

Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

שנה טובה!

5785 תשפ"ה



שלום

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Vol. XXXV No. 1

Sept. - Oct. 2024

Elul 5784 - Tishrei 5785

Schedule of High Holiday Services

S'lichot

Saturday Night September 28th — Service 11:00 PM

Rosh Hashanah

First Night - Wednesday October 2nd - 6:00 PM

First Day - Thursday October 3rd - 9:30 AM & 6:00 PM

Second Day - Friday October 4th - 9:30 AM

Tashlich (weather permitting) - Friday October 4th - 5:30 PM



Yom Kippur

Kol Nidrei - Friday October 11th - 5:45 PM

The Rabbi's Yom Kippur sermon

will be delivered at the end of Kol Nidrei Services

Yom Kippur Day (Yizkor) - Saturday October 12th - 9:30 AM

Yizkor will be recited some time after 12 noon



Schedule of Sukkot Services

First Night - Wednesday October 16th - 7:00 PM

First Day - Thursday October 17th - 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Second Day - Friday October 18th - 9:30 AM



Shemini Atzeret

Wednesday October 23rd - 7:00 PM

Thursday October 24th (Yizkor) - 9:30 AM

Simchat Torah

Thursday October 24th - 7:00 PM

Friday October 25th - 9:30 AM





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Rabbi & Cantor - Steven Axelman
President - Bruce Berenson
Vice-President - Ellis Rosenblatt
Corresponding/Recording Secretary -
Ron Kohn
Sisterhood President -
Naomi Gukowsky

Rabbi Steven Axelman

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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

President's Message

Dear Friends and Fellow Congregants -
Although I can only (ever) speak for myself, in recent conversation with so many others I'm recognizing a similar pattern taking hold as we mentally, spiritually prepare for the new year 5785. Simply put, a noticeable challenge in how to apply/allocate our inner resources in the build up to the Days of Awe. When we consider the despicable attacks on our Brethren during what should have been the joyous conclusion of the High Holiday cycle in Elul 5784, it was sobering (but not unexpected) that World reaction would swiftly shift from solidarity with Israel to increasingly hostile calls for restraint and patience on the part of a country that was invaded, violated and however one might choose to define the term, upon whom war was declared. In any sane scenario it would be Hamas excoriated in the court of public opinion, with demands for hostage release and appropriate concessions made. In mass demonstrations witnessed on college campuses and condemnations by academic and governmental institutions domestically and elsewhere Israel is now - in a topsy-turvy view of the situation - the main aggressor deserving isolation and scorn, permanently stained with labels of apartheid state and perpetrators of a Holocaust.

Both Scripture and history speak at length of atrocities done to us through the ages, the perpetrators justifying their actions using nearly always the same tropes, although with updated language of the current era. Our ancestors were well aware of our place in the world, even when there

(Continued on page 4)

As the current Jewish New Year was starting last September, who would have dreamed of the events of the upcoming year? Exactly three weeks after Rosh Hashana 5784, the horrific Hamas attack on Israel occurred, murdering so many, taking so many hostages, leading to so many soldiers being killed in the ensuing war, so many forced to relocate from Israel's South and North. On last Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, we stood as we do each year and recite, "who will live and who will die; who at his appointed time and who not at his appointed time; who by sword and ... who by strangulation, who will rest and who will wander; who will live in harmony and who will be harried; who will enjoy tranquility and who will suffer; who will be degraded and who will be exalted." How can those words be read without the videos of that brutal day not playing in our minds? Do any of us really believe that these things are predestined during the High Holiday period? If we did believe that, would we pray differently? As one who obsessively follows Israeli (and American) politics, I have many thoughts as to what led to this disaster. But I wish to address this within the boundaries of my role, that of Rabbi, of teacher, of transmitter of the faith and belief system that we profess. Yet, looking at these tragic events through a religious lens opens the door to so many issues of theodicy, coming off as judgmental, self-righteous, etc. Quoting statements of Rabbis throughout Jewish history invites the retort of "who are they to speak for God, how do they know God's mind", etc. So, as simply as

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SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood President's Message

As we get ready for all the upcoming holidays, Sisterhood wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. We all pray that there will be peace in Israel and also around the world. Please do a mitzvah and call our senior members to ask if they need anything or just to chat for a while. Hearing a friendly voice will lift their spirits.

Naomi Gukowsky
Sisterhood President



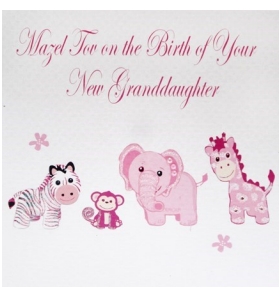
Making Contributions

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".



Mazel tov to Jeffrey Young and Judi Glass

on the birth of their granddaughter, Ada, to Lauren and Jared.

May they continue to have nachas from their family!



