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All Synagogue Services, Classes and Programs are being conducted via Zoom and can be accessed with the same link.



The most up to date schedule can be found on our website. Click on the "What's Happening" Icon and you will see all that Congregation L'Dor V'Dor





Congregation L'Dor V'Dor

Oakland Little Neck Jewish Center 49-10 Little Neck Pkwy. Little Neck, NY 11362 Phone: (718) 224-0404 Email: office@lnjc.org

OLNJC.org July 2020 Vol. 16 Issue 7

Thursday, July 23rd Congregational Meeting Zoom at 8:00 pm



Be A Part Of The Process!

1. New Leadership

The Nominating Committee has suggested a new slate of officers for the 2020-2021 year. At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to enable additional candidates to be considered for positions on the Board of Trustees.

2. 2020-2021 Synagogue Budget

A preliminary budget proposal for the next fiscal year that will begin July 1, 2020 will be presented. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and offer any suggestions that you may have.

- 3. Re-opening of the Synagogue
 What are the plans that are best for our congregation?
- 4. Consolidation
 Options for the future.

July Schedule of Services Daily Evening Minyan Sunday—Thursday @7:30 pm

Fri., July 3	Kabbalat Shabbat Service	6:00 p.m.
Sat., July 4	Shabbat Morning Service Havdalah/Maariv	9:30 a.m. 9:10 p.m.
Sun., July 5	Sunday Morning Minyan	8:45 a.m.
Fri., July 10	Kabbalat Shabbat Service	6:00 p.m.
Sat., July 11	Shabbat Morning Service Havdalah/Maariv	9:30 a.m. 9:10 p.m.
Sun., July 12	Sunday Morning Minyan	8:45 a.m.
Fri., July 17	Shabbat Evening Service Birthdays and Anniversaries Cel	6:00 p.m. ebrated
Sat., July 18	Shabbat Morning Service Havdalah/Maariv	9:30 a.m. 9:00 p.m.
Sun., July 19	Sunday Morning Minyan	8:45 a.m.
Fri., July 24	Kabbalat Shabbat Service	6:00 p.m.
Sat., July 25	Shabbat Morning Service Havdalah/Maariv	9:30 a.m. 8:55 p.m.
Sun., July 26	Sunday Minyan	8:45 a.m.
Wed., July 29	Erev Tisha B'Av	8:00 pm
Thurs. July 30	Tisha B'Av Mincha	7:30 pm
Fri., July 31	Kabbalat Shabbat Service	6:00 p.m.



Celebrate Your July

Birthday or Anniversary by receiving a special blessing at Shabbat Evening Services Friday, July 17 6:00 p.m.



15	Shabbat Ca	ndle Lighting
	July 3	8:12pm
Î	July 10	8:10pm
\$	July 17	8:06 m
	July 24	8:00 pm
基	July 31	7:54 pm



From The Rabbi

Tisha B'Av, the 9th day of the Hebrew month of Av, is the day on the Jewish calendar on which we mourn for all of the calamities that have afflicted the Jewish



People throughout history. According to the Talmud in Tractate Taanit, the scouts, who were sent by Moses to determine a plan for the conquest of Canaan, gave their report on the 9th of Av. It was an ominous report and the response by our ancestors to this report demonstrated a complete lack of faith in God and God's promises to his people. Our ancestors had been freed from slavery in Egypt, had entered into a covenant with God at Mt. Sinai, and were poised to inherit the land of Canaan that had been promised to our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They should have been fortified by the presence of God in their lives. They should have had courage and strength fortified by their faith in God, but they had no faith and demonstrated that they were not ready for the next phase of their lives as members of a nation with a destiny to become a light unto the nations of the world. This tragic response to the report of the scouts led to the decree that those who had been freed from slavery in Egypt would have to die in the wilderness and the next generation, under new leadership, would be the ones to inherit the land. From this point on, the 9th day of the month of Av became a day of tragedy for the Jewish people. Each year as we observe Tisha B'Av it is important to remember that tragedy comes from being led astray by misperceptions and the inability to have courage and strength that comes from gratitude in God's blessings and faith in God's promises.

On the 9th day of Av in 586 BCE and in 70 CE the Temples in Jerusalem were destroyed. These were days on which the Jewish people suffered great humiliation, the loss of national independence and exile from our homeland. On the 9th day of Av in the year 135 CE, the Roman emperor, Hadrian, established a heathen temple on the site of the Temple ruins and re-established Jerusalem as a pagan city, into which the Jews were forbidden to enter. The expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290 and from Spain in 1492 are also said to have occurred on this day. During the Holocaust, the deportations from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka Concentration Camp began on Tisha B'Av.

Why must we remember all of these tragic events? Wouldn't it be better to push them out of our minds and simply rejoice in our blessings? I believe the answer to these and similar questions is:

We must feel the pain of historical suffering so that we can emerge with courage and hope for the future that comes with understanding of the past.

Tisha B'Av is a fast day on which we refrain from the luxury of wearing leather, the comfort of bathing and the joy of marital relations. By observing these prohibitions, we have the opportunity to personally feel the pain and the loss that is an integral part of the history that makes us who we are as Jews. Throughout the year, the rituals of our tradition help us to bring the joys as well as the sorrows of Jewish history into our own contemporary experience of life.

In the Book of Ecclesiastes it is written: "There is a time and purpose for everything. A time to be born, a time to die, a time to dance and a time to mourn. Tisha B'Av is a time to mourn and we will continue to mourn until we, as a people, are living in peace with our fellow Jews and in peace with our neighbors.

See page 6 for our Tisha B'Av observances.

Presidential Matters

by Mitchell Stein

The Summer of 2020



Summer vacation means different things to different people. For students, summer vacation is a time to unwind from their studies and relax. For the overworked and underpaid teachers it is a time to relieve stress from a completed year and start planning for next year. For a rookie football player, the summer is a time to work harder than ever to make the professional team and reap a huge contract

Congregation L'Dor V'Dor does not take off for the summer. We continue to hold Sabbath services every Friday night and Saturday morning. Our Sunday Morning Minyan and Daily Evening Minyans are well attended. Rabbi Yaffe's and Cantor Shron's classes are continuing. There will be a meeting of the entire congregation on July 23 to vote on new leadership, our proposed budget for the next fiscal year, re-opening plans and consolidation options. At the end of the month we will be observing the fast of Tisha B'Av.

