

# YOM KIPPUR



**Yom Kippur Yizkor will be at approximately 11:30 AM.**

**8 TISHREI | SEPTEMBER 19, 2026**

## שבת שובה/פרשת האזינו SHABBAT SHUVA/HAAZINU

Haftorah is שובה ישראל, Hosea: 14:2-10, with Joel 2:11-27 & Micah 7:18-20.

### FRIDAY EVENING

CANDLE LIGHTING 6:42 PM

**MINCHA 6:45 PM**

TZAIT HAKOCHAVIM 7:40 PM

### SHABBAT

**HASHKAMA 7:45 AM**

**SHACHARIT 9:00 AM**

LAST KRIAT SHEMA 9:45 AM

PRE-MINCHA SHIUR 5:30 PM

**MINCHA 6:15 PM**

SHKIA 6:59 PM

**MAARIV/HAVDALAH 7:44 PM**

## יום כפורים

## YOM KIPPUR

**10 TISHREI / SEPTEMBER 20 - 21**

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON/EVENING

**MINCHA 3:30 PM**

CANDLE LIGHTING 6:38 PM

**KOL NIDREI 6:45 PM**

TZAIT HAKOCHAVIM 7:37 PM

### MONDAY

**SHACHARIT 8:00 AM**

LAST KRIAT SHEMA 9:46 AM

**MINCHA 4:55 PM**

**NEILAH 6:10 PM**

**MAARIV/HAVDALAH 7:40 PM**

## AHAVAT ACHIM AT 50: YOVEL KICKOFF

Please welcome Scholars-in-Residence Rabbi Neal & Laura Turk. Rabbi Turk was rabbi of the shul from 1989–1995.

- Friday night oneg at the home of Lori & David Garfunkel, 12-56 Lyle Terrace, at 9:00 PM.
- Rabbi Turk will be giving the Shabbat Shuva drasha after Mussaf: "Teshuva: Free Will With God's Help", which will be followed by a Kiddush luncheon.
- Pre-mincha shiur: "Making a Bracha When Giving Tzedakah".
- Thank you to our sponsors. Sponsors are listed on page 3.

## BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY KIDDUSH

Kiddush is sponsored to celebrate our September birthdays and anniversaries!

**Happy birthday to** Jonathan Frank, David Garfunkel, Dina Greene, Yuval Haddad, Adina Jacobson, Nathaniel Jacobson, Heidi Kwestel, Pauly Kwestel, Elana Miller, Kira Miller, Brett Norton, Madeline Simanowitz, Sara Santacruz, Brian Shanblatt, Randi Spier, Hunter Wexler, and Oliver Wexler. **Happy anniversary to** Lori & David Garfunkel, Angela & Isaac Rozenfeld, and Sara & Steven Shtaynberger.

## SUKKAH - ARBA MINIM

Sylvia Latkin Sukkah construction is Sunday, September 20, after Shacharit. At the same time is the Arba Minim sale.

## SEUDAH SHLISHIT - KOHELET ROUND ROBIN

Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by the Vanns to commemorate the Yahrtzeit of Avi's Grandfather, Joseph Wengrofsky. Our Kohelet shiur presenters are Rich Mayer, Larry Bernstein, Emanuella Rozenfeld, Chayim Goldberg, Steve Plotnick, Avi Vann, and Andrew Wigod.

## FROM THE RABBI

- Kol Nidrei Drasha: "Are Birds, Beasts & Schools of Fish Telepathic? And What We Can Learn From Them".
- Yizkor Drasha: "What's Yovel Got to, Got to Do With it"? [Part II]: Why We Blow The Shofar of Yovel on Yom Kippur not Rosh Hashana".

## PARSHA SHIUR (9/22 - 1:00 PM)

To be given by R' Yitzchak Twersky, author of Amittah Shel Torah, entitled: "A Shiur by Moshe Rabeinu: Interpreting the Decalogue and Revealing the Foundations of the Torah." Sponsored by Georgette Kestler in memory of Ken.



