



Carnegie Shul Chatter

September 9, 2021

*On Rosh Hashanah it is written
On Yom Kippur it is sealed*

Light Shabbat candles 7:19pm Shabbat services 9:20am

Finding Inspiration

There are a couple very sad things that we could talk about in this week's Chatter.

The parshah, Vayelech, which we read this Saturday, September 11, talks about Moses' last day on Earth. What a sad day that must have been.

And this Saturday, September 11, marks the twentieth anniversary of the attack on America, when terrorists flew jetliners into the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Virginia, and would have flown another

There's Still Time...

Advance reservations are required to attend Yom Kippur services in person, as are masks, regardless of vaccination status. Contact Mike Roteman at mrmike777@yahoo.com for reservations.

Teshuva, Tefillah, Tzedakah

We are now in the midst of the Ten Days of Repentance. The Book of Life is now open and on Yom Kippur it will be sealed. Who will live and who will die. And, as we are told, Teshuva, Tefillah, and Tzedakah, Repentance, Prayer and Charity, will avert the severe decree.

We still have time. Hashem will still forgive our sins. Hashem wants to forgive our sins. All we have to do is ask sincerely. It is that simple.

But why wait until the last minute? Why wait until the Ten Days of Repentance or until Yom Kippur itself?

Repentance, prayer, and charity are things that we can and should do all year round.

So if you do something wrong, don't be afraid to admit your shortcomings and ask for forgiveness. We are all human. We all make mistakes.

When you have an opportunity to give a helping hand to

— *Continued on next page*

jetliner into the Capitol or the White House, had not the heroes on that plane forced the plane down in Shanksville, PA, not very far from Pittsburgh. And it is estimated that between 10 and 15 percent of those killed at the Twin Towers were Jewish. We all know first-hand how sad that day was.

But what I'd really like to talk about is the Rosh Hashanah services we have just concluded at the Carnegie Shul and the Yom Kippur services we will be holding this coming Wednesday and Thursday. And our Rosh Hashanah services were anything but sad. In fact, they were incredibly inspirational, as I am sure our Yom Kippur services will also be.

Our in-person numbers were down a bit this Rosh Hashanah, as the Covid pandemic prompted many who would normally attend to stay home and, hopefully, watch our services as they were being streamed live on You Tube.

But for those who did attend, could the services have been any better? Yes, we were socially distanced. Yes, we were wearing masks. But we were together, in Shul, celebrating the New Year.



Rick D'Loss sounds the shofar.



Dr. Larry Block delivers the D'Var Torah.

— From previous page

others, don't be afraid to do so. And there are many good Jewish charities that can use your support. Donate to your shul, or the Jewish Federation, or some other worthwhile cause that can use your support.

And be sure to pray. You can pray anywhere including at home, but Judaism advocates communal prayer, being part of a minyan, praying with other Jews so we can read Torah together or say Kaddish. We'd love to have you come to the Carnegie Shul and pray with us.

Good Yom Tov, and May You be Inscribed in the Book of Life for the Coming Year.



AJ Adelman shares Torah insights before leading the congregation in davening.

Our sanctuary was beautiful and featured floral arrangements dedicated by Board members Wendy Panizzi and Gerri Kettler. The commentaries given by Dr. Block were excellent. The shofar blowing by Rick D'loss was incredible. Could anyone possibly hold the note of the Tekiah Godola any longer?

And what about the davening?

If you have ever heard our guest Chazzan, AJ Edelman, you know that he has a great and powerful

voice. But many cantors have great and powerful voices. Yet, how much do they truly inspire the congregants?

I am 74 years old. I have heard many, many cantors, choirs, rabbis and others lead services on Shabbos or on the High Holidays, and I must truly say that none has ever inspired me as much as AJ.

Inspired? No, that is not a strong enough word. And though I like to think that I am a fairly skilled writer, I cannot think of words that begin to do justice to the way that I feel about AJ's davening.

The Hineni is a prayer that is said by the Chazzan at the start of the Musaf service on the High Holidays. It is a prayer in which the Chazzan expresses his concern about his worthiness to stand before God, entreating Hashem to listen to his prayers on behalf of the congregants.

The prayer begins, "Poor in worthy deeds, I am horribly frightened in thy presence, who art enthroned and receiving praise from Israel. I come to plead before thee on behalf of thy people Israel, who have made me messenger though I am not deserving nor qualified for the task... Blame them not for my sins, convict them not for my iniquities, for I am a transgressor indeed. Let them not be shamed because of me and my faults, nor let me be shamed because of them. Accept my prayer as if I were entirely qualified and well-pleasing to my fellow men."

How many Chazzans who chant this prayer are truly frightened in Hashem's presence as they lead the prayer? How many understand and fully accept the responsibility that they are assuming in praying on behalf of their congregants? How many are humble enough to realize how small they — and we — are in the presence of Hashem?

There is no doubt that AJ takes this prayer and the tremendous burden that he has assumed in praying on our behalf as seriously, if not more seriously, than anyone. AJ Edelman trembles in the presence of God as he begins the Hineni. He cries audibly. He needs to pause to pull himself together to continue. He is truly frightened in God's presence and wonders if he is worthy of this awesome task.

Let me assure you that he is.



AJ Edelman holds degrees from MIT and Yale. He is a Winter Olympic athlete who has participated in skelton and who captains the Israeli bobsled team. (Yes, skelton and bobsled in Israel, a place no one ever thinks of when thinking of these winter sports, until AJ came along, that is.) This is a man who by all rights should have a massive ego. And yet, he lives his Orthodox Judaism, and he is as humble and down to earth as any young man could possibly be.

Is there anyone else that I would rather have pray on my behalf on the High Holidays? Absolutely not.

We at the Carnegie Shul are so very fortunate to have AJ Edelman leading our prayers for a fourth straight year. If you weren't there on Rosh Hashanah, please come or watch on-line on Yom Kippur. You will be glad you did.

This Shabbat's parsha

Vayelech in a Nutshell

Deuteronomy 31:1–30

From Chabad.org

The Parshah of Vayelech ("and he went") recounts the events of Moses' last day of earthly life. "I am one hundred and twenty years old today," he says to the people, "and I can no longer go forth and come in." He transfers the leadership to Joshua, and writes (or concludes writing) the Torah in a scroll which he entrusts to the Levites for safekeeping in the Ark of the Covenant.

The mitzvah of hak'hel ("gather") is given: every seven years, during the festival of Sukkot of the first year of the shemittah cycle, the entire people of Israel—men, women and children—should gather at the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, where the king should read to them from the Torah.

Vayelech concludes with the prediction that the people of Israel will turn away from their covenant with G-d, causing Him to hide His face from them, but also with the promise that the words of the Torah "shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their descendants."



Yom Kippur

Our High Holiday Services continue, both in Shul and on-line, on Yom Kippur, Wednesday, September 15 and Thursday, September 16. Advance reservations are required to attend in person, as are masks, regardless of vaccination status. Seats are assigned to maximize social distancing. Reservations can be made by sending an email to Mike Roteman at mrmike7777@yahoo.com. Services can be streamed-live by going to You Tube and doing a search for the Carnegie Shul.

Below is the Yom Kippur prayer schedule.

Wednesday, September 15

Kol Nidre 7:15 pm
Maariv 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 16

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