



Alei Tzion Rosh Hashana Newsletter

Davening Times

Rosh Ha'shana I

Mincha and Ma'ariv	18:49
Shacharit	08:15
Mincha	18:45

Rosh Ha'shana II

Ma'ariv	19:30
Shacharit	08:15
Mincha and Ma'ariv	18:45

Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre	18:29
Late Kol Nidre	21:30
Shacharit	08:45
Yizkor – Not Before	12:15
Mincha	16:25
Neilah	18:00

The Year Ahead

Robin Minsky - Chairman

Another year has flown by and Rosh Hashana is nearly upon us. It has been a busy and exciting year and we should all feel proud about what we have achieved as a community.

Looking forward to 5778, we have listened carefully to our members and have tried to focus on the three themes that we discussed at the AGM; being a welcoming and friendly shul, ensuring our Judaism is modern and engaging and making our general programming more vibrant and relevant for everyone.

Our autumn term planner (which you have hopefully received in the post) includes a number of events and initiatives that address these three themes:

A Welcoming and Friendly Shul

We have a number of events coming up that will drive community spirit. The Friday night of Shabbat UK has been set aside to encourage all members to host or be hosted by somebody in the community that they have not eaten with before. You will also note from the term planners



that we have a “Combina Shabbat” on the 11th November. This exciting new initiative will give people in the community the opportunity to eat together, without the “hassle” of entertaining. Details to follow after Yom Tov. It is also worth mentioning that Succot is a wonderful time to open your homes (or gardens!) to people within the community and share a meal together, particularly for those that do not have a Succah.

Modern and Engaging Judaism

I am delighted to announce that we will be doing a Women’s Hallel and sushi Kiddush once again on Simchat Torah. We are extending this to a Women’s Kabbalat Shabbat in early November and plan to repeat these over the course of the year. We have just launched our exciting “Sermon Suggestions” initiative, which gives the entire community the opportunity to submit a subject title which will form the basis of the Rav’s Shabbat morning sermon. We hope to do these every 4-6 weeks so please get your thinking caps on and submit your suggestions. We have also just started “AleI Medics”, a

support forum for the many doctors in our shul to discuss the challenges of being both a doctor and a frum Jew.

Vibrant and Varied Programming

Fresh off the back of our cricketing success and Children’s Magical Seudah, there are a number of other fun and dynamic events to look out for over the next few months. We have our “Chesed Shabbat” which will involve hearing from three different charities, the vital work they do in the community, and practical ways that you can get involved. We also have a Shabbat UK programme that promises to be bigger and better than ever before and we are also repeating some old favourite events, such as the Simchat Torah Wine Tasting and Children’s Succah Crawl.

There really is something for everyone and I do hope that you will get involved in as much as possible. For a full list of all events, activities and educational opportunities, please see our autumn term planner or look out for information in the weekly emails.

I would also like to take this

opportunity to update you all on the strategic review. 1-2-1 consultations with a number of people in the community have already taken place over the last few weeks and everyone will be receiving a questionnaire to fill in immediately after Succot. The timing of this will allow members to give it the attention that it deserves following the busy festival period. We will run focus groups in November and will then update the community at Chanukah with provisional findings.

Lastly, I could not let the opportunity pass without wishing Mazeltov to our Chattanim, Dan Keene and Michael Abramson and our Eishet Chayil, Nicole Goodman. I have had the privilege of working with all three over the last five years and have seen firsthand the outstanding contribution they have made to our community. Mazeltov to you all.

I look forward to seeing you in shul at some point over Yom Tov and wish you and your families a sweet, happy and prosperous new year.

Contemplating the Shofar

Rabbi Roselaar – Rav

When one thinks about Rosh Hashanah all sorts of images come to mind, such as an open machzor, the apple and honey, or the tashlich ceremony in the afternoon. But I have no doubt that the dominant motif of the day is the Tekiah Shofar. Indeed, even though we refer to the festival, both colloquially and in the liturgy, as Rosh Hashanah, the Torah defines it as a Zichron Teruah – a day of shofar remembrance.

The Mishnah in Massechet Rosh Hashanah informs us that the sequence of notes to be sounded on the shofar is “shalosh shel shalosh shalosh” – three sets of three notes. Each of these sets consists of Tekiah-Teruah-Tekiah and even though from Talmudic times onwards the number of notes has been somewhat expanded, all of the notes that we sound are based on this Mishnaic model.

