



The Shofar

September-October, 2024

Congregation House of Israel

28 Av, 5784 - 29 Tishrei, 5785



...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.

Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors (as of August 20, 2024)

General Fund

Sheldon and Carol Kleinman

*In loving memory of Carol Levi
In loving memory of Rose Gladner*

Barbara Morgan

*In loving memory of Carol Levi
In loving memory of Rose Gladner*

Steven Kirsch

In loving memory of Steven's father, Eugene Kirsch

Dale Myers

In appreciation of Congregation House of Israel

Dennis and Anita Williams

In loving memory of Dennis's mother, Dorine Calcote Williams

Anthony and Sherrill Nicolosi

*In loving memory of Sandra Boley
In loving memory of Carol Kleinman
In loving memory of Rose Gladner
In honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of Zev and Jacob Kleinman*

The Shofar

Published monthly by:

Congregation House of Israel

PO Box 20802

300 Quapaw

Hot Springs, AR 71903

(501) 623-5821

Website: <http://hschi.org>

Editor: Shelly Kleinman

Webmaster: Shelly Kleinman

Email to: info@hschi.org

Submissions due the 15th of the prior month.
Distributed free to members, prospective members, local clergy and other interested parties.

Sisterhood Fund

Goltz, Siegel and Bull Families

*In loving memory of Bernice Goltz
In loving memory of Florence Lockwood*

Camp Jacobs, 2024



What fun!!

Photo: (left)

Mimi (l) and Hannah (r) Reagler along with Sally Nicolosi (c).

Photo: (right)

Louis Reagler (l) next to Sally Nicolosi.

Mimi, Hannah and Louis were all Camp Counselors this year. Sally was asked to be a "Guest Dance Teacher".

Reb Shelly's Desk



Learning Humility

By Rabbi Sid Schwartz

I always learn the most from Israeli cabbies. The views they share are raw, unvarnished. On most of my organized visits to Israel I hear from all kinds of experts — academics, journalists, heads of NGOs, members of Knesset, etc. — but what stays with me for months after each trip are what I hear from the cabbies.

This was my first visit post-10/7, as a volunteer on a service mission with the organization Adamah. Like many American Jews who care about Israel, I was consuming hundreds of articles, podcasts and news stories about the war against Hamas, the fates of the hostages, the humanitarian crisis affecting civilians in Gaza, the growing hostility in the world toward Jews and Israel, and much more. I am no stranger to the country. I visit almost every year.

But I found Israel to be, definitely, a changed country.

The cab driver who drove me from the airport into Tel Aviv told me that he has lost all faith in the Israeli government. “They have failed all of us,” he said. First, there was the shocking intelligence failure that allowed the incursion of more than 1,000 Hamas terrorists over the border to commit mind-numbing atrocities against Israelis, despite several warnings that such an incursion was being planned. Then there was the failure of the vaunted Israeli military to come to the aid of Israelis being massacred or kidnapped for the better part of 24 hours.

“We need to get rid of them. All of them,” he declared. “We need new political leadership in this country.”

The cab driver who drove me back to the airport after nine days in the country gave me a different take on the *matzav* (situation). It was the day that the U.S. chose to abstain from the U.N. resolution

Continued on page 8

The Shofar

By Sherrill Nicolosi

A shofar is the horn of a ram, a natural wind instrument used during specific times in the Jewish religion. It is not a sacred object; it is a symbolic one.

The use of a ram, not a cow or other animal, honors the story of the would-be sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, who was willing to follow a holy commandment to sacrifice his son. At the last second, Isaac was spared and replaced by a ram.

The shofar (shofarot, plural) is blown each morning, excluding Shabbat, during the month of Elul, the month before Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. It is blown in anticipation of the celebration of the most holy day of the Jewish year, that Yom Kippur is approaching.

Blowing the shofar is the only specific commandment for Rosh Hashanah. It is the symbol of Rosh Hashanah. It is a mitzvah - a commandment that we hear the shofar and begin the Days of Remembering.

