

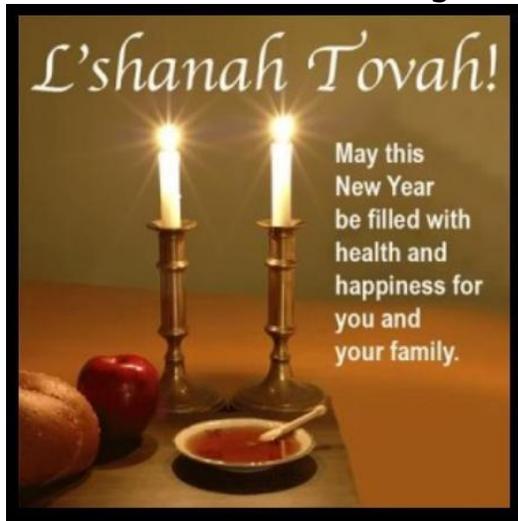


# THE CARNEGIE SHUL SHOFAR

Dr. Larry Block, President  
Michael Roteman, Writer/Editor

HIGH HOLIDAYS 5779 / 2018

## From the officers of The Carnegie Shul



Dr. Larry Block, *President*  
Rick D'Loss, *First Vice President*  
Dr. Paul Spivak, *Second Vice President*  
Joel Roteman, *Treasurer*  
Elaine Rosenfield, *Secretary*

### Board Members

Rosalyn Hoffman, Irwin Norvitch, Wendy Panizzi, Michael Roteman, and Marcia Steinberger

## President's Message

From Dr. Larry Block, President

"The end of a matter is better than its beginning." [Koheles (Ecclesiastes) 7:8]

This verse is usually interpreted in the sense that beginnings are marked by doubt and uncertainty while the end brings clarity, and hopefully, the satisfaction of a task well done. Another interpretation is that the good that is found at the end of a project comes from its beginning, i.e. the tone set at the beginning and

the manner in which the project was handled determines its ultimate success.

At the beginning of a New Year, we seek kindness from Hashem as He judges us in the hope that this sets the tone for the whole year until its conclusion. *We* too can help set the tone at the beginning of the new year by being sensitive to the needs of others and being charitable to them.

On behalf of Congregation Ahavath Achim, I wish you all the best for a healthy and happy New Year!

## The Little Shul That Could

It's not always easy being the Carnegie Shul.

We have just sixty members and some live in places like New Jersey, Florida, and Illinois.

We have an aging congregation and some members who regularly attended Shabbos minyan until the last year or so have passed away, or moved out of town, or just can't make it any more.

But we will not quit.

Just like the little engine that could, we just keep plugging away, keeping the tradition of a weekly minyan at the little shul on the corner alive despite the odds.

We have tried not to make concessions and to remain the same as we always have been in the past because we are, after all, part of a Jewish tradition that dates back several thousand years and we are proud of our roots and heritage.

Recently, we have struggled at times to secure a minyan of ten on Shabbos, and so the Board did decide to make one concession to that struggle and passed a resolution that will allow us to count God's presence as the tenth man.

We did not make this decision easily. There was a lot of soul searching by the members of the Board, but in the end we decided that it would be better to be able to read Torah, repeat the Amidah, and say Kaddish when nine people are in attendance rather than skip these very important elements of the service.

Having ten people to constitute a minyan is not something that is spelled out in the Torah. Most believe this to be a rabbinical doctrine, and there are several sources, and some conservative synagogues that are doing exactly what we have decided to do.

Hopefully, there will be very, very few times that we have to count God as the tenth man, but who better to help us make our minyan?

Of course we'd love to see each and every one of you at Shul, not only on the High Holidays but on Shabbos as well. It is a real mitzvah to help make a minyan.

One way or another though, the little shul that could will keep climbing that hill.



## Meet the Chazan

This year we are very happy to welcome Adam J. Edelman who will be serving as our High Holidays cantor.

A 27-year-old native of Boston, Massachusetts, Mr. Adelman is an MIT

graduate, who also studied at Yeshivat Lev Hatorah in Israel and who has been leading High Holiday services for six years.

And if that's not enough, Mr. Adelman was also a 2018 Israeli Olympian, four-time Israeli national champion, and captain of Israel's Olympic bobsled/skeleton team.



