



The Shofar

Seasonal News for the Synagogue of the Hills

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What do you want for your birthday, Papa?

I suppose there is a moment in time for everyone when the roll of thunder is heard off in the distance and a bolt of lightning brings into focus a reality for which we need no reminder – we are getting older, or for the more sensitive and vain, we are maturing and becoming more senior in years. Such was the case for me when, reviewing the pictures of my son's recent wedding, I saw this person standing next to Aaron and his new bride Patricia, that bore a remarkable resemblance to my father. It dawned upon me all too quickly that that old man was the same guy that stares back at me in the mirror every morning as I get ready to go to work. Time is funny like that, it kind of creeps up on you, day by day, year by year, when all of a sudden the answer to the question "what do you want

for your birthday Papa?" is answered quite simply, "Another year."

As the approach of the High Holy Days casts its mystical, almost magical spell of reflection and introspection upon the Jewish community, I find the continuity of our people is marked by the reassuring predictability of our calendar and life-cycle events. I feel, however, that this year is different. Sure, this year has been marked by many good memories, endearing family moments, fulfilling achievements at work and thrilling moments fishing on Rapid Creek. In balance, however, I am haunted by what seems to me to be a year of unmatched, worldwide pain and suffering: the hurricanes, floods and fires that have ravaged the United States, the plight of those caught in the

crossfire of war in the Middle East, the pictures of Syrians fleeing their war-torn country, refugees piled onto overcrowded, flimsy boats with the lucky ones being plucked from life rafts off the coast of Greece. And who could forget the image of the three-year old Aylan Kurdi, whose parents valiantly tried to flee Syria to give him a life, literally and figuratively, but never made it to a new land. Rather, he washed up on a Turkish shore in his tiny red t-shirt and blue shorts. He drowned, along with his five-year old brother and mother when his desperate father could no longer keep their heads above water, having been battered by unrelenting waves that their rubber raft simply could not sustain.

So my friends, as we come together as a community on these Days of Awe, *Yamim Noraim*, we listen to the clarion blasts of the shofar, and are reminded that the shofar symbolizes the major theme of the Days of Repentance, during which we commemorate the beginning of the world. We try to make a new start within ourselves, and to return to the beginning of the cycle. The shofar, with its powerful and profound calls, removes the obstacles before us and helps us reach this new start. This year I suggest that the three themes of *Rosh HaShanah* require us to both look inward to ourselves and to look outward to those around us. For the call of *Shofarot*,

we are reminded that this is a call of awakening to the needs of both ourselves and of those around us. When we hear the call of *Zikhronot*, we are reminded of those who are close to us and those of our global community, and when we hear the calling, *Malkhuot*, we seek to find our place in the greater oneness of ourselves and that of those around us.

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So, this year, my friends, when we hear the blasts of the shofar in response to the calling of the *Tekiah*, let us look into our own souls for *T'shuvah*, but not forget the image

of little Aylan Kurdi. This is why we as a Jewish community **need**, this why we as a community, a global community **need** these *Yamim Noraim*.

Shanah Tovah

Steve Benn, President



Our new student rabbi in her own words:

Taylor Baruchel firmly believes in the transformative power of a good question. A question--like a match to flame--is the spark that ignites intellectual and spiritual discovery. Dedicated to being a lifelong-learner, she holds it to be a duty to question, struggle and engage with all aspects of Jewish life and tradition. From sacred texts to kosher cookbooks, there is always something new to learn and be inspired by.

Hailing from Montreal, Canada, Taylor is a second year rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. A graduate of Dawson College's Professional Theatre Program, she received her M.A. in the History and Philosophy of Religion (2016) after completing a B.A. honours with great distinction in Religion (2013), both from Concordia University. Passionate about discourse, Taylor served as a representative of the Jewish community on the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montréal (CJDM) from 2013-16. She also bakes a mean challah.

