

8 Tishri 5770

26 September 2009



## SHABBAT SHUVAH: Haazinu

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### The Contract

*Rabbi Benarroch, SEC*

This past week I had the pleasure of running into a former student. She caught me up on how she has been and to my delight I was happy to hear that she was engaged and living in a Jerusalem's "Nahlaot" neighborhood. It happens to be one of my favorite areas in Jerusalem. Its narrow alleyways remind me of Jerusalem's Old City and its streets meander through the "Mahaneh Yehudah"

open market. What makes the neighborhood unique is that it is one of those old Sephardic neighborhoods of Jerusalem that is filled with stories and nostalgia.

one night. I couldn't help but chuckle, especially because she is Ashkenazi and her custom is to start *Selihot* much later in the month.

As a person who doesn't believe in chance I asked myself what there was to learn from this story, especially upon hearing it dur-

ing "*Aseret Yemeh Teshubah*" the ten days of repentance that come between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?

I was reminded of a Mishnah in "Ethics of our Fathers", that reads as follows, "*Rabbi Tarfon said, the day is short, the task is abundant, the laborers are lazy, the wage is great, and the master of the house (G-d) is knocking*" (*Ethics of our Father 2:20*).

Like that student's rental contract I was reminded

### High Holy Days Children's Room

This year we will use wristbands for entry into the children's room during the High Holy Days so as to maintain a healthy spacious, & pleasant area

**Members will obtain wristbands free of charge.** Non-members will be charged \$25 for each young child & \$50 for each teen.

### Prayer Schedule

Shabbat Shuvah		Erev Yom Kippur		Yom Kippur	
7 Tishri/Friday, Sept. 25		9 Tishri		10 Tishri	
Selihoth	5:30 am	Sunday, September 27th		Monday, September 28th	
Shaharith	6:30 am	Selihoth	5:30 am	Shaharith	7:30 am
Minhah & Arvith	6:30 pm	Shaharith	to follow	Minhah	4:00 pm
Candlelighting	6:27 pm	Minhah	2:00 pm	Neilah	6:15 pm
8 Tishri/Sat., Sept. 26		Light Candles		Fast Ends	7:26 pm
Shaharith	8:30 am	& Fast Begins	6:24 pm		
Minhah & Arvith	6:00 pm	Leha Eli			
Motzei Shabbat	7:29 pm	& Kol Nidre	6:30 pm		



## *Israel and Gaza*

From  
**September 18, 2009**  
**New York Times**

To the Editor:  
 Re: "Justice in Gaza"  
 (Op-Ed, Sept. 17)

Richard Goldstone displays the same disregard for Israel and naïveté regarding Hamas that permeates the report he wrote for the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Since its inception in 2006, the council has consistently demonized Israel while giving a free pass to some of the world's worst tyrants, from Sudan to Iran. Mr. Goldstone largely neglects what prompted Israel to act militarily against Hamas.

Let's be clear for historical accuracy. Israel's military

operation came after eight years of relentless rocket attacks from Gaza on Israeli towns and villages. Indeed, thousands of rockets were launched after Israel transferred the entire Gaza Strip to the Palestinians four years ago.

While the United Nations made no effort to stop the Palestinian rockets, Israel showed remarkable restraint over the years until it could not hold back anymore.

More disturbing, the Goldstone report has set a new standard for equating the behavior of democratic nations and terrorists.

He makes no moral distinction between Israel, a United Nations member state, and Hamas, a terrorist organization that

violently seized control of Gaza two years ago from the Palestinian Authority.

The implications of this moral equivalency go beyond the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In fact, they undermine the United States and other democracies facing asymmetrical warfare from adversaries who care little for international norms of war and international humanitarian law.

In sum, Mr. Goldstone's conclusions are a disservice to the credibility of the United Nations itself.