This summer our clergy, staff and leadership team may be working harder than ever. Our Membership Committee is contacting all members to ensure their well-being. Our Finance committee is applying for all pertinent government loans. Our Ritual Committee together with our clergy is working to ensure that our High Holiday Services are up to our usual high standard, whether they are held in the building, virtually or a hybrid of both.

Your Co-Presidents established a COVID-19 Task Force headed up by Marc Figelman. The Task Force's single highest priority is to ensure that as many risks as possible are eliminated once we are in the building again. The safety of our members, clergy, staff, guests, visitors and tenants is of the utmost importance to us.

In March, before we were mandated by law, we made a very difficult decision to lock our front doors. The decision to unlock our front doors is so much harder and much more complicated. Rest assured that the doors will not be unlocked until we have taken every precaution necessary to keep us all safe and healthy.

To those who communicated they want the building unlocked ASAP, we thank you for your comments. For those who communicated that virtual services, classes and social gathering are working well for you, we thank you for your comments as well. We listen to all of your opinions but the unlocking of the doors has to be influenced only by what works best for all of us.

A survey was recently issued asking you some significant questions about unlocking our front doors. To date, we received over 100 responses. If you have not responded yet, please do so immediately. Your opinions are important to us and we want to meet our congregants' needs in safe manner. Thank you for your cooperation and participation in the many services that we continue to offer.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Vice President of Membership by Karen Popowsky

Notes From A STAYCATION





Here I am on my forever staycation in beautiful Little Neck! WISH YOU. WERE HERE! You could take long walks with me around the neighborhood. I like to walk along the winding streets that lead to Congregation L'Dor V'Dor. Streets named Morenci, Van Zandt. Leith and finally Annandale. All roads lead to Little Neck Parkway I have discovered and I often find myself right in front of the synagogue. Sometimes I change my route and pass the stores along Horace Harding Expressway, continue north and once again find myself in front of Congregation LDor VDor. There is always something going on at the synagogue as the times and dates of services are posted outside on the lighted sign right in front of the building. Zoom is very busy this time of year at Congregation LDor VDor!

This staycation was not a choice of mine. I was headed to south Florida for a mini vacation in March but that wasn't meant to be due to COVID 19. As I have been, many of you have been on STAYCATIONS, too. Have you also been baking and reading and learning Hebrew and how to play Mahjong?

When this long staycation is over and we can gather again inside Congregation L'Dor V'Dor, we will compare notes with people we haven't seen in months, about how we each spent our Winter and Spring staycations! Until then, dear friends, know that I miss you. I miss us. I WISH WE WERE HERE and we will be as soon as we can safely reunite. Until then, I'll look for faces of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor members on my walks around beautiful Little Neck. It's a great place to be on a staycation.

Celebrate Israel Parade 2020

I hope you have had the opportunity to sit back and be inspired by the virtual 2020 CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE: TODAH RABAH!. If not, it's not too late because a virtual parade can be seen over and over and over again. This virtual parade qualifies for the honor of repeat viewing. You can accomplish this by going to CelebrateIsraelNY.org, sitting back and reveling in the joy of the music, the wonderful views of Israel, listening to dignitaries speak and having the chance to shout TODAH RABAH to all those doctors, nurses, EMTs, respiration therapists, delivery people, teachers, supermarket workers, postal workers and more. Everyone considered a frontline or essential worker who went to work to help contain the spread of COVID 19 deserves a huge shout out of TDAH RABAH to acknowledge their efforts at helping to keep the rest of us safe.

The Jewish Relations Community Council puts together a fabulous parade every year and this year when adversity struck down the parade, the creative department of JCRC put the virtual parade on the web instead of Fifth Avenue. Please take time and enjoy a celebration of Israel that will be remembered. TODAH RABAH to all of you who have worked during this pandemic. TODAH RABAH to all of us who have been following CDC guidelines.

Next year may we all meet again on Fifth Avenue on Sunday June 6, 2021 as we march in the CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE! TODAH RABAH. AMEN.



Saturday, August 1 12:00 pm

Listening To One Another This month, we observe the fast of Tisha B'Av on which we mourn the destruction of the Temple

in Jerusalem, the loss of political sovereignty and the exile of our people from the Land of Israel. According to tradition, this disaster befell our people because of baseless hatred and the lack of respect for one another. With this in mind, we have scheduled, on the first Shabbat after Tisha B'Av, a Conversation Circle that will bring together members of our congregation to discuss a subject in the Torah upon which there are differing opinions. Did the punishment that Moses got for hitting the rock instead of speaking to it fit the crime? Is it fair that Moses was not permitted to enter the Promised Land? With the specific rules that are part of the Conversation Circle, this will be an exercise in hearing and respecting each other's opinions and striving to respectfully agree to disagree, a lost art in our day.

From The Cantor

Welcome to summer...a time of year marked by county fairs, outdoor concerts, weekends at the beach, vacations around the world, and...Oh, wait. This is 2020. We'll be enjoying summer in the backyard.



True, this summer will be different from all other summers, just like much of the entire year has been as different as can be. But in this new normal, we at Congregation L'Dor V'Dor have tried to keep things as normal as can be. And if I may say so myself, we've done quite a good job.

From virtual shiva visits to joyous and meaningful holiday celebrations, Jewish life goes on as normal in our new home, located at 49-10 Zoom Parkway. We've found the services to be spiritual, meaningful, and truly the next best thing. But I keep hearing from people who just don't "get" the idea of Zoom Shul. I understand...but please don't knock it 'til you've tried it! You just may be pleasantly surprised, as many of our members have been over these past three months.

Besides, shul is now more accessible than ever! You don't have to get dressed up, leave the house, or look for a parking space. On Zoom, you don't even have to wear pants if you really don't want to! If you've ever thought about forging a deeper connection with your synagogue or community, there's never been a better time. I sincerely urge you to give it a shot.