SUNDAY  
9/20

MONDAY  
9/21

TUESDAY  
9/22

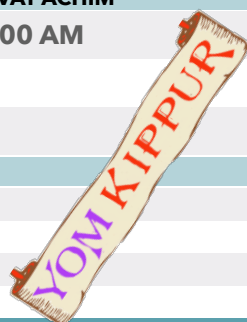
WEDNESDAY  
9/23

THURSDAY  
9/24

FRIDAY  
9/25

### WEEKDAY MINYANIM AT AHAVAT ACHIM

|                                              |              |         |         |         |         |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| SHACHARIT                                    | 6:20/8:00 AM | 6:20 AM | 6:25 AM | 6:15 AM | 6:25 AM |
| 2ND SHACHARIT MINYON - YISHTABACH AT 7:40 AM |              | 7:25 AM | 7:25 AM | 7:25 AM | 7:25 AM |
| MINCHA/MAARIV                                |              | 6:42 PM | 6:40 PM | 6:38 PM | 6:35 PM |
| <b>ZMANIM</b>                                |              |         |         |         |         |
| Earliest Talit                               |              | 5:48 AM | 5:49 AM | 5:50 AM | 5:51 AM |
| Gedolah                                      |              | 1:19 PM | 1:19 PM | 1:18 PM | 1:18 PM |
| Shkia                                        |              | 6:54 PM | 6:52 PM | 6:50 PM |         |
| Tzait                                        |              | 7:34 PM | 7:32 PM | 7:30 PM |         |



Rabbi Ely Shestack

President Jay Herman

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sept. 20** - Sukkah assembly and Etrog & Lulav sale.

**Sept. 26** - Sukkah hop.

**Oct. 11** - Sukkah dismantling after Shacharit.

**Nov. 1** - Chesed Day.

## IN OUR FUTURE - KIDDUSH, SEUDAH SHLISHIT, & ETC.



**Sept. 27** - Kiddush is sponsored by the Winchester family on the Yahrzeit of Steve's mother Helen Winchester <sup>ע"ה</sup>, Miriam Hendl bas Shimon.

**Oct. 10** - Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by Betsy & Marty Sonnenblick on the Yahrzeit of Betsy's father, חיים יהודה בן ירמיהו, Howard Perlmutter <sup>ע"ה</sup>.

**Oct. 17** - Birthday Kiddush.

**Oct. 17** - Seudah Shlishit is sponsored by David & Lori Garfunkel in memory of both Jonathan <sup>ע"ה</sup> and Lori's mother רחל ברנויא <sup>ע"ה</sup>, Tootsie Markovitz <sup>ע"ה</sup>.

**Oct. 24** - Kiddush is sponsored by Lori & David Garfunkel celebrating Uri's Auf Ruf and upcoming wedding to Abby Elson.

**Nov. 7** - Birthday Kiddush.

**Dec. 5** - Birthday Kiddush.

## BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY KIDDUSH



To add a birthday/anniversary to upcoming lists (next Kiddush on Shabbat, October 17), click here: [SIMCHA](#). Listings/sponsorships are \$36 per family per month. RSVP for the October birthday/anniversary Kiddush by Sun. night, Oct. 11.

## BOARD MEETINGS - 8:30 PM

- **October 13**
- **Nov. 24, Dec. 29, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, Mar. 30, May 11, June 29**

## SHIURIM



- PESHAT OF THE PARSHA, Tuesdays at 1:00 PM, click here: [Parsha](#).
- TORAH FOR YOUR COMMUTE, via Whatsapp, with 3-minute daily Halacha insights. To join email Rabbi Shestack at [rabbishestack@gmail.com](mailto:rabbishestack@gmail.com).
- POST-HASHKAMA SHIUR, analyzing Mishlei (Proverbs).
- FUNDAMENTALS OF JEWISH THOUGHT, after Kiddush.
- SHABBAT SHIUR, **SANHEDRIN CH. 1**, 40 minutes prior to mincha.
- TZURBA M'RABANAN w/ Zack Doberman, Wednesdays at 8:30 PM. In-person at the shul and via Zoom.
- SEDER ON THE SIDDUR, at Seudah Shlishit.
- BEGINNER CLASS ON HOW TO READ HEBREW, Monday nights, 8:45 PM, at the shul. To sign up, click here: [Hebrew](#).

## MIKVAH CHAVA FAIGA OF FAIR LAWN/MEN'S HOURS

On Erev Yom Kippur the mikvah will be open for men's usage. Advance registration is strongly encouraged. Register at [fairlawnmikvah.org](http://fairlawnmikvah.org). Hours will be from 5:00 AM - 3:45 PM (no entry after 3:30 PM), men will be able to use the mikvah individually and privately, with appointments taking precedence over walk-ins. Each man (or family) will have a private changing room and will use the mikvah privately. Staff will be present to help facilitate a smooth operation. Bring your own towel, as towels and showers will NOT be provided or available.

