

Flushing-Fresh Meadows Jewish Center
 193-10 Peck Avenue ✧ Flushing, New York 11365 (718) 357-5100

THE BULLETIN

Sept.-Oct. 2014
 Vol.13, No.2

Elul, Tishri 5775
 Rabbi Gerald M. Solomon
 Cantor Aaron Katz

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Friday, Sept. 5

Mincha/Maariv.....6:30P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....7:04P.M.

Saturday, Sept. 6 - Parashat Ki Teitze

Shabbat Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....8:12P.M.

Friday, Sept.12

Mincha/Maariv.....6:30P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....6:53P.M.

Saturday, Sept. 13 - Parashat Ki Tavo

Shabbat Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....8:00P.M.

Friday, Sept.19

Mincha/Maariv.....6:30P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....6:41P.M.

Saturday, Sept. 20 - Parashiot Nitzavim-Vayeilech -

Shabbat Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....7:48P.M.

**SELICHOT..... Collation and Program 8:15P.M.-
 Services 10:00P.M.**

ROSH HASHANAH 5775

Wednesday, Sept. 24 - Erev Rosh Hashanah

Mincha/Maariv.....
 High Holy Day Services.....6:15P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....6:30P.M.

Thursday, Sept. 25 - First Day Rosh Hashanah

High Holy Day Services.....8:00A.M.
 Mincha/Maariv.....6:15P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....7:39P.M.

Friday, Sept. 26 - Second Day Rosh Hashanah

High Holy Day Services.....8:00A.M.
 Mincha/Maariv.....6:15P.M.
 Candle Lighting Time.....6:27P.M.

Saturday, Sept.27 - Parashat Haazinu

SHABBAT SHUVAH Services.....9:00A.M.
 Shabbat Ends.....7:35P.M.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

YOM KIPPUR

Friday, Oct. 3

Erev Yom Kippur - Mincha.....6:00P.M.
 Official Candle Lighting Time.....6:16P.M.
 Kol Nidre/Maariv.....6:15P.M.

Saturday, Oct. 4 - Yom Kippur -

Shacharit.....8:30A.M.
 Yizkor.....12:00P.M.
 Mincha.....4:45P.M.
 Neilah.....6:15P.M.
 Maariv/Havdalah/
 Shofar.....7:23P.M.

*Schedule of Services, continued***SUKKOT****Wednesday, Oct. 8**

Erev Sukkot - Mincha/Maariv.....6:00P.M.

Candle Lighting Time.....6:07P.M.

Thursday, Oct. 9

First Day Sukkot - Festival Services.....9:00A.M.

Mincha/Maariv.....T.B.A.

Candle Lighting Time.....7:15P.M.

Friday, Oct. 10

Second Day Sukkot - Festival Services.....9:00A.M.

Erev Shabbat Chol Ha-Moed

Mincha/Maariv6:00P.M.

Candle Lighting Time.....6:04P.M.

Saturday, Oct. 11

Shabbat Chol Ha-Moed Services.....9:00A.M.

Shabbat Ends.....7:12P.M.

Wednesday, Oct.15**Hoshannah Rabbah**

Shacharit Services.....7:00A.M.

Mincha/Maariv - **Shemini Atzereth**.....5:45P.M.

Candle Lighting Time.....5:57P.M.

Thursday, Oct. 16

Shemini Atzereth Festival Services.....9:00A.M.

Yizkor Memorial Services.....10:45A.M.

Candle Lighting Time.....7:04P.M.

Simchat Torah - Maariv/

Hakafot.....7:30P.M.

Friday, Oct. 17**Simchat Torah/Hakafot**

Festival Services.....9:00A.M.

Mincha/Maariv.....5:45P.M.

Candle Lighting Time.....5:54P.M.

Saturday, Oct. 18 - Parashat Bereishit

Shabbat Mevarchim Services.....9:00A.M.

Shabbat Ends.....7:01P.M.

Friday, Oct. 24

First Day Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan

Mincha/Maariv.....5:30P.M.

Candle Lighting Time.....5:44P.M.

Saturday, Oct. 25 - Parashat Noach

Second Day Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan

Shabbat Services.....9:00A.M.

Shabbat Ends.....6:51P.M.

Friday, Oct.31

Mincha/Maariv.....5:30P.M.

Candle Lighting Time.....5:35P.M.

Saturday, Nov. 1 - Parashat Lech Lecha

Shabbat Services.....9:00A.M.

Shabbat Ends.....6:42P.M.

CENTER NEWS**MAZEL TOV**

Anita Bernstein on the birth of her great-grandson Nadav in Eretz Yisroel. His grandparents, Andrea and Bruce Weinreb attended his bris on Shabbat, August 16.

CONDOLENCES

To **Ida Siegal** on the passing of her beloved husband Solomon who died on March 3, 2014 in Florida. Solomon was a past President of Fresh Meadows Jewish Center and was an active member from the 1950's to the 1980's. Ida, his wife of 73 years resides in Florida.

To the family of **Ida Gladstone** who was a long-time member of Queensboro Hill Jewish Center.

**SISTERHOOD**

It was our privilege, on July 19th, to have a special guest for our program, the granddaughter of Sylvia Udasin. Sharon Udasin lives in Israel and is a reporter for the Jerusalem Post. She presented an informative Power Point program on the environment followed by her experiences living in Israel, at this time (see page 10 in this Bulletin). We thank Sylvia for bringing her to us.

On September 11th we will be having our fun game day starting with lunch followed by games of your choice. Even if you are not a game player you will have an enjoyable afternoon.

Save the dates for the luncheon in the Succah which are scheduled for October 13 & 14. There is also a Sisterhood luncheon on October 23rd. Program to be announced.

The book club will not meet in September. The October book is "The Aviator's Wife" by Melaie Benjamin. to be held on October 30th. We meet at 10:30AM and all are welcome.

We wish all our friends and members a Happy and Healthy New Year!

