

Shemini Atzeret Perspectives

Without fail, I am startled by עצרת שמיני every single year. After what was hopefully a productive season – טוב – אלול and intense נוראים ימים, followed by a festive (but still intense) חג – ending off with a frantic רבה where, like נעילה, we conclude with a sort of digest of the entire period, cramming in everything we can, I would expect the “second days” to feel more like a continuation of the previous festive week, despite knowing cerebrally that it isn’t. Instead, I find myself sitting at the table, indoors, with no other condiment for the חלה than everyday salt. The state of the nation has returned to normal; עצרת שמיני is tangibly the first day of “after the חגים.”

Rabbi Elazar, cited on סוכה נ"ה: suggests that the seventy bull-offerings of the seven days of סוכות correspond to the seventy nations of the world, as their rain allotment for the coming year is being sealed (as per ר"ה א:ב). The solitary bull-offering brought on the eighth day corresponds to the “solitary nation” – ישראל; after a week of grand banquets hosted by international dignitaries, the King wants nothing more than an intimate dinner with his beloved people. It is this passage to which רש"י alludes in his oft-quoted comment on כ"ט:ל"ו – “Your parting is difficult for Me”, God says to Israel, “stay just one more day”. עצרת שמיני is portrayed as an extension of an elevated time – the work is done, the verdict is in, and now everyone can relax a bit and enjoy each others’ company before heading back to the routine – a similar concept, perhaps, to the closing ceremonies at the Olympic Games.

רש"י, however, was not completely satisfied with this understanding of the seventy offerings, as Rabbi Elazar’s explanation does not account for the fact that these bull-offerings taper off as the festival progresses, from thirteen on the first day to seven on the seventh. He supplements his first answer with an analogy from מדרש תנחומא (פנחס י"ז) of a guest at an inn. The innkeeper greets him with fine fare at first, but, as the days progress, the food gets simpler as the guest becomes more of a fixture in the inn, or as he is preparing to leave the inn and return home. It seems this entire eight-day period is already a “closing ceremonies” of sorts, intended to diffuse the stress that piled up during the נוראים ימים, with עצרת שמיני the last stop before we head into the winter, back to pure חול after a forty-day hiatus from the routine.

Thank you, Mount Sinai, for a great season.

Tali Fuss is on it (she works for Con-Ed) and is pursuing a Master’s in Bible at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva University.

To submit a Dvar Torah to the weekly Keshar, please contact bulletin@mtsinaishul.com.

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Sunday CLOSED
Monday -Thursday 9:30 - 5:00
Friday 8:30 - 12:00
212-568-1900 • office@mtsinaishul.com



The Mount Sinai Keshar

October 9-11, 2009 • 22-23 Tishrei, 5770 • Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah

Yom Tov Schedule

Shabbat - Shemini Atzeret

Candle Lighting	6:06 p.m.
Mincha, followed by Shiur and Maariv	6:11 p.m.
Annual Chinese Dinner (Pre-registration only)	
Oneg — All are invited	9:30 p.m.
Shacharit	7:00, 8:30 a.m.
Kri’at Shema before	9:52 a.m.
Yizkor	10:30 a.m.
Early Mincha (BM)	2:15 p.m.
Mincha	5:50 p.m.
Shiur following Mincha	
Candles after	7:10 p.m.
Maariv/Auction/Hakafot	7:20 p.m.

Sunday - Simchat Torah

Shacharit	7:00, 8:30 a.m.
Hakafot	approx. 9:30 a.m.
Shiur during Hakafot (BM)	
Mincha	6:05 p.m.
Shiur following Mincha	
Maariv/Yom Tov ends	7:08 p.m.

**Tefilla Schedule
Week of October 11th**

Shacharit	
Mon., Thurs.	6:45, 7:20, 8:00 a.m.
Tues., Wed., Fri	7:00, 7:30, 8:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv	
Monday -Thursday	6:05 p.m.
Next Shabbat, Parashat Bereishit	
Candles	5:56 p.m.
Mincha	6:01 p.m.

Sponsorships

The **ERUV** is sponsored anonymously in honor of all the hard work that the events committee did for the shul over Sukkot as well as all those that stayed in the Heights for Yom Tov creating a wonderful environment at Mt Sinai for the chag.

The **KESHER** is sponsored by:

- Rabbi and **Rabbi Yehuda and Chani Hilewitz** in honor of the birth of their grandson, Eli Levine Hilewitz
- **Elie & Leezy Klein**, wishing Mazel Tov to Ben & Shuli Sandler on the birth of a daughter, and Shuli & Ari Rieser and family on the birth of a son.