## SIMCHAT TORAH KIDDUSH

To become a Platinum sponsor (\$180), Gold Sponsor (\$118) or a general sponsor (\$54), please email Steve at [seplotnick@gmail.com](mailto:seplotnick@gmail.com). We also need donations of single malt Scotch.

## KOL NIDREI APPEAL

Click here to pledge or pay: [Kol Nidrei](#).

18-25 Saddle River Road

Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

201.797.0502

<http://www.ahavatachim.org>

## GITA COOPERWASSER <sup>ע"ה</sup> YOUTH EVENTS

**Sept. 19** - Shabbat Shuva Program, 4:15 PM, playground then dinner.

**Sept. 20** - Donuts/Sukkah decoration 10 AM

**Sept. 28** - Youth Sukkah Hop, with dinner at the last stop, 4:15 PM.

**Oct. 3** - Simchat Torah Farewell to Sukkah & Kinderkafot.

**Nov. 14** - Parent/Child Learning.

**Dec. 5** - Chanukah program with children's seudah shlishit, followed by musical havdalah.

**Dec. 19** - Parent/Child Learning.

**Jan. 2** - Parent/Child Learning.

## GITA COOPERWASSER <sup>ע"ה</sup> SHABBAT YOUTH INFO



### • SHABBAT YOUTH LEADERS:

**3RD & UP: ARIEYLS & VICTORIA**

**K-2ND: ABBY & ADIRA**

**3 YRS-PRE-K: DIAMOND & PERRI**

- Youth groups for 3rd through 5th Graders starts at 9:00 AM (Drop Off) in the Youth Room on left on entering the social hall.
- Youth group for children 4 years old through 1st Grade starts at 9:00 AM (Drop Off) in the Youth Room on the right upon entering the social hall.
- Parent & Me, 9:00 AM in the Beit Midrash.
- Rabbi Meet & Greet, Friday night, kids can come over to the Rabbi after davening to receive a cup of grape juice and a ticket!
- Children earn tickets for coming to minyan (Friday night and/or Shabbat day), asking the rabbi questions or attending parent-child learning programs! Tickets can be redeemed for prizes.
- HIATUS UNTIL FALL - Children's corner at Seudah Shlishit, 1st to 5th graders will get 10 Torah questions in 10 minutes from Rabbi Shestack, with special snacks, tickets and more.

## SIMCHAT TORAH KIDDUSH

We can't pull off the Simchat Torah Kiddush without you! To become a Platinum Sponsor (\$180), Gold Sponsor (\$118) or a General Sponsor (\$54), please email Steve at [seplotnick@gmail.com](mailto:seplotnick@gmail.com). We also need donations of single malt Scotch. Sponsors to date: **PLATINUM (\$180)**: Garfunkel, Plotnick & Winchester; **GOLD (\$118)**: N/A; and **GENERAL (\$54)**: Halpern, Oppenheim, Sokoloff & S. Wigod.



## RABBI TURK SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors! **Hakhel** (\$720): Garfunkel; **Shmita** (\$360): Winchester; **Ge'ula** (\$180): Heller, Plotnick, Sonnenblick, and S. Wigod; **Nachlah** (\$72): Agress, E&M Dworkis, Kestler, Sokoloff, and Spier; **Pruzbul** (\$36): L. Cohen, Greenbaum/Goldman, Greene, Herman/Berger, Kirschenbaum, and Shestack

## DAVID SCHWITZER ד"ר SOCIAL HALL

Contact Lori at [garfmom@gmail.com](mailto:garfmom@gmail.com) to book the David Schwitzer ד"ר Social Hall for an event or occasion. \$250 (members), \$325 (Associates), or \$400 paid in advance for non-members, plus the cost of clean up (and a \$150 refundable security/cleaning deposit). Private caterers must be approved by the Rabbi.

## CHESED TEAM

If you or someone you know needs assistance, email us at [chesed@ahavatachim.org](mailto:chesed@ahavatachim.org).

## Yahrzeit Plaques

Memorialize a loved one with a plaque, \$300 for members/\$450 for nonmembers. We will strive to send you written notice of upcoming yahrzeit and announce name during public Yizkor. Email Amy at [yahrzeit@ahavatachim.org](mailto:yahrzeit@ahavatachim.org) to arrange.