See you soon

Joan and Marilyn



RABBI'S MESSAGE

I have always had an interest in the subject of mental health in addition to my interests in Biblical, Talmudic and Rabbinic literature. As a congregational rabbi and dealing with such a variety of people, I also became very much interested in understanding better the reasons and/or motivations behind peoples' actions. Why do people do the things they do became a question whose answers I felt I needed to pursue if I was to be of real help to them. I pursued this course of study more thoroughly after putting in my first twenty years in the rabbinate.

I took courses at the Long Island Institute for Psychoanalysis, housed in the Nassau County Medical Center in the early 1990's, had the good fortune to study with some prominent Psychiatrists and Clinicians, did all my readings and writings and at the end of the course of study, as well as the required hours of Psychoanalytic Training and Supervisory guidance of my clients, I was awarded a certificate in Dynamic Psychotherapy and membership in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors followed. I am one of the handful of rabbis in the United States who have been accepted as a member into that prestigious organization. I felt more competent and confident in dealing with peoples' problems and in counseling them appropriately. I could now also be a better, more qualified rabbi for the congregation I was serving and presently am serving. My feeling of greater professionalism has enabled me and helped to facilitate my success in quite a number of other areas of the rabbinate, including the area of community leadership.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Queens County Mental Health Society I am working with other professionals and interested parties to provide information on the available treatment services in our community. We meet monthly at our synagogue to discuss contemporary issues in mental health as well as available services and how we could more effectively bring this information to our Queens community as well as to the greater New York City communities.

I tell you all of the above as a prelude to the following.

The recent suicide of beloved comic genius Robin Williams has brought to the fore the subject of depression and mental illness. I am planning to devote one sermon to the subject at one of the services during the High Holy Days. Please make sure you will be in attendance so as not to miss this vitally important message. I entitled it *Depression, Mental Illness and the Suicide of Robin Williams*.

In my message in this forum, I would like to briefly offer both some guidance for those who may be suffering from depression or other mental dysfunctions and/or for those who may be in the position of helping those individuals who are suffering.

* Loved ones of those who are suffering from mental illness, including depression should offer their love and support consistently to them even when their behavior doesn't seem to warrant it. Always remember: They are suffering, they are ill, they need love and support. It is important for them to be reassured of your love and faith in them. Hearing someone say, "I love you" and "I believe in you," and knowing that they mean it, is extremely important. Insincere expressions will be detected and rejected. Sincere expressions of love and caring will register.

*Care-givers need to seek help to deal with their own stress. Support groups or short-term therapy could prove very helpful.

* One cannot try to convince the depressed that they are wrong for being depressed nor can you win them over with logical argumentation. Remember: "feelings" are neither right nor wrong, they just **are**. The clinically depressed cannot be "cheered up" out of an episode. Depressive episodes do pass but also do recur. It could be helpful to think of the episode as a wave and the individual experiencing it needs to "go with the flow" of it and by so doing will "ride it out" and, in time, be returned safely to "shore." Again, reassurance is very important to the one suffering.

*The depressed individual needs to be encouraged to seek treatment for the condition and be given to understand, if possible, that his/her behavior and moods can and do affect others around them. The person should be encouraged to understand that there is nothing bad about the need to take medication(s) to stabilize mood. People do, in fact, take medications for a variety of conditions and that **we are grateful** that medications have been created to help with de-

pression on either a short or long term. Encouragement should be provided to the sufferer to take the medication prescribed and not miss a dosage. In the treatment of depression, very often “talk therapy” is partnered with the medication.

* Each patient is different and therefore, the appropriate “treatment modality” for a person may take time to discover. There are a number of “treatment modalities” available and a variety of qualified practitioners of those modalities as well. A good therapist/practitioner is one who would offer referrals if he/she cannot or does not feel competent or qualified to handle a given case.

*Those caring for suffering loved ones need to integrate the idea of “living one day at a time” and cultivate “patience.” A colleague shared the following pearl of wisdom: “Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its troubles; it empties today of its strengths.” One can keep on top of things by putting long-range concerns in proper perspective.

*Caring for a suffering loved one or being a sufferer presents a special opportunity to get closer to God. God, in our Torah refers to Himself as the “Healer.” Sincerely, ask Him to help you or your loved one, acknowledging that you will not be healed correctly and completely without Him. Tell Him that you recognize that He is absolutely indispensable in the healing process. Tell Him that you understand that “flesh and blood” healers are the instruments of His will. Pray that He permit them to succeed in their efforts to bring healing. Enlist others to pray for healing as well and start praying for others who are similarly afflicted.

I recently came across the following vignette.

“One year ago, right before Rosh Hashanah, I began to pray like I never prayed before for my daughter to heal from persistent depression. And for the first time, I replied to an advertisement from an organization in Jerusalem to have someone pray for my child at the Kotel for 40 days. While I believe in prayer, I had considered these annual pray-for-something-or-someone at the Kotel pitches to mostly be about fundraising. But last year, when things looked very dark, I figured I had nothing to lose and possibly much to gain. I wrote to the organization about my very wonderful child and all her talents and potential. I sent a picture of her. I also had everyone else in our immediate family also say the special prayer that was being said for her during those 40 days. At first things got worse, but after two weeks we had a wonderful breakthrough, finding a new and different treatment that has worked better than anything else has over the course of many years. I believe that heartfelt prayer does work, and that the Almighty is the real Healer.”

Depression is harmful and debilitating, often exacting a heavy toll on sufferer and his/her loved ones. But hope for a brighter tomorrow is a very good mindset to have when dealing with depression and other serious mental and physical ailments. Coupled with recognizing the need to make a concerted effort, a teamwork whose members have both faith and patience, one can and will survive the occasional or even persistent gloom and, with God’s help, see the sun shine again, at least temporarily, if not permanently.

The words of Alexander Pope come to mind:

*Hope springs eternal in the human breast;
Man never Is, but always To be blest:
The soul, uneasy and confin'd from home,
Rests and expatiates in a life to come.*

If you are struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts, please seek help.
I have some useful telephone numbers including a suicide hotline number.

Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy, both physically and mentally, new year. May the Almighty bless us with peace with ourselves, peace with our fellow men and women, peace with our God and peace for Israel and all the nations of our world.

