

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

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September 28, 2019

Netzavim – Rosh Hashanah

28 Elul, 5779

Simple Actions

What do I have to do to make a difference in the world? We often think that the ones who make the greatest impact are the people that make the cover of Time Magazine or win the Nobel Prize. But the truth is that the simple actions of so-called simple people are what really make a difference. When we do things right, it becomes contagious.

When we listen to the sound of the shofar, we shake. It sounds like the primal cry of a child for his mother. It is the inner cry of every soul, recognizing that as great as we are, we remain impossibly distant from our Father in Heaven; no matter how wise or discerning we become, the soul is, after all, far away from home.

The shofar's cry reminds us of our purpose, our priorities, and empowers us to stay focused on the meaning of life and avoid getting caught up in the pitfalls and challenges of material life. And the really amazing thing is that we are able to achieve this clarity through the simple act of hearing the cry of the shofar. Nothing fancy - just a simple horn with a simple sound from the head of a simple beast. Just as the world is transformed by every simple thing we do.

I can't recall ever getting inspired to emulate the work of the nuclear physicist who won the Nobel Prize, but I can remember dozens of times that the simple actions of simple people have motivated me to emulate them and become better.

Rosh Hashana marks the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It's our collective birthday.

Therefore, in addition to being the Jewish New Year, a time for moral introspection and positive resolutions, it is also a time to appreciate the tremendous capacities and gifts that we possess as human beings, and as Jews.

At the same time, with the recognition that we have these talents and powers that can change the world comes the responsibility to do just that - to utilize all of the power within us and utilize their fullest potential to improve our lives, the lives of those around us and of all humanity.

All of this is expressed in the fact that Rosh Hashana, which is known as the Day of Judgment for all of Creation, is not observed on the day when the world was created, but on the day that humanity was created. This impresses upon us the fact that the destiny of all life on earth depends on humanity.

Furthermore, even one person can make a monumental difference, as expressed in the fact that all of humanity descends from one man and one woman. The first action undertaken by Adam upon his creation was to look around at all the amazing fauna, the diversity of animals and life, the heavens and the earth, and to declare his awe of G-d creation, and to inspire the rest of creation to follow suit.

In a sense, this is exactly what we do on Rosh Hashana: We look around (and within) and we declare that though we may get a little sidetracked here and there, G-d is the real reality in our lives, and we resolve to make this recognition a practical part of our daily lives.

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

Call for Clarity

The shofar is the most recognizable of all the Rosh Hashanah symbols. The sounding of the shofar plays a central role in the day's service. Young and old alike gather in a hush to listen carefully to the cry of the shofar.

1. The commandment on Rosh Hashanah is "to hear" the sound of the shofar. From the Shema we learn that "hearing" in Judaism means to understand. The call of the shofar is the sound that wakes us up so that we will make a choice for clarity, for awareness, for a fully constructive and purposeful life.

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2. The blowing of the shofar consists of three sets of three different notes. Thus the minimum number of shofar blasts one is required to hear is nine; however, the accepted manner of blowing actually results in many more sounds. Each of the three notes (Tekiah, Teruah, Shevarim) is designed to evoke a particular idea and feeling.

Tekiah (long note): This note calls us from the routines of day-to-day living, from a dissipation of our creative energies, to refocus on who it is we truly want to be. The Tekiah challenges us to feel the power and the potential of our innermost selves—a part of ourselves we may have lost touch with over the year—and then dares us to commit ourselves to the pursuit of our awesome potential.

Teruah (short note): This note is more comforting. It softens us, allowing us to integrate the thoughts and feelings of the day. The Teruah says; before you rush headlong into the new year energized by your rekindled convictions, pause for a moment. Let the sense of inspiration settle in. Let it fill your soul.

Shevarim (medium note): This is an anxious, longing note. Feel the tugging, the yearning to somehow start again, this time accomplishing what we want in life. **3.** On the simplest, most basic level the sound of the shofar is the muffled cry of an injured soul. A soul crying for freedom. Free to be its own uninhibited self. The homing signal in every Jewish heart.

(by Rabbi Yehudah Prero from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

The Shul is seeking a volunteer to coordinate the occasional rental of the Shul.

Please contact Rabbi Kaplan if you are able to do this.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to
Dr. Chaim Eisenberg
on the loss of his mother, **Estelle Eisenberg.**

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים



Thank you to **Mitch and Liz Mayer** for sponsoring the flowers on Rosh Hashanah in memory of their dear friend Linda Goldstein — Leah bas Avraham v'Sara.
Thank you to **Larry and Helen London** for sponsoring the flowers on Yom Kippur.

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 9/27 – 27 Elul
Selichot & Shacharit — 6:30 a.m.
Candles — 6:37 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:40 p.m.

Shabbat, 9/28– 28 Elul
Shacharit – 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:56 a.m.
Beitzah Gemora Shiur — 5:25 p.m.
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 6:25 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 7:38 p.m.

Sunday, 9/29 – 29 Elul
Selichot & Shacharit — 7:30 a.m.
Hatoras Nedarim
Candles — 6:33 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:35 p.m.

Monday – Rosh Hashana, 9/30 – 1 Tishrei
Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:59 a.m.
Shofar — 11:15 a.m.
Minchah & Tashlich — 5:30 p.m.
Candles — after 7:40 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 7:40 p.m.

Tuesday – Rosh Hashana, 10/1 – 2 Tishrei
Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:59 a.m.
Shofar — 11:15 a.m.
Minchah — 6:30 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 7:32 p.m.

Wednesday – Tzom Gedalia, 10/2 – 3 Tishrei
Fast Begins — 5:40 a.m.
Selichot & Shacharit — 6:25 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:35 p.m.
Fast Ends — 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, 10/3 – 4 Tishrei
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:35 p.m.

Friday, 10/4 – 5 Tishrei
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Candles — 6:25 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:25 p.m.