## DONATE A SEFER, ETC.

Donate Siddurim & Machzorim (\$40), and Chumashim (\$60). Contact David at [dmgarfunkel@gmail.com](mailto:dmgarfunkel@gmail.com) for details.

## MISHEBAYRACH

For a Mishebayrach pledge to give Tzedakah on behalf of those for whom you asked Hashem's blessing, when you send a check please indicate in the memo section what it is for.

## HONORARIA

The available Honoraria list will be provided upon request by contacting Steven Plotnick at [seplotnick@gmail.com](mailto:seplotnick@gmail.com).

## SINGLES SHIDDUCH GROUP

Reach out to Rabbi Shestack or Sara Levine ([saralevine06@gmail.com](mailto:saralevine06@gmail.com)) if interested.

## SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships opportunities for Yahrzeits, Refuahs, and Hodahs (thanks), are available for regular shiurim, youth events and similar activities (but not for established honorariums or sponsorship funded events). Cost of sponsorship (shiur or youth event) is \$100 per sponsor. Multiple sponsors for an event will be accepted. Sponsorships will be listed in the bulletin and announced at the event (and, if possible, a placard with the sponsorship will be prepared and displayed at the event).

Sponsorships do not include any extra amenities (such as food). Please contact Steve Plotnick for questions or clarifications.

## MEN'S CLUB

Email [MensClub@AhavatAchim.Org](mailto:MensClub@AhavatAchim.Org) to join the Men's Club.

## EREV YOM KIPPUR / ערב יום כפור

Only a few Selichot are said in the morning. Eat in a bountiful fashion the entire day. It is an obligation for men to immerse in a mikveh. We finish the סעודת המפסקת (the concluding meal) well before sunset. One should drink plenty of water (before any fast). Where there is a custom for everyone to light a candle in Shul, no Bracha should be made over that candle. Regarding the custom to light a "lamp symbolizing the soul" (נר נשמה), it is sufficient to light one lamp for departed parents, and one lamp for the household. We bless our children.

## YOM KIPPUR / יום הכפורים

All activities forbidden on Shabbat are forbidden today. We afflict ourselves by abstaining from: (1) eating and drinking, (2) any washing, (3) application of oils and creams, (4) wearing leather footwear, and (5) marital relations. Hands that are soiled may be washed in cold water. Come to Shul early to allow the saying of Kol Nidrei before sunset. Don the Kittel (married men) and Tallit (with the Bracha "להתעטף בציצית" before sunset. Allow enough time to say "תפלה זכה" before sunset. It is proper to seek each other's forgiveness for any possible wrongdoing.

After Kol Nidrei the Chazzan and congregation recite "שהחיינו". The congregation should finish before the Chazzan to answer "אמן" to his Bracha. Women who have already made the Bracha "שהחיינו" over the candles at home should not repeat it. Many have the custom to say all the שירי היחיד and אנעים at the conclusion of Maariv. Many people say the first four chapters of Tehillim (Psalms) before they go to sleep. Some people recite the entirety of Tehillim on Yom Kippur. One should be particularly careful not to harbor impure thoughts this night.

Upon arising one should wash each hand, alternately, up to the end of the knuckles, three times. Washing the face is not permitted. However, while one's hands are still somewhat moist, one may wipe them over his eyes so as to clear them of sediment. We make the Bracha over the washing of hands as well as the other usual morning Brachot.

The custom is for married men to wear a Kittel underneath the Tallit. During Yizkor it is customary to make pledges to Tzedakah as a means of elevating the souls of the departed.

During Mincha the third Aliyah is Maftir who reads the Haftorah, consisting of the entire Book of Jonah. "The Divine Judgement that was written on Rosh HaShanah concerning the fate of all beings, whether for good or for bad, is sealed by the end of Neilah. A person must actively prepare himself for the prayers of Neilah. For the culmination of the Ten Days of Repentance is Yom Kippur, and the culmination of Yom Kippur is Neilah; everything hinges upon these final few moments. If not now, when? Therefore, even if one is physically weakened by the fast, he still must gird himself, like a warrior preparing for battle, in order to pray with a pure and clear concentration and to accept upon himself all of the many facets of genuine repentance. One who comes to purify himself is helped from Above and will be sealed in the Book of Good Life" (Mishne Brurah: 623:3).

