

Parasha Perspectives

In Parashat Netzavim, there is an overarching theme of the timely idea of *teshuva*. The most obvious example of this is the first ten verses in chapter 30, where the root of the word *teshuva* frequently appears as the idea of *teshuva* and the process of a mutual reconnection between the individual and G-d is described. In the next five verses, following this description of the process of *teshuva*, are some very beautiful and reassuring words that "this mitzvah" (the Torah does not specify which particular mitzvah) is not far away from the individual to attain—it is not hard to reach even though it may seem to be at times. Many commentators grapple with the question of the mitzvah the Torah is referring to in these verses. The Seforno and Ramban, among others, point out that "the mitzvah" may be understood from the context as the mitzvah of *teshuva*. Here too, one may see the theme continue throughout the parasha. However, when one looks at the beginning of the parasha, at first glance it seems that the first half of the parasha does not really deal with the idea of *teshuva* at all; rather it is a separate covenant between G-d and the community of Bnei Yisrael. Nevertheless, one can view the beginning of the parasha in light of the idea of *teshuva* as well. Instead of focusing on the individual's *teshuva*, which is the theme of the second half of the parasha, the beginning focuses on the communal aspects of *teshuva*. The Sefat Emet in his commentary on the first verse of Nitzavim discusses the word "*kulchem*", "all of you". It would seem that this word is superfluous, as if the verse would have been complete without it – "*Atem nitzavim hayom*"- "You are standing today". Why does the verse need to add "*kulchem*" "all of you"?

The Sefat Emet explains that the word hints to "*Arevim ze ba-ze*"— "responsible for each other". Every member of Bnei Yisrael is not merely a contained unit, existing in a vacuum, and only responsible for his or her own actions. Rather, each individual's actions and behavior affects the entire community. A person's merits support the greater community, and not only the individual himself or herself. As the Sefat Emet explains, "*Tzadik- b'zchuto kulchem omdim*"; a person's actions not only affect themselves, but have a wider sphere of influence, and all members of a community should feel the same responsibility for others as they do for themselves. This is the communal aspect of *teshuva* represented in the beginning of the parasha. However, the communal aspect differs from the individual *teshuva*. While the individual repents for his and her sins, and commits to try to refrain from those actions in the future, the communal *teshuva* is about remembering that we are a cohesive unit. We help each other, learn from each other, and gain from each other's merits. The Kli Yakar explains that one of the most important ideas of *teshuva* is that the individual should place themselves within the context of the community—to feel a sense of responsibility to others.

The sequence of the idea of *teshuva* in the parasha is teaching us that only when we remember that we are a single, unified, community- "*kulchem*"- will the individual *teshuva* be more meaningful and long-lasting, when we remember that our actions, both good and bad, have greater implications than just to ourselves.

From the writings of Gila Cohen, taken from the Parasha Perspectives Archives.

To organize or contribute to the weekly Parasha Perspectives, please email bulletin@mtsinaishul.com

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The Mount Sinai Keshet

September 11-12, 2009 • 23 Elul, 5769 • Parashat Nitzavim-Vayelech

Shabbat Parashat Nitzavim-Vayelech

Candle Lighting	6:53 p.m.
Mincha	6:58 p.m.
Sephardic Maariv (Arbit)	7:10 p.m.
Shacharit	7:00, 9:00 a.m.
Kri'at Shema before	9:43 a.m.
Tot Shabbat	10:45 a.m.
Early Mincha (BM)	2:15 p.m.
Rabbi Schwartz's Gemara Shiur	5:30 p.m.
Mincha	6:30 p.m.
<i>Seuda Shlishit following Mincha</i>	
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	7:57 p.m.
Selichot	12:50 a.m.

**Tefillah Schedule
Week of September 13th**

<i>Selichot</i>	
Sunday	12:50, 7:00 a.m.
Mon., Thurs.	6:15, 6:50, 7:30 a.m.
Tues., Wed.	6:30, 7:00, 7:30 a.m.
Friday	5:30, 6:00, 6:30 a.m.
<i>Shacharit</i>	
Sunday	7:30, 8:30, 9:00 a.m.
Thursday	6:45, 7:20, 8:00 a.m.
Tues., Wed., Fri.	7:00, 7:30, 8:00 a.m.
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	
Sunday-Thursday	6:50 p.m.
<i>Late Maariv/Selichot</i>	
Sunday-Wednesday	
Maariv/Selichot	10:30 p.m./10:45 p.m.
Thursday	
Maariv/Selichot	10:00 p.m./10:15 p.m.

Eruv Sponsor

The Eruv is sponsored by **David and Rachel Fryman** in memory of Chaim Gedalya ben Aaron.

Reminder: The Eruv does not extend into Fort Tryon Park or across Broadway.