This month, we observe the Jewish holiday of Tisha B'Av, the saddest day on the Jewish calendar. It's the day on which we commemorate the destruction of both Holy Temples in Jerusalem, and a day on which we recall the many, many tragedies that have befallen our people throughout the centuries.

Our sages tell us that the Temple was destroyed due to "sin'at chinam", baseless hatred. Jews did not treat one another with respect and compassion, and therefore, God's presence was taken from us and our people were sent into an exile that continues to this very day. And so, during this sad period on the calendar, we take special care to ensure that our dealings with one another are conducted with respect and kindness. It's our way of showing God that we've learned from the mistakes of our ancestors, and that we're ready to engage in a closer relationship with Him.

So we've entered a sad period. Great - that's all we need right now! For many, the whole *year* has been sad! In 2020, do I really need a day like Tisha B'Av to remind me that life can be cruel sometimes? We've experienced illness, isolation, economic woes, fear...do we really need *another* reason to cry this year?

Maybe that's just the point.

Yes, we cry on Tisha B'Av. We fast, we sit on the floor, we refrain from the pleasures of life. We recall one bloody tragedy after another. And then? We rise from our mourning. We find comfort. We rebuild.

Want to know why I believe in God? Because the Jewish people still exist. With all the tragedy we've endured, there's no rational explanation why the Jewish people should still be in existence. And yet...we're here! With each tragedy, we emerge stronger than before. Case in point: it's been about 75 years since nearly one-third of our people were slaughtered throughout Europe. Look at the Jewish people today! We have strong, thriving communities around the world, with half of world-Jewry living in our homeland of *Eretz Yisrael*.

Yes, this is a dark period. Yes, there is despair. Yes, we're scared. But the lesson of Tisha B'Av is that we WILL get through this. We WILL get back to normal. We WILL rebuild.

Until then...see ya on Zoom.

Monday, July 6, 2020 12:30 pm Lunch & Learn Guest Speaker: Marc Tobin



Marc Tobin, son of Janet and Irwin Tobin, our Israeli Connection, will join us via Zoom from Israel to share some facts and insights on the current discussion about the anticipated move of the State of Israel to annex 30% of the West Bank as part of the Trump Peace Plan for the Middle East.

Please join us as we learn and discuss this extremely important topic in today's Jewish News headlines.

Happy Birthday

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jason Lusthaus Joshua Sosman 2 3 3 3 5 5 6 Rachel Schneider 16 Diana Charlop Ann Hoffer Kenneth Levine Valerie Clain Lisa Reiss 17 17 Alexandra Rosinsky Simcha Shron 17 Natalie Tanenbaum Jason Slakter Zachary Auster 18 Isabel Schwartz 21 Lindsay Charles Howard Wirtheim 21 Mona Ťoback Jay Auster 22 22 22 23 23 23 24 24 28 David Lipsitz Ina Koota Robert Mayer Pamela Kave Maryann Shaller Pamela Sacker 10 Jennifer Verola Jacqueline Ettinger Hannah Hodes Alyssa Garfinkel 11 Joan Kase-Riger 11 Susan Marcus 11 Karen Popowsky Robert Stoll 12 Fred Gordon Velma Grusd 12 Robert Shaller Marla Litvin 13 Rhoda Brauner Dawn Rafal 13 Nancy Adams Ellen Charlop Henry Riger 13 Chuck Wayne 14 Samantha Marcus Cherie Litvin



Ted Goodman

15

HAPPY JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Isabel and Lawrence Schwartz
- 4 Marcia Levine & Bruce Kauffman
- 4 Phyllis and Marc Ross
- 4 Desiree and Sonny Shar
- 5 Heather and Steven Blatt
- 7 Nancy and Bruce Adams
- 12 Robin and Marc Figelman
- 12 Alvin and Elaine Fried



Online Classes

Lunch & Learn Kabbalah Circle

Tuesdays 12:00 pm

Join us as Ellen Charlop, Henry Riger and Paul

Sacker share their insights and guide us in a dynamic conversation of various elements of our Mystical Tradition.

Lunch & Learn

Israel and Zionism

With Cantor Shron



Mondays & Wednesdays 12:30 pm

Conversational Hebrew With

Cantor Joshua Shron Wednesdays at 9:00 pm



Tachles

A Unique Approach to the Study of Hebrew

Tachles is an informal Hebrew learning program that offers participants a "taste of Hebrew" in a refreshing and interactive style. New students are always welcome.



Torah and Our Lives Rabbi Yaffe

Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A weekly opportunity to connect with wisdom of our tradition and discuss its relevance to our contemporary lives.

This is an ongoing class throughout the year and new students are always welcome! Try it, you might like it!

פרשת השבוע The Weekly Torah Portion



A Modern Approach to Our Most Ancient Text

The book that started it all. Full of wisdom, insight, wonder and mystery...as relevant today as it's been for thousands of years. Ready to study the weekly parsha like never before - and make Torah come alive? Join Cantor Shron each week for engaging videos from the Aleph-Beta Academy, and enjoy fascinating insights, lively discussions and good company. You'll come away with a new appreciation for the nuances of our most sacred of texts!

Wednesdays 6:30 pm For details, email jshron@comcast.com New Students Always Welcome!



רביעי ישראלי -Revi'i Yisraeli Wednesday 8:00pm



Fauda Season 3

Get connected to Israel and its culture through hit Israeli TV shows! We've binge-watched hit shows like "Srugim", "Shtissel and "Fauda". We are now on the 3rd season of Fauda.

Fauda is an Israeli political series that focuses on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The show is loosely based on the experiences of the show's creators when they served in the military. **Fauda** has been hailed as a great series, and it is one of Netflix's most successful Israeli shows.

Tisha B'Av

Wednesday, July 29 Mincha/Maariv & Lamentations

8:00 pm

8:54 pm



Thursday, July 30
Shacharit
Tisha B'Av Study with Aleph Beta
Mincha with tallis & tefillin
Maariv
Fast Ends

7:30 am 9:00 am—7:30 pm 7:30 pm 8:30 pm



Sisterhood Book Club

Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:00 pm Via Zoom

The book that will be discussed is: "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins.

Lydia Quixano Pérez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while there are cracks beginning to show in Acapulco because of the drug cartels, her life is, by and large, fairly comfortable.