## MAARIV/DEPARTURE OF YOM KIPPUR / ערבית

In Shemonei Esrei we no longer recite the additions for the Ten Days of Repentance (if one forgot and said "המלך הקדוש" instead of "האל-הקדוש" — one does not have to repeat Shemonei Esrei). After one has eaten it is a good custom to begin working on the Succah. The next morning we arise early for services in Shul.

## AHAVAT ACHIM MEMBERSHIP/ HOSPITALITY

Email Sara at [membership@ahavatachim.org](mailto:membership@ahavatachim.org) for membership details or Shabbat hospitality.

## PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Various life cycle events related to members are announced in the bulletin (e.g., births and weddings of children/grandchildren, bar/bat mitzvahs of children, deaths requiring shiva observance, as well as travel to/from Israel to study). Other personal announcements are not appropriate except as part of the bulletin's dedication (\$36 cost - \$54 with photo).

## NUMBERS & INFO

**ERUV:** To subscribe for updates, email [fairlawneruv@groups.io](mailto:fairlawneruv@groups.io). Check status at <https://groups.io/g/fairlawneruv> or call 201-254-9190.

**MIKVAH:** 201-796-0350. At Shomrei Torah. Go to <http://www.fairlawnmikvah.org/> for online booking.

**TWITTER:** AhavatAchimFL

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091322384429](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091322384429)

**INSTAGRAM:** [www.instagram.com/ahavatachim/](https://www.instagram.com/ahavatachim/)

**FLICKR:** [flickr.com/photos/ahavatachim/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ahavatachim/albums)

## BULLETIN DEDICATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND SHUL CALENDAR

Email [seplotnick@gmail.com](mailto:seplotnick@gmail.com) for an announcement of a simcha, refuah or life cycle event in the bulletin or to dedicate a bulletin for \$36 (\$54 w/Photo).

## COMMUNITY SECURITY SERVICE

To become part of our community security service, email Margo at [security@ahavatachim.org](mailto:security@ahavatachim.org).





AHAVAT ACHIM AT 50

קהלת אהבת אחים

THE FAMILY SHUL

PRESENTS

# YOVEL KICKOFF

## SHABBAT SHUVA

SEPTEMBER 18



**Scholar-in-Residence  
Rabbi Neal and Laura Turk**

*Rabbi Turk served as the rabbi of  
Ahavat Achim from 1989–1995.*



## Friday Night Oneg

Join **Rabbi Turk and Laura** for a  
Special Oneg to celebrate our Yovel Kickoff

Starting at 9:00PM

Garfunkel Home

12-56 Lyle Terrace

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*Pruzbul*

**\$36**

*Nachlah*

**\$72**

*Ge'ulah*

**\$180**

*Shmita*

**\$360**

*Hakhel*

**\$720**

*Yovel*

**\$1,977**

To sponsor, please email Betsy Sonnenblick [estavels@aol.com](mailto:estavels@aol.com)



AHAVAT ACHIM AT 50

חברת אהבה 50

The Jewish Community

PRESENTS

# YOVEL KICKOFF

## SHABBAT SHUVA

SEPTEMBER 19



### Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Neal Turk

*Rabbi Turk served as the rabbi of  
Ahavat Achim from 1989-1995.*



#### SHABBAT SHUVA DRASHA

*'Teshuva: Free Will, With God's Help'  
Followed by a Kiddush Luncheon*



#### PRE-MINCHA SHIUR

*'Making a Bracha When Giving Tzedakah'*

#### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*Pruebul*  
\$36

*Nachlah*  
\$72

*Ge'ulah*  
\$180

*Shmita*  
\$360

*Hakhel*  
\$720

*Yovel*  
\$1,977

To sponsor, please email Betzy Sonnenblick [estavels@aol.com](mailto:estavels@aol.com)