The **ONEG** is sponsored by the following **birthday sponsors:**

- Sara Lefkovitz (Oct 4)
- Pamela Neiger (Oct 8)
- Yaffa Atlas (Oct 10)
- Dashiell Ferguson (Oct 11)
- Yehuda Brum (Oct 28)
- Shifra Apter (Oct 31)
- Anonymous

Please send all announcements to office@mtsinaishul.com and bulletin@mtsinaishul.com by 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Thank you!



HATZOLAH:
(212) 230 1000
Volunteer Emergency
Ambulance Service

This Week at Mt. Sinai

Monday:

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

Men's Basketball, 9:00 p.m. Contact: David Falik.

Tuesday:

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.

Rabbi Schwartz's shiur 8:45 p.m. Topic: Yichud: A matter of Life and Death?"

This is the first in a 5-part series on the laws of Yichud.

Thursday:

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

Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah 5770

- The entire community is invited to a **Shemini Atzeret Oneg** following the dinner on Friday Night, Oct 9th. Games and snacks will be provided. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Sefi or Rebecca at events@mtsinaishul.com for more information.

- The **ANNUAL AUCTION is on Simchat Torah Night** before Hakafot (around 7:30 PM)! Start getting your bids together for the various kibbudim being auctioned off! This is a great way to contribute to the shul, and a great way to begin Simchat Torah. Don't miss it! For questions, comments, or more information, contact Yoni Ray. The following kibbudim will be auctioned off:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Kohen at night laining | 7) Maftir |
| 2) Levi at night laining | 8) Eruv Matzah |
| 3) Yisroel at night laining | 9) Kiddush and Havdala Wine |
| 4) Atah Horeitahs | 10) Chatan Torah |
| 5) Petichas, Hagbahs, and Gelilahs | 11) Chatan Bereishit |
| 6) Kol HaNe'arim | |



Special Simchat Torah Shiurim -

- Shemini Atzeret before Maariv by Rabbi Schwartz
- Shemini Atzeret after Mincha by Ezra Frazer: "Fire, Chaos, and Underage Minors: Halachically Controversial Behavior on Simchat Torah"
- Simchat Torah day during aliyot by Rebecca Winter in the Beit Midrash: "I Don't Understand You: Making Sense of Midgal Bavel"
- Simchat Torah after Mincha by Shmuel Kadosh: "Ani Vi'ho Ho'shiyana Na : God, Man, and the Meaning of Hoshanot"

Mazel Tov!



- Regine and Yosef Galanti on the birth of a baby girl, Sarah Rose.
- Chaviva Fisher on her engagement to Jeff Stein
- Cheryl & Jeremy Ginsburg on the birth of their daughter - may she have a Refuah Shelaima



**This Week...
Rabbi Schwartz's Office Hours**

- Monday: 9:00 -10:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: approx. 9:30 -10:30 p.m. (after the 8:45 p.m. shiur)

Holocaust Library Hours

- Tuesday: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.



Please Contact Yoni Ray If...

- You would like to give the Dvar Halakha between Mincha and Ma'ariv during the week.

Welcome New Members

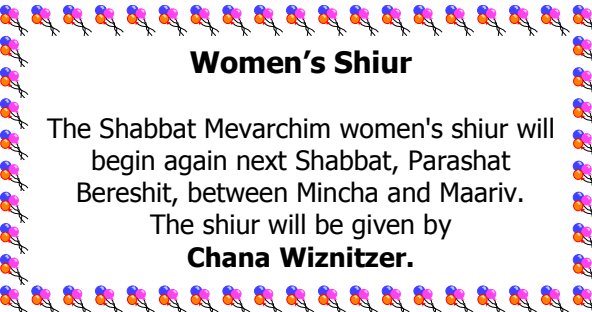
David Manheim
Yael Taler



Women's Shiur

The Shabbat Mevarchim women's shiur will begin again next Shabbat, Parashat Bereshit, between Mincha and Maariv.

The shiur will be given by
Chana Wiznitzer.



Rabbi Schwartz's Shiurim

- Rabbi Schwartz's Shabbat afternoon gemara shiur will NOT meet on Shemini Atzeret. It will resume on October 17, Parashat Bereishit.
- Wednesday, 8:45 p.m.: Yichud: A matter of Life and Death?" This is the first in a 5-part series on the laws of Yichud.

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