

בס"ד

# Bais בית Yitzchok News יצחק



Cong. Bais Yitzchok Chevra Thilim

קאנג. בית יצחק חברה תהלים

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תשפ"א 5781- NORAIM YAMIM

ימים נוראים

FALL 2020- WINTER 2021

## A Holiday Message

by Rabbi Benjamin Blech

Coronavirus is now officially a global pandemic. Suddenly we find ourselves smitten by a plague of biblical severity.

Passover asks us to remember the 10 plagues which G-d sent against the Egyptians. With the help of the Bible we know the purpose behind these afflictions of a people. G-d had a plan. Egyptian suffering had meaning. What makes our contemporary anguish so particularly unbearable is its seeming incomprehensibility.

In the age of the prophets there would've been an effort to discern some divine message in this global tragedy. But today we somehow assume that scientific knowledge precludes the possibility for including G-d as part of the management of the universe. After all who can argue with Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch who, in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, proved the germ theory of disease – that pathogens too small to see without magnification are the true cause of illness. Germs are the villains and viruses are the sole reasons for the presence of diseases which determine whether we live or die.

And I dare to ask: Doesn't belief in G-d demand that we merge the germ theory of disease with the conviction of faith in a supreme being who actually decides where, when and how far viruses spread? When we are directed by doctors to wash our hands we are required to do so by Torah law.

Please understand exactly what I'm saying. Maimonides long ago made clear that it is our obligation to ensure our good health. We can't simply rely on G-d; G-d has made us his partners in our quest for longevity. Hygiene is a mitzvah; it's an obligation. Taking care of our bodies is a spiritual requirement akin to protecting our souls. When we are directed by doctors to wash our hands we are required to do so by Torah law.

But the ultimate decision of life or death remains, as we make clear every year on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur when our fate is sealed, with the Almighty. That is why I'm amazed that of the countless suggestions for how to counter and to cope with the coronavirus we hear so little of the word G-d and the possibility that this global pandemic brings with it a profound divine message. I am obviously no prophet, but here is a thought that I think is worth considering and taking to heart.

*Continued on pg 8*



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## סליחות

Due to the restriction imposed by the pandemic, we will not have a Melave Malka nor a video this year.

The evening will start -  
Motza'ei Shabbos - September 12, 2020  
✪ 12:50 am - Selichos  
Led by Rabbi Shmuel Rosenberg

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### הכרת הטוב

*Please note that with the Shul closed for almost 4 months kiddush and dedication opportunities were limited.*

#### KIDDUSH

*Our sincere thanks to the following families for supporting the weekly sponsorship . . .*

#### *In Observance of Yahrzeits & other events*

- Annette & Lenny Lauer celebrating their wedding anniversary.
- Jean & Jake Zimmer celebrating their wedding anniversary.
- The Zimmers & the Shul marking the yahrzeit of Mendel Farkas - *Aharon Menachem ben Alter Eliyahu z"l* (in April) and the yahrzeit of Susan Farkas - *Bobbe Sarah bas Z'ev z"l* (July).
- Melzer Family marking the yahrzeit of grandmother, *Miriam Chana Bat Lev z"l* and father, husband and grandfather, *Shmuel Gavriel ben Reuven HaKohain z"l*.
- Chaim Stricker for the yahrzeit of his grandfather, *Meir Yaakov ben Avraham z"l*.

#### DIVREI TORAH PRESENTERS

*Our thanks to all the individuals for delivering the D'var Torah or siyum at Kiddush or breakfast.*

The Officers and Board of Directors of  
Congregation Bais Yitzchok Chevra Thilim  
wish everyone a healthy and Happy  
New Year