AHAVAT ACHIM

קהלת אהבת אחים

THE FAMILY SHUL

# September

*Simcha Kiddush*

*Honorees*

**Birthdays**

Jonathan Frank

David Garfunkel

Dina Greene

Yuval Haddad

Adina Jacobson

Nathaniel Jacobson

Heidi Kwestel

Pauly Kwestel

Elana Miller

Kira Miller

Brett Norton

Madeline Simanowitz

Sara Santacruz

Brian Shanblaat

Randi Spier

Hunter Wexler

Oliver Wexler

## **Anniversaries**

Lori and David Garfunkel

Angela and Isaac Rozenfeld

Sara and Steven Shtaynberger



AHAVAT ACHIM

קהלת אהבת אחים

THE FAMILY SHUL



## 5787 Kol Nidre Appeal Honor Roll

*Amy Agress*

*Adam & Sharon Brooks*

*Benji & Erica Cooper*

*Jacob & Debra Diamant*

*Rose & Ron Dworkis*

*Mark & Caryn Follender*

*David & Lori Garfunkel*

*Dina Greene*

*Elliot Greene*

*Rebecca & Jay Herman*

*Gerry & Howard Kessel*

*Vivian Lerner*

*Laurie Shestack Phipps*

*Steve & Gail Plotnick*

*Marty Reichardt*

*Robert & Jewel Safren*

*Fern & Oded Strich*

*Andrew & Kira Wigod*

*Steve & Shelly Winchester*

*Susan Zarabi*



# EREV YOM KIPPUR 5787 MEN'S MIKVAH HOURS



Open to Men Only

***Keilim mikvah closed all day***

All patrons must shower at home and bring your own towel



Pricing for FL Residents:

\$30 pre-register; \$40 at door

Check, Zelle, or cash (exact change)

See website for non-resident pricing



Shomrei Torah

19-10 Morlot Ave, Fair Lawn, NJ

Enter at back



Sunday September 20th

5:00 AM - 3:45 PM by appointment

***Doors close at 3:30 PM sharp***

**Registration is open!**  
**Register at:**

[www.fairlawnmikvah.org](http://www.fairlawnmikvah.org)

Gmar Chasima Tova,  
The Fair Lawn Mikvah Association

Mikvah Chava Faiga  
of Fair Lawn

# HIGH HOLIDAY CHILDCARE

Drop off groups for children ages 2-12

Rosh Hashana @ 8:45 AM

Kol Nidre

Yom Kippur @ 8:45 AM

Mincha/Neilah

All groups end when davening ends

Shofar blowing for youth after mussaf.  
Davening will take place during groups.

Sign up [here!](#)

Early bird (by August 30th): \$18

After August 30th: \$30

No prior registration: \$40

Use of the parent & me room is free for  
those who only have child(ren) under 2

\*must purchase seats to sign up



**Ahavat Achim Youth  
invites children of all ages to**

# **Join Together for Shabbat Shuva**

**RSVP here  
by 9/14**

**Dairy &  
Pareve  
Dinner  
Options!**



**Saturday  
9/19  
@ 4:15 PM**

**\$8/child  
\$15 family  
max**

**Join us for fun on  
the playground at  
4:15 followed by a  
Shabbat Shuva  
program and  
dinner**





Join us for

# DONUTS & SUKKAH DECORATIONS

SUNDAY, 9/20 FROM 10-11 AM

DAVID SCHWITZER SOCIAL HALL

CRAFT OPTIONS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!

BRING A PHOTO OF YOUR CHILD FOR  
A SPECIAL PROJECT!

Sponsorship  
opportunities  
are available! E-mail  
[youth@ahavatachim.org](mailto:youth@ahavatachim.org)  
to learn more.

RSVP here  
by 9/10

# SUKKOT

5787

## PRE-CHAG HAPPENINGS



**Kohelet Round Robin**  
September 19th  
*After Mincha*



**Arba Minim Sale**  
September 20th  
*9:00am - 11:00am*



**Sukkah Assembly**  
September 20th  
*9:00am*



**Donuts & Decorating (Youth)**  
September 20th  
*10:00am - 11:00am*

## SHUL-WIDE SUKKAH HOP

September 26th

Stop 1: Mayer Sukkah  
*4:05pm - 4:35pm*

Stop 2: Goldberg Sukkah  
*4:50pm - 5:20pm*

Stop 3: Jacob Sukkah  
*5:35pm - 6:05pm*

Followed by  
*6:20pm Mincha at Shul*

## YOUTH SUKKAH HOP

September 28th

Stop 1: Kaplowitz-Czinn Sukkah  
*4:20pm - 5:00pm*

Stop 2: Wigod Sukkah  
(dinner stop!)  
*5:10pm - 5:50pm*

Shul Playground  
*6:00pm - 6:30pm*

# Youth Sukkah Hop

Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>  
4:20-6:30 PM



Kaplowitz-Czinn Home  
4:20-5 PM



Head to stop 2 for dinner!  
5-5:10 PM



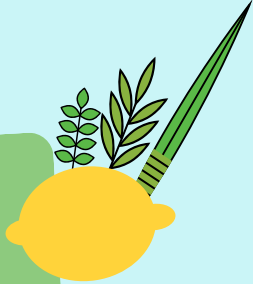
Wigod Home  
(dinner stop!)  
5:10-5:50 PM



Head to stop 3!  
5:50-6 PM



Shul Playground  
6-6:30 PM



Chag Sukkot  
Sameach!