July Happy Birthdays

Joseph Wolkin Leon Gukowsky

August Happy Birthdays

Rabbi Axelman Morgan Rubin
Lee Berenson Jeffrey Young
Joshua Friedman

September Happy Birthdays

Lazer Axelman Liliya Berezovsky
Jenna Berenson Judi Glass

*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 us your date of birth. Thank you.

Prayer for the Sick

If you would like a name mentioned in the weekly Prayer for the Sick, please email the name of the sick person and the name of that person's mother (if available) to the Rabbi, at rabbiaxelman@outlook.com. If you do not have access to email, please leave a message on the WHC office voice mail. There are names on our list for a very long time and we have no way of knowing who are still in need of prayers. Thank you.



Rabbi Axelman



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY*(Continued from page 2)*

possible, I just want to raise awareness of what it says in the Good Book (as in Fiddler on the Roof), the Book that we supposedly follow and believe in, the Book which grants us our only right to the Land of Israel, the Book without which "what are Jews?". As early in the Bible as [Genesis 17:8-14](#) there seems to be a link between the promise of the Land of Israel to the Jews and performance of a Bris (circumcision). How sad (shocking?) to read stories like [Circumcision Rates Are Slipping — Even In Israel](#), on the Forward website, in which we read, inter alia, "it seems clear that the decision to forgo circumcision is becoming more acceptable, at least in secular Israeli circles". [Leviticus 18:24-30](#) includes: "So that the land not expel you when you defile it as it expelled the nation before you". [Leviticus 20:22](#) states: You shall keep all of My statutes and all of My laws and observe them so that you will

not be expelled by the land to which I am bringing you there to reside therein. [Leviticus 26:6](#) promises to those who follow God's dictates: "I will grant peace in the land; you will lie down without fear... and no sword shall pass through your land." To those who don't is warned ([Leviticus 26:17](#)): "I will set my face against you and you will be defeated before your enemies; your foes will rule over you and you will flee [even] when no one is pursuing you." Possibly harshest of all is the warning in [Deuteronomy 28:26](#) "And your carcass shall be food for all the birds of heaven and the beasts of the earth, with none to frighten them off." I purposely am not commenting on these verses; my purpose is only to share their existence in the Good Book. As much as I resist coming off as preachy, I remind myself, "is that not my job, is that not my exact role?"

SHOFAR AT HOME**The Torah states In the Book of Bamidbar (Numbers):**

And in the seventh month, on the first day, there shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall not perform any mundane work. It shall be a day of shofar sounding for you.

The mitzvah of hearing the shofar is the primary mitzvah of the day. Hearing the sounds of the shofar surrounded by your friends and neighbors at the Whitestone Hebrew Centre is always a special and meaningful experience. We hope you all can join our congregation that morning.

We know that some members of our congregation, for various reasons, are unable to attend services in person and participate in this important observance. Therefore, Bruce Berenson and Ronald Kohn would like the honor and privilege of coming to your home on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, Thursday, October 3, and sounding the shofar for you and your families. This would occur approximately 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you would like to be included, please contact either one of us directly or the shul office. May you be inscribed for a year of health.

Wishing everyone a sweet and healthy new year,
Bruce Berenson and Ronald Kohn

President's Message*(Continued from page 2)*

was no Jewish state to point to with pride. We are living proof of their faith and trust in the Almighty. Nowadays the difference is we choose survival for a place not merely a concept referenced in our Prayer, but a physical location occupied by the most resilient of peoples ever documented. We do what we've always done - Draw strength from the replenishing well that is our Heritage and stubbornly continue to survive as testament to, and a belief in HaShem's choice of us as His People. I wish you a healthy, successful and yes, joyous 5785. L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu - Am Yisrael Chai



Recent positive news generated by Israel, of which we can all be proud.
(Articles below are excerpts of originals only)



Religious doctor: 'Photograph is microcosm of Israeli society'

Aug 28, 2024

[Israel National News](#)

Dr. Dan Schwartzfuchs, the religious doctor who treated Qaid Farhan Al-Qadit, the hostage who was rescued from Hamas captivity in Gaza, commented on Wednesday morning on his photo, with him standing next to Farhan, that went viral. Schwartzfuchs, Deputy Director of Soroka Medical Center in Be'er Sheva, told Kan Moreshet about the moment of the Farhan's arrival: "It was exciting. It took us back to the first days, when we received the first hostages who came here." A picture of the doctor wearing a yarmulka (head covering), next to the Bedouin patient, went viral. "This picture is not of me. It is a picture that reflects Israeli society. This is a microcosm of Israeli society. This is what it looks like. This happens every day in the Israeli health system, all around the country." He added: "I am a religious person and I regard myself as an integral member of Israeli society. This

photograph is a reflection of our reality. This is how it looks every day and every hour in Soroka. I think the war bonded us even more. We are a multicultural society and most of us would prefer it to stay that way." The photo was published, among others, by Amjad Taha, an expert in strategic political affairs, who was moved to see a photo of Farhan next to a Jewish religious doctor.



