**SEPTEMBER EVENTS**

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brotherhood Breakfast &amp; Lecture</td>
<td>Joy &amp; Judaism: The intersect between positive psychology and Jewish thought by Rabbi Binyamin Moss on Monday, September 2nd.</td>
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<td>Shacharis 8:30 AM, Lecture 9:30 AM</td>
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<td>Shul Book Club</td>
<td>Shabbos, September 21, 12PM The Last Watchman of Old Cairo by Michael David Lukas</td>
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<td>First Night of Selichos</td>
<td>Motzai Shabbos, September 21, 11:30 PM</td>
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<td>Sisterhood Parlor Meeting</td>
<td>Sunday, September 22, 7:30 PM</td>
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<td>High Holiday Seats Deadline</td>
<td>Monday, September 23</td>
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<td>Ner Tamid's beautiful yearly calendar</td>
<td>Wishing us all a year of health, happiness, and growth, Rabbi Yisrael Motzen</td>
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Dear Friends,

A number of years ago, at around this time of year, a member asked me what books I am reading during the month of Elul to prepare me for the High Holidays. She was interested in reading the same books to get herself in the proper state of mind. ‘Reading books during the busy weeks before the High Holidays,’ I thought, ‘are you out of your mind?!’ I didn’t say that, of course. I politely told her I’d get back to her.

The truth is, I wish I was reading something at the time so I could have recommended a book to her and maybe some others. We could have discussed the book together making for a rich growth-oriented communal discussion. A colleague of mine, Rabbi Yechiel Shaffer of the Pikesville Jewish Congregation, started an initiative in his shul called the Shul that reads together grows together. It’s a beautiful idea, one which I would like to borrow and bring to Ner Tamid for this month of Elul.

Here are three books that may help prepare you for the High Holidays: The first is a memoir by Ilana Kurshan, titled, If All the Seas Were Ink. It is a highly personal journal that serves as a backdrop to a much larger question, what does it mean to see the world through the prism of the Torah. The second is an old classic by C.S. Lewis, the Screwtape Letters, a satirical correspondence between a senior and junior member of the ‘Underworld.’ Using wit and irony, Lewis manages to shine a bright light into our human weaknesses without making us defensive about it. (Warning, this is not a Jewish book as Lewis was a devout Christian. While his understanding of the ‘underworld’ is radically different from Judaism’s view on the existence of evil, human idiosyncrasies, the true subject of the book, are universal.) The final book is a lighter read, a memoir by Judy Cruen, titled, The Skeptic and the Rabbi: Falling in Love with Faith. Cruen takes you along for her journey into religious observance in a refreshingly honest and surprisingly humorous fashion.

I hope to ‘review’ these books in the form of lectures on the topics of Torah and Me, Getting to Know our Yetzer HaRa/ Evil Inclination, and Coming Home to G-d… Through the Back Door, on the afternoons of Rosh Hashana and on Shabbos Shuva. Don’t worry, you do not have to read the books to attend the talks, but it is highly recommended. After all, a congregation that reads together, grows together. In the meantime, I look forward to conversations with all of you about these books as we prepare for the awesome days ahead of us.

Wishing us all a year of health, happiness, and growth,

Rabbi Yisrael Motzen
MEET RACHEL AND ELAD BARMATZ

1. How did you first hear about Ner Tamid? We heard about Ner Tamid through the wonderful Girl Scouts program, and our amazing leader, Genie Lewin, specifically.

2. How long have you been members? About 2 months now

3. What is your religious background? We are baalei teshuva and affiliated with Chabad.

4. What do you do professionally? Elad works for a non-profit helping unaccompanied minors who have entered the US illegally and is studying Nutrition with a Public Health concentration. Rachel works in legal services, also for immigration law but the employment-based kind. Elad loves playing the keyboard, cooking, and playing and watching soccer. Rachel loves reading and attending shiurim.

5. Anything unusual you could tell us about yourselves? Not really... we are pretty humdrum!

6. What are you most excited about Ner Tamid? We have 4 beautiful kids who actually like going to shul since we started coming to Ner Tamid, which is a novelty to us. The children’s programming is definitely what drew us in. We also like that Ner Tamid seems like a diverse, mixed crowd, which is good for us because we don't fit a mold.

Every week we pray for the speedy recovery of the many people whose names you send to the shul office/rabbi. We hope they have all had a refuah sheleima. If you would like to add a name for the upcoming year please email the office with the individuals Hebrew name and their mother's Hebrew name.
BOOKS: Lucette Lagnado recently passed away. Her obituary was in the New York Times. The article recounted her unforgettable memoir of her father, Leon, a successful Egyptian businessman and boulevardier who, dressed in his signature white sharkskin suit, makes deals and trades at Shepherd's Hotel and at the dark bar of the Nile Hilton. After the fall of King Farouk and the rise of the Nasser dictatorship, Leon loses everything and his family is forced to flee, abandoning a life once marked by beauty and luxury to plunge into hardship and poverty, as they take flight for any country that would have them. The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit recounts the exile of the author's Jewish Egyptian family from Cairo in 1963 and her father's heroic and tragic struggle to survive his "riches to rags" trajectory. The memoir is beautifully written and won several awards. (New York Times, 2019)

