Intentionality
By CANTOR SHARON BERNSTEIN

The Jewish calendar, as much of Judaism as a whole, is marked by distinctions: things we do at different times, in different ways, with the year sculpted into a rhythm of daily activities, Shabbat, feasts and fasts. At the head of it all is Rosh Hashanah, the diving off point, the starting block, when everything is wiped clean and begins anew.

It’s not automatic, of course – no waving of a wand and magic spell. It’s a multi-faceted process of sitting with ourselves, examining the past year, making amends, stitching together any torn fabric in our lives, and weaving together new hopes and dreams. Some of this feels a little complicated during this year of Covid-19. What does it mean to sit with ourselves – literally as well as metaphorically – when we’ve already been sitting so much?

Intentionality plays a big part. The Mishna says that if we happen to be reading the part of the Torah which contains the Sh’mah at a moment in which we are obliged to recite the Sh’mah in prayer, whether the obligation to recite the prayer is fulfilled has to do with whether we intend to fulfill it. In other words, it’s partly about what we do, and partly about what we’re thinking when we do it. The same action or event can take on different meaning if we choose to imbue it with different meaning. I’m not saying that we need to be more intentional this year. But in a time when we can’t do things as we normally do them, we have the opportunity to think more about what we can and want to do, and how we do it.

We can use these High Holy Days combined with our unprecedented situation to try different things, and see how a new path might open a door or create insight. Or we can try thinking about something that we already do in a new way and see how that might expand or deepen our experience. We’re not just entering the gates of the New Year, we’re helping to create them.

L’shana Tovah M’tukah – May this coming year bring much peace, love, wholeness, health, kindness, openness, sweetness, strength, and joy to us all and to the world.
Angels In The Zoom Age

By MARC LIPSCHUTZ

Following Rosh Hashanah prayers, two angels accompany and listen for every person to wish a friend, “L’shanah tovah ti-kasaiv v’saichasaim. May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.” Upon hearing this traditional greeting expressed with sincerity, the angels take flight, and in best Jewish practice present themselves as defense attorneys before the Heavenly Court, pleading that their well-wishing greeters be granted a good and sweet New Year.

Many Sha’ar Zahav congregants and friends relatedly express that their favorite activity during the Days of Awe is to personally greet loved ones and friends with traditional Rosh Hashanah good wishes. This year we will be greeting one another via Zoom, where our accompanying angels will most certainly be present, listening, and prepared to soar and petition for our benefit. Rosh Hashanah also initiates the new academic year for our Beit Sefer Phylis Mintzer religious school students. Sue Bojdak, our Director of Education, will ensure that our children begin the New Year engaged with Torah and with Sha’ar Zahav, Jewish based-values, per our tradition. This fall we are transitioning to a volunteer teacher model.

I am delighted to disclose that among our volunteers will be our extraordinarily dedicated teachers, Ila Cherney, Andrea Guerra, and Geneva Rust-Orta, each of whom will continue to earnestly teach our children. Learning will commence on-line, and could include a hybrid of distanced outdoor activities and guided in-home projects, where the angels will assuredly be present, listening, and learning as well.

“With prudence and inclusiveness, we hope to reopen in phases following the secular new year.”

- Marc Lipschutz

A Reopening Task Force has convened to create a protocol for safely reopening our beloved congregational home at 290 Dolores Street. Sha’ar Zahav will adhere (Continued on Page 5)
Recalling John Robert Lewis
By JEFFREY LEVIN

During the height of the AIDS crisis, my friend Sandy Thurman had quit her job to create AIDS Atlanta. No public officials, civic, or civil rights leaders offered her help. They slammed doors in her face. She asked if I could set up a meeting with her and John Lewis because she knew we were neighbors and we became friends.