Even though she knows they'll never sell, Lydia stocks some of her all-time favorite books in her store. And then one day a man enters the shop to browse and comes up to the register with a few books he would like to buy—two of them her favorites. Javier is erudite. He is charming. And, unbeknownst to Lydia, he is the *jefe* of the newest drug cartel that has gruesomely taken over the city. When Lydia's husband's tell-all profile of Javier is published, none of their lives will ever be the same.



forced to flee, Lydia and eight-year-old Luca soon find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class existence. Instantly transformed into migrants, Lydia and Luca ride *la bestia*—trains that make their way north toward the United States, which is the only place Javier's reach doesn't extend. As they join the countless people trying to reach *el norte*, Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something. But what exactly are they running to?

American Dirt will leave readers utterly changed. It is a literary achievement filled with poignancy, drama, and humanity on every page. It is one of the most important books for our times.

Already being hailed as "a *Grapes of Wrath* for our times" and "a new American classic," Jeanine Cummins's *American Dirt* is a rare exploration into the inner hearts of people willing to sacrifice everything for a glimmer of hope.

To RSVP please email Linda Schlosser @ isaac.schlosser@gmail.com

Looking Ahead To Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur



Congregation L'Dor V'Dor High Holiday New Year's Greetings

Extend your greetings to your synagogue family in the September Temple Talk by filling out this form and submitting it to the office with a check for \$18.00 by August 17, 2020.



From Our Family To Yours
We Wish You
L'Shana Tova Tikateivu



Please print below how you want your name to appear in the September issue of Temple Talk.

High Holiday Greeting Form Due by August 17, 2020

I/We would like my/our name to appear as follows:

Remember Your Loved Ones

Yizkor Memorial Book

Published for Yom Kippur and used four times throughout the year at our Yizkor Memorial Services

Inscribing the names of your loved ones in this book is a meaningful way to honor their memory.

Contact the synagogue office for details. Due by Friday, August 17, 2020



Virtual Memorial Plaque

Create A Perpetual Memory
With The Purchase Of A Virtual Memorial Plaque

- Plaque displayed during the week of the yahrzeit
- Plaque displayed during all Yizkor Services
- ♦ Picture and Bio can be included for reflection at any time
- ♦ Receive an annual yahrzeit reminder
- Name included annually in the Shabbat Program in observance of the yahrzeit
- Name distinguished in the annual Book of Remembrance
 Call the synagogue office today!

Feeding The Hungry

Thanks to all who contributed (see June Temple Talk, pg. 13), Congregation L'Dor V'Dor was able to deliver almost 200 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables along with a check for \$3,000 to City Harvest. Although it may seem like Covid 19 is behind us, City Harvest reports that the need for food in New York is higher than ever. BlackRock will be matching our donation allowing even more families to receive the food they need.







Debbie Sosman And Her Daughter, Erica, Make The Delivery!



The More A Person Knows, The More God Reveals

Maimon .. The Father of Maimonides by Irina Starr

We are living in a very troubling time. Uncertainty of the unknown makes us feel very vulnerable. We are a stay at home nation. That is if you are not a member of Congregation L' Dor V' Dor. Before the pandemic, I used to go to synagogue twice a week, once for classes and once for services. Now, I am going to the synagogue via Zoom every day, and sometimes, twice a day. I tune in every day for services and several days every week for classes and other programs. The classes and other learning opportunities have been amazing. They have included: The History of Israel (at the Monday and Wednesday Lunch and Learn), "The Weekly Torah **Portion** (with Rabbi Yaffe on Wednesday morning and with Cantor Shron on Wednesday evening), The Sunday morning program with four Israeli Jews and four members of our congregation discussing Israel from different perspectives. A guest appearance at a Lunch and Learn by Rabbi Peretz Rodman, an Israeli Conservative Rabbi who explained the Israeli Rabbinate and how it works, A Weekly Discussion of Kabbalah (on Tuesdays with Paul Sacker, Henry Riger and Ellen Charlop). These learning experiences have kept me alert, engaged and focused. These meetings have not only occupied my mind but have empowered me with wisdom and understanding. Services each night and on Shabbat and Festivals have kept me connected with God and members of my synagogue family. Because of my synagogue, a very troubling time has become a little less troubling. Thank you very much to Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron who keep it all going.



A Message From Diana Charlop On The 10th Anniversary of Becoming A Bat Mitzvah

On June 6, 2020, Diana Charlop celebrated the 10th anniversary of becoming a Bat Mitzvah together with her family and the members of our congregation by chanting her Haftarah and delivering a thoughtful and inspirational D'var Torah that is printed below.



Thank you to Congregation L'Dor V'Dor for inviting me to recite my haftarah to honor the tenth anniversary of my bat mitzvah. As the Rabbi mentioned, the idea that I should do this, came together when our neighbor, the Rabbi walked past our house during the stay at home order, while my parents and I were sitting on the porch enjoying a cup of coffee. At this time, I'd also like to offer my thanks to the Cantor for helping me prepare for my bat mitzvah in both 2020 and 2010. I am proud to be among the Cantor's first year of LNJC bar and bat mitzvahs. Also, thank you to my parents and sisters who continue to support me and encourage me to grow and learn.

I would like to start this D'var Torah by reflecting on where I was ten years ago. On May 22, 2010, I walked into synagogue wearing a checked pink and black dress and blazer surrounded by friends and family. I was in the middle of the seventh grade and had no idea what my life's trajectory would be. I didn't know about my passion for opera and how the world of music would take me on an incredible journey. First, through Great Neck South's High School opera program, and then to Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. I didn't know that my studies would take me to Italy, Vienna and other places throughout Europe to learn, explore and study music.

This haftarah describes the Nazir, people who aim to be closer to the ideals of the higher priests. The portion names actions such as not cutting one's hair or not drinking wine as ways to be closer to G-d. G-d decided that certain individuals would be chosen for this category of Nazir, which included restrictions such as not drinking and not cutting their hair. These actions were made more meaningful through the commitment of each Nazir to serve G-d and live towards these high ideals that had been prescribed to them. There was a commitment and a determination to follow the rule of G-d.

