

The Shofar

Seasonal News for the Synagogue of the Hills

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The Distant Voice of the Shofar

"Summertime and the living is easy ..." so begins the word penned by George Gershwin in 1958 to describe the summertime kick-back attitude of families not only in America but world wide. Long anticipated trips to far off places, children off to summer camps and teenagers getting a real-life taste for their place in the work place as they earn what may seem to be a kings-ransom in summer jobs. Regardless of setting, summertime has become synonymous with relaxation.

But wait, off in the distance, just beyond the audible horizon you can hear that voice, the distinctive voice of the shofar, the ram's horn, sounding the notes that will herald another type of journey – the inward spiritual

journey that announce the coming of the High Holy Days. For many of us, we prepare ourselves for this journey with reflection, contemplation and supplication. We bathe our souls



and dress in our finest as we prepare to stand before *Avinu Malkeinu*, our Father, our King and our Judge, to plead our case – the *Mahzor* speaks to us, reminding us that GD does not seek the death of sinners and transgressors but their repentance. We pray and tremble as we hear the words of the *Unetaneh Tokef*, the liturgical recounting of our fate for the coming year: ..” How many shall leave this world and how many shall be born, who shall live and who shall die...” yes, on *Rosh HaShanah* our fate is written and on *Yom Kippur* it is sealed.

For me, the *Yamim Noraim* (Days of Awe), the High Holy Days are a time to pause and embark upon that spiritual journey during which I reflect upon the events of this past year. What have I accomplished, whom have I pleased and whom have I wronged. Whom have I made smile and whom have I brought to tears. As I stand before *Avinu Malkeinu* with my page from the Divine ledger (or perhaps the Divine spread sheet) open for inspection, I think of my family, my life and those who came before me, those who are no longer here with me. I remember sitting in synagogue with my grandparents in Borough Park in

Brooklyn listening to the rabbi and the *chazzan* - who knows what a little kid remembers of his youth? Was I bored? Disinterested? Did I fall asleep? Probably all the above, but what I do remember is sitting next to my grandparents knowing that we

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would all be inscribed in the Book of Life.

So, my friends, as we prepare ourselves for the *Yamim Noraim*, the High Holy Days, my prayer is that this year when the sun goes down on *Yom Kippur* (at about 6:30 PM) we will all be inscribed in the Book of Life

L'Shanah Tovah

Steve Benn
President

Greetings from Rabbi Yair Walton

Hello - I am excited to join you this year as your new incoming student rabbi. I wanted to give a short introduction about myself: I was born



in Salt Lake City Utah and moved to Cincinnati, Ohio at the age of 5. Before attending Hebrew Union College, I worked with March of The Dimes in Boca Raton/ Miami for two years. Prior to that I graduated from The American Jewish University in Los Angeles in 2011 with a BA in Judaic Studies.

I have come to the rabbinate as a second career after working in Jewish communal life and education in various aspects. I am an avid outdoor person who loves backpacking, camping, and skiing.

I have heard nothing but positive things about your congregation from my friends Sarah and Rachel, who both served here prior to myself. I look forward to meeting all of you this year and learning growing and teaching together.

Shana Tovah!
Yair

A Holiday Message from Rabbi Yair

In sitting down to write this, there is a rush of conflicting ideas that swell in my mind. One is sticking out. **Decisions.** I have to decide what I put on when I wake up, what I eat for breakfast, and with whom and how to spend my time. In this modern digital age we are awash with decisions daily and are being inundated by factors that wish to sway our decisions this way or that.

This week I just moved into a brand new house and I had to confront the monster that is Ikea. In this cavernous space I am overloaded with choices ranging from 'ok' to 'not-so-great' furniture for my new home. I came home and set up a bookshelf, and although objectively it was not the most level or highest quality, I felt satisfied with my purchase and with the time invested and yelling associated with the assembly process. That same feeling would not have accompanied me had I just bought the bookshelf fully set up and delivered to my house. If that had been the route I had chosen, I probably would have sent it back to the store. This effect has its own name and has been studied in depth. The 'Ikea effect' is a cognitive bias in which consumers place a disproportionately high value on products they partially created.

Jewish life is a life of awareness and action. Mitzvot call on us to not be passive characters in our own lives.

This effect doesn't just apply to products we buy as consumers. It also applies much more broadly to the way we behave in interpersonal relationships, and to the life choices we make. Not all of these choices have positive effects, and though we are aware of these negative consequences, we continue to follow their path, in order to hold onto what we have worked so hard to create for ourselves.

