



# The Jewish Center

## SHABBAT BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 7, 2019 • 7 ELUL 5779 • PARSHAT SHOFTIM

### SHABBAT SCHEDULE

#### EREV SHABBAT

7:00PM Minchah (1st floor)  
7:00PM Young Leadership Kabbalat Shabbat (4th floor)  
7:04PM Candle-lighting

#### SHABBAT

7:45AM Hashkama (4th floor)  
9:00AM Shacharit (5th floor)  
Sermon by Rabbi Levine (5th floor)  
9:15AM Hashkama Shiur with Rav Yosef Carmel, *What is the Meaning of "Parashat Ha-Melech" in a Modern Jewish State* (lower level)  
9:30AM Young Leadership (1st floor)  
10:00AM Youth Groups  
4:00PM Bikkur Cholim/Bikkur in the Home (meet at 730 Columbus Ave.)  
5:45PM Pre-Minchah Shiur with Rabbi Elie Buechler, *Snow and Sackcloth: Piety and Repentance in Medieval Ashkenaz*  
6:00PM Daf Yomi  
6:45PM Minchah (1st floor)  
Seudah Shlishit with Dr. Marian Stoltz-Loike: *Teshuva: How could Herod merit rebuilding the Second Temple?*  
8:01PM Shabbat Concludes

#### THANK YOU TO OUR SEUDAH SHLISHIT SPONSORS:

**Johnny, Tammy and Jack Glaser and Evan, Pauline and Edith Sehgal** in memory of their beloved grandfather, Natan Leib Ben Meir, z"l

**Audrey Greenfeld** in memory of her beloved father, Joseph Greenfeld

**Veronica & Erwin Muth** in commemoration of the Yahrtzeit of Erwin's mother, Sarolta Muth

### DAILY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday, Sept. 8	Monday, Sept. 9- Thursday, Sept. 12	Friday, Sept. 13
7:45AM Daf Yomi	7/8AM Shacharit	7/8AM Shacharit
8:30AM Shacharit	7:45AM Daf Yomi	7:45AM Daf Yomi
7:00PM Minchah	7:00PM Minchah	6:52PM Candle-lighting
		6:55PM Minchah

#### WOMEN'S TEHILLIM GROUP:

Monday, September 9th, 2019 at 7:15PM  
Contact Joyce Weitz for more information at 212-877-1176

#### Hashkama Shiur this Shabbat with Rav Yosef Carmel 9:15am (lower level)

*What is the Meaning of "Parashat Ha-Melech" in a Modern Jewish State*

Rabbi Carmel is the Rabbinical Dean of the Eretz Hemdah Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies in Jerusalem.



#### Seudah Shlishit this Shabbat with Dr. Marian Stoltz-Loike

*Teshuva: How could Herod merit rebuilding the Second Temple?*

Dr. Marian Stoltz-Loike serves as the dean of Touro's Lander College for Women/The Anna Ruth and Mark Hasten School (LCW) and as the Vice President for Online Education at Touro.



#### Moshe Green Tochnit Elul Scholar In Residence Rabbi Yaakov Kermaier Shabbat, September 21st at 11AM

*It's All the Rage: A High Holiday Strategy to Control Your Anger*

Rabbi Yaakov Kermaier serves as the spiritual leader of Shir Hadash on Emek, in Jerusalem. He made aliya with his family in July 2015 from New York City, where he served as senior rabbi of Manhattan's Fifth Avenue Synagogue (2003-2015) and he previously served as rabbi of Hong Kong's Ohel Leah Synagogue (1997-2003).



### YOM KIPPUR APPEAL

We have begun our annual Yom Kippur appeal. The Yom Kippur Appeal is a critical fundraising campaign and helps The Jewish Center meet its operating budget and provide its many activities and services. We hope that you'll consider giving early and generously. For questions, please do not hesitate to speak with our committee chairs, Scott Fisher & Drew Newton.

### PREPARING FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

The high holidays are quickly approaching!

Don't forget to:

- Order your Lulav and Etrog
- Reserve Sukkan meals in our Sukkan
- Contribute to our Yom Kippur Appeal
- Please return all your requests for high holiday seats by Monday, September 20th

Visit our website or contact Aaron at [aaron@jewishcenter.org](mailto:aaron@jewishcenter.org) for more information.