Unlike the Nazir, we have agency to choose how we want to engage with G-d, how we want to be closer to our highest spiritual self. The way to be closer to G-d is not prescribed to us, it requires us to reflect on what Judaism means to each of us individually. To me, it is about taking the ideals and lessons that we are taught through scripture and adapting them to serve us in this time that we are presently living in. It is about speaking our minds when we witness events that suggest that the world is going in the wrong direction. And using our knowledge and strength to figure out how to help. Being spiritual doesn't mean not drinking wine or cutting our hair (though in quarantine we aren't cutting our hair and are probably drinking too much wine). For me, that means looking inward at myself and looking outward at society around us

When I reflect on myself, I think of the attributes that I wish to cultivate: kindness, patience, altruism, compassion. I think, especially today, about who I was ten years ago and how, over the past ten years, I've tried to shape myself into the type of person that I could be proud of, into someone inspired to make the world a better place. I look at my parents, siblings, and friends for guidance; they inspire me, teach me, engage with me and stand by me in helping me answer difficult questions and continue to support and love me through the changes and transitions that life throws at each of us.

When I look at the world, I see much that needs repair, much that has become downtrodden. I see people, even in my own community, who disagree about what equality means and what are the rights of people of different races, religions, genders, sexual orientations and creeds. I see people who would rather stand against perceived propaganda and violence than come out in support of the inaction of our government and abuses by our police. Therefore, I think that this portion is particularly appropriate for this time in our history. We need to be reminded to do more to be like the high priests or the people who serve a higher power. It is our responsibility both as people and as Jews.

And this is why we read these stories and learn Torah. To take these messages and use our modern tools to act correctly, to be allies and advocates in a world that needs more tenderness and caring. Ambivalence to injustice is no better than being part of the injustice itself. By taking messages from the Torah and applying them to what is needed in today's society and world, we find strength. It is unconscionable to be apolitical right now and ignore what is going on through the two pandemics that define today's times.

When I was twelve, for my bat mitzvah project I donated my hair. I thought that hair, like in the case of Samson brought strength. Through this pandemic, I have seen that it is not hair that brings strength. It is our voices. It is our power to do what is right. It is knowing that we care about every person and have a strong and unwavering belief that every person should be treated equally. When I was twelve, I never expected that disrespect and corruption would rule policy, that people would be more consumed in themselves than the common good of man. I think that we should use this portion to advocate for what we believe to be important, what we believe will bring us closer to our higher ideals and closer to our spiritual selves.

Let me leave you with the thought, that this Shabbat be used to think about how you can be closer to a higher ideal and a better version of yourself. Use the Quarantine for self- reflection. As I look around, I see the rallies and the protests and the frustration and I realize that these people are demanding something that Jewish people have sought for millennia: freedom, equality and strength. Shabbat Shalom.

A Review Of "Israel On Our Minds"

by Pamela Sacker

Marc Tobin, who spoke to our congregation in April with "News, Wisdom and Insight from Israel", raised an idea to bring Israeli and American Jews together in discussion to tackle some of the hard questions. Thanks to Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron, this seed blossomed into "ISRAEL ON OUR MINDS" A Zoom discussion now on YouTube for all to watch.

Rabbi Yaffe asked some difficult questions which ranged from the role of Jewish opinion in determining Israeli policies, specifically the Palestinian conflict, annexation, and finally Israel being a "Light Unto the Nations". Four Israeli Jews and four American Jews answered each question in approximately 2-3 minutes while the others listened. The moderator, Paul Sacker, set up rules so that each person could speak uninterrupted, without judgement. Some participants took a more humorous tone, while others were more serious, and even passionate. Many brought up personal experiences to back their positions, as well as books and articles. I personally enjoyed watching Israeli and American Jews discussing controversial topics, and listening intently to each other without harsh criticism, a rarity these days due to the incessant chastisement of Israel by the international media. One participant stressed that despite the media attacks: "Israel has chosen not to become a victim." I feel this discussion was unique in the sense that the topics could have caused defensiveness and separation. Instead, it was an honest talk with people from different backgrounds and experiences bringing us all closer together, without anger or division.

For me, there were interesting perspectives from both Israeli and American participants. American participants generally did not want to interfere in day to day operations and politics per se, however wanted to be heard in matters of concern to both countries such as social injustice, and how donations to Israel would be used.

Israelis have a strong need to be involved in their country's government and armed forces without outside involvement, not simply because they serve in the army, but because their children do as well. For example, one participant's son, during wartime, had to diffuse a bomb so that an imminent attack would not kill innocent Palestinian lives. Although this action placed his life at significant risk, it also allowed him to remain true to his Judaism and ethics.

Israelis and Americans also spoke openly about some challenges and disappointments currently in both of our countries, such as racial division, and an increase in nonreligious Jews. One recent success in Israel is a town with a strong LGBTQ community, reaching out to Arab neighbors making a "safe haven" available to people whose lives might otherwise be at risk.

A few American participants expressed the hope to interact more with one another at the next event. There was also a strong feeling during the wrap-up comments that our two countries are so much more united in our goals than divided.

I look forward to Part 2- which will include a lively discussion on topics such as:

What do you think of the requirement of the separation of men and women at The Western Wall?

Between the Straits A Journey from Tammuz to Av by Ellen Charlop

The Hebrew month of Tammuz marks the beginning of summer! Tammuz is the fourth month from Passover, or the 10th month if you count from Rosh HaShanah.

Every month has a certain energy, and each one has its own attributes, which includes a letter, a tribe, a sense, a body part and a Zodiac or Mazal (yes, that is a Jewish thing).

The Hebrew letter associated with the month of Tammuz is "chet". If you look closely at letter "chet", you will notice that it is really made up of the 2 letters "vav" and "zayin", which are found consecutively in the Aleph Bet. "Vav" was the letter associated with the Hebrew month of Iyar (corresponding to May), in which we count the Omer, and represents a month of healing. "Zayin" was associated with the month of Sivan (June), the month of Shavuot when we celebrate the receiving of the Torah. The letter "chet" of Tammuz, connects letters "vav" and "zayin", joining together the two energies of months of Iyar and Sivan, bringing us physical and spiritual healing. Tammuz reinforces us bracing us for the descent of the month of Av. The sense associated with the month of Tammuz is sight. The way we look at something influences our lives. Is the cup half empty or half full? If you see it as half full, what do you do with it? If half empty, how do you interpret that? How can we look deeper to see beyond what's on the surface in order to find purpose.