The distinct sequence of the shofar tells a story of its own:

- *Tekiah* - one long blast;
- *Teruah* - nine staccato blasts;
- *Shevarim* - three short blasts;
- *Tekiah gedolah* - one very long blast.

The shofar is not blown during Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is blown at the conclusion of the lengthy day of prayer. After the *Neila* (the closing of the Gates), the shofar is sounded, and a new year begins for all Jews.

May each of us be “sealed in the Book of Life” for another year.



High Holiday Service Schedule

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday	October 2	7:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Evening Service Oneg to follow
Thursday	October 3	10:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Morning Service

Kver Avot

Sunday	October 6	11:00 a.m.	Kver Avot Service, Jewish Rest Cemetery
--------	-----------	------------	---

Yom Kippur Services

Friday	October 11	7:30 p.m.	Kol Nidre
Saturday	October 12	10:00 a.m.	Yom Kippur Morning Service
		5:30 p.m.	Yom Kippur Afternoon Service
		6:00 p.m.	Yizkor Service
			Neilah Service
			Havdalah & Break-the-Fast

ARZA - World Union

This week, was one of the more difficult and agonizing weeks in recent history. 12 Israel-Druze children were killed this past Saturday while playing soccer by an Iranian-produced Hezbollah missile that struck the Golan Heights village of Majdal Shams. Their names were: Fajr Laith Abu Saleh (16), Ameer Rabee Abu Saleh (16), Hazem Akram Abu Saleh (15), John Wadea Ibrahim (13), Iseel Nasha'at Ayoub (12), Finis Adham Safadi (11), Yazan Nayeif Abu Saleh (12), Alma Ayman Fakhr al-Din (11), Naji Taher al-Halabi (11), Milad Muadad al-Sha'ar (10) Nathem Fakher Saeb. They were killed in the deadliest strike by the Iranian-backed Shi'ite organization which was the most severe incident in the north since Hezbollah began its attacks on Israel on October 8, in what it describes as a campaign supporting Palestinians in Gaza. On Tuesday, Israel killed Fuad Shukr, a top Hezbollah commander accused of masterminding the strike on Majdal Shams. According to Israeli

military officials, Shukr was a close adviser of Hezbollah's secretary-general, Hassan Nasrallah, and was responsible for obtaining the bulk of the group's more advanced weaponry "including precise-guided missiles, cruise missiles, anti-ship missiles, long-range rockets, and UAVs."

Less than 24 hours later, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated while visiting Tehran. Haniyeh was the political leader of a terrorist organization bent on the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people. For years, he has been based in Qatar, and had come to Tehran to celebrate the inauguration of the Iranian premier.

There is no question that the world will be a better place without the likes of Shukr and Haniyeh, however, this raises significant moral questions for Israel in attempt to eliminate its enemies and ensure the safety and security of its citizens.

Was the decision to assassinate Haniyeh the right one? Will his elimination make Israel more or less safe? As one of the main interlocutors negotiat-

Continued on page 7

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.