RSVP [here](#) by 9/23 to obtain  
the location details!



# Covenant & Conversation

Jonathan Sacks  
THE RABBI SACKS LEGACY

HAAZINU • האזינו

FROM THE TEACHINGS AND WRITINGS OF RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS זצ"ל

With thanks to the Schimmel Family for their generous sponsorship of Covenant & Conversation, dedicated in loving memory of Harry (Chaim) Schimmel. "I have loved the Torah of R' Chaim Schimmel ever since I first encountered it. It strives to be not just about truth on the surface but also its connection to a deeper truth beneath. Together with Anna, his remarkable wife of 60 years, they built a life dedicated to love of family, community, and Torah. An extraordinary couple who have moved me beyond measure by the example of their lives." — Rabbi Sacks

This year's series of essays were originally written and recorded by Rabbi Sacks זצ"ל in 5773 (2012–2013). These timeless messages are accompanied by a new [Family Edition](#) created to inspire intergenerational learning on the Parsha.

## Let My Teaching Drop as Rain

In the glorious song with which Moses addresses the congregation, he invites the people to think of the Torah – their covenant with God – as if it were like the rain that waters the ground so that it brings forth its produce:

Let my teaching drop as rain,  
Let my words fall like dew,  
Like gentle rain on tender plants,  
Like showers upon the grasses.

*Deut. 32:2*

God's word is like rain in a dry land. It brings life. It makes things grow. There is much we can do of our own accord: we can plough the earth and plant the seeds. But in the end our success depends on something beyond our control. If no rain falls, there will be no harvest, whatever preparations we make. So it is with Israel. It must never be tempted into the hubris of saying:

"My power, the strength of my own hand, has brought me this great wealth."

*Deut. 8:17*

The Sages, however, sensed something more in the analogy. This is how Sifrei (a compendium of commentaries on Numbers and Deuteronomy dating back to the Mishnaic period) puts it:

Let my teaching drop as rain: Just as the rain is one thing, yet it falls on trees, enabling each to produce tasty fruit according to the kind of tree it is – the vine in its way, the olive tree in its way, and the date palm in its way – so the Torah is one, yet its words yield Scripture, Mishnah, laws, and lore. Like showers upon the grass: Just as showers fall upon plants and make them grow, some green, some red, some black, some white, so the words of Torah produce teachers, worthy

individuals, Sages, the righteous, and the pious.<sup>1</sup>

There is only one Torah, yet it has multiple effects. It gives rise to different kinds of teaching, different sorts of virtue. Torah is sometimes seen by its critics as overly prescriptive, as if it sought to make everyone the same. The Midrash argues otherwise. The Torah is compared to rain precisely to emphasise that its most important effect is to make each of us grow into what we could become. We are *not* all the same, nor does Torah seek uniformity. As a famous Mishnah puts it:

“When a human being makes many coins from the same mint, they are all the same. God makes everyone in the same image – His image – yet none is the same as another.”

*Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5*

This emphasis on difference is a recurring theme in Judaism. For example, when Moses asks God to appoint his successor, he uses an unusual phrase: “May the Lord, *God of the spirits of all humankind*, appoint a man over the community” (Num. 27:16). On this, Rashi comments:

Why is this expression (“God of the spirits of all humankind”) used? [Moses] said to Him: Lord of the universe, You know each person’s character, and that no two people are alike. Therefore, appoint a leader for them who will bear with each person according to his or her disposition.

One of the fundamental requirements of a leader in Judaism is that he or she is able to *respect the differences* between human beings. This is a point emphasised by Maimonides in *Guide for the Perplexed*:

Man is, as you know, the highest form in creation, and he therefore includes the largest number of constituent elements. This is why the human race contains so great a variety of individuals that we cannot discover two persons exactly alike in any moral quality or in external appearance... This great variety and the necessity of social life are essential elements in man’s nature. But the well-being of society demands that there should be a leader able to regulate the actions of man. He must complete every shortcoming, remove every excess, and prescribe for the conduct of all, so that the natural variety should be counterbalanced by the uniformity of legislation, so that social order may be well established.<sup>2</sup>

The political problem as Maimonides sees it is how to regulate the affairs of human beings in such a way as to respect their individuality while not creating chaos. A similar point emerges from a surprising rabbinic teaching:

“Our Rabbis taught: If one sees a crowd of Israelites, one says: Blessed be He who discerns secrets – because the mind of each is different from that of another, just as the face of each is different from another.”