Shanah Tovah!

Rabbi Gerald M. Solomon

10 Myths and Facts about the Gaza War- Key Facts You Need to Know to Defend Israel

Yvette Alt Miller

It is said that truth is the first casualty of war. Here are some lies that have been spread about Israel in recent weeks – and the truth behind these slanders. Only by clarifying the facts can we look forward to a realistic solution to the tensions.

(1) Israel started this war, using the murder of three Israeli teens as a pretext.

In the first half of 2014 – prior to the outbreak of fighting – Hamas launched nearly 200 rockets at Israeli civilians. When the three Israeli teens were brutally kidnapped, Israel went looking for them in the West Bank; they were later found murdered. To divert attention from Hamas accountability, the terror group launched hundreds of rockets at the length and breadth of Israel, sending 80 percent of the Israeli population racing into bomb shelters.

Israel responded by rooting out the rocket sites in Gaza – in the process fortuitously discovering a vast network of terror tunnels that Hamas reportedly planned to use to stage a single day of mass kidnappings and murder of Jews.

(2) Fighting Israel is the only way Hamas can build a better life for its people.

If Hamas were serious about building a better life for its people, it wouldn't have violently seized control of the Gaza Strip in 2006 and suppressed all future elections. Instead, Hamas imprisons and kills political opponents with impunity. Hamas "morality police" punish women for smoking and wearing "un-Islamic" clothes such as jeans and t-shirts. Honor killings of women are punished lightly, with as little as six months in jail.

It takes millions of dollars, tons of cement, and a year's worth of labor to build a tunnel from Gaza into Israel. In the past two weeks, Israel has uncovered 30 such tunnels – representing millions of dollars Hamas could have spent on the population of Gaza, but instead spent on fighting Israel.

If Hamas truly wanted a better life for Gazans, it wouldn't have spurned trade and development in favor of terror and dictatorship. In 2005, when Israel removed all Israeli residents and soldiers from Gaza, Hamas and other looters destroyed 3,000 greenhouses donated by American Jews to help build their fledgling country – leaving a sorry symbol of Hamas corruption and terror.

(3) Hamas is trying to minimize Palestinian casualties.

Instead of minimizing human casualties, Hamas seems to be courting them. They have launched thousands of missiles at Israel from locations adjacent to or within schools, mosques, hospitals, and residential buildings: a staggering 11,000 since 2005. Far from building bomb shelters to protect their population, as Israel has done, Hamas has deliberately used the entire civilian population as human shields.

Hamas has turned Gaza's largest medical facility, Shifa Hospital, into a military command center – knowing that Israel's higher morality makes it a safe haven from Israeli fire.

(4) The rate of Palestinian civilian deaths is alarmingly high.

Hamas claims that 75% of those killed in the current conflict in Gaza are civilians. Israeli sources found the overwhelming majority – two thirds – are males between the ages of 18 and 60, despite that demographic accounting for only 20% of Gaza's population.

During a brief humanitarian ceasefire on July 24, Hamas executed 25 people without trial, accusing them of spying for Israel. These 25 were later added to the tally of people killed by Israel, and hailed as "martyrs." In the words of Bassem Eid of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, Palestinian casualties are ultimately "in the interest of Hamas."

(5) Israel's actions are contrary to international law.

Human Rights Watch has accused Israel of "violations of the laws of war" and the United Nations has opened an inquiry into alleged war crimes by Israel – though not of Hamas, which deliberately targets Israeli civilians as an ongoing policy.

In attacking legitimate military targets lodged among civilians, international law places full responsibility for any civilian deaths on the fighters who've embedded themselves. (The Conduct of Hostilities Under the Law of International Armed Conflict, Cambridge University Press, 2004)

Caught in the difficult situation of responding to rocket fire from within civilian areas, Israel's army has taken unprecedented actions to limit human casualties, calling the cell phones of people near or in targets to warn them of imminent bombings, and dropping Arabic-language leaflets warning civilians, as well as the "knock on the door," whereby Israel fires a small round to warn people to leave an area before a strike.

Alarmed that this might reduce civilian casualties, however, Hamas has forced Gazans to act as human shields for the many rocket launchers imbedded in private homes. The New York Times dramatically described the recipients of one such warning, who quickly marshaled family members – including children – to enter the targeted building, forming a

human shield.

(6) Israeli actions are "disproportionate."

Brazil has recalled its ambassador to protest Israel's "disproportionate" response to Hamas rockets and terror tunnels. But proportionality isn't measured in terms of death toll on either side: Israel, which has invested in bomb shelters for its citizens, in anti-rocket ammunition to protect its cities, and which doesn't place its rocket launchers in civilian areas, has protected its people; even playgrounds in southern Israel have been 'missile-proofed' with millions of dollars of reinforced steel. Should Israel be blamed for properly protecting its citizens?!

In World War Two, 67,000 British civilians and 12,000 American civilians were killed, compared to the Nazis who lost over one million civilians. Clear responsibility for these deaths rests on the Nazis who started the war. More recently, in the 2004 urban warfare of Fallujah in Iraq, the U.S. killed 800 civilians and destroyed 9,000 homes. Did we hear cries of "disproportionate"?

As military analyst Colonel Richard Kemp concludes: "I don't think there has ever been a time in the history of warfare when any army has made more efforts to reduce civilian casualties and deaths of innocent people, than the IDF is doing today in Gaza."

(7) Hamas is a humanitarian organization.

Hamas bills itself as a "humanitarian organization," yet it's anything but. As the people of Gaza endure high unemployment and limited economic growth, Hamas' leadership skims off profits, collecting ruinous taxes on business transactions, and steals international aid outright. Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas' leader, reportedly owns numerous homes throughout Gaza, and in 2010 paid \$4 million for a beachfront home in Lebanon. His deputy, Khaled Mashal, controls a \$2.6 billion fund donated to Hamas by the governments of Qatar and Egypt.

If Hamas were truly fighting for the rights of ordinary Palestinians, it also would hold elections, ensure human rights, and stop pursuing political opponents. But it chooses to spread terror.