AN ETHICAL CONUNDRUM: In a recent controversial ruling, Netherlands restitution committee refused to return a Wassily Kandinsky painting worth millions, citing 'public interest'. After a protracted legal fight, Irma Klein's family last year got Dutch restitution officials to acknowledge that the Nazis forced Klein to sell her Wassily Kandinsky painting to Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum for a fraction of its worth. However, what is even worse is that the family is not receiving any restitution. In addition, the concept of the weighted interest approach means that “ownership of looted art outweighed rightful ownership.” The Restitution Committee ruled that weighted (public) interest in principle means “[n]o Dutch museum would ever need to return a single work of art ever again.” Shocking!! (Jerusalem Post & The New York Times)

A Cultural Corner at Ner Tamid Synagogue, by Susan Schuster
| Sunday, Sep 1 | Rosh Chodesh  
Scharit: 8:30 AM  
Talmud class: 9 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:45 PM  
Snacks bereishis  
Bereishis classroom: 9 AM  
Pimlico Rd: 5:30 PM |
| Monday, Sep 2 | Labor Day  
Scharit: 8:30 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:45 PM  
gemara class: 8:45 PM  
Breakfast & Lecture: 9:30 AM |
| Tuesday, Sep 3 | Scharit: 6:45 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:00 PM  
Selichos: 6:45 AM  
gemara class: 8:45 PM |
| Wednesday, Sep 4 | Scharit: 6:45 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:00 PM  
Selichos: 6:45 AM  
gemara class: 8:45 PM |
| Thursday, Sep 5 | Scharit: 6:30 AM  
bereishis class: 11 AM  
michman/mariv: 7:05 PM  
Navi class: 6:30 PM  
Pimlico Rd: 9 PM |
| Monday, Sep 9 | Scharit: 6:30 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:45 PM  
gemara class: 8:45 PM |
| Tuesday, Sep 10 | Scharit: 6:45 AM  
michman/mariv: 7:05 PM  
Selichos: 6:45 AM  
gemara class: 8:45 PM |
| Wednesday, Sep 11 | Scharit: 6:45 AM  
michman/mariv: 7:05 PM  
Selichos: 6:45 AM  
gemara class: 8:45 PM |
| Thursday, Sep 12 | Scharit: 6:30 AM  
bereishis class: 11 AM  
michman/mariv: 7:05 PM  
Navi class: 6:30 PM  
Pimlico Rd: 9 PM |
| Friday, Sep 6 | Scharit: 6:45 AM  
candle lighting: 7:11 PM  
michman/mariv: 7 PM |
| Shabbos, Sep 7 | Rav Kook: 8:45 AM  
scharit: 9 AM  
Selichos: 6:30 AM  
michman/mariv: 7:05 PM  
Maamr/havdalah: 8:10 PM |
| Sunday, Sep 8 | Scharit: 8:30 AM  
talmud class: 9 AM  
michman/mariv: 7:05 PM |
| Monday, Sep 13 | Scharit: 6:45 AM  
candle lighting: 7:00 PM  
michman/mariv: 7 PM |
| Tuesday, Sep 17 | Scharit: 6:45 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:55 PM  
Selichos: 6:45 AM  
gemara class: 8:45 PM |
| Wednesday, Sep 18 | Scharit: 6:45 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:55 PM  
Selichos: 6:45 AM  
gemara class: 8:45 PM |
| Thursday, Sep 19 | Scharit: 6:30 AM  
bereishis class: 11 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:55 PM  
Navi class: 6:30 PM  
Pimlico Rd: 9 PM |
| Friday, Sep 14 | Scharit: 6:45 AM  
candle lighting: 6:49 PM  
michman/mariv: 6:55 PM |
| Shabbos, Sep 15 | Rav Kook: 8:45 AM  
scharit: 9 AM  
Selichos: 6:00 PM  
michman/mariv: 6:50 PM  
Maamr/havdalah: 7:59 PM |
| Sunday, Sep 22 | Scharit: 8:00 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:45 PM  
Sisterhood parlor meeting: 7:30 PM |
| Monday, Sep 23 | Selichos: 6:10 AM  
scharit: 6:30 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:45 PM  
gemara class: 8:45 PM |
| Tuesday, Sep 24 | Selichos: 6:25 AM  
scharit: 6:45 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:45 PM  
gemara class: 8:45 PM |
| Wednesday, Sep 25 | Selichos: 6:25 AM  
scharit: 6:45 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:45 PM  
gemara class: 8:45 PM |
| Thursday, Sep 26 | Selichos: 6:10 AM  
scharit: 6:30 AM  
bereishis class: 11 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:45 PM  
Navi class: 6:30 PM  
Pimlico Rd: 9 PM |
| Friday, Sep 27 | Selichos: 6:25 AM  
scharit: 6:45 AM  
michman/mariv: 6:37 PM  
Navi class: 6:00 PM  
Pimlico Rd: 9 PM |
| Shabbos, Sep 28 | Rav Kook: 8:45 AM  
scharit: 9 AM  
Selichos: 6:00 PM  
michman/mariv: 6:50 PM  
Maamr/havdalah: 7:36 PM |