I often hold on to the negative patterns of behavior that keep me in what I see as a safe space because I've worked so hard to create them. I know they are not the best actions for me but at least it's what I know. I know the outcome of

that decision. I have spent my time and effort in a negative pattern of behavior and thus I feel that I look at my choices in a much better light than if I examined them objectively. I have, in effect, applied the Ikea effect to my choices.

Rosh Ha Shanah and Yom Kippur are about being forced to try and look at our years objectively - to take out the Ikea effect that often muddles our objective understanding of how we affect the world and others around us. It is an opportunity to try and do better - to be brave and try something new in the hopes that it will be a more positive result. Jewish life is a life of awareness and action. Mitzvot call on us to not be passive characters in our own lives. This year may we all live to be the best versions of ourselves. May we live a life aware to the consequences of our decisions and the life and support that community gives us all. L'Shana Tova!

Rabbi Yair



Something's not quite right here . . .



L'SHANA TOVA!!!

High Holy Days

5777



*** The Kol Nidre Service will feature music by cellist, Liz Benusis.**

**** Mary Ingram reminds us to bring cash or non-perishable food items to donate to Feeding South Dakota in our time of joy and prosperity.**

OCTOBER 2 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

OCTOBER 3 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Rosh Hashanah Service

OCTOBER 3 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Tashlich - Lime Creek

OCTOBER 7 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Shabbat Shuvah Service

OCTOBER 8 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Torah Study

OCTOBER 8 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Adult Education

OCTOBER 11 7:30 – 9:00 pm
Kol Nidre *

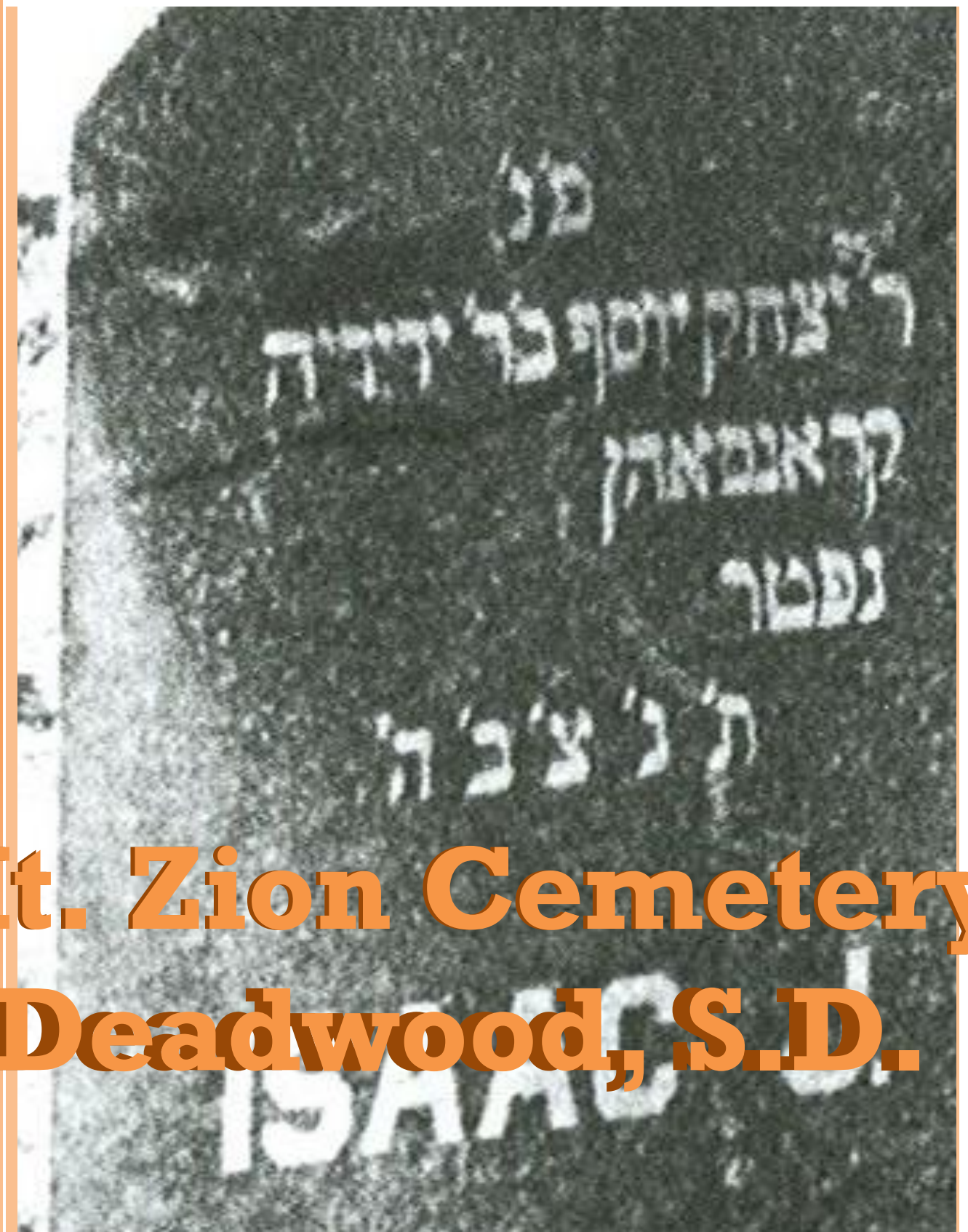
OCTOBER 12 10:00 – 11:30 am
Yom Kippur Service