(8) Hamas just wants to live in peace.

Gaza's leaders encourage violence, allowing Islamic Jihad to run "terror summer camps" for children as young as six, where kids learn hate and practice kidnapping Israeli soldiers. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon calls Hamas' indiscriminate firing on Israeli civilians "a violation of international law."

The Hamas Charter calls for the destruction of Israel and the death of Jews around the world: "the Zionist plan is limitless" and "our struggle against the Jews is very great... until the enemy is vanquished." Who can doubt that, if given the chance, Hamas would inflict mass casualties on Israel and Jews? Given this existential threat, Israel has no choice but to try to demilitarize Hamas and destroy its tunnels.

Ironically, in 2013 Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh boasted that Hamas had acquired new rockets that were capable of hitting Tel Aviv – at the very time that his own granddaughter was being treated in Schneider Children's Hospital near Tel Aviv!

(9) All the Gaza casualties are Israel's fault.

Many of the rockets Hamas has launched into Israel have fallen short, hitting targets in Gaza instead; often, Israel is blamed for these hits and their resultant civilian casualties. One high-profile case is the UN-run school bombed on July 24 with 16 casualties. Israel categorically denies bombing the school when anyone was present, and has produced aerial footage proving its case.

Four days later, a Gaza park was bombed, killing nine children and an adult. The Israeli army explained that the incident was carried out by Gaza terrorists whose rockets fell short and hit the Shifa Hospital and the Beach (Shati) camp. Further, at least 160 children were killed in constructing Hamas' extensive terror tunnel network.

(10) Israel must stop occupying Gaza, denying humanitarian aid, and committing genocide.

Israel does not occupy Gaza, having unilaterally disengaged – withdrawing every soldier and civilian – in 2005. Despite the thousands of terrorist rocket and missile attacks emanating from the Strip for years, Israel continues – even during this crisis – to truck in tons of medical supplies, food, humanitarian goods and fuel.

Despite the war, Israel has kept the Kerem Shalom crossing open to a steady stream of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and allows humanitarian access at the Erez Crossing in northern Gaza. The Israeli military also operates a full-scale hospital at the Erez Crossing, treating Palestinians from Gaza. Both crossing points are under a steady stream of attack every day from Hamas forces.

While many Gazans are indeed suffering from a supply shortage, signs point to Hamas intentionally exacerbating the crisis as a propaganda weapon against Israel – while creating a flourishing black market that filled the pockets of Hamas thugs.

Soon there will be calls for shipments of tons of concrete into Gaza to "rebuild." Past concrete shipments have gone to construct terror tunnels. Will the international aid agencies be fooled again?

(Continued from page 6)

If Israel is perpetrating genocide, it is doing a terrible job. Why hasn't Israel acted worse? Where are the slave labor camps and the nightly massacres? It is difficult to reconcile the idea of "genocidal Israelis" with 1,000 Palestinians, mostly combatants, killed in the fighting. Two-thirds of European Jewry exterminated by the Nazis? That's genocide. 800,000 Tutsis (7 out of 10) killed in Rwanda? That's genocide.

Israel has faced difficult choices in Gaza and has acted at every step to minimize casualties, protect her citizens, and help build a better life for all the people – Jews and Arabs – in the region.

Summertime Study

Pirkei Avot

What We Think about Sinners - Chapter 4, Mishna 24

"Shmuel (Sh-moo-ail) the Small said, 'At your enemy's fall do not rejoice, and when he stumbles let your heart not be joyous, lest the L-rd see and be displeased and turn back His anger from him [to you]' (Proverbs 24:17-18)."

[This week's mishna tells us that we must not gloat over the downfall of our enemy, even if such a downfall was eminently deserved. When G-d metes out justice to the wicked, we should find it unsettling. G-d's power has been unleashed in this world; am I so deserving that it will not be directed at me?

The commentator Rabbeinu Yonah adds that there is a certain sense of elation we may feel when we witness the downfall of evil in the world. G-d's honor has been restored. Wickedness does not last forever. G-d ultimately sees to it that His enemies are punished. If He does so in this world, just a small amount of His glory has been revealed to mankind. And for that, we may rejoice.

We should not, however, rejoice over the suffering itself our enemy endures. It may be necessary and it may be 100% right, but it is not a source of joy. The Talmud states that when the Egyptians were drowning in the sea, the angels wanted to sing their daily song of praise to G-d, and G-d quieted them: "The creations of My hands are drowning in the sea, and you are singing song?!" (Megillah 10b). One of the most wicked and immoral nations history has produced was at last experiencing its well-deserved fate, yet G-d Himself, so to speak, experienced no pleasure in the process.

Yet at the same time the angels were silenced, Moses and Miriam led the Jewish nation in our most glorious Song of the Sea. Were we so much better? If the angels could not sing, how could we?

I believe the answer is that we sang not as a form of gloating over our enemies, but because we had witnessed G-d's salvation. And it was more than just a salvation. We caught a glimpse -- albeit a fleeting one -- of G-d's Divine guiding Hand. In a moment of inspiration, we were able to grasp the Big Picture -- to discern G-d's slow but directed guiding Hand throughout our history. Everything had come to a head. Jewish history had unfolded before our eyes. We realized that far beyond our puny comprehension, G-d had been orchestrating events all along. Hundreds of years of exile and suffering had been purposeful and a part of G-d's master plan. We recognized that G-d had been purifying us in the crucible of Egypt, slowly molding us into His nation, and preparing us for this grand and glorious moment when we would perceive the glory of our Creator.

Singing because people, even wicked people, are drowning we could never do. Singing because G-d had revealed Himself to His nation and to the world -- such a song would reverberate throughout all the generations.

To touch on this theme slightly better and then leave it aside for now, singing or crying, or both is man's reaction when he is overcome with emotion. At the Sea of Reeds we were able to glimpse that G-d had been guiding us far beyond our limited comprehension. . .