Brachot 58a

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<sup>1</sup> Sifrei, Ha’azinu 306.

<sup>2</sup> Maimonides, Guide for the Perplexed, II:40.

We would have expected a blessing over a crowd to emphasise its size, its mass: human beings in their collectivity.<sup>3</sup> A crowd is a group large enough for the individuality of the faces to be lost. Yet the blessing stresses the opposite – that each member of a crowd is still an individual with distinctive thoughts, hopes, fears, and aspirations.

The same was true for the relationship between the Sages. A Mishnah states:

When Rabbi Meir died, the composers of fables ceased. When ben Azzai died, assiduous students ceased. When ben Zoma died, the expositors ceased... When Rabbi Akiva died, the honour of the Torah ceased. When Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa died, men of deed ceased. When Rabbi Yose Katnuta died, the pious men ceased... When Rabban Yochanan bar Zakai died, the lustre of wisdom ceased.... When Rabban Gamliel the Elder died, humility, purity, and the fear of sin ceased.

*Mishnah Sotah 9:15*

There was no single template of the Sage. Each had his own distinctive merits, his unique contribution to the collective heritage. In this respect, the Sages were merely continuing the tradition of the Torah itself. There is no single role-model of the religious hero or heroine in Tanach. The patriarchs and matriarchs each had their own unmistakable character. Moses, Aaron, and Miriam each emerge as different personality types. Kings, priests, and prophets had different roles to play in Israelite society. Even among the prophets, “No two prophesy in the same style,” said the Sages (Sanhedrin 89a). Elijah was zealous, Elisha gentle. Hosea

spoke of love, Amos spoke of justice. Isaiah’s visions were simpler and less opaque than those of Ezekiel.

The same applies to even to the Revelation at Sinai itself. Each individual heard, in the same words, a different inflection:

The voice of the Lord is with power (Ps. 29:4): that is, according to the power of each individual, the young, the old, and the very small ones, each according to their power [of understanding]. God said to Israel, “Do not believe that there are many gods in heaven because you heard many voices. Know that I alone am the Lord your God.”<sup>4</sup>

According to Maharsha, there are 600,000 interpretations of Torah. Each individual is theoretically capable of a unique insight into its meaning. The French philosopher Emmanuel Levinas commented:

The Revelation has a particular way of producing meaning, which lies in its calling upon the unique within me. It is as if a multiplicity of persons... were the condition for the plenitude of “absolute truth,” as if each person, by virtue of his own uniqueness, were able to guarantee the revelation of one unique aspect of the truth, so that some of its facets would never have been revealed if certain people had been absent from mankind.

*Emmanuel Levinas, “Revelation in the Jewish Tradition,” in The Levinas Reader, ed. Sean Hand (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2001), pp. 190–210.*

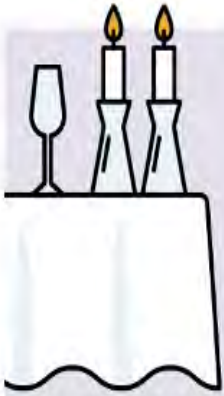
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<sup>3</sup> See Elias Canetti, *Crowds and Power* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1973).

<sup>4</sup> Exodus Rabbah 29:1.

Judaism, in short, emphasises the other side of the maxim *E pluribus unum* (“Out of the many, one”). For Judaism says: “Out of the One, many.”

The miracle of creation is that unity in heaven produces diversity on earth. Torah is the rain that feeds this diversity, allowing each of us to become what only we can be.



## Around the Shabbat Table

1. How might Torah help different people develop in different ways rather than making everyone the same?
2. “Out of the One, many.” What does this teach us about individuality?
3. How can a community remain united while allowing people to be very different from one another?

● These questions come from this week's **Family Edition** to Rabbi Sacks' Covenant & Conversation. For an interactive, multi-generational study, check out the full edition at <https://rabbisacks.org/covenant-conversation-family-edition/haazinu/let-my-teaching-drop-as-rain/>