OCTOBER 12 4:00 – 6:30 pm
Torah, Yizkor and Neilah

OCTOBER 12 6:30
Break the Fast **

Please join us for traditional apples and honey following the Erev Rosh Hashanah service.

by Ann Haber Stanton



ר' צחק יוסף ב"ר ידדיה
 קדאנאק
 נפטר
 ת' צ' ב' ה'

mt. Zion Cemetery
Deadwood, S.D.

Mt. Zion Cemetery

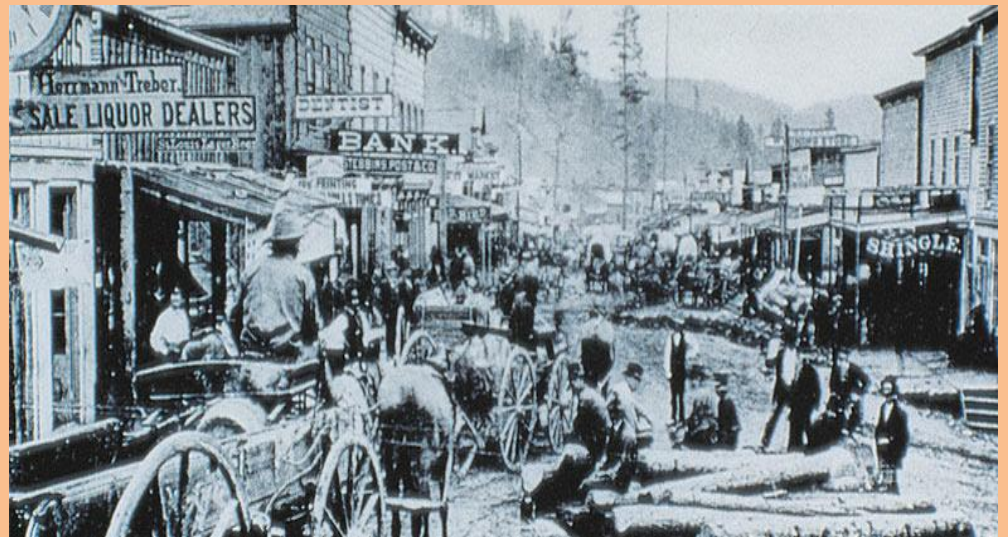
Deadwood, S.D.

THE JEWISH SECTION OF DEADWOOD'S HISTORIC MT. MORIAH CEMETERY

"The way to start a stampede up Mt. Zion is to obtain a hunk of free gold-bearing quartz and begin to examine it on Main, or Sherman streets. A crowd will soon gather about you when you must be reticent, mysterious, and every once in a while cast an insinuating glance at

some particular point upon the hillside. Before you have thrown the third glance, the crowd will begin to grow thinner about you and thicker on the side hill. Several stampedes were started in this way today." Black Hills Daily Times, April 1, 1879
*Note the April Fool's date.

M



any people are still surprised to learn that there is actually a Jewish section of Deadwood's Historic Mt. Moriah Cemetery. Recently, the last gravesite likely to be occupied in the Mt. Zion Jewish section was filled. Sheldon Jacobs, son of Ruth and Bertram Jacobs whom some still remember as proprietors of Deadwood's New York Store, was laid to rest in the Jacobs' family plot.

