner
- Sally Nicolosi

## ARZA - World Union

*Continued from page 2*

greatest ally and friend. From there, Biden was taken directly to Yad VaShem, and Dani Dayan, Chairman of Israel's Holocaust Memorial, said President Biden, "knows Yad Vashem so well, he could give the tour!"

Biden responded:

"The scourge of antisemitism still marches around the world. We must never forget the horrors to which an unchecked hatred can lead. That's why I wanted to visit Yad Vashem when I landed, to bear witness and remember and renew our vow of 'never again,'"

Israelis felt: "Yes! He understands us."

Many Americans and others seem disappointed that Biden's visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority appears to be pro forma, banal, and without tangible results. They presume that his visit in Israel is merely a stop on the way to his more significant visit to Saudi Arabia. While in Israel, there will be no new peace initiative, and no plan to revive negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The significance of this visit, however, is not lost on Israelis.

For Israelis, this is a perfect moment. After the love affair with President Trump went off the rails – even after he moved the US Embassy to Jerusalem, recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, and canceled the Iran deal, all of which gave him near messianic status, Israelis now realize that Trump wasn't playing with a full deck. The Jan. 6th hearings portray an unstable power-hungry megalomaniacal character (shocking, I know). Israelis raised an eyebrow after Trump dismissed former Israeli PM Netanyahu when Bibi called Biden to congratulate him on winning the presidency: "Oh Bibi, F\*&^ him."

For Israelis, Joe Biden's is a true and deep love. He is Clintonesque in his sincerity, Nixonian in his willingness to show up, and well, Biden-esque in his way of connecting with and charming people. Israelis know that he is sincere. His stories of meeting Golda (Meir), the young Yitzhak Rabin, and every Prime Minister since, bring us warm fuzzies as Biden waxes on about being in his "emotional home," and "not having to be a Jew to be a Zionist."

The significance of the document signed between Israel and the U.S. should not be underestimated for the love-starved Israel. "The Jerusalem U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration," is incredibly important. The U.S. pledges never to allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons and commits to partner-

ing with other countries to confront Tehran's aggression and destabilizing activities in the region.

That is needed now more than ever as Iran is within days of making weapons-grade nuclear material, though about a year from actually being able to make a nuclear bomb.

President Biden confirmed that the U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding will be renewed and be 'bigger and better' than it was before.

Rather than a tripartite meeting with PM Lapid, Chairman Abbas, and President Biden – instead Biden, Lapid, Indian Prime Minister Modi, and United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan introduced a new forum dubbed the "I2U2" which hopes to further spark Israel's regional integration.

We are slowly overcoming our fear of rejection and isolation. Herzl felt that rejection/isolation. Millions of Jews in the Holocaust experienced it. In the 1970s, Israelis felt it with the Arab boycott and oil embargo. And though the BDS movement is not a serious threat to Israel's economy, it tugs on the emotional heartstrings after centuries of rejection. That's why many Israelis often downplay the Occupation and Israel's own actions. "Yeah yeah, we know, we know, and it's complicated... but do you love us???" they often ask.

Regional integration, (aka the Abraham Accords) is for Israelis a "breakthrough." "See, they do love us! We can be accepted by the world and even by Arabs who decades earlier called for our destruction." (Ok, the Emiratis and Bahrainis never actually called for our destruction).

Despite all the stated purposes, for Israelis Biden's visit to Saudi Arabia is about one thing only: recognition.

The fact that there is the possibility of direct flights from Tel Aviv to Jeddah is huge.

Israelis know that while Biden is having his lovefest, he may be a relic of the past given that he is a near octogenarian leader. Israelis understand that the currently constituted Trump Republican party represents an extremist populism, and they don't know what to make of its Israel-loving but Jew-hating trends. Israelis are nervous also about far left-wing Democrats' hostility to Israel, which seems to be growing.