Correcting sight to find insight is the energy of Tammuz.

The body part associated with Tammuz is the right hand-the Yad. We use a 'Yad", or a pointer, when we read Torah, to help us focus and find our place. The tribe of the month is Reuven who's breastplate stone is Ruby, July's birthstone. The Zodiac, or Mazal, of the month is the crab who teaches us that in order to see reality and to understand the inner essence, you must come out of the shell.

The 17th day of Tammuz (July 9) is a fast day commemorating the time when the walls of Jerusalem were surrounded and breached. This marks the beginning of the end, the beginning of the 3 week period leading up to the destruction of the Temple. This occurred on Tisha B'Av, the ninth day of Av, which is the saddest day on the Hebrew calendar. Nine Av is seven weeks before Rosh HaShanah. It is the beginning of our return to G-d. The walls come down and suddenly we recognize how far away we have come from G-d. This realization is the beginning of our reconciliation.

Fullness and decline are intimately linked. The end of one is the beginning of another. In addition, decline and destruction can necessarily precede renewal. Every descent is for the purpose of ascent. Tearing down is sometimes necessary before rebuilding can be possible.

Thus, the fast of Tammuz is the beginning of a string of 4 fasts, which includes the fast of Tisha B'Av(July 30), Tzom Gedalia(Sept.21) and Yom Kippur (Sept. 28). The three week journey between 17 Tammuz and 9 Av is a time referred to as "between the narrow straits", "bein hamitzarim". This is an inward expedition of mourning, contemplation and sorrow. At this time there are no weddings or celebrations. Music and dancing are prohibited, as well as shaving and cutting hair, and also swimming is restricted. It is a time of heavy energy.

The purpose of fasting on 17 Tammuz is to heighten our sense of loss over the destroyed Temples. Other events of this date include the time when Moses descended from the mountain only to find his people dancing around the golden calf. A year later on this date was when the 12 scouts went to survey the land. Ten of them did not have a favorable report, and G-d got angry. The scouts did not see the land with a favorable eye. In both cases the people lacked faith. "Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase" (Martin Luther King) Faith is a belief in something you cannot see. In their infantile state, the minute the people could not see G-d, they became afraid and lost faith. The word for fear in Hebrew is "yirah" which is similar to the word for sight, "reiyah", and not surprisingly, share the same Hebrew letters. Fear can cause one not to see things with a positive eye. Our work is to transcend the fear that causes us to see things with a negative eye. We need to train ourselves to see when we cannot see.

"Yirah" can also mean awe. Our goal is to turn our fear into awe so we may see things in a more positive light and turn awful into awesome! As the full moon beckons the second half of Av, a mere 6 days after the sadness of Tisha B'av, comes the joyous holiday of Tu B'av. It has become known as Israeli Valentines day and is celebrated as a day of Love. May our mourning be turned into celebration and joy, and may the summer bear the fruits of unity, hope and love.

Are There Two Shabbats?

by Paul M. Sacker

How many Shabbats do you celebrate a week?

No doubt your first reaction is to say "one." Seems simple enough. Friday night at sundown starts Shabbat and it ends one hour after sundown the next night. However, our mystical tradition says that there are actually two Shabbats we celebrate each week. One that we "observe" and one which we "remember."

In the Zohar, Volume 1:5b, two rabbinical sages are regaled on a journey by one of the mysterious "Donkey Drivers' that appear throughout the text. These seemingly innocuous individuals that transport the Rabbis on their journeys across the Holy Land are always revealed to be keepers of great wisdom and Torah secrets. On this occasion, the Rabbis were discussing why Leviticus 19:30 says "Keep my Shabbats," referring to the day in plural form rather than the singular. While they speculate several reasons, the Donkey Driver interferes and points out the flaws in their arguments. Eventually, he reveals that when G-d first created Shabbat:

"Another Shabbat was left unmentioned and felt ashamed. She said before Him, 'Master of the Universe, since the day You created me, I have been called Shabbat and there can be no day without night.' He replied, 'My daughter, you are Shabbat - I call you Shabbat - but I am to crown you with a higher crown.' He issued a proclamation: My sanctuary you are to hold in awe. This is the Shabbat of Shabbat Eve, who is awe and in who awe dwells.

He goes on to explain that the Shabbat of Saturday morning, is the male aspect of Shabbat, while Friday evening is the female aspect. Together, these two aspects, male and female, like husband and wife, make a complete unit.

The Zohar commentary expands that this is why there are two seemingly contradictory verses within the Ten Commandments that decree the mitzvot concerning how Shabbat is to be honored. In Exodus 5:12, the word used is to "remember" (zakhor - (בוֹלְיוֹלָה Shabbat. This is a male verb in Hebrew, as the same letters except without a vav means "male" in Hebrew. This refers to the Saturday morning of Shabbat. However, in Deuteronomy 5:12, the commandment is repeated but the Torah uses the active verb to "observe," (shamor - (לוֹלְילֵבוֹלֵין) shabbat instead. This is considered a female verb and thus refers to the Friday evening service during which we welcome "the Shabbat Bride."

Many have questioned the contradiction why the two records of the Fourth Commandment use different words for celebrating Shabbat. To rectify this, Rashi (*Mekhilta* on Exodus 20:8) tells us that both words, *zakhor* and *shamor* were uttered at Sinai at the same instant so the Israelites heard them both. The Torah simply chose to record each one in a different location for simplicity's sake.

One can further consider that the two verbs represent two ways we venerate Shabbat. On Friday evening, after a week of work and material activity, we are first called upon to observe (*shamor*) the Shabbat. As the Zohar story above implies, this can build a sense of "awe" that is the antidote for material distractions that arose in the past week. Only after we have properly greeted Shabbat on Friday evening, are we ready to wed the Bride to her husband on Saturday morning during services. In this way we cause something to be truly remembered (*zakhor*) especially as the evening again approaches and we conclude our celebrations with the Havdalah service. Here, we have one last chance to reflect upon a day of spiritual pursuits before we return to the mundane world and begin all over again.