Keshet Sponsor

The Keshet is sponsored anonymously in honor of Dovid Sher, Matan Wexler, Oran Zweiter, and Yitz Liberman, and their commitment to Jewish Education.

Rosh Hashana Schedule

<u>Friday Sept. 18 - Erev Rosh Hashana</u>	
Candles	6:41 p.m.
Mincha	6:46 p.m.
<u>Shabbat Sept. 19 - Rosh Hashana I</u>	
Shacharit	8:00 a.m.
Mincha	6:25 p.m.
<i>Divrei Torah following Mincha</i>	
Maariv/Candles after	7:45 p.m.
<u>Sunday Sept. 20 - Rosh Hashana II</u>	
Shacharit	7:30 a.m.
Shofar	10:30 a.m.
<i>Tashlich</i>	
Mincha	6:35 p.m.
<i>Divrei Torah following Mincha</i>	
Maariv and Yom Tov ends	7:43 p.m.



HATZOLAH: (212) 230 1000

This Week at Mt. Sinai

Sunday:

“HeightsBridge Volunteer Day”. See opposite page for details.

Men’s Basketball, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Daniel Falik, daniel@danielfalik.com

Monday:

Women’s Aerobics, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Anat Coleman at (212) 740 - 2740.

Orot Hateshuva Chabura, 8:00 p.m. given by Daniel Vinik. All texts will be provided in both English and Hebrew. Meets through Aseret Yemei Teshuva.

Women’s Basketball, 9:00 p.m. Contact: Susanne Goldstone, susqhb@gmail.com.

Tuesday:

Uri L’tzedek Beit Midrash, 7:30 p.m. on Business Ethics in the Jewish Community.

Women’s Basketball, 8:30 p.m. Contact: Elie Appleson, elie.appleson@gmail.com.

Wednesday:

Men’s Basketball, 8:00 p.m. Contact: Gilad Halevy, ghalevy@chipwiz.com.

Class with Rabbi Schwartz, 8:45 p.m. Topic: “The Great Shofar Controversy in Yerushalayim”

High Holiday Announcements



- **High Holiday Greetings** will be inserted into the Rosh Hashana edition of the Keshet. Greetings can be submitted to the office or online for a suggested donation of \$18. **Deadline: Wed., Sept. 16, 5pm.**
- Mt. Sinai is once again conducting our annual silent **Kol Nidre Appeal**. To contribute, please see our website or the office.
- The Family Life Committee is arranging **babysitting for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur**, but the hours available will depend on demand. If you are interested, **please contact familylife@mtsinaishul.com** and let us know the ages of your children as well as which hours of davening would be most useful to you.

Selichot

- **This Saturday night** at 11:30, there will be a special **pre-Selichot kumsitz** with **live music** by Yaakov Dov Miller and his band. Join us for an evening of singing and spirituality. Selichot will begin at 12:50am.
- Immediately after Shabbat this week, we are looking for **volunteers to help change parochsim and put in seating tickets**. If you are able to help out please speak to Yoni Ray.

Rabbi Schwartz’s Office Hours

Monday: 9 p.m. - 10 p.m.
 Wednesday: 9:30-10:30 (approximately, following 8:45 p.m. shiur)

This Week’s Holocaust Library Hours

Sunday: 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
 Monday: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
 Tuesday: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Mazel Tov!



- Elad Cnaan on his marriage to Abby Schwarz
- Laura Berkowitz on the marriage of her granddaughter, Deena Adler, to Daniel Rosenberg
- Robert Schneider and Havah Oxman on their engagement

Clothing Drive Through this Sunday Sept. 13th

- Join Mt Sinai for a community wide clothing drive and donate your new and used clothing in garbage bags.
- Drop off items **on Sunday** in the Mt. Sinai Coat Room.



For more information, contact chessed@mtsinaishul.com

Community-wide "HeightsBridge" Volunteer Day This Sunday, September 13th

You can still participate in the sorting clothing activity by coming to Mt Sinai at 2 pm, followed by a party for all volunteers at Mt. Sinai at 4pm.

FREE T-SHIRT for all participants.
More info at mtsinaishul.com/content/heightsbridge.

Questions? Contact Shifra at chessed@mtsinaishul.com.

Welcome New Members

David Moster
 Reina Potaznik
 Zev Safran
 Abigail Weiss
 Oran Zweiter



Women's Aerobics Class

The Women’s Aerobic class is starting again this week!
 Mondays, from 7:30-8:30pm in the gym for all ages and abilities - \$10

For more information or to register call Anat Coleman at 212 740 2740.

Tot Shabbat

Parents and children-under-5 are invited to a children's davening service during Mussaf (approx. 10:45) in the gym this Shabbat.



We have been serving the Heights and the Tri-State Area for nearly 40 years.

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