In lieu of a simple meeting, I invited Sandy, John, and Lillian Lewis and over a dozen AIDS sufferers to a Passover Seder at my home. At appropriate moments in the ceremony, one by one, guests testified about their plight being sick with this terrible disease. They showed visible signs of illness; they were gaunt, had Kaposi’s sarcoma lesions, and one had started to display dementia because the disease had attacked his brain.

When it came to the point in the service where it says, “The rock which the builders had rejected, G-d set as a cornerstone of the Temple.” I asked my guests, what does it mean to be “despised, rejected men, men of sorrows and acquainted with grief” and what does it mean that despite this rejection, G-d has set you the cornerstone of G-d’s Temple? One guest talked about being rejected and disowned by parents and family, how he was no longer welcome in the church he grew up in, how he could find no one to officiate at his funeral which was not far off in the future.

And then I asked that guest, “and what does it mean that despite all this rejection, you are G-d’s cornerstone?” His response?

He said that this was the first time in his life he had heard that as a sick, gay man, that his life somehow mattered to anyone, especially to G-d. John Lewis again sprung to his feet. He seemed angry. He was shouting. I could feel the walls of the room shake. “Of course, you matter!” he shouted, “You matter to G-d, you matter to my wife Lillian, and you matter to me!”

For the next weeks, months, years and decades John Lewis demonstrated that the LGBT community mattered to him. May his righteous memory be for a blessing.

(For the full text of Jeff’s keynote at a community memorial for John Lewis, please visit www.shaarzahav.org/JohnLewis.)

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Long before Dr. Michael Hulton finally settled in San Francisco in 1992, he had found community at Sha’ar Zahav. His journey, however, was “by the longer way.”

Michael grew up in London in an English family “of German persuasion.” The synagogue his parents attended had a choir and an organ, and it was so German that the Kaiser attended the dedication. But synagogue wasn’t a big part of family life and with a name like Hulton (which his father had changed before Michael’s birth), they did their best to blend in.

It wasn’t just his Jewish background that contributed to his outsider status; Michael realized at a young age that he was gay. As luck would have it, the family business was around the corner from the Central School of Speech and Drama which made it possible for many gay thespians to meet.

Michael excelled in school, which paved the way for a “gap year” in America before entering medical school. Once in medical school, he still found time to travel widely, and, before the serious work of medicine, Michael took a job as a flight attendant with Lufthansa.

“\textit{It was the gay community’s Holocaust. With AIDS, I felt a deep responsibility to do more.”} \textemdash \textbf{Michael Hulton}

Michael’s subsequent move to Toronto allowed him to transition back to medicine as an anesthesia trainee and a Stanford fellowship provided him his first opportunity to live in San Francisco, where he would return several years later to deepen his practice and care for men with AIDS and HIV. “It was the gay community’s Holocaust. With AIDS, I felt a deep responsibility to do more.”

Only more recently did Michael learn about his Uncle Alfred Flechtheim – a German art dealer, collector and publisher in pre-WWII Germany – whose extensive art collection was stolen by the Nazis. After six months of extensive research, Michael published a book, \textit{Jewish, Gay & Avant-Garde in Nazi Germany}, detailing his uncle’s life and its parallels with his own life.

As the sole heir of his uncle’s estate, Michael has pursued reparations with increasing success, although, as Michael concedes, “each payment is a saga.” These reparations have given him the ability to increase his support to AIDS, medical, LGBT and Jewish organizations. And Sha’ar Zahav was the recent recipient of an exceedingly generous donation from him.

Thank you, Michael, for your values and sharing your story with our Sha’ar Zahav community.
Frank Post

Frank Post will be called to the (virtual) Torah as a bar mitzvah on October 10, 2020. Frank hopes to do something more to his liking in person at a future date.

Frank lives in San Francisco but is currently quarantining with his parents Susan and Brad, sisters Sadie and Lilah, and his three cats, Nuriya, Seraphina and Sandy, in Nevada City, California. Frank’s passions include circus, reading, bike riding, playing video games, and playing tenor saxophone.