New Israeli treatment eliminates rectal cancer in 65% of patients

September 9, 2024

[Israel National News](#)



Beilinson Hospital's Davidoff Comprehensive Cancer Center, Israel's only cancer hospital, recently conducted a study showing that a new treatment it developed helped to eliminate rectal cancer in 65 percent of patients and prevented the need

for surgery in most of them. Rectal cancer makes up about 25 percent of colon cancer cases and is usually discovered when it is in a locally advanced state therefore requiring multidisciplinary treatment. In a case of rectal cancer which has not metastasized, the treatment usually includes surgery. However, surgery to remove rectal tumors often result in severe damage to the patient's quality of life and sometimes,

surgeons need to resect the anus itself. Therefore, avoiding such surgeries is important for many patients. A new study led by Professor Baruch Brenner, director of the Oncology Department and the Gastrointestinal Oncology Unit at the Davidoff Comprehensive Cancer Center at Beilinson Hospital, found that a combination of immunotherapy and the most advanced form of pre-operative chemo-radiation therapy may significantly increase the chances of curing the disease and avoiding surgery. Preliminary results from the study found that in 65 percent of the patients the rectal tumors disappeared following the new therapeutic method and many of them did not need to undergo surgery.

(continued on next page)

SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

Sundays @ Time TBA -- Talmud Class

Mondays @ 7:00 PM -- Judaism 101

Please check our website for updated days and times of classes.

Currently classes are being streamed on zoom and not being held in person.



I Stand with Israel



(Continued from page 5)

Israeli breakthrough in cost effective production of cultivated meat

September 1, 2024

[The Jerusalem Post](#)

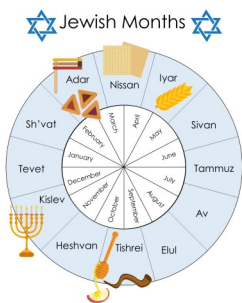
Israel is becoming a world powerhouse in finding ways to produce cultivated meat. Perhaps it's due to the relatively large number of vegetarians and vegans, or the attraction of observant Jews to eating meatless meat with dairy food without prohibitions. A more-likely reason is that its scientists are brilliant and innovative, and regard such products as having great potential to reduce global warming, partially caused by gas from cows. As global demand for animal protein is expected to double by 2050, cellular agriculture offers a solution to meet this demand, especially as resource-intensive livestock production reaches its peak capacity. Despite recent approvals by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for cultivated meat production, large-scale production of cultivated meat has not yet become a reality. Previous techno-economic analyses raised a variety of economic problems, including high costs of factories and raw materials and casting doubt about the viability of cultivated

meat production. Prof. Yaakov Nahmias, founder of a company called Believer Meats, and a multidisciplinary team at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU) have now divulged their study just published in the prestigious journal Nature Food under the title "Continuous manufacturing of cultivated meat: empirical economic analysis." The research is the first proof of the potential of cost-efficient manufacturing of cultivated meat and the first empirical economic analysis based on solid data. The project brought together engineers, biologists, and chemists at HU and Believer Meats, which is currently building the world's first large-scale industrial production facility for cultivated chicken.



The Jewish Calendar

Since the Jewish Year 5784 was a leap year in which we added a thirteenth month, the High Holidays are late on the non-Jewish calendar this year, with Rosh Hashana not beginning until the evening of Wednesday October 2nd. Why does this happen? It all relates to the way we Jews traditionally look at the calendar year and months vs. the way the Christian world does. Unlike the Gregorian/secular calendar which is based on the solar year, the Jewish month is based on the lunar cycle.



Twelve months on the lunar cycle, based on the moon circling the earth every 29.5 days, add up to 354 days, eleven fewer than the regular year. Without an adjustment to the Jewish calendar, every year each Jewish holiday would fall eleven days earlier on the secular calendar. Eventually Rosh Hashana would fall in the middle of summer and Pesach would fall in the winter. Since the Torah

specifically states that Pesach is the holiday of the spring, the Jewish calendar makes that happen by periodically adding a second Adar to the Jewish Calendar. In every cycle of nineteen years, there are seven leap years. Every nineteen years the two calendars coincide either exactly or one day apart and then the cycle starts again. For the purposes of most people, this extra month affects the dates of yahrzeits and Bar-Mitzvahs. For example, if someone dies in a non-leap year in the month of Adar, there is a dispute over when to observe that yahrzeit in a leap year. (Some do have a custom to light a candle in both Adars.) Also, since Yom Kippur is quite late this year the days are shorter. Kol Nidrei begins a little earlier than last year but the fast is over earlier as well. Somehow most people seem to prefer starting to fast earlier as long as the fast ends earlier, even though realistically the same amount of hours pass by. Another difference is that by the time Succos comes around and especially by its conclusion, it is quite cold outside!



Thank you for Donations -- Summer 2024

Yahrzeit

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Kiddush Donation

The Rubin family in memory of Mark's Uncle, Gerald Wolberg

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