

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
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September 24, 2016

Ki Tavo

21 Elul, 5776

So Sorry

"Listen, I'm really sorry it happened and I'm going to try to make sure it doesn't happen again," you say spontaneously but with genuine regret after the minor snafu. It was, after all, a mistake - an avoidable error that you hope will not be repeated.

What about when a bigger slip-up happens? One that you can't smooth over as easily with an, "I'm sorry, it won't happen again"? Whether you've got to come clean with your boss, your significant other, a colleague or a family member, you've got to put more thought into your apology and into how you can make sure the mistake won't reoccur.

And if it's a really serious transgression, it'll take more than a well-thought out apology to clear the air. It might take a series of open discussions with the person, a chain of actions to undo the harm done, and lots of time to heal the wounds.

Beginning on the Saturday evening before Rosh Hashana, and continuing each morning thereafter until the New Year, we say special prayers asking for G-d's forgiveness. These prayers, known as Selichot, are a spiritual work-out that helps us get ready for the Day of Judgement on Rosh Hashana. For, on Rosh Hashana, when we stand before the Heavenly Court, all of our misdemeanors cheerfully come to greet us, so to speak. We have to be well-prepared for the encounter with real and practiced feelings of regret and positive plans for the future. The Selichot prayers help us accomplish just that.

"G-d, may our prayers come before You, and don't turn away from our entreaties, for we are not so impudent and hardened as to declare before You that we are righteous and have not sinned. Indeed, we and our ancestors have sinned.

"We have transgressed, we have deceived, we have robbed, we have maligned. We have acted perversely and wickedly, we have purposefully sinned, we have been violent, we have incriminated others. We have given harmful advice, we have lied, we have scoffed, we have rebelled, we have provoked, we have been disobedient, we have done wrong, we have wantonly transgressed, we have oppressed others, we have been obstinate. We have acted corruptly, we have damaged, we have acted abominably, we have gone astray, we have led others astray."

The story is told of a young boy, the son of a great rabbi, who heard his father reciting the Selichot prayers before Rosh Hashana in a somber voice punctuated with sobs and bitter tears. "We have transgressed, we have deceived, we have robbed ..."

The boy was shocked and heartbroken. All these years he had thought, no, he had known, that his father was a great and righteous person. So many people came to him for advice. So many studied Torah with him. So many came just to bask in the presence of this special person. Yet, here stood his father, reciting a litany of heinous transgressions.

The young boy ran crying to his home, ashamed and bewildered. His mother approached him and listened to his woeful tale.

"All Jews are connected one to another. Your father did not commit all of those sins himself. Our Sages ordained that we should say the selichot prayers in the plural - 'We have sinned, we have transgressed ...' because we are all one. What one Jew does affects every single Jew. And so, before Rosh Hashana, when we ask for forgiveness for ourselves, we ask for forgiveness for every single Jew."

Those of us who are not yet totally righteous might find some personal truth in many of the admissions that we recite in the Selichot prayer. Not necessarily on the most obvious level, of course, but in actions, thoughts or deeds that are more subtle than those listed.

Get in shape for Rosh Hashana starting this Saturday night after midnight at your local synagogue. You - and every other Jew - will be happy you did.

(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)



We wish Mazel Tov to **Chaim and Estie Kahn**
on the **engagement of their son**
Aharon
to

Shaindee Schmill.

We wish both of you much mazel, simcha and a long life together.
The **Kahn's are sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat** in honor of Aharon's engagement.
Everyone is invited to the Vort this Sunday from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Knish Shop Party Room.

We wish Mazel Tov to **Mr. And Mrs. Yehudah Buchwalter**
on the **engagement of their daughter**
Elisheva
to

Shmuel Shalom Greenberg.

We wish both of you much mazel, simcha and a long life together.
Everyone is invited to the Vort this Sunday from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the
Torah Vachessed Center, 6229 Greenspring Ave (next door to Shomrei Emunah).



Thank you to Mitch and Liz Mayer for sponsoring the flowers on Rosh Hashanah.
Thank you to the anonymous sponsor of flowers for Yom Kippur.
Sponsorship is available for two flower displays on the Bima during Succoth. Please consider
sponsoring the flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Please email Allan Genut at
agenut@gmail.com to make arrangements.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Leslie Silverberg 23 Elul - Sunday night/Monday for father Eugene Hettleman

SHUL DIRECTORY

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Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday 9/23 — 20 Elul

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Candles — 6:42 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:45 p.m.

Shabbat, 9/24 — 21 Elul

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:55 a.m.
Berachot Gemora Shiur — 5:30 p.m.
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 6:30 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 7:43 p.m.
S'lichot — 1:00 a.m.

Sunday, 9/25 — 22 Elul

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Shulchan Aruch Shiur — 8:45 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:35 p.m.

Monday, 9/26 — 23 Elul

Selichot & Shacharit — 6:25 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:35 p.m.

Tuesday, 9/27 — 24 Elul

Selichot & Shacharit — 6:35 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:35 p.m.

Wednesday, 9/28 — 25 Elul

Selichot & Shacharit — 6:35 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:35 p.m.

Thursday, 9/29 — 26 Elul

Selichot & Shacharit — 6:25 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:35 p.m.
Tanya Shiur — 9:00 p.m.

Friday, 9/30 — 27 Elul

Selichot & Shacharit — 6:35 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Candles — 6:31 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:35 p.m.