His bar mitzvah project is currently on hold due to COVID-19 but involves helping animals. Frank and his family are very thankful to Michael Lederman, Martin Tannenbaum, Paul Cohen, James Carlson, Ora Prochovnick, Sue Bojdak, Andrea Guerra, Ila Cherney, Cantor Sharon, and Rabbi Mychal for their patience, kind support, and teaching.

Frank Post

to best public health science and practices, as we create detailed procedures for reinitiating and maintaining a healthy environment for in-person study and prayer. With prudence and inclusiveness, we hope to reopen in phases following the secular new year.

During these Days of Repentance, I sincerely apologize to Sha’ar Zahav members and friends whom I have offended. Perhaps I did not reply to your emails, return your telephone messages, or respond in harmony with your preferences. For all of my transgressions I am sincerely sorry. B’ezrat HaShem, with G-d’s help, I pledge to do better in 5781.

L’shanah tovah tikasaivu v’saichasaimu. May all of us, all of our loved ones, and all of creation be inscribed and sealed in life for a good, sweet, healthy, and productive New Year.

David Sherman
Bradley and Taylor Tanner
Brandie and Sam Yelland

NEW MEMBERS

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in honor of Ron Lezell

Ray Bernstein
in honor of Rabbi Copeland and Cantor Bernstein

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in support of Rabbi Copeland’s ongoing work for fairness and justice. “Black Lives Matter.”

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in memory of Ron and Ken Carlson, Betty Elman, Payah Prochovnick, and Giovanna Tuzzolino

Phil Charney
in memory of Betty Elman

Bernard Choden and Lois Scott

Ellie Cohen and Michal Goralsky
in memory of Betty Elman and Payah Prochovnick

Paul Cohen and Bob Guterman
in memory of Betty Elman, Meg Chalmers, and Payah Prochovnick

Ann Daniels and Jonathan Zingman
in appreciation for the Zoom services during the pandemic

Aleta Dupree

Steven Elman and Tom Holt
in memory of Barbara Bernstein and Jacques Caulin, Meg Chalmers, and Betty Elman, and in honor of Tony Harris and Sara Haber and the rest of the Tech Team

Terry Fletcher and Glen Hauer
in honor of Rabbi Mychal Copeland

Jonathan Funk
in memory of Joseph Wiseman and Alan Harap

Jewish Community Federation Pride Grant

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in honor of Isaac Lachter’s bar mitzvah

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in honor of Jo Ellen Kaiser, Nancy Wecker and Nancy Levin for their work on and support of a successful grant application

Rose Katz
in memory of David Katz, Sadie Katz, Meg Chalmers, Betty Elman, and Payah Prochovnick

Ben Kram and Sharon Kudo

Karen and Jack Lachter
in honor of Isaac Lachter’s bar mitzvah

Ron Lezell
in memory of my mother, Sophie Stulberg Lezell and in gratitude for the excellent Zoom services by Rabbi Copeland and Cantor Bernstein

Micah Lubensky and Charles McNeal

Daniel Lofts and Christopher Nguyen

Steve Mazer
in memory of Meg Chalmers

Jonathan Pannor
in memory of Meg Chalmers, Betty Elman and Payah Prochovnick

Liliana and Naldo Pelicks
in honor of Noa Lucia’s baby-naming

Kim Pollack
in honor of Adam Pollack’s installation on the Va’ad

Jeffrey Renert
in honor of Nancy Levin’s birthday and the final year of her presidency

Sharyn Saslafsky
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in memory of Robert Greenberg and Sidney Spector