בתיבה וחתומה טובה

## זרעא חייא וקיינא

### BIRTHS – Mazal Tov

- ♦ **Chava Goldstone** (and the late **R. Yitzchok z"l**) on the birth of a granddaughter to **Malka & R. Yisroel Moshe Scheinerman**.
- ♦ **Toby Goldberg** on the birth of two great-granddaughters, grandchildren of **Miriam & Chaim Wachs**.
- ♦ **Annette & Lenny Lauer** on the birth of a great-granddaughter to **Lenea & Michael Markowitz** (Rehovot) and on the birth of a great-granddaughter to **Shifra & Nadav Steindler** (Pardes Chana) and to grandparents, **Debbie & Gershon Markowitz** (Har Nof).
- ♦ **Sylvia & Dr. Ellie Schneider** on the birth of a great-granddaughter to **Yaakov & Chaya Schneider** (Queens, NY) and to grandparents, **Debbie & Dr. Moshe Schneider** (Edison) and on the birth of a great-granddaughter to **Shoshana & Jordan Ginsberg** (Queens) and on the birth of a great-grandson to **Eitan & Penina Steinfeld** and to grandparents, **Drs. Rochelle & Avraham Schneider** (West Hempstead).
- ♦ **Edie & Irwin Bruck** on the birth of a great-grandson, born to **Ilana & Michael Seltzer** and to the grandparents, **Jodi & Jonathan Schmeltz** (Teaneck).
- ♦ **Rachael & Michael Katz** on the birth of a grandson, to **Shmuel & Rivke Katz** (Norfolk, VA) and to his grandmother, **Barbara Lichstein** (and the late **Dr. Bernard Lichstein z"l**) (Deerfield Beach, FL).
- ♦ **Miriam & Marty Knecht** on the birth of a granddaughter to **Zoe & Moshe Knecht** and on a great granddaughter and to grandparents, **Atara & Dr. Tzvi Gottesman**.
- ♦ **Diane Lejtman** on the birth of a great-granddaughter to **Tova & Effie Wagner** and to the grandparents, **Dr. Saul & Stephanie Lejtman** (Teaneck) and on the birth of a great-granddaughter, to **Kalman & Sophia Lejtman** and a great-granddaughter born to **Shevi & Boruch Rich** and to grandparents, **Victor & Esther Lejtman** (Baltimore).
- ♦ **Debbie & Dr. Daniel Sheinbein** on a grandson, born to **Yosepha & Aryeh Kirshblum** (Efrat).

- ♦ **Malka & Moish Korbman** on a grandson, born to **Ettie & R. Mayer Behrend** (Waterbury, CT).
- ♦ **Eliyahu & Hindy Hecht** on the birth of a grandson to their children **Daniel & Tova Hadar** (Brooklyn).
- ♦ **Pearl & Mark Ricklis** on a grandson, born to **Dani & Leah Ricklis** (Passaic).

## זה הקטן גדול יהיה

### BAR and BAS MITZVAH - Mazal Tov

- ♦ **Lennie Brandwein** on the bar mitzvah of his twin grandsons, **Eli & Mayer**, and their parents, **Dr. Bena & R. David Schwartz** (Teaneck).
- ♦ **Sylvia & Dr. Ellie Schneider** on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, **Meir**, son of **R. Refoel & Dina Schneider** (Baltimore).

## שעה תשעה רעים אהובים

### ENGAGEMENTS and MARRIAGES

- ♦ **Cheryl & R. Moshe Abramowitz** on the marriage of their grandson, **Shlomo**, to **Batsheva Steinhart** (Ramat Bet Shemesh) and on the engagement and upcoming marriage of their granddaughter, **Devorah**, to **Yedidiah Gross** (Tene Omarim in Drom Har Chevron). and to parents, **Dena & R. Dov Lipman** (Bet Shemesh).
- ♦ **Robin & Bruce Epstein** (Modiin) on the marriage of their son, **Avi** to **Bina Coman**. Bruce was our past *Gabbai Sheni* and an integral part of BY before their *aliyah* in 2003.
- ♦ **Sylvia & Dr. Ellie Schneider** on marriage of their grandson, **Chaim Yehudah** and to his parents, **R. Refoel & Dina Schneider** (Baltimore) to **Frieda Alison** (Monsey) and on the engagement of their grandson, **Yaakov Yehudah**, son of **Drs. Rochelle & Avraham Schneider** (West Hempstead) to **Shira Petron** (Ottawa).
- ♦ **Annabelle Horowitz** (and the late **Noach Horowitz z"l**, past BY Vice President) (Petach Tikva) on the engagement of her grandson, **Aryeh Yehudah** (Ari), son of **David & Gina Horowitz** (Neve Tzuf) to **Gila Dolphin** (Raanana).
- ♦ **Chava Goldstone** (and the late **R. Yitzchok z"l**) on the marriage of her granddaughter, **Chaya Perel**, and to her parents, **R. Yaakov & Dubbie Goldstone**, to **Yehuda Levi** and on the marriage of her grandson, **Asher Anshel**, →