Punishing the wicked is a necessary evil. Yes, wickedness should not exist, and the world is much better off without it. The Mishna states, "The death of the wicked is beneficial to them and beneficial to the world" (Sanhedrin 8:5). But much better would the world have been had the wicked not sinned at all, or had they repented their ways before G-d's justice caught up with them. The world was sweet when the Egyptians were drowned in the sea. But it was bitter-sweet compared to what might have been had G-d's glory been revealed in man's obeying Him rather than man's chastisement through Him.

Finally, our mishna concludes that when one rejoices over his enemy's downfall, G-d may turn His wrath and direct it towards the rejoicer. Are you really so happy to see G-d wield His rod of chastisement? Is that how you like seeing G-d relate to the world? Now, are you really so much more deserving than your enemy? These are not the sort of questions we should want raised in Heaven.

When Lot and his family were fleeing the destruction of Sodom, they were instructed by the angels not to look back

(Continued from page 7)

(see Genesis 19). Lot's wife foolishly turned and viewed the destruction being visited on people she was hardly better than. She shared their fate. Punishment was necessary; its message should not be missed by all who witness or hear of it. But enjoying G-d's vengeance as if it were your own? Someone who truly cares for G-d's honor would hardly rejoice when the wickedness of man gave G-d no choice but to blot it out.

The commentators point out something surprising about our mishna. Shmuel the Small did not actually say anything. All he did was quote a verse from Proverbs, wisdom authored by King Solomon a thousand years earlier. What did Shmuel teach us that we did not know or could have learned ourselves? The commentators answer that this was a catch phrase of Shmuel or that he felt it necessary to remind people of its import.

I heard R. Zev Leff, noted scholar and lecturer of Moshav Matisyahu, Israel (<http://www.rabbileff.net>), add a valuable twist to this. Not everyone can quote a verse in Proverbs. Quoting it implies it is something the quoter lives up to and identifies with. Unfortunately, we all learn many things which we accept and admire intellectually, but which cannot be said to be a part of us. We should always speak gently, we should pray with fervor, we should see ourselves as constantly standing before G-d. Might even be a tad hypocritical for us to go about pontificating about such matters. Shmuel the Small, however, (and as the Jerusalem Talmud (Sotah 9:13) writes, his "smallness" was not a physical shortcoming; his humility led him to behave with "smallness.") He was one who thoroughly lived the verse in Proverbs, so much so that Solomon's statement was his as well -- one he could state as an expression of his own essence.

R. Leff continued that this is evidenced in another incident which involved Shmuel. The Talmud records that it was Shmuel who, at the behest of the Sages, inserted into the daily Shemoneh Esrei prayer a supplication asking for the destruction of heretics (Brachos 28b). Why was he chosen for the task -- and did he rise to it? Precisely because he was one who didn't really want it. Since Shmuel took no pleasure in the downfall of Israel's enemies -- other than that it was a necessary step in the restoration of G-d's Throne, he could author a prayer asking G-d for just that. When he taught us to beseech that G-d "uproot, smash, cast down, and humble the wanton sinners speedily in our days," he did not have destruction and retribution in mind. His sole interest was that the honor of G-d's sacred Name be restored, and that those who will never recognize G-d through His benevolence will know it through His justice.

So too we, if we truly seek G-d's honor, must never see punishment as victory. We see it as a tragic but necessary step in the revelation of G-d's Name. And through this recognition, may we merit to see all aspects of G-d's involvement with the world as multiple facets of a single loving G-d.

(Text Copyright © 2010 by Rabbi Dovid Rosenfeld and Torah.org.)

10 Lessons From The Gaza War

Gary Rosenblatt

8/20/2014

If you listen carefully you can hear the fraying of the unity that has held American and Israeli Jews together over the last six weeks of the war in Gaza.

Until now polls in both countries have shown overwhelming Jewish support for Israel's military and diplomatic actions, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu given high marks for relative restraint in the face of more than 3,000 Hamas rockets fired at Israeli civilians and the revelation of dozens of "terror tunnels" intended for the murder and kidnapping of Jews in the south.

Inevitably, though, as the crisis continues with no dramatic solution that can assure Israel of security and deprive Hamas of a victory of sorts, voices of dissent and frustration are being heard, fingers are being pointed and commissions of inquiry are being formed to assess blame. Unlike the "miracle" Six-Day War of 1967 or the dramatic turnaround of the Yom Kippur War six years later, where Israel prevailed after a disastrous initial blow, conflicts in recent years with Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza have resulted in temporary and less-than-satisfying stalemates.

Who "wins" and who "loses" a war can take decades to assess, and even then depends on one's outlook. Did Israel's conquering of the West Bank in '67 signal a clear victory when so many view the settlements now as an albatross? Did Anwar Sadat's initial success in 1973 give him sufficient pride to make peace with Israel six years later, or was it the realization that Egypt could not defeat Israel militarily?

Even now, before the fog of war has cleared, some sobering observations can be made about the current state of affairs for Israel in the international community and at home.

(Continued from page 8)

The first mistake:

In hindsight it seems clear that officials in Jerusalem should never have tolerated hostile rockets fired years ago, and consistently over time, into Sderot and other communities in the south. It signaled that citizens of Israel there, rather than in cities like Tel Aviv or Haifa or Jerusalem, warranted less protection. The refusal to take an immediate and more aggressive stand against forces seeking to kill Jews living inside Israel's borders was a moral, military and diplomatic mistake.

The lesson: You fire on our citizens and we will respond with full force. Will that be the case going forward?

Judge combatants by their intentions, not their accuracy:

One can only imagine, with horror, the result if Israel did not have the Iron Dome and if thousands of Hamas rockets had found their targets: Israeli civilians. Would the nations of the world have been more sympathetic then to Israel's plight? Maybe, but it is better to have their anger than their pity.

Don't confuse "Palestinian" with "Hamas":

Those who insist that there are no innocent civilians in Gaza lack political understanding as well as basic human empathy. The fact is that most Gazans are the victims of circumstance, virtual prisoners of Hamas, which is committed not to their security but to the destruction of Israel. Speaking out against Hamas from within Gaza is dangerous, if not suicidal. We have to acknowledge the tragic suffering of so many citizens of Gaza, whose leaders use them as human shields, literally as well as metaphorically. The blame may well be on Hamas for initiating a war of aggression and refusing to step down, but that should not blind us from compassion for the lives lost.