Richard Sideman  
 President, American  
 Jewish Committee  
 New York, Sept. 17, 2009

## *Give Tzedaka!—KJ Tomchei Shabbos Collection*

***Aliyoth & Mitzvoth***  
 are still available for Yom  
 Kippur. Make this New  
 Year one of good luck,  
 health, and prosperity.  
 Reserve your mitzvah now!  
 Send an mail to  
 moussashaaya@aol.com

As he has done for many years, Abe Abraham will be collecting money that is received from Kaparot on Erev Yom Kippur and sending the money to "Tomchei Shabbos of Los Angeles".

Tomchei Shabbos is an organization that supplies food for

Shabbat and Jewish holidays to needy Jewish families .

One part of giving tzedaka before Yom Kippur, involves atoning and asking Hashem for forgiveness.

Abe Abraham will be making the Kaparot Blessing for you

during the next few days at the Synagogue.

It is customary to donate the market price of a chicken, or more, for each member of the family.

Thank you for your support of Kahal Joseph Congregation

## *The Contract* (continued from page 1)

that we too have a contract. It is called the Torah, it comes complete with clauses and sometimes even fine print. It needs to be studied, appreciated, and most importantly it needs to become a way of life. I cannot vouch for the good intentions of that student's landlord. I can well imagine that his intentions were good, and he wanted what he thought was best for his tenants. But I can say with absolute surety that when G-d gave the Jewish people the Torah, it was with the purest intentions for our good.

As we prepare for "Yom Kippur" the message of obligation is an important one. If we are taking "Yom Kippur" seriously then we must enter the day with the knowledge that there are expectations from us. As responsible individuals, we must understand that there are proper and improper ways to behave. We must understand that without rules and regulations no society can exist. We must also understand that there are consequences to our behavior. "Yom Kippur" is about expectations, responsibilities, and taking an accounting for our actions.

This idea is also alluded to in this week's Torah portion entitled "Ha-azinu". It begins with the following verse, "Listen Oh heavens and I will speak, and hear Oh earth the words of my mouth" (Devarim 32:1).

The opening verse sets the tone for the rest of the poem that is basically Moses' last words to the nation. In the poem he reminds them to trust in G-d and to adhere to the ways of the Torah. But why would he start his last speech by asking the heavens and the earth to listen?

Rashi explains that in his last speech Moses was giving the nation a warning that they should follow the ways of G-d, and as in all legal matters in Jewish law, he required two witnesses. In this case, his witnesses were the heaven and the earth. The question is why did he use the heaven and the earth? Why not take the two most distinguished people of the time and use them as witnesses?

Rashi answers as follows, "(Moses reasoned) I am but flesh and blood, I will soon die and perhaps the nation will say we did not

accept on ourselves the Torah. Who will come to rebuke them and hold the nation accountable? Therefore I will use the heaven and the earth because they are eternal and their testimony will be for eternity" (Rashi Dvarim 32:1).

In his last moments Moses is reminding the people that at Sinai they signed a contract. It came complete with witnesses. It included obligations and consequences. He was reminding the nation, and in turn every Jew, that as such they would be accountable for their actions.

We can well understand why this Perasha is always read around the holiday of "Yom Kippur". Is this not what "Yom Kippur" is all about? Is "Yom Kippur" not the day of the year where we stop to evaluate our past actions to see if they have been proper or are in need of fixing? Is it not the day where we stop to contemplate the notion that all of our actions have consequences for the good or the bad and we are here to correct that which has resulted in bad? What good is banging our hearts if we do not own up to our short comings and work to correct

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Shanim Rabot  
Ve'Neimot,  
Ve'Tovot**

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and etrogim call the  
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## *The Contract* (continued from page 3)

them? What good is fasting if all that is empty is our stomachs and we care not to search for the emptiness of our actions? If we are to make "Yom Kippur" meaningful then we must remember that it is all about obligations, responsibilities, and accountability.

As we approach "Yom Kippur" I am always reminded by a story that is told about the "Hafetz Hayim", one of the leading Rabbis of European Jewry. He was known as a very pious person whose ethical conduct was meticulous. It happened that one "Yom Kippur", as he banged his heart in confession, he began to weep like a little child. The congregants were stunned. What terrible sin could their righteous Rabbi have committed? Why was he so distraught? At the conclusion of the day a number of students approached him and asked why he was so remorseful? What sin did the saintly Rabbi commit?