Congregation House of Israel Board of Directors

Rabbi Sheldon "Shelly" Kleinman
501-282-0055
skleinm2@gmail.com

Michael Richardsson, President
903-278-6453
maheegan@aol.com

Dennis Williams, Vice President
870-230-3529
jwmensch1@gmail.com

Glenda Kirsch, Secretary/Sisterhood President
281-458-2655
ghkirsch@hotmail.com

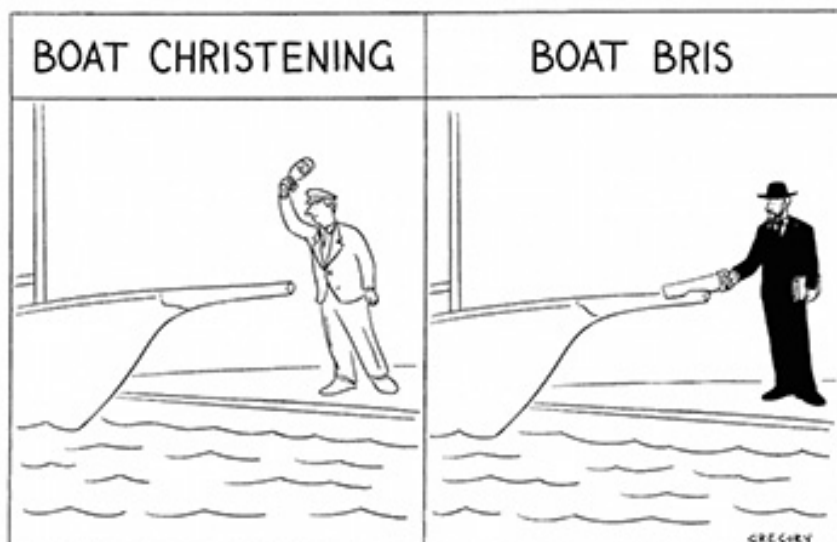
Hal Koppel, Treasurer
501-525-3238
hjkkrew@yahoo.com

Yossi Baron
501-655-1280
kimyossibaron@yahoo.com

Sherrill Nicolosi
501-984-1517
sherrill@thevillagelawyer.com

Ira Kleinman, Past President
501-520-1323
irakleinman@awisupply.com

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.



Sisterhood



A note from the Sisterhood Treasurer

As we get ready for the start of a new Sisterhood year I would like to thank everyone who has mailed in their Sisterhood dues and dues for their Daughters of Congregation House of Israel. The membership dues are \$36.00 for the entire year and \$18.00 for Daughters of CHI. If you have not sent in your dues yet, there is still time. Make your check out to CHI Sisterhood and mail it to:

Ruth Sedler
152 Blue Heron Drive
Hot Springs Arkansas

Also remember that our first meeting will be on Monday September 9, 11 a.m. in Burgauer Hall (the second Monday of September, as the first Monday is Labor Day). We all bring our own lunch, so please join us.

Here is the current list of Sisterhood members as of August 18.

Ruth

Sisterhood Mmbers

(As of August 18, 2024)

- Millie Baron
- Kim Baron
- Katina Bowden
- Madeline Bull
- Kay Fleischner
- Patti Fleischner
- Sophie Fleischner
- Diane Goltz
- Gail Greenberg
- Lynda Kass
- Betty Kleinman
- Mary Klompus
- Sue Koppel
- Barbara Morgan
- Sherrill Nicolosi
- Karen Reagler
- Rachel Schulman
- Ruth Sedler
- Susan Siegel
- Diana Surfas
- Myrna Taxer
- Sharon Waxler
- Anita Williams
-

Daughters of CHI

- Shelly Baron
- Mattea Fleischner
- Leah Fleischner
- Sally Nicolosi
- Tillie Reagler
- Hannah Reagler
- Mimi Reagler

ARZA - World Union

Continued from page 4

ing around the release of the hostages, will Haniyeh's death interfere with achieving a deal? Will his killing in Tehran cause Iran to unleash renewed direct attacks on Israel? If Israel was able to carry out such a complex intelligence operation, one might ask, could Israel's intelligence not also work to release the hostages remaining?

Time will tell.

I shed no tears over Haniyeh's death. But in the spirit of Proverbs 24:172 which teaches "If your enemy falls, do not exult; If he trips, let your heart not rejoice," I'm also not in the streets celebrating.

Israel is surrounded by enemies who swear its destruction, yet this week proved that Israel's enemies are both external and internal, as this week Israel also faced an unprecedented domestic moral challenge.

"We have met the enemy... and they are ours."