According to the record book of the Deadwood Cemetery Association, in the summer of 1893 Deadwood's Jewish community, which at the time numbered at least 100 adults, purchased an area of Mt. Moriah for the sum of \$200, to be used as sanctified ground. Some of the locals referred to this area as Hebrew Hill, but the Jewish community frowned on this name. In this section, which the Jews called Mt. Zion, are buried some of the many Jewish pioneers who helped to develop and stabilize this expanse of the Dakota frontier.

Among the first names on the Yizkor list read in the Synagogue of the Hills on Yom Kippur are the names of Blanche and Theresa Colman, daughters of Nathan Colman, who was Deadwood's first lay rabbi and remained so for some 30 years. The Colman family, the Jacobs' (there were 2 Jacobs families), the Levinsons, Schwarzwalds, Fishels, Finks, Krainsons, Wertheimers, and many others who are our Synagogue family's predecessors, currently 87 gravesites for adults and children, are interred in Mt. Zion. Some of the stones bear beautiful, but archaic, Hebrew inscriptions. There are 7 markers at the Colman plot alone, 3 of which commemorate young children, sad, but not unusual for the time.

In honor of the Jewish pioneers, in 2005 the Jewish American Society for Historical Preservation under the sponsorship of Jerry Klinger erected a commemorative plaque at the foot of Jerusalem Ave. leading up to Mt. Zion. The plaque was dedicated to the memory of the Jewish people who established the first organized Jewish congregation in Dakota Territory. This plaque, together with similar historical markers, one located in the garden of the Adams House (built for Harris Franklin's family), and a third



located at the entrance to the Main St. parking garage, are in recognition of Deadwood's significant community of merchants. It is well worth a visit to these sites to remember the historic Jewish presence in our Black Hills.



'Hebrew Hill' marker telling about Mt. Zion Cemetery at Deadwood's Mt. Moriah. This was a cooperative project between JASHP and Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission. (JASHP photo)

Editor's note: Jerry Klinger and the JASHP mentioned in Ann's article are responsible for many contributions to the accurate perception of Jewish history in the United States. A recent piece the July 29th edition of **Forward** features Mr. Klinger's efforts to uncover and publicize sites and occurrences in American Jewish history that are in danger of fading into obscurity. Here's the web link as well:

http://forward.com/culture/345517/heres-how-one-man-has-preserved-the-milestones-of-jewish-history/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Main



Our Library

Danny Janklow, son of Art Janklow II, delivered Art's collection of Jewish literature to the shul. Art was a serious reader. We were absolutely floored – not only at the quantity (four full shelves and then some), but also by the scope and value of his collection. It is an enormous enhancement to our library.

With the endorsement of the Board we have dedicated the Library at the Synagogue of the Hills to the memory of Art Janklow II. A plaque memorializing Art's contribution will be placed on the door.

Yahrzeits

“to remember is to keep alive”

The following *yahrzeits* will be observed:
Attendance at services is encouraged so *Kaddish* may be recited.

Isidore Horowitz 2 Tammuz 5738
Grandfather of Steve Benn

Arthur Janklow, Jr. 29 Av 5773
Father of Dan Janklow

Michael Herbst 9 Tammuz 5755
Father of Barb Ames

Renee Benn 10 Elul 5763
Mother of Steve Benn

Arthur Janklow, Sr. 11 Av 5710
Grandfather of Dan Janklow

Murray Weintraub 7 Elul 5760
Grandfather of Irv Fish

Maria Bellon 13 Av 5747
Great grandmother of
Michelle Fish

Morris Marshall 10 Elul 5739
Father of Ruth Thomas

Sid Wechsler 15 Av 5775
Husband of Sandy Wechsler

Howard Weintraub 15 Elul 5760
Uncle of Irv Fish

Lorraine Weintraub 16 Elul 5760
Aunt of Irv Fish

Death is merely moving from one home to another. The wise man will spend his main efforts in trying to make his future home the more beautiful one.”

-Rabbi Menachem Mendel Morgenstern
of Tomashov (the Kotzker Rebbe)



The Shofar is how the members of the Synagogue of the Hills communicate with each other. That is, *The Shofar* is a periodic forum for matters of interest that are a bit more formal than a remark over a cup of coffee, but a bit less formal than a written statement to the Board of Director. It could be a birth announcement, a press release, a public service blurb, a letter to the editor (that's me, Leonard Running), a joke, a cartoon, an opinion, anything that YOU think might be important or entertaining to our family.

Your contributions are welcome . . . no, critical to the well being of the synagogue. You can send emails to bhshul1@gmail.com or anything in paper form to the address above. Let *The Shofar* be heard!