Consider then that as each Shabbat approaches, we have two celebrations to prepare for. One that relieves us of the stress of the past week and one that prepares us for the week to come. Yet it is all One, as G-d has always intended it to be. *Shabbat Shalom!*

Congregation L'Dor V'Dor A New Home For Me!

by Barbara Feldman

My name is Barbara Feldman. I met Paul Sacker when he was invited to speak about Kabbalah at a meeting of the Humanist Jewish Congregation of Queens that was renting a room in the synagogue building of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor – Oakland Little Neck Jewish Center. My only experience with Kabbalah was when a friend gave me a book about it. I never opened it up, because when I mentioned it to someone who was ultra-Orthodox, she became terrified. She warned me not to open it up, so I didn't. I know that sounds ridiculous and I agree that my reaction was, but that was a very long time ago.

Fortunately, I've matured, and those of you who know Paul, will understand why that distant memory didn't even see the light of day when he began his presentation. If anyone brings a non-threatening manner to anything it is Paul Sacker.

I ended up joining the Kabbalah Circle of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor and almost immediately it became something I looked forward to. Once the current situation related to Covid 19 required in person events to move to the virtual world, The Kabbalah Circle on Tuesdays at noon became the highlight of my week.

Each week, became exciting, even without the in person meetings. Paul's easy going manner, genuine desire to share his knowledge, respect for whatever anyone might have to say, even when it might question the idea presented, is something that caused me to want to become a part of this community.

I cannot in good conscience omit further comment about Paul. I smile when I think of the speed with which he delivers the message and yet in an instant stops to receive the questions or thoughts someone may have and with all the patience in the world gives an explanation. Often, you might hear the response, "but," and then maybe another, "but." Even if Paul's explanation still leaves questions, the sense of completeness in my mind, is what is important. If I find an idea questionable, I am free to explore further on my own. What more could I want.

Paul's Kabbalah Circle is a place for diverse opinions, respect for each person by each person. That caused me, on more than one occasion to express the feeling of having found a home, one which exemplifies how a true egalitarian society can be run. It is a shared experience and though I think of Ellen Charlop and Henry Riger as scholars in residence, because they usually make presentations at the start of the class, which lend themselves to lively discussion with others who have more to contribute than I. We all have an equal voice and are treated with the same respect. I would describe my experience as an example of how a true egalitarian society would be.

If I haven't been clear, after speaking with Rabbi Yaffe, I am looking forward to July, when I plan to become a member of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor for the coming year.

If You Cancel Israel, You Hurt Yourself, Not Israel

Originally printed in the Jerusalem Post June 30, 2020 by Gil Troy

Last week, a student writing in the Forward wrote, "Israel will lose my entire generation if it goes ahead with <u>annexation</u>." Normally, I'd scoff. I'm an optimist. I've seen the thrill in the most alienated of Jews' eyes when they land at Ben-Gurion Airport with their Birthright trip – and join their people's glorious journey in our historic homeland.

Alas, <u>COVID-19</u> has emptied the planes, idled the tour buses, frozen the entire Israel touring phenomenon. Even more ominous, America's cancel-culture frenzy could make many young Jews cancel Israel – not just their Israel trips.

Hundreds of thousands of happy Birthright and MASA and gap-year student and tourists have taught that if you cancel Israel, you hurt yourself, not Israel.

The miraculous but crude Promised Land of the 1950s and 1960s has become more livable, yet more controversial. Back then it was easy for American Jews to love Israel from afar while disliking it up close. Today, it's easier to love Israel from up close while disliking it from afar.

In A Passion for Israel, his charming new book detailing his 14 Sar-El stints since 2006, volunteering to clean, paint, and organize Israeli army bases, the North Carolina-based attorney Mark Werner writes after being bombed by Hamas, "If there are no atheists in foxholes, there are no pacifists in bomb shelters."

Werner's making an ideological insight not a political statement. Being there, experiencing something in real time, provides a perspective and personal investment you can't get long-distance.

Clearly, there's a moral imperative today to reckon with systemic racism.

But social justice totalitarians treat the world as binary, pitting the righteous who hate Trump against the evil-doers who love him, anti-racists against racists, those who "get" that black lives matter against those who don't get it.

In that either-or world with no deviations or doubts, reinforced by social-media bullying, it's easier to cancel Israel as a good, woke progressive or risk being canceled yourself.

Finally, add some Americans Jews' fury over the mere thought of annexation, compounded by Big Lies about Israel militarizing America's police – and you've got a perfect anti-Israel storm threatening many American Jews' bond with Israel.

The world is too complex to be reduced to the totalitarian packaged deals being peddled about America, about Israel, and yes, about combating racism. It's chilling to read how so many young Americans talk politics today, condescendingly judging whether their parents "understand" or "get it," rejecting any parental wisdom.

If Israel becomes a Left-Right issue, the complex truths are lost and we all lose. It's lopsided: They attack with slogans, we defend with paragraphs. Rather than canceling Israel, cancel the false assumptions about Israel – and your fear of defending Israel.

Consider this four-pronged educational plan – nurtured by talking and learning with young people not talking at and lecturing them:

- First, existentially, advocate a multi-dimensional, messy worldview, not a doctrinaire one demanding total loyalty, "without caveat or qualification," in the words of one "covenant" that Jewish organizations are being pressured to sign. Constructive openness requires a learner's humility, not the activist's arrogance, liberating us to learn from one another, even if we disagree.
- Second, tactically, embrace true intersectionality, uniting all who suffer from bigotry against all forms of bigotry, including Jew-hatred. Rather than picking arbitrary targets reinforced by political bullying, repudiating all hatred can be mutually reinforcing. Blacks and Jews should learn from one another about fighting racism and antisemitism, recognizing commonalities without claiming equivalence or falling into that narcissistic competition asking "Who suffered most?"
- Third, historically, rather than knocking everything down, learn how earlier Americans and Zionists built up themselves and their respective countries. Don't just define Thomas Jefferson or Theodore Roosevelt or Woodrow Wilson by their flaws; explore the amazing ideals they unleashed which helped reform America, despite their flaws. Trashing the past trashes the ideas and ideals which were the catalysts for the very change so many seek. Rather than asking accusingly "Do you get it?" we all benefit by asking, "How did we get here, what did we do right, what did we do wrong?" and "What can we learn from earlier experiences in reform, in uplift, in repairing the world?"
- Finally, ideologically, focus on identity-building, not virtue-shaming. Don't politicize everything about Israel, about Zionism, about life. Israel, our homeland, is our identity-building platform, the stage on which so many of our stories and heroes, ideas and values, played out. This detoxifies the conversation and deepens it.