Anti-Semitism is real, and growing:

The blurring of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic violence, rhetoric and political views has come to the surface, particularly in Europe, to an alarming degree. Most egregious, perhaps, is the United Nations and its ongoing, blatant bias against Israel. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay of South Africa calls Israel guilty of defying international law when in fact no other country, including the U.S., goes as far in seeking to avoid harming civilians as does Israel. Pillay also blamed the U.S. for not supplying Gaza with the Iron Dome system.

More recently, and cynically, the UN Human Rights Council established a commission to investigate war crimes in Gaza, headed by Canadian law professor William Schabas, who in a speech once said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should be "in the dock of an international court" and is "the single individual most likely to threaten the survival of Israel." Schabas has refused to label Hamas a terror organization and refused to make clear whether his investigation will review Hamas' actions. A total sham.

There's "daylight" in the U.S.-Israel relationship:

It's no secret that President Obama and Prime Minister Netanyahu are a dysfunctional duo; the question is how much effect their dislike of each other will have on Washington's support for Jerusalem at this critical time. For all the talk of the administration not allowing any daylight between the positions of the U.S. and Israel, it is delaying arms for Israel in its fight against a U.S.-acknowledged terrorist group and not insisting on the disarmament of Hamas. Deeply worrisome.

Connect the dots:

There is a common thread and threat to Mideast headlines ... ISIS, the new Islamic state, is increasing its murderous advances on Syria, which already has lost close to 200,000 citizens, and on Iraq, negating the decade-long, hard-fought gains of American soldiers and would-be peacemakers. Hezbollah controls Lebanon, Hamas gains international support by making war on Israeli civilians, and Iran stalls and dodges efforts to prevent it from going nuclear. What we have is The War of the Islamic Militants on Western Culture, though it is politically incorrect to label it as such or counter it with a unified approach.

Media bias continues:

Whether it is a misguided sympathy for the underdog, a failure to provide context to a complex conflict or simple anti-Israel bias, much of mainstream media has failed to point out the impossible position Israel is in, castigated for fighting back against a terrorist regime bent on destroying it and its people. "Defend yourself, but not too much" is neither practical nor helpful advice. And displaying photos each day of suffering Gazans — and no militant fighters — has played into the hands of Hamas, who only now are being called out for intimidating and threatening the media.

Doves and hawks double down when assessing the crisis:

Has anyone changed his or her mind based on the reality of these last few weeks? Hawks point out that one Hamas rocket closed Ben-Gurion Airport and argue that a West Bank state would present a far greater threat to Israel. Doves counter that the war and destruction only prove that there is no military solution to the conflict, which must be resolved by diplomacy and compromise.

Support for Israel is slipping:

Americans remain significantly more supportive of Israel than of the Palestinians. But there is serious slippage among the 18-to-29-year-old cohort, including Jews, especially when it comes to whether Israel's military response in Gaza is justified. Younger Jews tend to have less knowledge of modern Israeli history than their elders and are ambivalent and conflicted about Jerusalem's military stance and the lack of a peace deal with the Palestinians.

True colors come out in times of stress:

Many Israelis and Jews around the world have come to see themselves as family during this Gaza war. They speak of a common bond of support for Israel's right to defend itself as it sees fit against an enemy willing to sacrifice its own children to destroy the Jewish state. A number of American Jews have rallied, raised funds and traveled to Israel to show their love and support while some Jewish groups have focused primarily on criticism of Israel's conduct, and that is telling.

Vibrant discussion and debate are the lifeblood of a nation. But at its core must be a sense of shared values. In a crisis, friends help, not harp.

"Tough love" is acceptable – as long as "love" truly is part of the equation.

LIFE UNDER FIRE

A former Jewish Week reporter describes how Israelis cope with rocket attacks

Tues. 07/15/2014

Sharon Udasin

Special to the Jewish Week

Rehovot — As an American-born, 29-year-old journalist living in this central Israeli city, I've encountered the same existential dilemma each night for several weeks now: Is it safe to take a shower now? A siren blares through my living room windows a few times a day, a warning of rockets fired from Gaza during the ongoing hostilities between Hamas and the Israeli army.

The sound means that I have 90 seconds to scramble down two flights of stairs to our building's basement safe room. Which means that before I decide to step inside the shower, I double-check my iPhone apps and Twitter feeds to see when and where the last rocket fire episode occurred.

For me, and for most Israelis, everyday parts of life like walking outside and driving have presented similar quandaries as the country has come under attack. We try to maintain a normal routine and remain strong in the face of terror, but familiar routines are no longer routine. As I drive, I constantly glance from side to side, to identify a suitable place to seek shelter should the air raid siren begin to blare.

Finding a place to be under rocket fire is not always a possibility, though. Pictures of cars pulled over alongside Tel Aviv's Ayalon Highway during an air raid siren show drivers crouched down in the open, in between their cars and a road barrier until the threat is over.

Even my treadmill runs at the gym are a source of stress. As I mount the machine, I look up at the building's arched tin roof and ceiling fans dangling from what already seems to be pliable material. I know that there is no safe room at the facility, and I strategize the dash I would take to the bathroom, where the walls are at least concrete, should a siren sound.

Like me, my friends are still heading to the gym, attending work meetings and going to doctor's appointments, but doing so with open eyes and attuned ears all the while.

Everyone has a story.

At a pool in our city, a child who refused to run to shelter without his flip-flops — and the lifeguard who would not leave him alone — were miraculously unscathed when shrapnel landed about three yards away, less than 60 seconds after a siren sounded.

Rehovot is about 18 miles south of Tel Aviv; 32 miles north of Gaza. For Israelis, living in the south or center of the country, and even northward to the outskirts of Haifa, this has meant a perpetual threat of rocket attacks. Thankfully, due to the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system, casualties have been kept to a minimum.