## NACHAS NOTES continued

son of **R. Yoel & Chani Goldstone**, to **Meira Strauss**. and on the marriage of her granddaughter, **Adina**, daughter of **R. Yisroel Moshe & Malka Scheinerman** to **Baruch Gordon**.

♦ **Edie & Irwin Bruck** on the marriage of their granddaughter, **Rivki**, and to her parents, **Zena & Sholom Weglein** (Efrat) to **Ariel Cohen**.

♦ **Sandy & Dr. Joe Waldman** on the engagement of their grandson, **Yitzchak**, and to his parents, **Beth & Shimmie Kaminetsky** (Boca Raton) to **Elisheva Marcus** (Kew Gardens Hills) and on the engagement of their granddaughter, **Avigail**, daughter of **Jeffrey & Arona Waldman** (Bayswater, NY).

♦ **The Melzer Family** on the marriage of daughter and granddaughter, **Alex**, to **Sammy Bruch** (Woodmere, NY).

**הַקְדָּבָה יְשׁוּלָם שְׂכָרָם**

### HONORABLE MENSCHEN

♦ Over the many months since the pandemic began, we had been in “care-taker” mode – no activities, no *minyanim*, etc. This section of the Bulletin usually highlights our members’ participation and service from Pesach - Shavuot and through the summer and early fall. That is not the case this year.

The opportunities to be involved in pre-Pesach, Yom Tov and Shavuot events, reported in prior years cannot be recounted this time. We cannot speak of the *erev Pesach siyum bechoros*, *Yom Tov davening*, reading *Shir Hashirim*, *Rus*, the *Seudas Dovid Hamelech* and its sponsors, **Rav Teitz** (he should be well) and his involvement in Pesach and Shavuot, etc. With the resumption of *minyanim*, we were able to offer the community reading of *Eicha* and *Kinnos* on *Tisha B’Av*. Our thanks to **Lenny Lauer** who has led this reading over the years.

♦ **YOM ECHUD YERUSHALAYIM** - The remote celebration of *Yom Haatzmaut* through Zoom meetings and YouTube connections offered a chance to celebrate in isolation. We provided links in observance of the **Anniversary of the 6 Day War** and the **Reunification of Jerusalem**.

♦ **KALISH and BLANK AWARDS** –at the respective gatherings for graduating **Bruriah** and **RTMA** seniors, awards were presented at the end of the school year. Our Shul sponsored awards for the **Norman Kalish Memorial Awards** to **Yitz Taragin** (RTMA - Elizabeth) and **Sheva Deutsch**, (Bruriah - Staten Island). **The Esther and Julius**

**Blank Memorial Award** was presented to **Yael Schneider** (Bruriah - East Windsor) *Mazal Tov* to these wonderful young people as they enter the next phase of their lives.

♦ **TEHILLIM** - Our study of *Thillim* – Psalms - each Shabbos morning before the Torah Reading, began on January 2011. With an almost four month hiatus, we are currently resuming the study. Now in the second Book of Thillim (Five books reflecting the five books of the Chumash), we are now in the 35th *mizmor*.

♦ **TODAH RABBAH** - to all those who have responded to our Yamim Noraim Membership and Appeal by submitting their information Update, Kol Nidrei contributions and membership renewal.

♦ **FACE MASKS** – **R. Shmuel Burnstein** has arranged for high quality face masks for BY through a donor. We thank him for his community spirit and support.

