



Nitzavim-Vayeilech

22 b'Elul 5780 • Friday, September 11, 2020

Shabbos Pirkei Avos, chap. 3

Candle Lighting earliest: 6:32 PM
20 min: 7:31 PM

Mincha / Kab. Shabbos 6:15 PM

Shacharis..... 9:00 AM

Last Shema (Gr"i) 10:25 AM

Pre-Mincha Shiur 6:00 PM
Rabbi Hanan Balk

Mincha 6:45 PM

Sunset 7:50 PM

Ma'ariv 8:25 PM

Shabbos ends (40 min.)..... 8:30 PM

The Week of Sept. 13

SUN M-TH FRI

S'lichos 7:35 AM..... 6:05 AM..... 5 AM

Mincha/Ma'ariv 6:10 PM

Virtual Beis Midrash

www.golfmanorsynagogue.org

Daf Yomi

Sunday 6:30-7:30 AM
Monday-Friday TBA

Derech Hashem

Mondays 8:30-9:10 PM

Hands-On Halacha (Laws of R"i)

Tuesday 8:20-9 PM

Beginners' Talmud

Tuesday 9-9:40 PM

Shmuel Plotsker's classes:

712-770-4945, access code 664943#

Intro to Talmud (Chagiga)

Mon/Wed/Fri 10:30-11:15 AM

Intro to Midrash (B'reishis Rabbah)

Sundays 8:45-9:45 AM

When Moshiach Comes

Mondays 1-2 PM

Tanach Tuesdays (M/W)

I Kings 18 7:30-8:30 PM

Sponsors

Rabbi Hanan & Mrs. Barbara Balk, on the occasion of the first *yahrzeit* of Rabbi Balk's mother, Rita Balk, Rachel bat Yisrael.

Barry Stregevsky, in honor of the *yahrzeit* of his mother, Ruth Stregevsky.

Shul Announcements

Shabbos afternoon class: "Kedusha: Seeking Hashem's Presence in Times of Light and in Times of Darkness," presented by Rabbi Hanan Balk. Masks and distancing required.

S'lichos begin this Sunday. We will say the first S'lichos on Sunday morning—not Motzo'ei Shabbos.

Elul Schmuess: Ten minutes of *Yamim Nora'im* inspiration, between Mincha and Ma'ariv **this Sunday**, September 13. This week we will hear from Rabbi Dovid Spetner.

High Holidays Seating Registration: The second round of reservations is now open—a few seats are still available. Reserve online **by this Tuesday**, Sept. 15 at <https://bookwhen.com/gms>. To reserve by phone, or for more info, leave a message for Karen Lavenda at 513-531-2915 and she'll call you back.

Mazal Tov to Dmitriy & Enna (Asher & Channah!) Panchelyuga and family, on their recent conversion and wedding.

Yizkor Book for 5781: Please send new names and/or adjustments **by this Tuesday**, September 15 to YizkorGMS@gmail.com. \$18 donation for first name, and \$10 for each additional; pay by check or online at <http://www.golfmanorsynagogue.org/general-donations.html>—please include a note that your donation is for *Yizkor*. Please contact Rabbi Alt, 716-316-0426, with questions. View last year's *Yizkor* book at <https://bit.ly/32WvZrr>.

Teshuvah (video) and Tefillah (audio)—two online series for Elul from the OU Womens' Initiative, providing inspiration for the *Y'mei Ratzon*. Register at <https://www.ou.org/women/yr/>.

Magen David Adom Coronavirus Emergency Campaign: The pandemic is surging through the Holy Land, and our fellow Jews need our help. Please go to www.afmda.org and support those on the front lines.

In the Community

Mazal Tov to...

- Mendel & Esther Rosenberg and family, on the birth of a boy.
Shalom Zachor 9:30 PM at 6776 Glen Acres Drive.
- The Benarousse family, on the birth of a boy.
Shalom Zachor 10:15 PM at 7565 Elbrook Ave.
- Eitan & Rivka Laghaie, on the birth of a baby girl.
- Adam Myers, on his engagement to Mindy Lurie.

We extend our condolences to Mr. Paul Wolgin, on the passing of his mother. Visitation and minyan details to follow.