**WELCOME RABBI SHUA BRICK  
WILLIAM FISCHMAN RABBINIC INTERN & TEEN COORDINATOR**

**COMMUNITY  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Shua Brick, from West Hempstead, NY, is in his final year at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, while simultaneously pursuing master degrees in Jewish Philosophy and Jewish Education. He earned his B.A. in Philosophy at Yeshiva College where he served as student council president. In love with experiential education, Shua has been involved in summer camps and has been upper staff in Camps Dora Golding, Ya'alozu, I.O., Stone, Wildrose, and Nageela, always looking for new and exciting challenges. In high school he trained as a hospital clown and served missions to Germany and Israel, a hobby he kept during his two and a half years at Yeshivat Hakotel. Shua is a Wexner Graduate Fellow and this past year was the Executive Communications Manager for the Office of the President at Yeshiva University.



**MAZAL TOV**  
**Agy and Robert Levine** on the forthcoming bat mitzvah of their granddaughter, Netty Levine **Susan & Avery Neumark** upon the birth of a boy to their children Elizabeth and Samuel Neumark in Los Angeles. Mazal tov to great grandfather, Melvin Neumark and aunt and uncles Alyse and Joshua Rozenberg, Hillel Neumark and Jacob Neumark

**THANK YOU TO OUR USHER  
Gilda Chodosh**

Thank you to our **CSS** members whose efforts help maintain a safe shul for our community.

**Special thanks to our guest  
Chazzan this Shabbat,  
Elie Landau**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**AUSCHWITZ EXHIBIT**  
**NOT LONG AGO. NOT FAR AWAY**  
Monday, November 4, 2019  
Tour Will Begin at the Museum at 1:30 pm  
Cost: \$22  
The Jewish Center and Advanced Leadership are arranging a guided tour of the acclaimed Auschwitz exhibit at the Museum of Jewish Heritage during the week commemorating the 81st anniversary of Kristallnacht. **Visit [jewishcenter.org](http://jewishcenter.org) to register. Registration closes September 27th.**

**Bikur In The Home  
Chesed Event  
Sunday September 22nd at  
10:00AM**  
As Rosh Hashana is around the corner, Bikur In The Home Group will once again undertake the chessed project to prepare and deliver our very own Rosh Hashana Packages for the homebound seniors in our networks—(Seniors both in the private homes and for residents in the Nursing Homes! ). From The JC, we will orient volunteers and then trek in pairs of 2 -3 to deliver packages!! To volunteer email [bikurinthehome@gmail.com](mailto:bikurinthehome@gmail.com).

Parshat Shoftim **THE JEWISH CENTER  
YOUTH DEPARTMENT** 7 Elul 5779

**SHABBAT  
MORNING**

*Weekly Newsletter*

**WELCOME BACK  
CUPCAKE KIDDUSH**

Please join us on September 7th, in the dance studio (5th floor) during Kiddush for cupcakes and light refreshments to kick off groups this year!

Followed by a special opportunity to meet **Rabbi Brick**, our new Teen Coordinator



Join our inclusive Youth Groups starting at 10 am  
Lower Level:  
3 years old and younger,  
3-4 years old & 5-6 years old  
7th Floor: 7-9 years old & 10-12 years old

**Gear up for The High Holidays with  
The JC Youth Department**

**ROSH HASHANAH  
ART & CRAFTS**



**SUKKAH  
DECORATING**



**SIMCHAT  
TORAH TRIVIA**



**PREHAKAFOT FOR  
PRESCHOOLERS**

Art, crafts, stories, and more!  
For ages 6 and younger  
Sunday, September 15th,  
10 am-12 pm

There will be creative arts and crafts, snacks and activities!  
For ages 2-9 years old  
Sunday, October 6th  
10 am -12 pm

Celebrate Simchat Torah with Torah Trivia and a Candy Bar! For 1st-8th Grade  
Monday, October 21st  
4:15-5:45 pm

Light dinner and Prehakafot with singing and dancing by all  
Monday, October 21st  
4:15-5:45 pm

**Upcoming Chesed Opportunities with  
The JC Youth Department**

**MITZVAH MONDAY  
PROGRAM**



Join tweens at Mitzvah Mondays for hands-on community service and Jewish service learning with different projects each month.

**DOROT'S ROSH HASHANAH  
PACKAGE DELIVERY**

Bring warmth and companionship to an older neighbor with a Sunday morning visit. Sign up for orientation, package pick-up, and a home visit assignment.  
Sunday September 22, 10:00am-12:00pm

**KIDS' KIDDUSH  
CLUB**

Join Rabbi Levine for this special three-part Torah-learning series for children (1st-5th grade).  
Shabbat morning, September 14, 21 & 28  
From 8:30-9 am  
1st floor classroom in The JC

**MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS  
SEUDAH SHLISHIT**

Join us for a fun afternoon with snacks, games and conversation at the home of Rabbi Noach and Alexis Goldstein  
Date: September 21st  
Time: 4:45-6:00 pm  
Please register on The JC website.

