

FBJC—THE SHOFAR

OBTAINING FAVORABLE JUDGEMENT—A HIGH HOLIDAY MESSAGE, BY CH (LTC) SHMUEL FELZENBERG, FBJC OIC

The High Holidays are often misunderstood, a time assumed by many to be somber, sorrowful, even mournful (G-d Forbid). The truth is they are anything but... Yes, they are an intense time, a serious period of the year to be treated with utmost respect. But mournful, no. Confusion may abound because of the observance similarities between Yom Kippur and Tisha-B'Av (E.g., fasting, not wearing leather shoes, no bathing, etc.). However, the truth is that the High Holidays are a truly advantageous and auspicious time, divinely gifted to us by G-d, specifically to take full advantage of for our personal benefit, both spiritual and physical.

The month leading up to the High Holidays, is Elul, a period most suited for reflection, repentance and reconnecting with our Creator and Heavenly Father. If rightly utilized as intended, this month sets the stage for Rosh Hashanah, the first of the High Holidays or Days of Awe. As the beginning of the Jewish New Year, this two-day holiday observance is a time of Divine Judgment. On Rosh Hashanah we are adjudicated by the Ultimate Judge who sits in judgment of us and the world to determine our fate for the year ahead (i.e., life/death, health/sickness, wealth/poverty, etc). As always a person's day in court, even when standing before a human magistrate, is intense and serious, demanding utmost respect on the part

of the defendant. How much more so as we stand in judgment before the King of the Kings, Blessed be He. But mournful, no. For we are ever optimistically faithful that our Benevolent Father will judge us with abundant mercy as only He can, with a favorable judgment for the year ahead.

Let us not forget Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Historically this day marks the anniversary of the Jewish people receiving the Second Tablets, as a sign of ultimate divine forgiveness following their sin with the golden calf. Yom Kippur is slated for all time, as an ultimate annual opportunity to cleanse ourselves of any remaining sins and guilt. This divine pardon is facilitated through repentance, prayer, and charity on the part of the penitent person. Thereby enabling one to better and correct any less-than-ideal judgment which may have been rendered on Rosh Hashanah, and to seal oneself favorably for a year of life, health, wealth, and all manner of blessing. One hint to help get you there quicker, and find oneself a favorable place in G-d's heart during this time of awesome

judgment, is as follows: don't be quick to negatively judge your own fellow man or woman. He, Almighty G-d, is prone to judge and dispense His Kindness upon us in accordance with the manner in which we ourselves judge others. True, there is evil that cannot be overlooked, and there are deeds that cannot be condoned. But rather, seek to give the benefit of the doubt upon your neighbor's actions, presume goodness and positive intent with regard to your friend's deeds, and strive to seek alibi for the questionable mannerisms of others as you would surely do for yourself were you in their place. Then G-d will surely be favorably inclined to grant you every benefit, presumption, and alibi when sitting in judgment of you...resulting in a New Year of blessing for you and your family, physically and spiritually. Shana Tova!

MEET RACHAEL STAHL, BAT MITZVAH—SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 10

Rachael Stahl will be called to the Torah on 10 December 2016 as a Bat Mitzvah. Rachael, her brother Sam, 7, and her father, Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Stahl, USAF, are currently assigned to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. They live in Centreville, Ohio, A suburb of Dayton. Rachael's mother, the late Erin Stahl, passed away from breast cancer March of 2015. Rachael and her family were assigned to the Fort Belvoir area from 2005-2007, 2008-09, 011-2014.

They consider our congregation their home synagogue and our honored to share this special occasion with us. Rachael is currently in 7th grade and attends Watt Middle School in Centreville, Ohio. She is attending Hebrew school at Synagogue Beth Abraham in Dayton, Ohio. Her primary Hebrew instructor is Cantor Raizen. Rachael enjoys dance, and music in her free time and spending time with family and friends.

Rachael will have family joining her from Florida, Ohio, Minnesota, and Michigan. She will also have several friends from her time in Northern Virginia at her ceremony and Bat Mitzvah party. The Stahl family are thrilled that Rabbi Heather Borshof will be officiating at the ceremony.

VETERAN'S

We will be celebrating Veteran's Day on Friday, November 11 - with our Deli Dinner at 5:30 PM, followed by our service at 7 PM. All of these events will be at Belvoir Chapel.



HANUKKAH HAPPENING

Our candle lighting will be on the 7th night of Hanukkah. Come join us on Friday, Dec. 30th with songs, and enjoy latkes and donuts. Because of Shabbat, we will begin at 4 PM with food—latkes, donuts and more. Because

Hanukkah is late this year (actually it is the same time every year—25 Kislev) - we are doing it a little differently this Hanukkah. Come join the fun!

Happy Hanukkah



HEBREW SCHOOL

We are still looking for a Hebrew School teacher. If you know of anyone interested in teaching our students—please let

Jay Jupiter, JCC Chair know at 703-780-1463.

Happiness is a byproduct of a meaningful life!

COMMUNITY NEWS

We would like to thank Dale Latiff, Bea Kleier, Leah Choper, Evan Krauss, Lara Krauss, Mindy Higgins, Barry Malihi, Eva Calero, Sarah Malihi, Ruth Stulman, Emily Markiewicz, Charlie and Tom Brown, Ed and Eliana Jimenez, Olive Rosen, for helping before and during the Oneg Shabbat meals and for sponsoring. We really appreciate you!

Please sponsor an Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush Lunch—check out the schedule on the bulletin board.

There will be a Sukkah Raising on Sunday, October 16 at 2 PM. Please bring tools, a sense of humor and muscles!

Gate Closures—Starting

October 3 —Pence Gate will be closed. The main gate will be Tulley Gate.

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Fort Belvoir Jewish Congregation Mission Statement

We will create and sustain a leaning and participatory congregation that will enhance the congregants; appreciation of liturgy, Torah and holidays. We will enhance congregational fellowship and a sense of Kehilla (Community) and project our Jewish presence to the surrounding communities. Our congregation will effectively plan and conduct religious services as well as cultural, social and other activities that encourage participation and fulfill the broad spectrum of needs of our DoD congregants.

MOVIE AFTERNOON—NOV. 6

Please join us at our Movie Afternoon— Sunday, November 6 at 4 PM in the RE building. We will be watching the Movie “A La Vie—To Life”

The movie takes place 20 years after Auschwitz when Helen reconnects with two friends who survived the camp with her. The ladies meet at a seaside resort in France—with some

laughing and some tears.

The movie was written up in the Hadassah Magazine.

Please join us!



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