In an exclusive interview with Israeli Channel 12's Yonit Levi, just prior to his departure, President

*Continued on page 9*

# Bar Mitzvah

## Eli Jackson Gregory

On Saturday, August 20, Elie Jackson Gregory, at age 13, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Congregation House of Israel. Eli and his family are residents of Monticello, Arkansas, and Eli is the grandson of CHI member Oded Grenman. For the last 18 months, Eli has been tutored by Rabbi Marshall Klaven who officiated at the service, which was a well attended delight. Mazel Tov to Eli and his entire family for this wonderful event.



(above) Standing at the Ark, Eli (l) with Rabbi Marshall Klaven.



(top l) Eli davening with brother Alex. (top r) Eli with father Nathan (l) and mother Hagid (r).

(above) Eli (l) and the family

(below) Rabbi Klaven holding the Torah



(left) Eli receiving his Bar Mitzvah tallit from Grandfather Oded.

(above) Eli carrying the Torah with Rabbi Klaven (l) and brother Alex (r).



## Refuah Shelemah

*The following people are in our thoughts and prayers for healing. Pray that they have a full and complete recovery.:*

- Ken Baim
- Sam Banks
- Kathy Bracke
- Mitch Boley
- Camy Crank
- Hy Fishman
- Oded Grenman
- Mindy Lingo
- Pat McCarthy
- Mike Richardson
- Steve Story
- Misty Stricklin
- Steven West
- Anita Williams
- 

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Anniversaries

David D. and Karen Reagler	Sept 13
Stuart and Kay Fleischner	Oct 28

### Birthdays

Madeline Bull	Sept 2
Susan Siegel	Sept 4
Lynda Kass	Sept 12
Cooper Bull	Sept 18
Jerry Rephan	Sept 27
Betty Feir	Oct 3
Karen Reagler	Oct 3
Betty Forshberg	Oct 8
Jacob Kleinman	Oct 8
Zev Kleinman	Oct 8
Brad Wolken	Oct 12
Steven Kirsch	Oct 16
Westley Kleinman	Oct 29

## ARZA - World Union

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Biden dismissed the increasingly loud anti-Israel voices within the Democratic Party.

“There are few of them. I think they’re wrong. I think they’re making a mistake. Israel is a democracy. Israel is our ally. Israel is a friend...there’s no possibility, I think, of the Democratic Party or even a significant portion of the Republican Party, walking away from Israel.”

His reassurances won’t cure Israel’s anxiety.

Biden’s visit comes as we read Parashat Balak (Diaspora) when an enemy king employs a sorcerer to curse the Israelites. God intervenes (through an angel and a talking donkey) to offer words of blessing and praise.

Israelis continue searching for that praise, and we all breathed a sigh of relief when the President of the United States, the world’s most powerful leader, touches down on hallowed ground and utters his version of these words of blessing and praise:

How good are your tents, O Jacob,  
Your dwellings, O Israel!

Like palm-groves that stretch out,  
Like gardens beside a river,  
Like aloes planted by God,  
Like cedars beside the water;

Their boughs drip with moisture,  
Their roots have abundant water.  
Their ruler shall rise above Agag,  
Their sovereignty shall be exalted.

God who freed them from Egypt  
Is for them like the horns of the wild ox.  
They shall devour enemy nations,  
Crush their bones,  
And smash their arrows.

They crouch, they lie down like a lion,  
Like a lioness; who dares rouse them?  
Blessed are they who bless you,  
Accursed they who curse you!

*(Numbers 24:5-9)*

When asked, “Do you love me, Do you love me, Do you love me???”

As Reform Zionists, we should respond: “Yes, we love you. You are cherished and accepted. Now, let’s roll up our sleeves and work together for continued acceptance in the region and the world and to build greater prospects for peace.”