Earlier this week the military police arrested nine reservists on suspicion of abusing (sodomizing) a Palestinian prisoner who is a leader of the Hamas Nukhba terrorist organization responsible for the October 7 massacre and reportedly staged an uprising in the prison. After the soldiers were brought to military court for a bail hearing, an extremist Israeli mob of protesters – including Knesset members Limor Son Har-Melech, Tzvi Sukkot, and Minister Amichai Eliyahu of the extremist Otzma Yehudit Party that is part of the ruling government coalition (MK Tali Gottliv of Likud stood on the back of a truck surrounded by masked protesters shouting about the purported injustice) – stormed the Beit Lid and Sde Teiman army bases in protest. They accused the military advocate general who ordered the arrests of being a "criminal."

The crux of the matter is the following, as stated by Israel Democracy Institute's Drs. Eran Shamir-Borer and Amichai Cohen:

"The alleged act of the suspect soldiers is morally repugnant and the IDF is right to conduct a full and thorough investigation. Whenever reliable allegations arise of abuse of a detainee under IDF custody, they must be investigated — first and foremost, for moral and ethical reasons. Regardless of the anger against the terrorists held at the Sde Teiman detention facility, these detainees are still subject to the laws of the State of Israel and are entitled to certain rights and protections under international law. Respecting these rights and protections is part of the bedrock of the system of

values of a modern democratic state. Sentencing and punishment must be decided only by a court of law, and there can be no place for administering any sort of private retribution. This is a core element of the foundation of a functioning democracy and is also an important moral quality that differentiates Israel from the enemies who attack us."

These actions by protesters demonstrated an unprecedented and brazen contempt for the rule of law and the military itself. They communicated to the world that we shouldn't be concerned with how Israel treats its prisoners because they are terrorists, and how dare the authorities attempt to reprimand them for their "bravery and heroism".

To accept the protestors' view is to cross a moral red line. If IDF soldiers refuse to abide by the rules and if military authorities fail to prosecute and hold accountable those who break the rules (heinously, I might add), then the IDF cannot claim the moral high ground. If mobs take vigilante action and commit an insurrection, the police need to squash it immediately; failure to do so represents a weakening of the entire system. The Minister of National Security Itamar Ben Gvir should be held accountable, prosecuted, and removed from his position if the police under his authority did not prevent civilians from breaking into an army base, ostensibly because he agreed with their cause. The rejection of laws and accountability from certain Israeli politicians paint disturbing pictures comparable to what happened in Washington D.C. on January 6, 2021. This should frighten all of us. Israel has always allowed its judiciary to act independently, a hallmark of the Jewish State's democratic system of government. The ease with which a mob of protesters broke in and freely entered a closed military base is a dangerous precedent to set and should be met with swift action and reprimand.

This failure of democratic norms and morality, more than Israel's actions against Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas, bears the gravest and most dire threat to the State of Israel. While we as North American Jews must do all we can to support Israel, we must also do all that we can to support Israel's institutions of democracy, of a free and independent judiciary, and its ability to weed out and prosecute those who take the law into their own hands.

While we wait with bated breath and great trepidation as to what the Iranian response will be, Israel has enough work to do internally to confront those who are eroding Israeli society from within, let us wish Israel the strength and will to "not let our enemies rejoice over us," (Psalm 30:2) prevail over its enemies both foreign and domestic.

Refuah Sheleimah

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

- Cheryl Cohen
- Oded Grenman
- Randy Lewis
- Heather Mosher
- Pat McCarthy
- Sherrill Nicolosi
- Mike Richardson
- Susan Siegel
- Larry Taub
- Misty Stricklin
- Shep Taxer
- Steven West
- Anita Williams
- James Woodfork

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

Reb Shelly's Desk

Continued from page 3

calling for a cease-fire. "Biden is weak," the cabbie told me. "Doesn't he understand that, if Israel doesn't eliminate Hamas, they are coming for the entire Western world next?... Don't you remember 9/11?... We need Trump —"

At that point I interjected. "Trump is crazy," I said. "He is dangerous and totally lacking any measure of integrity or principle." My cabbie was quick with a response: "That is why we need him. He is just crazy enough to flatten all of Gaza without any hesitation. Let all the Gazans starve to death or be killed in this war. Less for us to worry about." Unvarnished, indeed!