## Rosh Hashanah Whys and Wherefores

So what exactly is Rosh Hashanah?

The words translate into "head of the year," but Rosh Hashanah was not actually the first day of creation. It was, actually, the day that God created Adam and Eve, the first man and the first woman.

But it is much more than that. Here, from [chabad.com](http://chabad.com), are some *Rosh Hashanah Facts Every Jew Should Know*.

### 1. Heads Up!



Surprise! Rosh Hashanah does not mean “New Year” in Hebrew. It actually means “Head of the Year.” Just like your head (brain) tells your body what to do, how you behave on Rosh Hashanah has far-reaching consequences for the entire year.

### 2. Toot, Toot!



The central observance of Rosh Hashanah is listening to the blowing of the *shofar* on both mornings of Rosh Hashanah. Made from a hollowed-out ram’s horn, the *shofar* produces three “voices”: *tekiah* (a long blast), *shevarim* (a series of three short blasts) and *teruah* (a staccato burst of at least nine blasts). The *shofar* is blown at various intervals during the

Rosh Hashanah morning service. Add them all up and you get 100 “voices” in total

### 3. Silent Shabbat

When Rosh Hashanah coincides with Shabbat, we do not blow the *shofar* on that day. The sages enacted this as a precaution, in case someone would end up carrying a *shofar* to an expert to blow. There is a deeper lesson here as well. On Shabbat, the coronation of the King is so deep and so special that it’s accomplished without the bells and whistles of the *shofar*.

### 4. Twice as Nice



Rosh Hashanah is celebrated for two days. In fact, while most holidays get an extra day in the Diaspora, Rosh Hashanah is the only one that is celebrated for two days in Israel as well.

### 5. But Not Thrice



The Jewish calendar follows a particular rhythm. The first morning of Rosh Hashanah can be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Shabbat—never Sunday, Wednesday or Friday.

## 6. Fireworks in Your Dining Room



That's right. Like Shabbat and other Jewish holidays, the Rosh Hashanah meals should be eaten in the joyous glow of candles, lit by the woman (or women) of the house. Remember: On the first night, it is ideal to light before the onset of the holiday. On the second night, light only after nightfall, taking care to use a preexisting flame and not blow out your match when done. (Even though we may light fires and cook on holidays, kindling a new fire or extinguishing flames are forbidden.)

## 7. Round Rolls



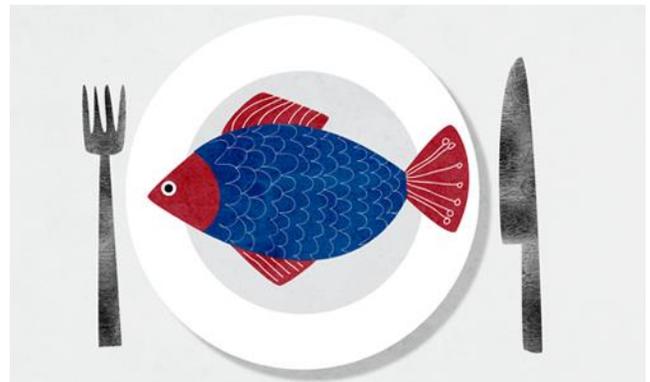
On Rosh Hashanah we traditionally start our holiday feasts with two loaves of round challah, sweetened with raisins to demonstrate our wish for a sweet new year. To add sweetness to our already sweet wish, we dip the challah in honey before taking the first bite.

## 8. Apple Dipped in Honey



The meal then proceeds, including a number of sweet delicacies and other foods that express our prayerful wishes for the year. The most common symbolic food is apple slices dipped in honey (or sugar in some communities). Another favorite is *tzimmes*, a traditional Eastern European dish that includes carrots.

## 9. Head for the Head



It is customary to sample a morsel from the head of a fish on Rosh Hashanah, symbolizing our wish to be "a head and not a tail." Some people prefer the head of a ram, which is appropriate since it evokes the time when Abraham almost followed G-d's command to sacrifice his son Isaac, until G-d stopped him at the last moment and had him sacrifice a ram instead. Phew!