Arba'a Minim: Please send your orders to esales@closeouttown.com.

COVID Relief: Help is available for individuals and families in need. Please contact Rabbi Alt: RabbiAltGMS@gmail.com

Refuah Sh'laima

Bracha Leah
bas Rochel Mushka
(Barbara Nagler)

Eitan Chaim ben Elisheva
(Ethan Kadish)

Gavriel ben Pesha
(Gary Walsh)

Chana Rivka bas Ethel
(Juanita Weiss)

Nesanel ben Chaya Rochel

Tzvi Michael ben Leah
(Hirsch Wise)

Chaim Dovid Ephraim
ben Chana

Daisy bas Lulu
(Mrs. Daisy Kattan)

Z'ev Shmuel
ben Malkah Rochel

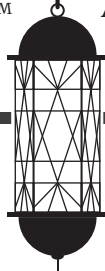
Reuven ben Malkah

Simcha Leib haLevi
ben Devorah

Esther Hitzel bas Gitel
(Esther Deutch)

Tzipporah Yehudis
bas Yonah Malka

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Rabbi Stuart Lavenda RABBI EMERITUS
Rabbi Hanan Balk RABBI EMERITUS
Yosef Kirschner CHAIRMAN

6442 Stover Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45237
golfmanorsynagogue@gmail.com
golfmanorsynagogue.org
(513) 531-6654

V'Dibartah Bam

Reuniting

This past Labor Day was much more than a legal holiday at Golf Manor Synagogue. We had the privilege of celebrating the wedding of Channah and Asher Panchelyuga! The Panchelyuga wedding was an amazing way to end off the year and prepare for Rosh Hashanah. A wedding date of 18 Elul was an auspicious time—18 equals *chai*, the life-force of Elul.

There are two allusions to the month of Elul that are cited in *seforim*.

Ani L'dodi, V'dodi Li—I am my Beloved's, and my Beloved is mine. (Shir haShirim 6:3)

The first letters of these four Hebrew words spell “*Elul*.” This theme is certainly one that resonates well with a wedding, but this wedding connects on an even deeper level.



The Panchelyugas were previously married; having recently completed their conversion, they were getting “remarried,” reuniting as Jewish husband and wife. As we approach Rosh Hashanah, we too start off the year by reaffirming our relationship with Hashem. Through refocusing our perspective on Hashem as our King on Rosh Hashanah, and the heartfelt repentance of Yom Kippur, we reunite with Hashem. The relationship was there before, but now we are reestablishing it on a higher level.

The second allusion to Elul is in this week's parsha. When the Torah tells of the Jewish people returning to Hashem, it teaches that Hashem Himself will come to our aid.

Umal Hashem ess l'vav'cha v'ess l'vav zar'echa—and Hashem will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring. (Devarim 30:6)

The first letters of the four words *es lvavcha v'es lvav* spell “*Elul*.” The very fact that we are not alone, that Hashem will help us return to Him, is inspiring enough. But if we pay close attention to the metaphor the Torah chooses, the inspiration becomes much deeper. The Torah does not describe Hashem awakening us, shaking us with thunder and lightning. All Hashem needs to do is “circumcise our hearts”—remove the blockage, break down the barriers. Love for Hashem is in all of our hearts. Returning to Hashem and His Torah is natural, if only there were no obstacles in our way.

This idea was also felt at the Panchelyugas' wedding. The Baal Shem Tov asks, why do our Sages use the language “*ger shenisgayer*—a convert who converts?” Wouldn't it be more accurate to say “*goyshenisgayer*—a gentile who converts?” The Baal Shem Tov explains that every convert is drawn to Judaism because Hashem has planted a desire to be Jewish deep inside them. Those who knew the Panchelyugas from the beginning know this to be true. Their deep drive to become closer to Hashem is tangible.

May Hashem shower us with the blessings of these special days. May we take advantage of this auspicious time to reunite with Hashem through our repentance. May Hashem free us from the many obstacles that stand in our way, and reveal the true love we have deep inside of all of our hearts.

Good Shabbos and *k'siva v'chasima tova*,
Rabbi Yosef Alt