## September - October Yahrzeits

### Kaddish Recited September 2

**Meier Baron**

*Father of Yossi Baron*

**Bruce Staffin**

*Brother of Myrna Taxer*

**Sam Taub**

*Father of Betty Feir*

**Edward I Rephan**

*Grandfather of Jerry Rephan*

**Margie Tollefson**

*Mother of Sharon Waxler*

**Bill Ginsburg**

*Brother of Millie Baron*

### Kaddish Recited September 9

**Lila Raines**

*Mother-in-law of Steven Kirsch*

**Sadye Fleischer**

*Grandmother of Mark Fleischer*

*Grandmother of Stuart Fleischer*

**Sybil Fleischer**

*Aunt of Mark Fleischer*

*Aunt of Stuart Fleischer*

### Kaddish Recited September 16

**Jean Gershner**

*Member of CHI*

**Arthur Williams**

*Brother of Dennis Williams*

### Kaddish Recited September 30

**Helen Poncher Newman**

*Grandmother of Brad Wolken*

### Kaddish Recited October 7

**Abraham Taub**

*Grandfather of Betty Feir*

**Carrie Karnofsky Davis**

*Grandmother of Rachel Schulman*

*Grandmother of David D. Reagler*

**Laura Fleischner**

*Mother of Mark Fleischer*

*Mother of Stuart Fleischer*

**Seymour Kleinman**

*Father of Sheldon Kleinman*

### Kaddish Recited October 14

**Robert Fields**

*Great Uncle of Mark Fleischer*

*Great Uncle of Stuart Fleischer*

**Rosalind Goltz Hudson**

*Sister of Susan Siegel*

*Sister of Diane Goltz*

*Mother of Madeline Bull*

**Scott Douglas Bull**

*Uncle of Cooper Bull*

### Kaddish Recited October 21

**Alice Wolken**

*Grandmother of Brad Wolken*

**Dale Tollefson**

*Father of Sharon Waxler*

**Bernard Levi**

*Father of Larry Levi*

**Earl Hudson**

*Grandfather of Cooper Bull*

*Father of Madeline Bull*

**Rachel Zucker Reagler**

*Grandmother of David D. Reagler*

### Kaddish Recited October 28

**Louis Kleinman**

*Husband of Betty Kleinman*

*Father of Ira Kleinman*

*Grandfather of Westley Kleinman*

*Grandfather of Jacob Kleinman*

*Grandfather of Zev Kleinman*

## September Parshiot

### Shoftim

*September 3, 2022*

Moses instructs the people of Israel to appoint judges and law-enforcement officers in every city; “Justice, justice shall you pursue,” he commands them, and you must administer it without corruption or favoritism. Crimes must be meticulously investigated and evidence thoroughly examined -- a minimum of two credible witnesses is required for conviction and punishment.

The Parshah concludes with the law of Eglah Arufah - the special procedure to be followed when a person is killed by an unknown murderer and his body is found in a field - which underscores the responsibility of the community and its leaders not only for what they do but also for what they might have prevented from being done.

### Ki-Teitzei

*September 10, 2022*

Seventy-four of the Torah’s 613 commandments (mitzvot) are in the Parshah of Ki-Teitzei. These include the laws of the beautiful captive, the inheritance rights of the first-born, the wayward and rebellious son, burial and dignity of the dead, the returning of a lost object, sending away the mother bird before taking her young, the duty to erect a safety fence around the roof of one’s home, and the various forms of kilayim (forbidden plant and animal hybrids) and the procedures for yibbum (“levirate marriage”) of the wife of a deceased childless brother or chalitzah (“removing of the shoe”) in the case that the brother-in-law does not wish to marry her.

Ki Teitzei concludes with the obligation to remember “what Amalek did to you on the road, on your way out of Egypt.

### Ki Tavo

*September 17, 2022*

Moses instructs the people of Israel: When you enter the land that G-d is giving to you as your eternal heritage, and you settle it and cultivate it, bring the first-ripened fruits (bikkurim) of your orchard to the Holy Temple, and declare your gratitude for all that G-d has done for you.