♦ **TZAISCHEM L'SHALOM** - **Debbie & R. Joe Oratz** who have departed Elizabeth for their new home in Yerushalayim. Last year, when the Oratzs announced their *aliyah*, they planned to return to the States to see their Atlanta children and also spend Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur in Elizabeth and *daven* for us at Bais Yitzchok. Rabbi Joe’s tenure with our Shul for *Yamim Noraim* spanned over three decades as *Baal Shacharis* and then *Baal Musaf* and his expert *laining* of the Megillah on Purim is memorable. Obviously the pandemic changed all that. First no flights to Israel, then isolation requirements coming and going, and so much more. The plan for this year just wouldn’t work. Rabbi Oratz leaves a great legacy for the Elizabeth Community: Women’s Parsha Group, leadership at Bruriah, learning at Bais Yitzchok, *Hashkama Minyan* at the JEC, etc. We wish them every success and *hatzlacha* and hope to see them next year. This year we are fortunate to have **R. Shmuel Rosenberg** (Rav at now closed Elmora Hebrew Center) as our *baal Musaf*. We look forward to an enjoyable and meaningful davening, 

Heartfelt thanks to Jean & Jake Zimmer for their untiring efforts on behalf of the shul and its members.

# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS 5781

Given the current COVID-19 crisis and imposed gathering restrictions, it is our hope and prayer that the events described below will be possible. We do anticipate changes to the past format. Periodic updates will bring everyone up to date with changes and openings.

## Times of Davening

- Shabbos - 8:30 am and as announced for *Mincha* & *Maariv*
- Sunday - 8 am
- Monday - Friday - 6:30 am

## Learning Opportunities

- On Shabbos before *Krias HaTorah* a few verses of *T'hilim* (Psalms) with Rabbi Moshe Abramowitz
- At the weekly Kiddush - a *d'var Torah* by a Shul member.
- At weekly *Shalosh Seudos* - a *d'var Torah* by a participant.
- At daily Breakfast after *davening* - *Mishna Brurah* with Lennie Brandwein.
- At breakfast on Sunday after *davening* - *Kitzur Shulchan Oruch* with Lennie Brandwein.

## K'lai Kodesh

On *Yamim Noraim*, Leonard Brandwein will lead *Shacharis* and is *Baal K'riah*. *Maariv*, *Musaf* and *Neilah* will be led by our guest Chazzan, Rabbi Shmuel Rosenberg, and Martin Lewitter is our *Baal Tokeah*. Our *Gabbaim* are Lenny Lauer and Ira Penner.

## Kol Nidrei

To shorten the time we are together on Yom Kippur eve and heighten the spiritual experience, we will not have an appeal for Kol Nidrei. The opportunity to record your pledge was included in the pre-Yamim Noraim mailing. Special envelopes for this purpose are available on the entrance door downstairs. Please give generously for the benefit of Bais Yitzchok.

## Break-the-fast Refreshments

Following *Maariv* on *Yom Kippur* night, refreshments will be available for all *mispalilim*. Speak with Jean Zimmer to sponsor this event.

## The Shul Sukkah

On Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> or during the the week, depending on time and weather, the Shul Sukkah will be set up. If you are available to help, speak with Glenn Bond.

## Simchas Torah

- *Hakafos* - The nature and extent of Simchas Torah and Hakafot activities will be based on the guidance from the Vaad Harabbanim.

- *Non-Kiddush on Simchas Torah*

As is our custom, Kiddush will be held for everyone in Shul following *Shacharis*. If you are interested in sharing the sponsorship of the Kiddush speak with Jean Zimmer. The extent and nature of this Kiddush may be modified based on the Vaad guidance.

## Membership & Seats

Shul Membership is \$50 per Hebrew calendar year for single members, \$100 for family membership and \$50 for Sponsors. Seats for Yamim Noraim are purchased separately and are priced for members and non-members, as well as students. Information about seats and contributions can be accessed on the Shul Website HomePage

[www.baisyitzchok.org](http://www.baisyitzchok.org) - Yamim Noraim Update 5781.