Based on Rehovot's distance from the Gazan border, Home Front Command estimates that we have 90 seconds to seek shelter when the siren blares — a luxury compared to the 15 seconds of Gazan perimeter communities like Sderot.

Whatever the allotted time frame, we have programmed ourselves to react automatically and immediately. Pairs of sandals are lined up next to an apartment's entrance, and keys stuck in the lock of the door.

(Continued from page 10)

When “the Hamas alarm clock” — as many tired residents have dubbed the unwelcome wakeup calls on social media — rings, I grab my keys, cell phone and husband and dart for the apartment door. On my first and second tries, I learned that it would be impossible to bring our cat to the shelter, as the sheer sound of the alarm sent him darting in fright under our bed.

While my city has not faced the nearly constant barrage of rocket fire that areas like Sderot, Beersheba, Ashkelon and

Ashdod have received, we have experienced many sprints to shelter — in my building’s case, a cockroach-infested communal space.

Iron Dome missile interceptions are often audible, even when attacks are not close enough to necessitate a siren. This is my second encounter with warfare since my move here from New Jersey in September 2010. During the last conflict, the November 2012 Operation Pillar of Defense, air raid sirens and accompanying missile fire narrowly skipped over my town.

Jogging down the stairs of our building, my fingers admittedly trembling each time, I encounter three populations — those running with us to the basement shelter, those amassing in the stairwell with their dogs on leash, and those altogether ignoring the alarm and remaining inside their apartments. When I leave my apartment, I hear my next-door-neighbor still watching television.

Those in the stairwell tell me they feel safer taking cover there, but I choose to heed the official instructions.

In the shelter — a cement cavern with one stray light bulb dangling from the ceiling, crowded with mountains of discarded junk like a bubblegum pink dollhouse and a boxy PC screen from the late 1990s — I take a seat on a plastic garden chair.

Joined by two or five or eight neighbors, and any passersby from the street who needs refuge, we sit for the next few minutes and engage in small talk. We intermittently count the booms aloud — thus far anywhere between two and about 15 — and report them in real-time to our friends and family members on Whatsapp.

Home Front Command recommends remaining in the shelter for 10 minutes, unless otherwise indicated by additional sirens. But most of my building’s occupants make their way to the door just a couple minutes after counting the thunderous interceptions.

This combination of stalwart adherence to security mixed with fatalistic nonchalance has come to define the Israeli character. Embracing the situation with quintessential Israeli dark humor, Tel Avivians have taken to complaining on Facebook when the terrorist group rouses them before their morning coffee or interrupts the World Cup semifinals. On a recent night, while my husband was at a conference abroad, I accepted my mother-in-law’s repeated invitation to stay overnight in her home, which is located in a much newer high-rise building on the other side of town. Her apartment boasts its own protected room, which also happens to be my husband’s childhood bedroom. When the sirens blared at 8 a.m. Friday morning, I was able to stay comfortably in bed, a convenience not available to most Israelis.

Four years ago this summer, I sat in my Jewish Week cubicle, packing up my desk for my 6,000-mile move to Israel. While uncertain what my future would bring me there, it was the most life-changing decision I had ever made.

During the last weeks I received an insensitive Facebook comment from an old friend suggesting I “move back to New Jersey,” and death wishes from Gazan Twitter activists whom I’ve never met.

Despite these comments, I am staying here, proud to have made this place — including its musty underground shelters — my home.

Sharon Udasin is the environment, energy, agriculture and transportation reporter for The Jerusalem Post. She was a staff writer at The Jewish Week in 2008-2010.

Sharon is the grand-daughter of our member Sylvia Udasin. She presented this talk at a recent Sisterhood meeting.

Sisterhood

“The Simcha Cake Project”

Sisterhood has created a way of announcing special Simchas and other events in order to support the Torah Fund of the Jewish Theological Seminary. At each meeting we will be able to announce our Simcha and have it published in the Bulletin with a minimum donation of \$1.00. This is in lieu of putting Tzedakah boxes on the tables. Torah Fund contributions ensure our legacy to future generations of Conservative Jews by training Rabbis, Cantors, Educators, Scholars and Lay Leaders.

The following Simchas were announced at the July 24, 2014 meeting

Matilda Cohen	In honor of my weight loss
Marilyn Brown	Thank you for all your support
Anita Bernstein	Let us pray for peace in Israel
Rochelle Mendelow	Love to all
Judy Levy	For Israel's swift defeat of Hamas
Rosalie Weiner	Peace in Israel
Joan Levine	Peace in Israel
Bette Glasser	Good health to Rae & Len Mishler
Betty & Irving Feit	Peace in Israel
Joyce Warshowsky	Good health to our Center family
Inge Berger	Happy Birthday to Inge Lewkowitz
Edith Dressler	Praying for peace in Israel
Susan Gastman	Congratulations to my grandson Eric on his engagement to Sarah
Ruth Lasky	Good health to all
Stuart Cohen	Peace in Israel
Michael Greene	Success to the IDF
Fran & Joel Goldstein	Good rest of the summer
Sarah Sokol	Heidi-I'm so glad you enjoyed the story of my childhood
Rita Gittler	For grandson Justin making Dean's list at Binghamton twice
Ellen Zilka	Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year
Sue Shapiro	Peace in Israel
Gertrude Eisen	In honor of Sharon speaking
Blanche Rosenberg	Peace in Israel
Mira Clibner	Peace in Israel
Jerry Sandell	My son Brian's 30 th birthday
Sylvia Udasin	Delighted that my granddaughter and grandson are here from Israel and pray that everything should be peaceful when they return
Makade(Sylvia's aide)	Happy to meet new people and learn about a new religion
Blossom Miller	Looking forward to peace in Israel
Irma Beilinson	Peace in Israel
Bonnie & Benjamin Newville	For Sharon's being here with husband Ravid
Helen Daniels	Peace in Israel
Jackie Neus	Keep searching for all good things
Sandra Schwadron	Nice to see such a large group today and I commend Sharon Udasin on her presentation
Nora Wizenberg	Happy about my daughters' decision to go to law school