## 10. Seed Count!



Many people eat pomegranates on Rosh Hashanah, demonstrating their wish for as many merits as the pomegranate has seeds. It is commonly said that the pomegranate has 613 seeds, corresponding to the 613 mitzvahs in the Torah. However, this has yet to be empirically demonstrated by seed counters worldwide

## 11. Meet and Greet



The traditional Rosh Hashanah greeting is “*shanah tovah*” (הבוט הנש), which means “good year.” The word *u’metuka* (הקוּתמו), “and sweet,” is sometimes added.

## 12. A Day to Pray



The Rosh Hashanah morning services are particularly long, mostly due to the extra liturgy inserted into the cantor’s repetition of the Amidah (the standing prayer). Much of it is poetic in style, and arranged according to the Hebrew alphabet—a boon for people wishing to learn the prayers by heart.

## 13. Birth and (Near) Death



On both days of Rosh Hashanah we read about the life of Isaac. On the first day we read about G-d granting Sarah’s wish and blessing her with a son, Isaac. On the second day we read how Abraham almost sacrificed him on an altar

## 14. Castaway Sins



On the first afternoon of Rosh Hashanah (provided it is not Shabbat), it is customary to walk to a body of fresh water and recite a special prayer, symbolically casting our sins into the waters. The waterside ceremony (called *tashlich*) is evocative of the coronation ceremonies of old, where the rushing waters symbolized good wishes for a long reign—appropriate on Rosh Hashanah, when G-d is coronated King of the Universe.

## 15. Don't Blink



That's right. Even though napping on Shabbat is considered a virtuous way to celebrate the day of rest, on Rosh Hashanah we make a point of not napping (and some people even stay awake at night), not wasting a precious moment on something as trivial as shuteye. The Talmud states that if one sleeps at the beginning of the year—i.e., on Rosh Hashanah—his good fortune also sleeps.

## 16. Like Sheep



On Rosh Hashanah every single creature passes before G-d in judgment. Yet it is not a sad day, but one of quiet confidence and optimism. After all, if G-d created us and continues to sustain us, He obviously believes we have something to accomplish on His earth. And if He believes in us, so should we.

## All is Forgiven

We all know that on Yom Kippur we atone for our sins and seek forgiveness from God for our sins that we have committed against Him.

But what about our other sins? How do we forgive our fellow people and how do they forgive us.

Here is an article from Rabbi Eli Held, writing on [ish.com](http://ish.com), concerning, *The Secret to Forgiveness*.

I received two phone calls this past year that shook me to the core.

The first came in one beautiful spring morning as I was leaving for work. The voice was high pitched and frail. It was a man I had known in high school who was sick with an aggressive form of cancer. We hadn't spoken in many years. What did he want from me?

He explained that since he was all alone in the hospital, with no family around him to keep him

company, he had started looking back on his life. He intimated that this year was likely to be his last. It had occurred to him that he had caused me much pain and heartache throughout our high-school years together. He was calling to ask me for forgiveness.

The second call I received just a few days ago. It was from a childhood friend. He was calling to ask me forgiveness for a note he had stuck inside my desk in 5th grade. It had said that he hated me and wanted nothing to do with me. I asked him why he was calling me now. He replied that it was because he was getting older and was struggling to find a wife. He started looking back on his life to see if there was anything that might be hindering him from starting a family.

I assured both of them that I forgave them and wished them health and success in all of their endeavors.

What gripped me most about these calls was that while it was relatively easy for me to say the words "I forgive you" it was so much harder to internally forgive and let go.

Did I really let go of the pain and suffering they had caused me?

**Yom Kippur**

- Yom Kippur is a very special day for Jews all around the world. Yom Kippur means **Day of Atonement** and this means a day to ask for forgiveness from God for any bad things that you might have done in the year gone by...



What is the secret to forgiveness?

The key to forgiveness lies in the ability to identify people with their inner beauty and virtue.

It lies in understanding that people hurt because they are hurting.

It lies in recognizing that although actions can be terrible and inexcusable, the perpetrators of such actions are not to be forever defined by their mistakes.

Instead they are to be appreciated for who they really are: a beautiful human being created in the image of God with unique virtues and qualities.

Of course this does not mean that all actions are excusable! God forbid.

But it does mean that, save for few exceptions, a place of understanding and forgiveness can almost certainly be found.

We need to start looking past actions and instead, into the essence of people.

We need to ask ourselves: what can I see in this person that is beautiful?

What can I see in this person that is pure?

What can I see in this person that is Godly?

How can I perceive that what this person did to me was not necessarily a reflection of who he really is?