# CONDOLENCES *המקום ירחם*

*The members and Officers of Bais Yitzchok extend sincere condolences to our members and friends who have suffered recent losses -*



- To the family of **Dr. Bernard Lichstein a'h** (Deerfield Beach, FL). Bernie was a past BY Vice President, President and active Board member until the family move to Florida. Before the move, even when mobility was difficult, Bernie was in Shul every morning and could be counted among all supporters and participants in every Shul function. Burial was in Israel with Zoom opportunities for *Shiva* and later *Shloshim*. Sincerest condolences to the entire *mishpacha*, including but not limited to wife **Barbara yblh"o**, son **Yoel**, and daughters **Rachael Katz**, **Devorah Schatz**, **Leah Malamet**, **Shulamis Hess** and their respective spouses and families. The family has sponsored a **United Hatzalah Campaign** in memory of Dr. Bernard Lichstein. at <https://israelrescue.org/inmemoryofbernardlichstein>
- To the family of **Esther Flint a"o**. Esther was a longtime BY member, along with her husband, *ylt"o*, Eli and her parents. Eli served as house chairman and oversaw all building issues with the Shul. Condolences to her husband, **Eli**, son, **Nissan Flint** and daughter, **Ariela Finkiel Geller** and their respective spouses and families.
- To the family is **Mrs. Hilda Kaisman a"o**, who, with her late husband, **R. Jerry Kaisman z"l**, were a permanent fixture in Shul, living only a few doors down on Bellevue St. After her husband's death she moved to Lakewood to be closer to her family.
- To the family of **Harold Lilie a"o**, who could be found in Shul early every Shabbos morning as well as Yom Tov. Harold had deep roots in Elizabeth and with Bais Yitzchok. A number of years ago Harold moved to a local care facility where he lived until his death.
- To the family of **Sara Shames a"o**, mother of our former member, **Marcy Fox**. In many cases, the extended family of BY members become part of the Shul family. That was the case with Mrs. Shames who was often seen in Shul when Marcy and her family attended BY.
- To our long-time and supportive member, **Glenn Bond** and his family, on the passing of his mother, **Frances Bond a"o**. It was always a joy for the members to share time with the California Bonds when they visited.

*May they be comforted among all who mourn for Zion and Yerushalayim*



ALL EVENTS ARE DEPENDANT ON THE STATUS OF THE  
CURRENT HEALTH CRISIS WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING & FACE COVERINGS



Sept - Oct 2020 Cong. Bais Yitzchok Chevrah Thilim  
Tishrai 5781 Yamim Noraim Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SEPTEMBER 6	7	8	9	10	11 88 6:56p	12
Regular Davening: Weekdays: Sun - 8 am Mon - Fri - 6:30 am Regular Shabbos: Erev Shabbos - as indicated Shacharis - 8:30 - Mincha - 15 min. Before candle lighting time					22 Elul	<b>Nitzavim- Vaycilech</b> Shacharis 8:30a Mincha_TBA Selichos 12:50 p
13 Selichos – the night before Shacharis 8:00a  24 Elul	14 Selichos 6: 15a	15 Selichos 6: 15a	16 Selichos 6: 15a	17 Selichos 6: 15a	18 88 6:44p <b>Erev Rosh Hashana</b> Selichos 6: 00a Mincha 6:35p  29 Elul	19 88 7:41p <b>Rosh Hashana I</b> Shacharis 8:30p Mincha / TBA  1 Tishrei
20 <b>Rosh Hashana II</b> Shacharis 8:30a Shofar – TBA Mincha TBA Tashlich	21 Selichos 6: 15a <b>Tzom Gedaliah</b>  3 Tishrei	22 Selichos 6: 15a	23 Selichos 6: 15a	24 Selichos 6: 15a	25 88 6:32p Selichos 6: 15a  7 Tishrei	26 <b>Shabbos Shuva Ha'Azinu</b> Shacharis 8:30a Mincha TBA
27 88 6:28p <b>Erev Yom Kippur</b> Selichos 8:00a Mincha 3:00p Kol Nidrei 6:30p	28 <b>Yom Kippur</b> 8:30a Yizkor TBA Mincha / Neila TBA	29  11 Tishrei	30	<b>OCTOBER 1</b>	2 88 6:20p <b>Erev Sukkos</b> Mincha 6:15p  14 Tishrei	3 88 7:17p <b>Sukkos I Shabbos</b> Shacharis 8:30a Mincha TBA
4 <b>Sukkos II</b> Shacharis 8:30a Mincha TBA	5 <b>Sukkos III</b> Shacharis  17 Tishrei	6 <b>Sukkos IV</b> Shacharis 6:30a	7 <b>Sukkos V</b> Shacharis 6:30a	8 <b>Sukkos VI</b> Shacharis 6:30a	9 88 6:09p <b>Sukkos VII</b> <b>Hoshana Rabba</b> Shacharis 6:15a  21 Tishrei	10 88 7:06p <b>Shmini Atzeres</b> Shacharis 8:30a <b>YIZKOR</b> Mincha TBA
11 <b>Simchat Torah</b> Shacharis 8:30a Mincha TBA	12  24 Tishrei	13	14	15	16 88 5:58p  Mincha TBA  28 Tishrei	17 <b>Parashat Bereshis</b> Shacharis 8:30a Mincha TBA

