

Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

שנה טובה!

תש"פ 5780



שלום

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Volume XXIX No. 2

October 2019

Tishrei — Cheshvan 5780

Schedule of High Holiday Services

ROSH HASHANAH

First Night - Sunday September 29th - 6:30 PM
 First Day - Monday September 30th - 9:00 AM & 6:30 PM
 Second Day - Tuesday October 1st - 9:00 AM



YOM KIPPUR

Kol Nidrei - Tuesday October 8th - 6:00 PM
 Yom Kippur Day (Yizkor) - Wednesday October 9th - 9:00 AM
 Break-fast following Neilah



SUKKOT

First Night - Sunday October 13th - 7:45 PM
 First Day - Monday October 14th - 9:30 AM & 7:45 PM
 Second Day - Tuesday October 15th - 9:30 AM



SH'MINI ATZERET

Sunday October 20th - 7:45 PM
 Monday October 21st (Yizkor) - 9:30 AM



SIMCHAT TORAH

Monday October 21st - 6:30 PM
 Tuesday October 22nd - 9:30 AM



Family Shabbat

Saturday October 26th @ 10:00 AM



Congregation Meeting

Tuesday October 29th @ 7:30 PM





WHC Bulletin Staff

Rabbi Steven Axelman,
Editor
Sharon Samet
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2018-19 Officers

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President - Bruce Berenson

Vice-President - Ellis Rosenblatt

Treasurer/Financial Secretary -
Barbara Parker

Corresponding/Recording Secretary -
Ron Kohn

Sisterhood President
Rhoda Weinstein

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Steven Axelman
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718-208-5059



President's Message

My Friends and Fellow Congregants, as you read this we have welcomed in the Year 5780, and are now in that intense period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for which there is nothing comparable in any of the World's Major Religions.

We have this unique opportunity to reflect and hopefully gain insight as Jews to what we owe G-d for giving us a place in His Creation. As I've said often in the past, the main purpose of the WHC is to provide a place where the community may come together to observe the ritual based commandments of our faith. How much we demand of ourselves for the sake of observance is a deeply personal decision I would not presume to lecture anyone about. It's an agreement between each person and Hashem. Just keep in mind that there are people dedicated to keeping our Shul open and thriving so that you may at regular intervals enter into the world it serves as a gateway to, in order to thank the Master of the Universe for his blessings given us in the "real" world. You are more than welcome to be a part of that group and in fact we hope you decide to join with us either through direct contributions keeping the physical doors open - or attendance at services keeping the spiritual doors open.

Please accept my humble hope for a happy, healthy and prosperous 5780. See you in Shul.

Bruce Berenson

As I noted last month and as I am sure everyone knows, Yom Kippur begins the evening of October 8th with Kol Nidrei services at 6:00 PM. Since Yom Kippur this year falls several weeks later than last year on the English calendar, the evening begins earlier. Happily, the fast ends a bit earlier as well. Please note that the evening of Yom Kippur on which we recite Kol Nidrei is the only time of the year that a Tallit is worn by the congregation at night. There was a time not too long ago that almost every Jew would attend services on Yom Kippur; sadly this is no longer true. But as I have said many times in the past, the only guarantee I can make is that if you do not attend services, you will not be inspired by them! Several days after Yom Kippur we begin the holiday of Succot, this year on the evening of Sunday October 13th. From Sunday evening until dark on Tuesday the 15th are the first two days of what is technically a seven-day holiday. These two days and the two days immediately following Succot, known as Sh'mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, from sundown on Sunday, October 20th through October 22nd, are Holy Days, with the restrictions on activity that they bring per Jewish Law. In between these first two days and last two days are five days known as Chol Hamoed, which unbeknownst to many, are halachically closer to Holidays than to weekdays. In many places, especially in Israel, people wear "Shabbos-clothes" the entire time, eat festive meals daily and take off work. For the first eight of the nine-day holiday all meals are to be eaten in a Succah and many Jews still sleep inside the Succah.

Per Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch (19th-century Germany), there is an amazing message to be learned from the materials that go into making a Succah. Simply put, the walls of the Succah can be built of almost anything, from the flimsiest to the

(Continued on page 5)

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood Message

Iris Kirschner, Sisterhood's Program Chairperson, had an interesting program, "The Fall Holiday Season" for our General Meeting last month. Thank you, Iris, for another wonderful program. Next month, Sisterhood will have its Paid-Up Membership Meeting on Tuesday, November 5th at 12:30 PM. Please save the date. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

SISTERHOOD DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed. Oct. 16 Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 AM



Doris Shankman

Our new Machzorim

As everyone who attended services on Rosh Hashana will have noticed, we are using different Prayer Books this year for the High Holidays. Similar to the books we use during the rest of the year, these machzorim are transliterated linearly making it much easier for everyone to follow along and (hopefully) sing along. This has also made it possible for us to no longer use separate reading packets.