Between these two random conversations in a cab, there was much to take in. At Hostage Square in downtown Tel Aviv, for instance, you could speak to relatives of hostages still being held in Gaza. You could walk through a simulated Hamas tunnel, imagining what it might be like to be chained in one of them for months on end, with minimal food or water and at risk of beatings or worse at the hands of Hamas captors. Or you could walk up to a yellow piano donated by the parents of Alon Ohel, 22, a gifted pianist kidnapped from the Nova music festival. The sign next to the piano invites visitors to sit at the piano and play a song as a message of hope and strength that Alon will survive his ordeal and return home safely.

A visit to the actual Nova music festival site is even more heart-rending. Over 400, mostly young people attending the festival were killed by Hamas terrorists on Oct. 7, and another 40-plus were taken as hostages. The site has become a much-visited memorial, with photos and memorabilia of each of the victims placed with care by their families and friends.

I returned from Israel with a healthy lesson in humility. I will still offer my opinions, hopefully well-reasoned. But I will try to listen more, speak less and hold my opinions more lightly. Jewish professionals are facing a community whose views span the spectrum from "defend Israel against any and every critic" to "Zionism is a colonial enterprise that needs to be dismantled as soon as possible". I am finding that a posture of listening without judgment is the only way to keep the widest possible range of Jews in the communal tent. Given the dramatic rise in anti-semitic attitudes and actions all around the world, this is a time for solidarity, not a time for pointing fingers and making accusations about who is right and who is wrong.

The one conviction that I will hold with greater force is this: We say in Hebrew: *Kol Yisrael areivim zeh ba-zeh*, "All of Israel is responsible, one for the other." In other words, we are family. We must show up for one another.

Jewish Trivia for September

- Sep 1, 1939 *Germany invades Poland, beginning World War II*
- Sep 5, 1972 *Palestinian terrorists kill eleven Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics. Five terrorists are killed. Israeli warplanes retaliate against Lebanon and Syria*
- Sep 9, 1965 *Sandy Koufax of the L.A. Dodgers pitches a perfect game against the Chicago Cubs.*
- Sep 15, 1934 *Nuremberg Laws enacted in Germanyk restricting Jews from a wide range of businesses and resulting in their loss of citizenship.*
- Sep 22, 1964 *Fiddler On the Roof opens on Broadway at the Imperial Theatre*
- Sep 24, 1950 *With "Operation Magic Carpet" the Israeli Air force begins airlifting the entire Jewish community of Yemen, nubering 50,000, to Israel.*
- Sep 27, 1954 *The Tonight Show makes its debut, hosted by Steve Allen*

Deceased

- Sep 2, 1989 *Irving Berlin, composer*
- Sep 8, 1997 *Zero Mostel, actor*
- Sep 4, 1986 *Hank Greenberg, baseball player*
- Sep 22, 2007 *Marcel Marceau, mime*
- Sep 22, 2001 *Isaac Stern, violinist*
- Sep 29, 2009 *Tony Curtis, actor*
- Sep 22, 2010 *Eddie Fisher, singer*
- Sep 4, 2014 *Joan Rivers, comedian*
- Sep 28, 2016 *Shimon Peres, politician*

Condolences

We mourn the passing of Carol Levi, the wife of Larry Levi, who died on July 10, 2024.

We mourn the passing of Rose Gladner, the wife of Neal Gladner, who died on July 30, 2024.

Jewish Trivia for October

- Oct 13, 1843 *B'nai Brith founded in New York City*
- Oct 6, 1927 *Release of The Jazz Singer, first talking picture, starring Al Jolson*
- Oct 1941 *Birkenau Concentration Camp (also known as Auschwitz-Birk-enau) opened by the Nazis.*
- Oct 1, 1946 *Sentences announced as the Nuremberg Trials end. Sev-enteen Nazi war criminals receive death sentences, seven are imprisoned and three acquitted.*
- Oct 27, 1967 *Jerusalem is reunited under Israeli control*
- Oct 6, 1973 *Yom Kippur War begins with a sneak attack on Israel by Egypt, Jordan and Syria.*
- Oct 14, 1994 *Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Yasir Arafat are awarded the Nobel Peace Prize*
- Oct 7, 2023 *Hamas terrorists launched an attack on Israeli territory killing over 1200 persons and taking over 250 hostages*