Our Parshah also includes the laws of the tithes given to the Levites and to the poor, and detailed instructions on how to proclaim the blessings and the curses on Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal—as discussed in the beginning of the Parshah of Re’eh. Moses reminds the people that they are

G-d’s chosen people, and that they, in turn, have chosen G-d.

### Nitzavim

*September 24, 2022*

The Parshah of Nitzavim includes some of the most fundamental principles of the Jewish faith: The unity of Israel: “You stand today, all of you, before the L-rd your G-d: your heads, your tribes, your elders, your officers, and every Israelite man; your young ones, your wives, the stranger in your gate; from your wood-hewer to your

water-drawer.”

The future redemption: Moses warns of the exile and desolation of the Land that will result if Israel abandons G-d’s laws, but then he prophesies that in the end, “You will return to the L-rd your G-d . . . If your outcasts shall be at the ends of the heavens, from there will the L-rd your G-d gather you . . . and bring you into the Land which your fathers have possessed.”



# October Parshiot

## Vayeilech

**October 1, 2022**

The Parshah of Vayeilech ("And He Went") recounts the events of Moses' last day of earthly life. "I am one hundred and twenty years old today," he says to the people, "and I can no longer go forth and come in." He transfers the leadership to Joshua, and writes (or concludes writing) the Torah in a scroll which he entrusts to the Levites for safekeeping in the Ark of the Covenant.

Vayeilech concludes with the prediction that the people of Israel will turn away from their covenant with G-d, causing Him to hide His face from them, but also with the promise that the words of the Torah "shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their descendants."

## Haazinu

**October 8, 2022**

The greater part of the Torah reading of Haazinu ("Listen In") consists of a 70-line "song" delivered by Moses to the people of Israel on the last day of his earthly life.

Calling heaven and earth as witnesses, Moses exhorts the people to "Remember the days of old / Consider the years of many generations / Ask your father, and he will recount it to you / Your elders, and they will tell you" how G-d "found them in a desert land," and made them a people.

## Sukkot

**October 9 - 16, 2022**

The reading lists the annual Callings of Holiness -- the festivals of the Jewish calendar: the weekly Shabbat; the bringing of the Passover offering on 14 Nissan; the seven-day Passover festival beginning on 15 Nissan; the bringing of the Omer offering from the first barley harvest on the 2nd day of Passover, and the commencement, on

that day, of the 49-day Counting of the Omer, culminating in the festival of Shavuot on the 50th day; a "remembrance of shofar blowing" on 1 Tishrei; a solemn fast day on 10 Tishrei; the Sukkot festival -- during which we are to dwell in huts for seven days and take the "Four Kinds" -- beginning on 15 Tishrei; and the immediately following holiday of the "8th day" of Sukkot (Shemini Atzeret).

## Bereishit

**October 22, 2022**

God creates the world in six days. On the first day He makes darkness and light. On the second day He forms the heavens, dividing the "upper waters" from the "lower waters." On the third day He sets the boundaries of land and sea and calls forth trees and greenery from the earth. On the fourth day He fixes the position of the sun, moon and stars as time-keepers and illuminators of the earth. Fish, birds and reptiles are created on the fifth day; land-animals, and then the human being, on the sixth. God ceases work on the seventh day, and sanctifies it as a day of rest.

## Noach

**October 29, 2022**

God instructs Noah -- the only righteous man in a world consumed by violence and corruption -- to build a large wooden *teivah* ("ark"), coated within and without with pitch. A great deluge, says God, will wipe out all life from the face of the earth; but the ark will float upon the water, sheltering Noah and his family, and two members (male and female) of each animal species.

Rain falls for 40 days and nights, and the waters churn for 150 days more before calming and beginning to recede. The ark settles on Mount Ararat, and from its window Noah dispatches a raven, and then a series of doves, "to see if the waters were abated from the face of the earth." When the ground dries completely -- exactly one solar year (365 days) after the onset of the Flood -- God commands Noah to exit the ark and repopulate the earth.



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