A big yasher koach to Meryl Hoffmann whose generous donation made possible the purchase of these new books.



Condolences

To the Silverman family
on the loss of Richard Silverman

**המקום ינחם אתכם
בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים**

May his memory be a blessing

Transportation to and from WHC available!

You no longer have to worry about a ride to and from shul. The Whitestone Hebrew Centre has set up an account with Four Two's. This was set up for our members that are no longer able to drive or find it difficult to drive to shul. The way it works is simple: Four Two's has a list of members' names that will be using this service. You need to call Four Two's, preferably 2 days in advance, 1 day in advance the latest, and tell them your name, address, what time you need to be picked up, and if you will need them to come back to shul to take you home, at what time. You can use this service anytime you need to come to shul, whether it be for services, an event, or a meeting. The tip is already included, so there is no cost to you! Four Two's phone # is 718 746-2222.



If you think you are not on the list, please call the shul office to ensure that you are.

Sharon Samet

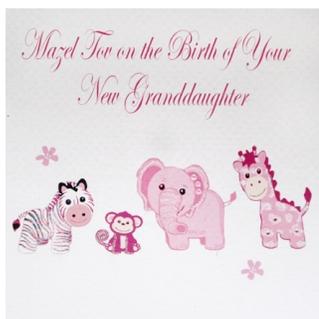


With gratitude to Hashem, I am happy to share the news of my most recent simcha, the birth of a grandson on September 1st, the 2nd of Elul. On September 9th he entered the Covenant (Bris) and was given the name, Daniel Bentzion. As was explained to me by my daughter and son-in-law, Daniel was because it includes the Hebrew word, “Dan”, related to “judgment”, which is the theme of the Jewish months of Elul and Tishrei. The bris took place on the 9th of Elul, which is the yarzeit of the original Dan, who was one of the Twelve Tribes (sons of Jacob). Bentzion was for my paternal grandfather, who served as a Rabbi in Richmond, Charleston and then for many years in Baltimore. Since it’s a long name for a little boy, he is being called Dani. With God’s help, he will celebrate his Bar-Mitzvah by reading the same Torah Portion and Haftara that I did way back when!. May we all share many more simchas together!

Rabbi Axelman



L. to R. My son-in-law, Betzalel Rothstein, Dani being held by me, the current [Bluzhever Rebbe](#) (who was the Sandak) and the mohel, [Rabbi Paysach Krohn](#).



Mazel tov to Egon Mermelstein
on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Julianna, on July 9th.
Mazel Tov to the parents, Samantha (the granddaughter of Egon) and Andrew.
May he continue to have nachas from his family!



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

(Continued from page 2)



strongest materials. What makes it into a Succah is the *s'chach*--the material on the roof. *S'chach* must be something that grows, that is no longer attached to the ground and has not yet been formed by man's hands into

something useful. The lesson: the protecting roof has essentially the character of being precarious, not firm, devoid of both the powers of Nature and of Man, and, in the fundamental nature of its material is the same for all people, their socio-economic situation notwithstanding. The separating, delimiting element, the walls, may have almost any degree of solidity desired, and in the kind of material used for them, completely free choice is allowed. The *s'chach* represents that which gives us protection; the walls, that which ensures our social privacy, expressing the thought: however greatly we may differ in the social conditions that separate us here below on earth, whether the space that one man calls his own is enclosed in marble walls, wooden ones, or walls that barely protect at all, in that which protects us from above we are all equal. The *s'chach* is the same for all; the beggar and the millionaire both are to reject both Man and Nature as the protective power of their lives. In living temporarily under *s'chach*, we are all to be reminded that in what protects us and in God's eyes we are all fundamentally the same.

The other Mitzvah on Succot is to shake the *Arba Minim* (four kinds), i.e., the *Lulav* (palm frond), *Eetrog* (citron), *Hadassim* (myrtles) and *Aravot* (willows). Though some like to associate these with the bounties of a harvest, Rabbi Hirsch points out that since none of these are edible, nor are they among the fruits that Israel is noted for, that is a rather silly notion. There are several symbolisms ascribed to these objects. One is that

the *Eetrog* looks similar to the heart, the *Lulav* to the spine, the *Hadassim* to the eyes and the *Aravot* to the lips, symbolizing that all the parts of the body come together in the service of God. Alternately: the *Eetrog* represents the perfect person who is both righteous and learned; the *Lulav* or palm branch someone learned but not as full of good deeds; the myrtle represents the person who does good deeds but is not learned; the willow represents the person who is neither righteous nor learned. We take them all together to symbolize that despite all our difference we are united--we are one nation.