It is only when we explore and seek out answers to these questions that we will have truly begun walking down the path of forgiveness.

As we come closer to Yom Kippur, a time when we seek forgiveness from God, we should remember that the surest way to securing that forgiveness is by sincerely letting go and forgiving others.

If we look past their outer deficiencies and wrongdoings, instead focusing on the inner beauty and qualities of our brothers and sisters, God will surely do the same for us.

May we have the wisdom and courage to sincerely forgive and may we be forgiven by God in return.

## Please

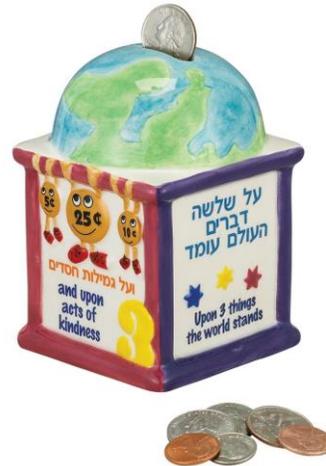


It's a new year and an opportunity to renew acquaintances with old friends, some of whom we have not seen since last Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur. Keep in mind, however, that loud conversation is a distraction for those who are trying to participate in the services and/or pray. Please keep your voices down and be respectful of others, especially during Amidahs and Torah services. If you really need to kibitz, why not step outside for a few minutes rather than disrupt our services. Thank you.

## We Remember

This year, on Yom Kippur, we will be dedicating plaques to the memory of Joe Hoffman; Brenda Kramer Miller, wife of Larry Miller; and Rheta Scheffler, wife of Marvin Scheffler. May their memories always be for a blessing.

## Dues And Donations



At the Carnegie Shul we try to make religion affordable for all. Dues are very low and there is no charge for High Holy Days tickets. But, just like everyone else, we do have bills to pay, such as utilities and building maintenance.

Tzedukah is an important part of our Yom Kippur tradition. As we are taught, teshuvah, tefillah and tzedakah will avert the stern decree.

And so, on this Yom Kippur, we ask that you consider a donation to the Carnegie Shul as part of your Yom Kippur tzedukah. Donation cards and envelopes will be available in the shul, or you may mail your dues and donations to our treasurer, Joel Roteman, at 954 Lindendale Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15243.

## Break the Fast

This year, following the final Shofar blowing on Yom Kippur, we will have a break the fast, sponsored by Michael and Ellen Roteman, in memory of Michael's parents, Bob and Ruth Roteman, and in memory of Ellen's father, Hyman Ginsberg, in our social hall. All are invited to stay after services and break the fast in our Shul.

# Holiday Schedule 5779



## **ROSH HASHANAH**

**Sunday, September 9**

Evening service..... 7:15 pm

**Monday, September 10**

Preliminary Service .....8:30 am

Shacharis ..... 9:00 am

Torah Reading .....10:00 am

Sermon .....10:45 am

Musaf .....11:15 am

Recess..... 1:15 pm

Tashlich ..... 6:15 pm

Minchah ..... 7:00 pm

Maariv ..... 7:15 pm

**Tuesday, September 11**

Preliminary Service ..... 8:30 am

Shacharis..... 9:00 am

Torah Reading..... 10:00 am

Sermon ..... 10:45 am

Musaf..... 11:15 am



## יום קיפור



### Tuesday, September 18

Kol Nidre ..... 7:00 pm  
Maariv ..... 7:45 pm

### Wednesday, September 19

Preliminary Service ..... 9:00 am  
Shacharis ..... 9:30 am  
Torah Reading ..... 10:30 am  
Sermon ..... 11:15 am  
Yizkor ..... 11:45 am  
Musaf ..... 12:15 pm  
Recess ..... 2:30 pm  
Minchah ..... 5:45 pm  
Neilah ..... 6:45 pm  
Shofar ..... 7:45 pm  
Break the Fast ..... 7:50 pm

## סוכות



### Monday, September 24

Morning Service ..... 9:20 am

### Tuesday, September 25

Morning Service ..... 9:20 am



## שמעתי אטזרות

### Monday, October 1

Morning Service ..... 9:20 am  
Yizkor ..... 11:00 am  
Musaf ..... 11:40 am

## שמחת תורה

### Tuesday, October 2

Morning Service ..... 9:20 am