SEPTEMBER, 2014

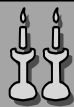

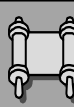




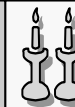

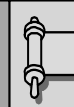





ELUL, 5774 / TISHREI, 5775

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3 Rabbi's Class 10:30-Noon "G-d, Jews and History"	4	5  7:04	6 ¹¹ <i>Elul</i> KiTeitze <i>Ends 8:12</i>
7 Board of Trustees Meeting 10:00 AM	8	9	10 Rabbi's Class 10:30-Noon "G-d, Jews and History"	11 Sisterhood Meeting Lunch & Card Party 12 Noon	12  6:53	13 ¹⁸ <i>Elul</i> KiTavo <i>Ends 8:00</i>
14	15 Program Committee Meeting 8:00 PM		17	18	19  6:41	20 ²⁵ <i>Elul</i> Netzavim-Vayelech <i>Ends 7:48</i> SLICHOT Program 8:15
21	22	23	24 Erev Rosh Hashonah  6:30	25 ¹ <i>Tishrei</i> Rosh Hashonah  7:39	26 Rosh Hashonah  6:27	27 ³ <i>Tishrei</i> <i>Ends 7:35</i>
28	29	30				

OCTOBER, 2014

TISHREI/CHESHVAN, 5775

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Erev Yom Kippur  6:16	4 ¹⁰ Tishrei Yom Kippur Ends 7:23
5	6	7	8 Erev Sukkot  6:07	9 Sukkot  7:15	10 Sukkot  6:04	11 ¹⁷ Tishrei Chol Hamoed Ends 7:12
12 Chol Hamoed	13 Chol Hamoed Succah Luncheon 1 12 noon	14 Chol Hamoed Succah Luncheon 2 12 noon	15 Hoshanah Rabba Service 7:00AM  5:57	16 Shemini Azeret  7:04	17 Simchat Torah  5:54	18 ²⁴ Tishrei Bereshit Ends 7:01
19	20 Book Club 10:30 AM "The Aviator's Wife"	21	22 Rabbi's Class Film Series "Story of the Jews" 10:30-Noon	23 Sisterhood Luncheon Meeting !2:00 noon	24 Rosh Chodesh  5:44	25 ¹ Cheshvan Rosh Chodesh Noach Ends 6:51
26	27	28	29 Rabbi's Class Film Series "Story of the Jews" 10:30-Noon	30	31  5:35	1 ⁸ Cheshvan Lech Lecha Ends 6:42

											
	<div style="text-align: center;">  <h2 style="margin: 0;">New Year's Greetings, 5775</h2>  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">“May you be blessed with a cornucopia overflowing with a harvest of <i>Maasim Tovim</i>”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The following members and their families extend best wishes for the coming New Year to the Congregation of Flushing-Fresh Meadows Jewish Center.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><i>Mark Astel & Family</i></p> <p><i>Eva & Walter Beckhardt</i></p> <p><i>Ruth Beckman & Family</i></p> <p><i>Inge Berger & Family</i></p> <p><i>Anita Bernstein & Family</i></p> <p><i>Mr.&Mrs. Sid Block & Family</i></p> <p><i>Marilyn Brown & Family</i></p> <p><i>Stuart Cohen</i></p> <p><i>Dr.David Copell</i></p> <p><i>Joan & Larry Corn & Family</i></p> <p><i>Luisa Cvern & Family</i></p> <p><i>Edith Dressler & Family</i></p> <p><i>Irene & Byron Dresner & Family</i></p> <p><i>David End, Carla, Biscuit & Ras-cal</i></p> <p><i>Rabbi Mordecai Efron</i></p> <p><i>Marsha Federman</i></p> <p><i>Irving & Betty & Feit</i></p> <p><i>Mimi & Seymour Fishkin</i></p> <p><i>Dana Fishler & Family</i></p> <p><i>Eleanor & Paul Frommer</i></p> <p><i>Rita Gaber</i></p> <p><i>Kathy Galin & Alan Wood</i></p> <p><i>Susan Gastman & Family</i></p> <p><i>Rita & Manny Gittler & Family</i></p> <p><i>Bette Glasser & Family</i></p> <p><i>Gloria Goldsmith</i></p> <p><i>Judith Gordon & Family</i></p> <p><i>Fran & Joel Goldstein</i></p> <p><i>Robert & Zachary Greenberg</i></p> <p><i>Eli Kantor & Family</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p><i>Cantor Aaron Katz</i></p> <p><i>Goldie Kerstman</i></p> <p><i>Jacqueline & Albert Kimmelstiel & Family</i></p> <p><i>Ephraim Klamka</i></p> <p><i>Shirley Klein (Syracuse)</i></p> <p><i>Sherry & Mark Klein & Helen</i></p> <p><i>Charlotte Kohn & Family</i></p> <p><i>Robin & Howie Korn</i></p> <p><i>Judith & Michael Krutoy</i></p> <p><i>Ruth Lasky & Family</i></p> <p><i>Norman & Ivy Leiter</i></p> <p><i>Zach & Joan Levine</i></p> <p><i>Judy & Walter Levy & Family</i></p> <p><i>Inge Lewkowitz & Family</i></p> <p><i>Flora Margolin & Family</i></p> <p><i>Rochelle & Bob Mendelow</i></p> <p><i>Ray & Len Mishler & Family</i></p> <p><i>Margot & Manny Nussbaum</i></p> <p><i>Janet & Richard Pearlmutter</i></p> <p><i>Helen Plotzker & Family</i></p> <p><i>Pearl & Carl Rosenthal & Family</i></p> <p><i>Robert & Elaine Rubin</i></p> <p><i>Jerry Sandell</i></p> <p><i>Sandra Schwadron</i></p> <p><i>The Seeligs</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Amiel L. Singer</i></p> <p><i>Rabbi Gerald Solomon</i></p> <p><i>Sylvia Udasin & Family</i></p> <p><i>Joyce Warshowsky & Family</i></p> <p><i>Rosalie Weiner</i></p> <p><i>Sam & Ellen Zilka & Family</i></p> </div> </div>										