So what is so special about this sequence of shofar blasts that dominates our Musaf service on Rosh Hashanah? Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch explained the significance in

the following way:

The first tekiah, which is a long and unwavering note, should be regarded as a rallying cry and a call to attention. It is calling us away from other matters that have been demanding our time and consideration and it is directing us to focus on the pressing matters of the moment. This is followed by the teruah, a rattling note with a sense of urgency in its tone. This is intended to shake us up – as the Rambam formulates it, to rouse us from our slumber – and make us reassess our priorities and intentions. The sequence is then concluded with a second tekiah blast, this time directing us to take action and to move forward with our revised plan of action. In fact, the sequence could be summarised as a series of orders – “Stop! Think! Act!”

As noted, Rosh Hashanah is a Zichron Teruah, a day when we need to remember and consider the demands and instructions of the shofar. This applies to us on many different levels. On a personal level we need to stop and think about our religious duties

and commit ourselves to an enhanced and improved observance of the mitzvot in their various forms. On a societal level we need to do the same with regard to our interpersonal relationships and think carefully about how we act towards others. And on a communal level we would also benefit from stopping to think about how we can improve and advance the interests of our kehillah and then commit ourselves to a plan of action for the coming year.

Rosh Hashanah is very much a time for thinking and for introspection. We should attempt to use the time that we have in shul over the course of the festival to try to internalise the message of the shofar and to consider its message.

I hope that everyone in the community and their families will have a meaningful and uplifting Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and that they will be blessed with a good and happy year ahead which will bring them close to the Almighty. Shanah Tovah.

Chatanim and Eishet Chayil



Michael Abramson – Chatan Torah

Michael is married to Emma and has four daughters: Noa, Eliana, Gabriella and Libby. He was Financial Representative of Alei Tzion for three years. He is an actuary and occasionally works in insurance; he also enjoys cycling and will shortly be riding in support of Norwood from Metulah to Eilat.



Daniel Keene – Chatan Bereishit

Dan is married to Abi and together they have two children; Rafi and Liora. They have been part of Alei Tzion for 8 years with Dan in that time serving 3 stints on the board including most recently as a Gabbai. Professionally Dan is a cardiologist and has specialist interests in complex cardiac device therapy, electrophysiology and heart failure. Dan enjoys his food, travelling, playing football, watching Spurs and most enjoyably playing and being with his family.



Nicole Goodman – Eishet Chayil

I joined the community five years ago after moving to Hendon. Three years ago I got married to Avromi and we have enjoyed becoming part of the Alei family. I feel blessed to be able to give back to the community that has given me so much and look forward to continuing to be involved with such a special Shul.

Bat Mitzvah Celebrations at Alei Tzion



Sophie Woodward - Vayera



Ora Steinberg - Vayishlach



Rina Kaye - Bo



Isabel Kennedy - Shmini

This year we were privileged to have **four** bat Mitzvah celebrations at Alei Tzion! **Mazal Tov to All!** Here **Sophie** provides us with an insight into celebrating a Bat Mitzvah at Alei Tzion.

My Bat Mitzvah took place on the weekend of Shabbat Vayera, and in my D'var Torah I spoke about Hachnasat Orchim and why it is so important to welcome guests into your home in order to break down barriers and build communities.

I also talked about other ways to be welcoming, such as having a warm and open heart. At the time of my Bat Mitzvah, I had just started year 7 at Hasmonean High School and was a bit daunted by all the new information and people I encountered. I soon realised that by being welcoming and friendly to others I would make friends very quickly. Now, having just started year 8 I feel so at home at Hasmo and have made some amazing friends.

As well as learning about the week's Parsha, I wanted to embark on a project that would bring extra meaning and significance to my Bat Mitzvah. I had recently learnt about World War II in school and been given information about Yad Vashem. I decided to take part in their Bar/Bat Mitzvah twinning project, which connects a Bar or Bat Mitzvah child with a child that perished in the Holocaust so that you can become a Guardian of their Memory.

I was twinned with a girl called Sofia Weinstein – we were twinned through the similarity of our names. I learnt all about Sofia's short life. Tragically Sofia perished in Auschwitz in 1944 at the age of just 6 years old, along with her parents and sister. I am so

proud to now be a guardian of the memory of Sofia Weinstein and I light a candle in her memory every year on Yom Hashoah (for more information, please visit www.guardianofthefmemory.com).

The themes I discussed in my D'var Torah continue to form part of my hopes and dreams for my future. In welcoming new experiences into our lives we must also remember our past. As I approach Rosh Hashannah and Yom Kippur during my Bat Mitzvah year I hope I can follow in Avraham's footsteps and lead my life with a good and open heart, always welcoming new experiences and challenges into my life, and always striving to be the best daughter, sister, friend, pupil and person I can be.



Mitzvah Mums



Purim Supper Quiz



Frum Film Series



Yom Yerushalayim BBQ



Book Club



Alei Zion vs RCAM Cricket Match



Alei Zion vs RCAM Football Match

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