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in memory of Betty Elman

Trudi White
in memory of Ernest Joseph White

High Holy Days 5781

Yvette and Pierre Adida

Over the Rainbow 2020

Marla Allen
Anonymous
Anonymous
in honor of Howard Steiermann
Anonymous
in memory of Diane Hendricks and Susan Goltsman
Boyd Arnold
Claire Axelrad and Mark Pahlavan
    in honor of Martin Tannenbaum
    and Alex Ingersoll
Janine Baer
Ann Bauman and Kelly Thiemann
Judith Bell and Jim Greenberg
Wayne Bender
    in celebration of the SZ Zoom community
Paul Bendix
    in memory of Bob Bonwitt
Allan Berenstein
Ray Bernstein
Andrew Berger
Annye Bone
    in memory of my father, Kirby Vaughn Scherer
Diana Buchbinder and Jeane Redsecker
    in honor of the lay leadership
Patty Caplan and Jonathan Simonff
Tiela Chalmers
Daniel Chesir
Robin Cohn
    in honor of the wonderful SZ staff
Barbara Cymrot
Ann Daniels and Jonathan Zingman
Stuart Dick and Joseph Sieger
Emily Dorian
Ron Edelman
Linda Edelstein and Marian Gillen
Lynn Eden and Ruth Schoenbach
    in memory of Randy Forsberg
Jim Edlin and Eve Meyer
    in honor of the frontline healthcare professionals
Steven Elman and Tom Holt
    in memory of Judith Brooke Elman
Deborah Farkas
Don Fischer
    in honor of Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer
James Frazin
Ernest and Kathleen Friedlander
Brad Friedman
Jonathan Funk
Ben Gaster
David Gellman and Salo Rawet
Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara
    in memory of our parents,
    Benjamin and Dorothy Gold
    and Al and Willa Mae Ferrara
Joan Goldman
Alan Gordon and Steven Schumacher
Robert Gordon and Juan Patino
Marius Greenspan
Sarita Groisser
Howie Hahn
    in memory of my parents and Sha’ar Zahav members, Fred and Helga Hahn
Jan Half
    in honor of Sharyn Saslafsky
Stephanie Hannaford and Christine Witzel
Alice Harron
Jose Hernandez
Marjorie Hilsenrad
    in honor of Nancy Levin
    and her spectacular presidency
Hershey Hirschkop
Michael Hulton
Liz Jarslow and Marc Lipsett
Alan Karras
    in memory of Frances Karras
Rose Katz
    in honor of the Hineni Team
Geri Kahn
Michael Kalb and Brian Heng
    in memory of Lenny Plotch, who was a second father to me and died on May 20, 2020.
Jonathan Kaplan and Jacqueline Wong
Alan Karras
Deb Kinney
Janet Klein and Lisa DiGirolamo
Joel Lachter and Jill Ludwig
Tom Lakritz
Susan Leff and Brad Post
Jeffrey Levin
    in memory of Nathan and Rhoda Levin
Deborah Levy
Ron Lezell
    in honor of Nancy Levin
Clarissa Kripke and Gail Ludwig
Deborah Levy
    in honor of all the good work done by Beit Sefer
Bobby Lu
Eileen Lynette and Charlene O’Neil
Merle Malakoff and Gina Surber
Steve Mazer
    in memory of Meg Chalmers
Arthur Meirson and Thomas Dragwa Tolerico
    in honor of Joseph Caporali
    and in memory of Nechama Jacobson
Nancy Meyer
Alan Michels and Laureen Kim
Nancy Muller and Donna Blow
Steve and Florence Nacamulli
   in loving memory of Don Eiten
   and in honor of Nancy Levin
   and Marc Lipschutz
Alexander Nielsen and Michael Athanasatos
Jonathan Pannor
   in memory of Betty Elman
Drew Parker-Rose and Flavio Epstein
   in memory of Arlene Parker,
   mother of Drew Parker-Rose,
   mother in law of Flavio Epstein
   and grandmother of Elias and Carina Rose
Barry and Tirtza Pearl
Ezra Perlman and Shireen Lee
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Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz
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Steve Polsky and Mark Oliver
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Shelli and Martin Rawlings-Fein
   in honor of Ina and AJ Turpen Fried
   and Michael Tyler, Amy Schustack
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Michael Rosenberg
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Karen Schiller
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Juliette Schlesinger and Audrey Meinertzhagen
Yolande Schneeman
Karren Shorofsky and Carolyn Reiser
Elena Shores
Grant Shreiner and Lewis Blair
Arlene Singer and Barbara Leff
Deborah Sommers
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   in memory of Susan Baker
Sara Rose Tannenbaum
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Robert Tat
Martin Tilzer
   in honor of Rabbi Copeland and Cantor Bernstein
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Dana Vinicoff
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Gary Winter
Judith Wolfe and Jenny Hughes
   in memory of Jerome and Madelyn Wolfe
Christine Young and David Gluck
Jonathan Zimman
Michael Zimmerman
Jonathan Zingman and Ann Daniels
Lydia and David Zinn
Ami Zusman
   in honor of the CSZ community that has
   sustained me for nearly 40 years

