

Mr. Ghassan N. Cohen
Hon. President
079 8938 7881
Ghassancohen@gmail.com

ק"ק אהל דוד

OHEL DAVID EASTERN SYNAGOGUE

Established 1959

4-14 Broad Walk Lane, London NW11 8HD

Rabbi Asher Sebbag — 07732 731786

Hazan: Jacob Oved - 07971 119865

Telephone: 020 8455 3491

Web site: www.oheldavid.org Email: info@oheldavid.org

Mr. David Gigi
Treasurer
Mr. Adil Darwish
Hon. Gubbay



Shabbat & Rosh Chodesh - Re'eh,

Sat. 10 - 11 Aug. 2018 - 30th of Av, 5778 -

שבת וראש חודש אלול פ' ראה

ל אב תשע"ח

Issue Number 858

Baal Koreh	Mr Moshe Jacob, Mr Avraham Amedy & Mr Jacob Oved	(Page - 998).
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Rosh Hodesh Elul - Shabbat & Sunday.

ראש חודש אלול - שבת וראשון.

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	19:00
Shabbat Candles.	20:17
Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 8:46).	08:30
Mincha Shabbat - Followed by Seuda Shlishit (Sunset - 20:31).	19:50
Arbit Motzei Shabbat.	21:30
Selichot & Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday & Bank/H - 06:30).	05:45
Mincha & Arbit	19:15
Next Friday: Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	18:50
Next Friday: Candles. Shabbat. Shoftim	20:04

Re'eh 5778 (Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17)

Aug 5, 2018 | by [Rabbi Kalman Packouz](#)

GOOD MORNING! Did you ever want to meet the President of the United States? Unless you are a foreign dignitary or a very generous contributor, the chances of getting an appointment are small. However, there is one time when it is relatively easier to meet the President -- when he is on the campaign trail. Then he seeks to meet as many people as he can to impact them and communicate his message. In spiritual terms, the upcoming month of Elul is the spiritual equivalent of the campaign trail -- it is the time when the Almighty's presence can most easily be felt.

Shabbos, August 11th, and Sunday, August 12th, are the two days of *Rosh Chodesh*, the beginning of the new Hebrew month of Elul. This is a very special month in the Jewish year as it is the month preceding Rosh Hashanah (which begins Sunday evening, September 9th). Jewish cosmology teaches us that each season of the year has a special spiritual opportunity for success. For instance, Passover is the time to work on freedom and Sukkot is the time to work on joy. Elul is the time to work on personal growth.

Elul, when spelled in Hebrew letters, is the acronym for the words, "I am to my beloved, my beloved is to

me" (*ani l'dodi v'dodi li* -- oftentimes it will be inscribed on the inside of an engagement ring). The month of Elul is a time of heightened spirituality where the Almighty is, as it were, closer and more approachable. It is a time of introspection and preparation for Rosh Hashanah. It is a time to do a spiritual audit and to fix up your life.

To help you prepare for Rosh Hashanah, the Day of Judgment, I present questions for you to ask yourself and discuss with family and friends. They are an excerpt from a fabulous and indispensable book, [The Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Survival Kit](#), written by Aish HaTorah alumnus Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf.

QUESTIONS FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE

1. When do I most feel that my life is meaningful?
2. Those who mean the most to me -- have I ever told them how I feel?
3. Are there any ideals I would be willing to die for?
4. If I could live my life over, would I change anything?
5. What would bring me more happiness than anything else in the world?
6. What are my three most significant achievements since last Rosh Hashanah?
7. What are the three biggest mistakes I've made since last Rosh Hashanah?
8. What project or goal, if left undone, will I most regret next Rosh Hashanah?

9. If I knew I couldn't fail, what would I undertake to accomplish in life?

10. What are my three major goals in life? What am I doing to achieve them? What practical steps can I take in the next two months towards these goals?

11. If I could only give my children three pieces of advice, what would they be?

If you find the High Holidays boring, can't follow the prayer service and don't understand it; if the services lack meaning and aren't spiritual experiences, then to have a meaningful experience and to have something meaningful to share with your children and family -- you will want to get a copy of [The Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Survival Kit](#) and its sequel -- [Beyond Survival](#) which guides you along a path of personal discovery and spiritual growth and gives insights, reflections, and explanations that unlock the rich, inner world of the prayers. Unless you prepare in advance, you are relying on a miracle to have any kind of positive experience at all. (Available at your local Jewish bookstore, at JudaicaEnterprises.com or by calling toll-free to 877-758-3242. Also, see Aish.com/holidays!)