Deceased

- Oct 5, 1941 *Louis Brandeis, Supreme Court Justice*
- Oct 23, 1950 *Al Jolson, singer*
- Oct 29, 1957 *Louis B. Mayer, Hollywood Mogul*
- Oct 16, 1981 *Moshe Dayan, soldier and politician*
- Oct 26, 1990 *Willism Paley, President of CBS*
- Oct 21, 1994 *Shlomo Carlebach, rabbi and musician*
- Oct 30, 2000 *Steve Allen, television personality*
- Oct 3, 2004 *Janet Leigh, actress*
- Oct 23, 2004 *Robert Merrill, opera singer*
- Oct 9, 2005 *Louis Nye, actor*
- Oct 17, 2007 *Joey Bishop, comedian*
- Oct 22, 2009 *Soupy Sales, comedian*
- Oct 24, 2010 *Joe Stein, playwright*

September - October Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited September 6

Meier Baron

Father of Yossi Baron

Edward I Rephan

Grandfather of Jerry Rephan

Margie Tollefson

Mother of Sharon Waxler

Bill Ginsburg

Brother of Millie Baron

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 13

(No member yahrzeits for this week)

Kaddish Recited September 20

Arthur Williams

Brother of Dennis Williams

Jean Gershner

Member of CHI

Kaddish Recited September 28

(No member yahrzeits for this week)

Kaddish Recited October 4

Helen Poncher Newman

Grandmother of Brad Wolken

Eathel Greenberg

Mother of Bobby Greenberg

Abraham Taub

Grandfather of Betty Feir

Carrie Karnofsky Davis

*Grandmother of Rachel Schulman
Grandmother of David D. Reagler*

Laura Fleischer

*Mother of Mark Fleischer
Mother of Stuart Fleischer*

Seymour Kleinman

Father of Sheldon Kleinman

Kaddish Recited October 11

Robert Fields

*Great Uncle of Mark Fleischer
Great Uncle of Stuart Fleischer*

Kaddish Recited October 18

Rosalind Goltz Hudson

*Sister of Susan Siegel
Sister of Diane Goltz
Mother of Madeline Bull*

Scott Douglas Bull

Uncle of Cooper Bull

Alice Wolken

Grandmother of Brad Wolken

Dale Tollefson

Father of Sharon Waxler

Oscar H. Greenberg

Father of Bobby Greenberg

Kaddish Recited October 28

Bernard Levi

Father of Larry Levi

Earl Hudson

*Grandfather of Cooper Bull
Father of Madeline Bull*

Rachel Zucker Reagler

Grandmother of David D. Reagler

September Parshiot

Shoftim

September 7, 2024

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 14, 2024

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 21, 2024

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 - Vayelech

September 28, 2024

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 Parshah of Vayelech (“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.

Vayelech 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.”

October Parshiot

Haazinu

October 5, 2024

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.

Yom Kippur

October 12, 2024

Yom Kippur fast day is the holiest day of the year, when we are closest to G-d and to the essence of our souls. Yom Kippur means "Day of Atonement," as the verse states, "For on this day He will forgive you, to purify you, that you be cleansed from all your sins before G-d."

When: The 10th day of Tishrei (in 2024, from several minutes before sunset on Friday, October 11, until after nightfall on Shabbat, October 12), coming on the heels of Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year, which is on the first and second days of Tishrei).

How: For nearly 26 hours we "afflict our souls": we abstain from food and drink, do not wash or apply lotions or creams, do not wear leather footwear, and abstain from marital relations. Instead, we spend the day in synagogue, praying for forgiveness.

Sukkot

October 17 - 24, 2024

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).



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.

Bereishit

October 26, 2024

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