## A Holiday Message continued

Every parent knows that one of the most obvious responses to a child's misbehavior is what is commonly known as a "timeout." The child is restricted from enjoying pleasurable activities. The child has his normal life disrupted. The child is encouraged to reflect upon his disobedience. Is it too much to consider that as our world continues to sink ever lower in our commitment to virtue that G-d responded with a virus that has forced millions into a "timeout" of quarantine and seclusion?

The 10 Commandments are the biblical source of the most basic system of ethical and moral behavior. They represent the primary justification for our continued existence on earth. And the commentators took note of a remarkable number. In the original Hebrew, the language in which the commandments were inscribed by G-d on the two tablets, there are exactly 620 letters. 620 would seem to be a number with no particular theological significance. It would've been perfect and readily comprehensible if there were exactly 613 letters in the 10 Commandments. Those are the numbers of mitzvot given to the Jewish people in the Torah.

The 10 Commandments are the principles inherent in all of Jewish law. But what is the meaning of 620 letters? The rabbis explained. While the number of mitzvot for Jews is 613, the number seven represents universal law – what is commonly referred to as the seven laws of the descendants of

Noah, required as a minimum for all of mankind. And 620 of course is the sum of 613 and seven, the totality of divine guidance for both Jews as well as the rest of the world.

The word corona – as in coronavirus – comes from the Latin word for crown. The commentary does not end there. 620 is the *gematria*, the numerical value, of an important Hebrew word, *keter*, which means crown. A *keter* – a crown – is placed on top of every Torah scroll. The symbolism is obvious. The crown above the Torah demonstrates the relationship of the 10 Commandments to the rest of the Torah. From the 10 – in number of letters 620 – we have the principles which subsequently found expression in the entirety of the Torah.

The *keter* – the crown – is the most powerful symbol of our connection with G-d. Perhaps we need to consider the world's present affliction not just in the context of a disease caused by pathogens but as a divine message reminding us that we have been given our lives to invest them with meaning and virtue as defined by G-d's 10 Commandments.

***Rabbi Benjamin Blech, a frequent contributor to Aish HaTorah, on whose website this article appeared. He is a Professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University and an internationally recognized educator, religious leader, and lecturer.***

**Bais Yitzchok News**, the bulletin of Cong. Bais Yitzchok Chevra Thilim, is produced in this form each fall and spring before *Yomim Noraim* and *Pesach*. It is distributed to members and friends of Bais Yitzchok. Editor, Leonard Lauer and production details, by Moshe Abramowitz. Articles of interest, letters to the editor and other items appropriate for sharing in this bulletin should be forwarded to the Editor for consideration. Check our website at [www.baisvitzchok.org](http://www.baisvitzchok.org) for links to the most recent Announcements.



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