## MOSHE GREEN TOCHNIT ELUL SHABBAT LEARNING AT THE JEWISH CENTER

### Pre-Mincha Elul Series

September 7th, **Rabbi Elie Buechler:** Assistant Rabbi, *Snow and Sackcloth: Piety and Repentance in Medieval Ashkenaz*

September 14th, **Rabbi Shua Brick:** William Fischman Rabbinic Intern, *Yonah: The Troubled Prophet as Chazal's 11th Hour Savior*

September 21st, **Dr. David Flatto:** Associate Professor of Law and Philosophy at Hebrew University. *The Lonely Provençal of Faith*

September 28th, **Ora Weinbach:** Community Educator, *Tensions of Testimony: When Emotions Get Involved in Declaring the New Year*

October 5th, **Rabbi Noach Goldstein:** Assistant Rabbi, *Rabbi Soloveitchik's U-Vikashtem Mi-Sham and the Journey From Rosh Hashanah to Sukkot*

### Seudah Shlishit Series

September 7th, **Dr. Marian Stoltz-Loike:** *Teshuva: How could Herod merit rebuilding the Second Temple?*

Dr. Stoltz-Loike is the Dean of Lander College for Women and the Vice President of online education at Touro College.

September 14th, **Dr. Nathaniel Berman:** *Teshuva, the Shofar, and the Divine Mother: Rosh Hashanah in the Zohar*

Dr. Berman holds the Rahel Varnhagen Chair at Brown University, where he teaches in the Religious Studies Department.]

September 21st, **Dr. David Flatto:** *Slaves Wearing Crowns: Renewal in the Thought of Maimonides*

Dr. Flatto is Associate Professor of Law and Philosophy at Hebrew University.

September 28th, **Rabbi Elchanan Poupko:** *The Harvard Loneliness Study & the Meaning of Rosh Hashanah*

Rabbi Poupko teaches at the Park East Day School and Hebrew School and is the president of EITAN-The American Israeli Jewish Network.

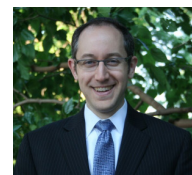
### SAVE THE DATE

#### Shabbat Shuvah Drashah

October 5th at 11:00AM

Rabbi Yosie Levine

*A History of Teshuva: The Winding Path of Penitence and Where it Leads*



### JEWISH CENTER UNIVERSITY

Semester begins September 9th, 2019

For more information visit our website or contact Rabbi Elie Buechler at [ebuechler@jewishcenter.org](mailto:ebuechler@jewishcenter.org)

**Daily: Israel Friedman Daf Yomi with rotating JCU Faculty at 7:45AM**

#### MONDAYS

*The Ultimate Trial: Understanding Akeidat Yitzchak*  
Rabbi Noach Goldstein  
8:00PM

#### TUESDAYS

Nosh and Drash  
With Dr. Adena Berkowitz  
10:15AM-11:30AM  
Join us for this weekly Parsha shiur focusing on intellectual and spiritual insights from the Torah, featuring great food and spirited learning and discussion. For women only.

#### TUESDAYS

*Teshuvah and the Afterlife*  
Sadye & Henry Bayer Tanakh Class  
Rabbi Yosie Levine  
7:30PM

#### WEDNESDAYS

Women of the Bible  
*The Women who Invented Teshuvah*  
Rabbi Yosie Levine  
11:00AM-12:00PM

War, Ritual, and Redemption: The Sounds of the Shofar  
Rabbi Elie Buechler  
8:00PM

**Is Monarchy The Worst Form Of Government Except For All Those Other Forms?  
Parshat Shoftim 5779**

**Rabbi Shua Brick, William Fischman Rabbinic Intern & Teen Coordinator**

In a compelling narrative recorded in Shmuel I, the prophet Shmuel is deeply troubled by the request for him to anoint a king to lead the Jewish people. So much so, that God Himself consoles Shmuel and - to Shmuel's dismay - God counsels compliance. Yet, it seems that their request recorded in Shmuel I is foretold by this week's sedrah, where the Jewish people are commanded to establish a monarchy upon their entrance to the Land of Israel.