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

Re'eh, Deuteronomy 11:26 -- 16:17

This week is a jam-packed portion. It begins with a choice: "I set before you a blessing and a curse. The blessing: if you obey the commandments of God...; the curse if you do not ... and you follow other gods."

The portion continues with rules and laws for the land of Israel primarily oriented towards staying away from idol worship and the other religions in the land. In verses 13:1-12 you will find the section that caused a missionary's face to blanch and silenced him from continuing to proselytize a renowned rabbi.

One of the indications of the existence and necessity of the Oral Torah -- an explanation and clarification (later redacted as the Talmud) of the written Torah (The Five Books of Moses) -- comes from verse 12:21 "You will slaughter animals ... according to the manner I (God) have prescribed." Nowhere in the Torah are we instructed in the manner of *shechita*, ritual slaughter. One might conclude that there was a very sloppy editor. Or -- one might conclude that there are additional teachings (the Oral Law/Talmud) clarifying and amplifying the written Word.

The source of the Chosen People concept is brought this week: "You are a nation consecrated to God your Lord. God has chosen you from all nations on the face of the earth to be His own special nation ..." (Deut.

14:1-2). We are chosen for responsibility, not privilege --to act morally and to be a "light unto the nations."

The portion then gives instructions regarding: permitted and forbidden foods, the Second Tithe, remissions of loans every 7 years, treatment of those in need (to be warm-hearted and open-handed), a Jewish bondsman, the three pilgrimage festivals (Passover, Shavuot, Sukkot).

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Dvar Torah

based on Love Your Neighbor by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin

The Torah states:

"... and He will give you mercy and be merciful to you..." (Deut. 13:18).

The Talmud (Yevamos 79a) cites this verse to show that being merciful is one of the basic traits of the Jewish people. (The Almighty deals with us in the way that we deal with others. Therefore, if He is merciful with us, it is because we are merciful with others.) The essence of compassion is being able to imagine yourself in someone else's situation. It is the resulting softness of the heart that makes one sensitive to the suffering of others -- and allows one to strengthen his free-will to help others, though there might be a cost in personal welfare or comfort.

The last time Rabbi Yitzchok Elchonon Specter went to St.

Petersburg for an important meeting, he was aged and weak. He had to leave his home very early in the morning to catch the only available train. There was not sufficient time to eat breakfast, so his family prepared for him a warm drink. Precisely at that moment a poor man knocked on the door. Rabbi Specter's assistant opened the door and informed the man that the Rabbi was extremely busy and couldn't attend to him.

The man at the door pleaded, "I am going penniless to Koenigsburg to see some doctors and I have come to ask Rabbi Specter for a letter of introduction to the rabbis of the city."

"I'm sorry, but you're too late," said the assistant. "Rabbi Specter is already late for his train."

Overhearing the conversation, Rav Yitzchok Elchonon called out, "Mercy! Mercy!" He then motioned to the man to enter his home and calmly wrote him a warm letter of introduction. Immediately after giving the letter to the poor man, Rabbi Specter rushed out of the house to catch the train, leaving his warm drink untouched.



Shabbat Shalom,
Kalman
Rabbi Kalman
Packouz

Selichot strats on Mon. 13 Aug. 2018, 2 Elul 5778

Condolences: we are very sorry to inform you the passing away of **Semha** Menashi Cohen ז"ע the wife of the late **Isaac** Cohen ז"ל (Istath Ishac). The funeral took place last week at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery. We send our deepest condolences to her sons Farid, Dhia and Nabeel ז"ל. We wish all the family a long life free from further sorrow.

Mazal Tov: to Sara and Jacob Oved on the occasion of their son Moshe's Bar Mitzvah, the Kiddush will be presented, all are welcome.

Kolel every Sunday: We are still having a Kolel every Sunday at the Synagogue hall from 09.30am - 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Security Alert: Please be very vigilant when you leave the Synagogue. Do not stand in groups and chat, go home without gathering on the main road. Be safe and alert.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE" TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 04 Elul Mr Sidney Nathan | 15 Elul Mr Maurice Arwas |
| 04 Elul Mr Alfred Nathan | 17 Elul Mrs Evelyn Basrawy |
| 06 Elul Mrs Helen Meyer | 24 Elul Mr David Gigi |
| 14 Elul Dr Maurice Gubbay | 28 Elul Mr Ezekiel Ezekiel |

Quote of the Week

Failing to prepare is preparing to fail!