Yes, see "the other" better, but first, let's look at ourselves in the mirror, taking proper pride in the good we and our people have accomplished while being self-critical enough to avoid self-satisfaction, and continue working to improve ourselves and our world.

In short, genuine pluralism requires self-respect, not self-hatred, which builds mutual respect and zero tolerance for hatred. And a genuine partnership between Israel and Diaspora isn't about constantly putting Israel on probation, threatening to jump ship if the political seas turn stormy. Instead, it's a "life sentence," a lifelong, existential commitment to appreciate the good and fix the bad.

The writer is the author of the newly-released The Zionist Ideas, an update and expansion of Arthur Hertzberg's classic anthology The Zionist Idea, and a 2019 National Jewish Book Award finalist. A distinguished scholar of North American history at McGill University, he is the author of 10 books on American history. His next book, Never Alone: Prison, Politics and My People, co-authored with Natan Sharansky, will be published in September.

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Baruch Dayan Emet

The members of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor mourn the loss of

Reva Horowitz

and extend our condolences to

Ellen Baskin on the loss of her beloved mother Beatrice Greenblatt

Richard Rosenfeld on the loss of his beloved father Alvin Rosenfeld

Roni Glaser on the loss of her beloved mother Anne Stern

May the memory of our loved ones forever be a blessing and a source of strength and inspiration.

Thank You

Dear Temple Family,

Thank you for all your support, deep friendship and compassion during this difficult time.

Julie was a caring, generous and loving person who will be sorely missed.

Fortunately, Zoom enabled my family to observe shiva with our Temple Family. Thank you Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron for your spiritual guidance as well as your proficient computer skills.

With my deepest affection, Barbara Raber and Family

Thank You

I would like to thank all of you for all the support that I received during the difficult time of the loss of my father. Your kind gestures truly mean so much to me and are appreciated.

Aviva Reznik

O LNJC Memorial Park Mount Washington Cemetery Coram, Long Island

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Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

Soren Kirkegaard



Mission of the Pull -Tab Program Ronald McDonald House of Long Island



Synagogue members Nadine and Gene Rattien have been involved in this fundraising effort with Ronald McDonald House for several years. We encourage the synagogue community to get involved in this opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of so many families. Please bring your pull-tabs from your beverage and food cans into the synagogue office for collection. You will find an orange receptacle in the lobby for your pull-tabs.

What is a Pull-Tab? A pull-tab is the piece of metal that opens aluminum cans. Like the can, the pull tab is able to be recycled. It is a small piece, yet a valuable piece.

Why Collect Pull-Tabs? Collecting pull-tabs is an easy way to recycle and is a task that people of all ages can do. The money raised from the scrap metal, determined by the weight of the tabs and the current price per pound, is used for the direct operations of the Ronald McDonald House. This helps the seriously ill children and their families who stay there as a home-away from home during necessary medical treatments. Saving the tab is a simple and clean way of recycling and helping an important cause.



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July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Daily Evening Minyan Mincha/Maariv Sunday—Thursday at 7:30 pm		Torah and Our Lives Online 11:00 am Lunch and Learn with Cantor Shron 12:30 pm Parashat Hashavuah 6:30 pm Revi'i Yisraeli 8:00 pm Conversational Hebrew 9:00 pm	Intermediate Hebrew 10 am	Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 8:12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am Havdalah & Maariv 9:10 pm	
5 Morning Minyan 8:45 am	Lunch and Learn Israel and Zionism with Cantor Shron Guest Speaker: Marc Tobin 12:30 pm	7 Lunch and Learn Kabbalah Circle 12:00 pm	R Torah and Our Lives Online 11:00 am Lunch and Learn with Cantor Shron 12:30 pm Parashat Hashavuah 6:30 pm Revi'i Yisraeli 8:00 pm Conversational Hebrew 9:00 pm	9 Fast of the 17th of Tammuz	Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 8:10 pm	11 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am Havdalah & Maariv 9:10 pm
12 Morning Minyan 8:45 am	Lunch and Learn Israel and Zionism with Cantor Shron 12:30 pm	14 Lunch and Learn Kabbalah Circle 12:00 pm	Torah and Our Lives Online 11:00 am Lunch and Learn with Cantor Shron 12:30 pm Parashat Hashavuah 6:30 pm Revi'i Yisraeli 8:00 pm Conversational Hebrew 9:00 pm	16 Intermediate Hebrew 10 am	Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries Candle Lighting 8:06 pm	18 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am Havdalah & Maariv 9:10 pm
19 Morning Minyan 8:45 am	20 Lunch and Learn Israel and Zionism with Cantor Shron 12:30 pm	21 Lunch and Learn Kabbalah Circle 12:00 pm	Torah and Our Lives Online 11:00 am Lunch and Learn with Cantor Shron 12:30 pm Parashat Hashavuah 6:30 pm Revi'i Yisraeli 8:00 pm Conversational Hebrew 9:00 pm	23 Intermediate Hebrew 10 am Congregational Meeting 8:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 8:00 pm	25 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am Havdalah & Maariv 9:00 pm
26 Morning Minyan 8:45 am	27 Lunch and Learn Israel and Zionism with Cantor Shron 12:30 pm	28 Lunch and Learn Kabbalah Circle 12:00 pm	Torah and Our Lives Online 11:00 am Lunch and Learn with Cantor Shron 12:30 pm Erev Tisha B'Av Mincha/Maariv & Lamentations 8:00 pm	30 Tisha B'AV Shacharit 7:30 am All day learning beginning at 9:00 am Mincha 7:30 pm Maariv 8:30 pm End of Fast 8:54 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm Candle Lighting 7:54 pm	