He answered that every "Yom Kippur" he took an

accounting of the past year going through every minute to examine his actions. He said that for the past year every day was accounted for except for ten minutes on a certain day. For those ten minutes, he told his students, he wept. What that story teaches us is that every moment counts and that we are accountable for every moment. Every moment is filled with so many possibilities. What the "Hafetz Hayim" is telling us is that when we stand before G-d on "Yom Kippur" we must realize the magnitude of our obligations and responsibilities, and take the proper accounting for our actions so that by the end of the day we will have improved just a little bit more than the previous year. Indeed the master is knocking, the task is great, and the responsibility awesome. But we must also remember that the reward is great.

Wishing you all

Shana Tova & Tizku  
Leshanim Rabot

*Printed courtesy of the  
Sephardic Educational  
Center*

### A Note from KJ's Religious Committee

Dear Congregants:

Many of you love to show your love for our beautiful Torahs by embracing them and kissing them.

In light of public health concerns about spreading germs with the imminent flu season, and for general hygienic reasons, and the courtesy we want to extend to all members, we ask that you refrain from putting your mouth on our Torahs or on our books, refrain from embracing the Torahs as they pass you.

Also, please do not push others out of the way just in order to reach the Torah. This is very dangerous to our congregants and the one carrying the Torah. You can show your respect by touching your hand or tallit to the Torah and kissing it that way, or just by raising your hand from afar in the direction of the Torah.

Or, you can visit the Torahs in the Hechal after the Services. Please follow these rules during your visits to the Torahs in the Hechal after services as well. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.



## Life Events

### Refuah Shlemah

*Please include these individuals  
in your prayers for healing:*

Yonatan ben Alizah • Mazal  
Tov bat Sulha Mitana • Matilda  
Louisa • Jack Wickett •  
Yaheskel ben Regina • Ayala  
bat Naomi • Khayah Noa bat  
Sara • Victor ben Pauline •  
Haim ben Mordechai • Moshe  
ben Naji • Pnina bat Esther •  
Yosi ben Esther • Victor ben  
Latif • Ramah Regina bat Farha  
• Chanan Velvel Simcha ben  
Bryna • Aziza bat Sara



### TORAH READINGS

*Please see Yom Kippur  
Mabzor for readings.*

## Community News

### *Spice Readers Club*

Wouldn't you like to chant  
from the Torah Reserve your  
haftara portion at 310.474.0559.  
Schedule time with Saeed and  
learn your haftara with authen-  
tic Baghdadi ta'amim, Iraqi  
melodies for Torah reading

### *Aliyoth & Mitzvoth*

Both are available for Yom  
Kippur. Make this New Year  
one of good luck, health, and  
prosperity. Purchase your mitz-  
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shaaya@aol.com

## In Memoriam

It is customary to light a memorial  
candle in the evening and donate  
tzedakah. Family members are  
encouraged to attend services.

### **Shabbat / 8 Tishrei**

David Hai Menashe Sasson

### **Sunday / 10 Tishrei**

Rachel bat Simha

### **Monday / 10 Tishrei**

Farha bat Dina

### **Wednesday / 12 Tishrei**

Ian Carlos ben Mishelle

Simha bat Ruth

Yehezkel Ezra ben Meir Yehuda

Sasson ben Aharon

Moshe ben Yaacov Shalom

### **Friday / 14 Tishrei**

Sarah bat Simcha

Naji Shaaya

Regina bat Haviva

Maima Somekh

### **Shabbat / 15 Tishrei**

David Sulman Aslan

Raina Murad Aslan

**G'mar  
Hatima  
Tova**

## Kahal Joseph Congregation

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Los Angeles, California 90025

Phone: 310.474.0559

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Visit our website at

[www.kahaljoseph.org](http://www.kahaljoseph.org)

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## Kahal Joseph Congregation

Norma & Sam Dabby

# Talmud Torah

## 2009-2010

Sundays from 9:30 am to 12 noon

Tue/Thurs from 4 to 6:00 pm

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