

Friends helping Friends

On Tuesday, October 16, 2007, Boscov's Department Store will be holding its annual **Friends Helping Friends** day. In order to participate, you can purchase a ticket from Sisterhood, for \$5.00. This ticket entitles you to a 25% discount shopping pass for most purchases made on that day.

The discount ticket also has a raffle stub attached giving you a chance to win great door prizes (Flat Screen TV, KitchenAid Mixer, Diamond Pendant or one of five \$500 Shopping Sprees).

Please purchase your tickets at the shul office or from Marlene Serkin, 729-3235. Sell them to your friends, neighbors and co-workers. Sisterhood retains the entire \$5.00 from each ticket sold.

We Need Your Help

For many years we have needed to replace the vertical blinds on the first floor of the Shul. They are broken and essentially unserviceable.

Due to the lack of funds we put this project "on hold." However it has reached a point where these blinds need to be replaced at once.

I am appealing to you to help defray the cost of new blinds by your donation. To help us to achieve this goal, contributions in any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you and have a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Marcy H. Yonaty, Shul Beautiful Chairman

High Holidays Customs and Practices

The month of Elul: A month before Rosh Hashanah we begin preparing for the Day of Judgment. We blow the shofar each weekday morning, with the exception of Erev Rosh Hashanah, and add Psalm 27 into our prayers each morning and evening, in order to begin awakening within us feelings of repentance.

Selichot: Penitential prayers are recited each weekday morning until Yom Kippur. We begin reciting these prayers at a special midnight service on Saturday night, September 8.

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Keeping promises is a requirement in Judaism. In order to start the year with a clean slate, many have the custom to nullify vows they may have made, and have forgotten about or due to changed circumstances have been unable to fulfill, before a tribunal of three men. Some wait until Erev Yom Kippur to observe this custom. Men customarily go to the Mikveh and the Beth David Mikveh will be available during the day for this purpose.

Eruv Tavshilin – The Mixing of Cooked Foods: The Biblical prohibition against labor on the Holidays and Festivals specifically does not include the preparation or cooking of food. However, food may only be prepared for that day's use. When a *Yom Tov* falls on a Friday our Rabbis ruled that we are allowed to prepare food on the holiday for use on the Sabbath only if the preparation begins before the holiday. This is known as *Eruv Tavshilin*, or the "mixing of cooked foods", and is performed this year on Erev Rosh Hashanah, Erev Sukkot, and Hoshana Rabba (Erev Shemini Atzeret).

With a *challah* or roll and any other cooked food in hand (such as fish or a hard boiled egg), we recite a blessing and declaration as is found in the siddur. This must be performed before Yom Tov candles are lit.

Rosh Hashanah: The celebration of the New Year commemorates the creation of the world. Also known as *Yom Hazikaron* (the Day of Remembrance) and *Yom Hadin* (the Day of Judgment), we stand before God and pray that we be granted another year of life and good health. The main mitzvah of the day is the requirement to hear the sounding of the *shofar* on both days of Rosh Hashanah. It is customary to dip our *challah* in honey, eat apples dipped in honey at the evening meals, and eat a new fruit of the second night of Rosh Hashanah. Various other foods are eaten on Rosh Hashanah that symbolize our hopes for the coming year. *Tashlich* is recited on the first afternoon of Rosh Hashanah by a pool of water that preferably has fish in it. These prayers are symbolic of the casting away of our mistakes.

Shabbat Shuvah: "The Shabbat of Repentance" is the name given to the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, taken from the opening phrase of the haftarah. It is customary for the rabbi to present a lecture on the topic of repentance, which is attended by men and women.

Tzom Gedaliah: This fast day observed the day after Rosh Hashanah (this year it is observed on Sunday as it is deferred because the day after Rosh Hashanah falls on Shabbat) was instituted in commemoration of the assassi-

Cemetery Visitation

Sunday, September 9 10:00 - 11:00 am

In keeping with tradition, Rabbi Silber will be at the Beth David cemetery, located on Conklin Road, on Sunday, September 9, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, to assist people in reciting memorial prayers.

If this time is not convenient for you, please contact the Rabbi to make alternate arrangements.

Lulav & Etrog Sets

This Sukkot get your own *lulav* and *etrog* set and get in on the enjoyment.

Please place your order with the shul **no later than Wednesday, September 12**

We will only have sets for those people who order in advance

Please note

nation of Gedaliah Ben Achikam, the Governor of Israel during the days of Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylonia. As a result of Gedaliah's death the final vestiges of Judean autonomy after the Babylonian conquest were destroyed, many thousands of Jews were slain, and the remaining Jews were driven into final exile. The fast is observed from dawn until night.

Erev Yom Kippur: We prepare for atonement by performing the custom of *Kaparot* with the money given to the poor. It is customary to increase our gifts to charity and for men to immerse in the Mikveh. The Beth David Mikveh will be open for this purpose. A festive meal is completed before the beginning of *Kol Nidrei*. Candles lasting the entire holiday are lit for deceased parents.

Yom Kippur: A day of prayer and introspection, we refrain from bodily pleasure and devote ourselves to spirituality. We restrict ourselves from eating and drinking, washing, applying oils or lotions to the skin, marital relations, and wearing leather shoes. In case of medical needs, please consult the rabbi. *Yizkor* is recited during the morning service. All Shabbat prohibitions apply on Yom Kippur.

Sukkot: Also known as *zman simchateinu*, the holiday of joy, we celebrate the successful conclusion of Yom Kippur with two special mitzvot. We erect and dwell in a *Sukkah* for the entire seven days, and the mitzvah is observed primarily by eating all regular meals in the structure. We gather the special four species, the *etrog*, *lulav* (palm branch), *hadassim* (myrtle), and *aravot* (willow), wave them during *Hallel* and march around the synagogue each day during *Hoshanot* services, except for Shabbat. If you need advice on *Sukkah* construction, please consult the rabbis. The four species may be ordered through the synagogue office.

Eruv Tavshilin – The Mixing of Cooked Foods: This must be performed this year on Erev Sukkot, and Hoshana Rabba (Erev Shemini Atzeret). See above after "Erev Rosh Hashanah" for details and instructions.

Hoshana Rabba: The seventh day of Sukkot is marked by walking around the synagogue seven times holding the four species and special prayers for water are recited after which we beat the *aravot*. This day is considered the day when the final judgment for the year is sealed; therefore synagogue attendance is strongly encouraged. Due to its solemn nature, some have the custom of studying Torah the night before, and the entire congregation is invited to Rabbi Adamit's sukkah on Tuesday, October 2 at 7:30 pm for refreshments and Torah study.

Shmini Atzeret: A special holiday added after Sukkot, there are no special ritual symbols on this day. *Tefillat Geshem* – the prayer for rain – is a solemn addition to the *Musaf* service. Most continue to eat all meals in the sukkah. We no longer wave the four species. *Yizkor* is recited during the morning service.

Simchat Torah: On this day we conclude the yearly cycle of Torah reading, and we rejoice and dance with the Torah scrolls. A uniquely festive and joyous event, the *hakafot* (dancing with the Torah) are performed both in the evening and morning. Children and adults alike enjoy the festivities and celebration.