Currently studying at the Cincinnati Campus of HUC-JIR, Taylor feels privileged to be serving the Synagogue of the Hills as Student Rabbi this year. She first fell in love with the congregation while visiting Student Rabbi Sara Otero during the Days of Awe two years ago. The warmth of the people and the beauty of the Black Hills have stuck with her, and she is thrilled at the opportunity to be in their midst once more.



And... a Holiday message from Rabbi Taylor

There is a story of a child who goes wandering in the woods one morning. For many hours. Her family searches for the child but to no avail. Finally, she returns home and her parents--more relieved than upset-- ask her, "Where were you?" "I went to the woods to pray," says the child. "You know God is the same everywhere," says the father to his daughter. "I know," says the child, "but I'm not."

As the High Holidays fast approach us, providing this time of reflection, prayerfulness and reparation, I find it helpful to keep this story in mind. We can absolutely find God in the majesty of a mountain hike, or calming comfort of our living rooms. God is the same everywhere...but we are not. Our rabbinic sages in their wisdom recognized the power of communal prayer when they mandated the need for a *minyan* (a group of ten adult Jews) for many of our statutory prayers. We can access the divine from anywhere, but we are at our best when we do it in community. So please, come join your community at the Synagogue of the Hills for this High Holiday season as we connect with Jews the world over in prayer, *teshuvah* and celebration.

5778, here we come!

Looking forward to seeing you there,

Student Rabbi Taylor Baruchel

High Holy Days

5778



SEPTEMBER 20 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

SEPTEMBER 21 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Rosh Hashanah Service

SEPTEMBER 21 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Tashlich - Lime Creek

SEPTEMBER 22 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Shabbat Shuvah Service

SEPTEMBER 23 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Torah Study

SEPTEMBER 23 1:30 – 3:00 pm
Adult Education

SEPTEMBER 29 7:30 – 9:00 pm
Kol Nidre

SEPTEMBER 30 10:00 – 11:30 am
Yom Kippur Service

SEPTEMBER 30 3:30 – 6:00 pm
Torah, Yizkor and Neilah

SEPTEMBER 30 6:00
Break the Fast

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

To set the tone of the *chagim*, please count on arriving at Erev Rosh HaShanah and Kol Nidre services fifteen minutes early for a musical prelude.

Speaking of *Shofarot*...



Shofar Workshop led by Rabbi Mendel Alperowitz from *Chabad* at the Synagogue of the Hills: Attendees to the workshop with their personal *shofarot* at various stages of completion.

Images from *Eretz Yisrael* . . . Steve Benn



Clockwise: tank and armored personnel carrier at the border with Gaza; the *Kotel*; a view through the *mechitzah* that separates the men and women's section at the *Kotel*

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

Murray Weintraub 7 Elul 5760
Grandfather of Irv Fish

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

Renee Benn 10 Elul 5763
Mother of Steve Benn

Maria Bellon 13 Av 5747
Great grandmother of
Michelle Fish

Marshall Morris 10 Elul 5739
Father of Ruth Thomas

Sid Wechsler 15 Av 5775
Husband of Sandy Wechsler

Lorraine Weintraub 10 Elul 5760
Aunt of Irv Fish

Howard Weintraub 15 Elul 5760
Uncle 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)





Holiday Apple Cake

INGREDIENTS:

3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
2 cups white sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
4 eggs, beaten
1/4 cup orange juice
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 apples - peeled, cored and sliced
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
5 teaspoons white sugar

DIRECTIONS: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour one 10 inch tube pan. Combine the ground cinnamon and 5 teaspoons of the sugar together and set aside.
In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, salt, baking powder and 2 cups of the sugar. Stir in the vegetable oil, beaten eggs, orange juice and vanilla. Mix well.

Pour 1/2 of the batter into the prepared pan. Top with 1/2 of the sliced apples and sprinkle with 1/2 of the cinnamon sugar mixture. Pour the remaining batter over the top and layer the remaining sliced apples and cinnamon sugar.

Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 70 to 90 minutes.

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Thank You

for your donations to
the Synagogue of the Hills

Haim and Gail Bober

Paul J. Isaac

Glenn Randall

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!