Bookplates for Machzor
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   in memory of Joseph Resnick and Carol Taub
Jonathan Funk and John Arnold
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Alison and Lillian Levy
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in memory of Carol Taub

SHA’AR ZAHAV MAZEL TOV TO

• Thomas Miller on receiving his J.D. degree from Stanford Law School.
• Susan Lubeck on her b’mitzvah on Saturday, August 15.

SHA’AR ZAHAV CONDOLENCES

MAY

12 Julia Medin,
mother of Tom Medin
16 Mara Mamet,
cousin of Julie and Anshel Mamet
22 Payah Prochovnick,
mother of Ora Prochovnick
24 Betty Elman,
mother of Steve Elman
26 Meg Chalmers,
sister of Tiela Chalmers
29 Joe Resnick,
uncle of Scott Kramer

JULY

2 Carol Taub,
aunt of Michael Tyler
26 Bernice Frantz,
mother of Rena Frantz
31 Mike Zimmerman,
member of Sha’ar Zahav

SHA’AR ZAHAV SPONSORSHIPS

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1 Zoom Service sponsored by
Michael Tyler and Amy Schustack
in memory of Jack Katz

AUGUST

21 Zoom Service sponsored by
Jonathan Funk
in honor of the 50th anniversary of
his bar mitzvah

Your contributions help us realize our commitment to building and maintaining a vibrant, living community for Sha’ar Zahav. A donation can be a meaningful way to honor friends or family, engagements, anniversaries, graduations, for special thanks, or to memorialize a loved one. Collectively, with your financial support, we continue to prosper, grow, and celebrate our future.
### Mishkan Ga’avah: Where Pride Dwells / Edited by Rabbi Denise L. Eger

Sha’ar Zahav is well-represented in a new book titled *Mishkan Ga’avah: Where Pride Dwells*, which includes selections from Siddur Sha’ar Zahav written by Maggid Andrew Ramer, Rabbi Reuben Zellman and Kevin Johnson, z”l, as well as others. A collection of prayers, poems, liturgy and rituals for LGBTQ people, *Mishkan Ga’avah* is an exciting new publication from the Central Conference of American Rabbis, that highlights all aspects of Jewish and LGBTQ life. The book can be purchased by going to [ccarpress.org](http://ccarpress.org)
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Elul and High Holy Days 5781
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**ROSH HASHANAH:**
Saturday, September 12, PM
S’lichot
Friday, September 18, PM
Erev Rosh Hashanah
Saturday, September 19, AM
Rosh Hashanah - AM
Sunday, September 20, AM
Second Day Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, September 20, PM
Tashlich (online)

**YOM KIPPUR:**
Sunday, September 27, PM
Kol Nidre
Monday, September 28
Yom Kippur - multiple services

Services will be via video this year.
Reserve these dates on your calendar.

You can Register Now. Service times and Elul programs will be found on the SZ website and weekly emails.

Sha’ar Zahav High Holy Days services and events are free and open to all.

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