The day immediately following Succot (or the 8th day if we look at the entire 9 days as one holiday) is known as Sh'mini Atzeret. On that day, Jews around the world say a special prayer that rain should fall in the proper time and amounts, as this is the beginning of the rainy season in Israel. The final day is known as Simchat Torah. Both the evening before and the day of, Jews around the world celebrate the end of the annual cycle of reading the Torah each Shabbat and beginning anew with singing, dancing and joy.



With best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to all!



Join us for Simchat Torah — October 21st @ 6:30 PM

Making Contributions

For many years Sisterhood has offered the service of sending cards from all those who wish to acknowledge both Simchas and Condolences. The response from the recipients is most heart warming. The following funds are available:

- Simcha Fund\$10
- Chai Fund.....\$18
- Prayer Book Fund\$10
- Inscribed Prayer Books\$25

The recipient receives an acknowledgement of the contribution and it is printed in the monthly Bulletin so all can share the feelings expressed. To place orders, call Patricia Smolker at (718) 746-7068.

Checks for the above funds should be made payable to "Sisterhood of WHC".

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October Happy Birthdays

Bruce Berenson Sharon Samet

Meryl Hoffmann Shirley Smith

Aaron Safran

*Editor's note: If your birthday should be listed on this page
and is not, please call the office at (718) 767-1500 and give
them your date of birth.

Thank you.

*Thank
you!*

A special thank you to the Rabbi's
daughter, who even while on
maternity leave (see top of page
4) from her position at [Artsroll](#),
facilitated the purchase and
delivery of our new Machzorim in
a timely and cost-efficient
manner.

New WHC Phone System



Due to the increase of business being
conducted more on the internet than in
the past, coupled with our new virtual
phone system, we no longer need
someone staffing the office during the
day. Anyone phoning the shul will be
presented with options to hear hours of
services, directions, or to be connected
to me or the Rabbi. If you are not connected directly to me or
the Rabbi, please leave a message and your call will be
returned in a timely manner. When the calendar states that
the office is closed, that means that messages may not be
returned on the same day. When you need to conduct
business in shul in person, please leave that in your message
and we will arrange to meet you.

Sharon Samet

SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

Sundays @12:45 PM -- Talmud Class

The goal of this class is to reintroduce people to the
wisdom of the Talmud. As Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz writes in
Essential Talmud:

"The Talmud is a very hard book to define ... from content
to style, every definition is incomplete or contradictory. ...
The Talmud is completely unique--a book that has no
parallel anywhere.... If the bible is the cornerstone of
Judaism, then the Talmud is the central pillar, soaring up
from the foundations and supporting the entire spiritual
and intellectual edifice.... In many ways the Talmud is the
most important book in Jewish culture, the backbone of
creativity and of national life. No other work has had a
comparable influence on the theory and practice of Jewish
life, shaping spiritual content and serving as a guide to
conduct.... [t]he Jewish people have always been keenly
aware that their continued survival and development
depend on study of the Talmud.

Mondays @7:30 PM -- Judaism 101

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Refreshments are served at every class.

Your donations are greatly appreciated.



Thank you for Donations -- September 2019

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 Randi Wylie

General Donations

Happy New Year to the Congregation

Arthur Isman

In memory of Trudy Messinger

Stan Simon



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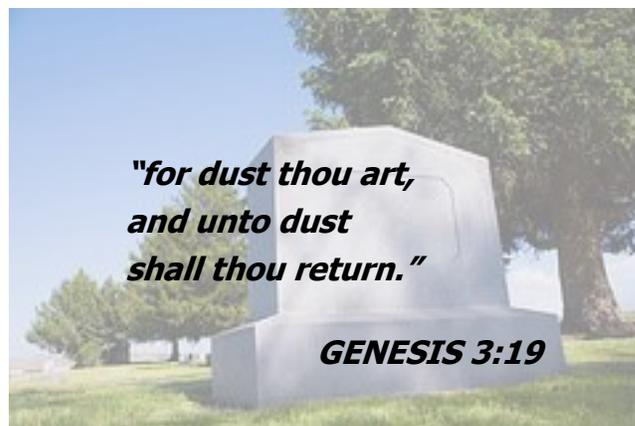
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*"for dust thou art,
 and unto dust
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GENESIS 3:19

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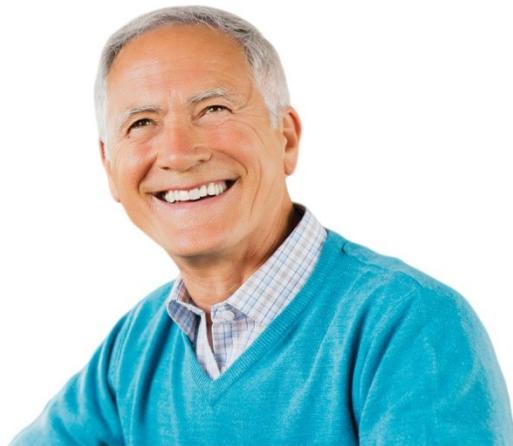
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