

Sept 2009

Elul 5769-Fishrei 5770

בס"ד
אלול תשס"ט - תשרי תש"ע



Stony Brook Hebrew Congregation Newsletter

This month's services schedule

Date: Sep	Candle lighting	Evening Service	Shacharit	Kriat Shema	Mincha/ Maariv	Shabbat Ends
4-5	7:01 pm	7:00 pm	9:30 am	9:37 am	6:50 pm	8:01 pm
11-12	6:50 pm	6:45 pm	9:30 am	9:39 am	6:40 pm	7:49 pm
18-19	6:38 pm	6:35 pm	8:30 am	9:41 am	6:35 pm*	7:37 pm
25-26	6:26 pm	6:25 pm	9:30 am	9:43 am	6:20 pm	7:25 pm

* No seudat shlishit after mincha.

Learning

Hebrew Reading Crash Course – Begins Thursday, Oct. 15th, at 7:00 pm and continues for five weeks. Register by calling (631) 751-3289 or e-mailing SBHC@Verizon.net.

Talmud Class – Tuesdays at 8:00 pm in the Beit Midrash.

Special Events in September

Selichot - Saturday, September 12th, at 10:30 pm on campus.

Fast of Gedaliah – Monday, Sept 21st. Fast starts at 5:27 am and ends at 7:32 pm.

Rosh Hashanah

Friday, Sept 18th

Mincha/Maariv 6:35 pm
Candle lighting 6:38 pm

Saturday, Sept 19th

Shacharit 8:30 am
Mincha/Maariv 6:35 pm
Lighting Candles/
Start cooking 7:37 pm

Sunday, Sept 20th

Shacharit 8:30 am
Mincha/Maariv 6:35 pm
Yom Tov ends 7:35 pm

Yom Kippur

Sunday, Sept 27th

Mincha in
Beit Midrash 1:00 pm
Kol Nidrei 6:20 pm
Candle lighting 6:22 pm

Monday, Sept 28th

Shacharit 8:30 am
Mincha/Maariv 5:00 pm
Fast ends 7:22 pm

Nachas News

- Mazel Tov to Dr. & Dr. Ebin on the engagement of Yahsa Ebin to Judith Katz, the daughter of Dr. Michael and Sherry Katz of Lawrence, NY.
- Mazel Tov to Avi & Daniela Ziskind on the birth of Hillel Nechemia.
- Happy Birthday to Daniela Ziskind, Helmut Strey, Matan Strey, Eric & Elisheva Norman, Baily Lederer, and Sara Chana Roffman.
- Mazel Tov to David & Sharon Leib and Eric & Elisheva Norman and on their anniversaries.

Rabbi Roffman's Monthly Message

Rosh Hashanah is best known as *Yom HaDin*, the Day of Judgement. This judgment is described in Talmud Rosh Hashanah in two seemingly contradictory ways. First, the Talmud gives a metaphor of sheep passing single file before their shepherd. This implies that we are judged separately, with HaShem looking only at the individual. In contrast to this, the Talmud gives another metaphor of a general looking at his troops in formation, regarding their value only as a group, with each individual regarded as part of a larger organization.

Rav Yisroel Salanter explains that these are actually two separate ways that HaShem looks at us to determine our standing. First, a person is considered according to their personal merits. This is a very difficult judgment because it can require constant vigilance and zeal. Then a person is judged based on their contribution to the community. How much is he needed by others? What has he contributed to the greater cause? This judgment can be much easier to emerge from victoriously. Unlike personal piety, opportunities to make a difference in large groups of people's lives are not very common. Public appeals do not require one to make life changing decisions, and usually all that is asked is a relatively small contribution or participation. Often the question asked is not "why should I," but rather "why shouldn't I?"

When getting ready for Rosh Hashanah we are all asked to look at ourselves as individuals. Where have I gone astray? What could I improve? If this seems daunting and unlikely to produce much progress, one should then at least focus on his place in the bigger picture. Could I be the 10th man at a minyan? Could I contribute to community festivals and gatherings? Could I become an annual donor to an organization? Could I volunteer once a month to do something that helps others? When thinking about these questions, the only answer should be another question: *Why shouldn't I?*

Ketivah V'Chatimah Tovah