The Talmud records a disagreement regarding whether establishment of a monarchy is merely a divine acquiescence to human faults and the Jewish people's wishes, or the ultimate form of governance proscribed by God. (BT, Sanhedrin 20b) Regardless, it seems plainly that there is a contradiction in the spirit of the response of Shmuel and the verses in this week's parshah.

Often, we are told to understand the request for a king as troublesome due to its origin in the desire to assimilate with and mirror other nations. However, this too is foretold, as we read this week "When you arrive to the Land... and you say 'place upon us a king just like all the nations around us'." (Deut. 17:14). The Or Ha-Chayim understands that it is with the expectation of inappropriate motive, and for this very reason, that we outline three limitations on the monarch - that he cannot have excess horses, partners, or wealth. With these restrictions, God is already counteracting the assumed problematic request for a King by outlining a course of action in which the Jewish people will not merely copy from the other nations but model a different form of ruler.

"Military power (the point of having a great number of horses), the prestige of a large harem (frequently related to international marriage alliances), and great wealth (large amounts of silver and gold) - these were the defining marks of kings worthy of the title," Bible scholar Christopher Wright explains. "But Deuteronomy starkly declares: Not so in Israel."

Jewish kings were to rule differently, not by might but by teaching what is right. We do not have any

guidance as to the powers of the King of the Jewish People but we know of his limitations as well as one responsibility - that of writing a Sefer Torah which he will keep by his side and read from every day of his reign. (Deut. 17:18-19) He is to model morality more than he is meant to proscribe legislation or govern.

I would like to offer an additional interpretation, though this is likely not the true consternation of Shmuel. The problem lies in our people's demanding of rights and our quest for more of the same, instead of being willing to forego what we feel we have coming to us and exploring fresh alternatives that can serve a greater cause. Perhaps as we entered our own land, and were establishing a brand new government, it was not merely our time to acquiesce to an oligarchy but our chance to discover democracy far before its time or was the opportunity to invent a still unknown utopian option - either of which we failed.

The sin of requesting a king, though proscribed and foretold, is not because we reached for something undeserved, but because we demanded an entitlement - even if it was within our right to do so. I recently was pushed to reexamine the phrase of lifnim me-shurat hadin, which growing up I had always heard translated as "going above and beyond the letter of the law". However, the word lifnim means within, that we remain within the boundaries of the law. This is a praise not of doing extra, but of demanding less. It is a worldview not of demanding one's rights, taking up as much space as one has the ability to proclaim sovereignty. Rather it is a the humble forgoing of ones allotment, taking only that which is of basic necessity, and granting space to those who should need it.

The Jewish people had every right to ask for a king, despite their dubious intentions as God had already planned and commanded accordingly. However, when considering the forces that organize our civilization, we should not be thinking predominantly about rights, but rather our responsibilities to each other and what we can forgo so that others can grow.

**ISRAEL UPDATE**

**September 6th, 2019**

**U.S. Imposes Sanctions on Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas**

Over the past week, as part of an overall United States initiative to heighten economic pressure on Iran as the regime works toward a nuclear weapons capability, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions on individuals and entities supporting Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas. On Aug. 28, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned two procurement networks that were providing financial support to Iran's missile proliferation programs. On Tuesday, the State Department imposed sanctions against Iran's space program following a failed attempt to launch a rocket last week, which the U.S. suspects was an effort to advance its ballistic missile program. On Wednesday, OFAC took action against a large shipping network that is directed and financially supports the Islamic Revolutionary Corps (IRGC) Quds Force. The Iranian petroleum shipping network moved hundreds of millions of dollars to the Assad regime and Hezbollah. The Treasury Department has placed sanctions on 26 individuals and "entities" affiliated with the IRGC Quds Force, which the United States said has shipped approximately \$500 million worth of Iranian oil in the last year, as part of a growing effort to push back on Iran's malign actions.

Our synagogue partners with AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby, in educating our community on issues affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship. We encourage you to learn more by contacting AIPAC at (202) 639-5200 or by visiting [www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org).

Yosie Levine  
Rabbi

Eliezer Buechler  
Assistant Rabbi

Noach Goldstein  
Assistant Rabbi

Ora Weinbach  
Community Educator

Shua Brick  
William Fischman  
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Aaron Strum  
Executive Director

Batsheva Leibtag  
Director of  
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Communications

Sarah Cromwell  
Youth Director

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**LOCAL RESOURCES**

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646-598-1080

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