

A CALL TO BE JEWISH

C. King

Like the call of the New Year heralded by the shofar, can one receive a call to be Jewish? A call to accept the Torah as was done by the Israelites at the foot of Mount Sinai? With absolute conviction, I say yes! I believe, just as the blast of the shofar is a call to the Jew, stirring his Jewish spirit, so is the Shema to the proselyte; a whisper awakening his inherent Jewish soul.

But how can this be? Especially in a case such as mine, where there is no real prior exposure to Judaism? While I would never attempt – in such early stages of my study – to explain my belief through the profound Kabbalistic interpretations of the transcendent, I will make my argument on the seemingly simplistic, yet solid faith based assertion, “It is G-d’s will.”

As a child growing up in Barbados, where I reside, I have always been seen as somewhat enigmatic by family and friends - but by none more so than myself. I could never understand why I felt as if I didn’t fit in. And why, the more that I did, superficially, the more bereft my spirit felt.

I mean, if I didn’t fit in, in my own country, where would I fit in? In this part of the African Diaspora terms such as the racially tinged ‘minority’ is a misnomer. People come to visit my island and don’t want to leave! How could I be so ungrateful?

I seemed to be in a constant fight for self-determination which would hopefully lead to acceptance and ultimately, the cornerstone of happiness, contentment. But it never came. Indeed, my early thirties brought more confusion than my angst-filled teenage years.

It was then, with my intellect defeated, emotions ragged, that I heard it; the compelling whisper of my unraveling soul, asking truly painful but insightful questions. “Why don’t you belong? Why do you feel spiritually bankrupt while living the best moral life that you can? Why are you so dissatisfied when you should be proud of the overall monotheistic mores that largely represent your island?” “Because,” came the answer, “there is more.”

So I began my quest. It took me from churches through the Caribbean to Europe and from mosques in London to Turkey, while I learnt about obscure faiths such as the Christodelphian movement, mainstream Christian dogmas and Islam. The whispers encouraged my journey. They never grew wary of my indecision nor my rejection of the faiths I was shown. They already knew what I soon would.

That the need to answer the ubiquitous humanistic question, “Who am I?,” is the soul trying to break free of its mortal bounds; the soul trying to reconnect with the Creator of its very existence – The One and Only G-d. It was only a matter of time.

Therefore when I stepped into the Synagogue in Lincoln Square in

March 2006, I knew my search was over because the whispers stopped. When Rabbi Buchwald looked up and said “Shalom” that morning of Shabbat, the Shema was no longer undecipherable but one clear, beautiful note, crystal in its clarity of sound and meaning. “Hear O Israel, the Lord is our G-d. The Lord is One. Blessed be He.” I was home.

For the first time in my life, I don’t question who I am. I don’t feel far from G-d and I don’t feel lost, even with the obstacle of distance and lack of communal support. (In Barbados, the lone Synagogue, with no Rabbi, is more of a tourist attraction due to its historical significance.) But I remain undeterred. I am very cognizant that the path to conversion will be littered with sacrifices, as showing devotion to G-d through a Jewish way of life will seem retrogressive and contrary to those I love.

But the example of Abraham who was willing to prove his love for G-d by offering his beloved son Isaac, reminds me of G-d’s mercy to those who love and serve Him. Because of his willingness to put G-d first, Abraham was rewarded more highly than he could ever have imagined, securing a lasting covenant. “All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your offspring, because you have listened to My voice.” Genesis 23:18. In other words, to hear G-d’s call is a blessing, but if one listens and does as He wishes, you will be truly blessed.

I look forward to the year ahead. With the new beginnings ushered in by Rosh Hashanah, I am hopeful of my Jewish future. My connection to Him grows stronger every day with my reading of the Torah. It is, as it always will be, the greatest source of inspiration. I see the New Year as propitious; creating more reasons to be thankful, while allowing for a deep retrospection - an exquisite opportunity for renewal and growth.

To all Beginners and those already blessed to be Jewish “*L’shanah tovah tikatevu v’taichatemu!*” May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year!”



“THE CALL OF THE SHOFAR”

Cindi King is a resident of Barbados, and, until recently, was a major TV and radio personality on the island.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

MARRIAGES

Susan Hecht and Lonny Bardash
Mim (Miriam) Senft and Shlomo Ben Yaacov
Ilene Freier and David Brookler
Patricia Mechoulam and Marc Zilkha



Sarah Rivkah Goodman and Zvi Gewirtz
Mazal Tov to parents Barbara and Shlomo Dov Gewirtz
Ruti Haleva and Mark Heilman
Raquel Smith and Steven Herz
Lisa Axelrod and Steven Jaffee
Amy Nelkin and Mitchell Kase
Tzippy Stern and Gedaliah Levy

Mazal Tov to parents Naomi Hildebrand and Barry Stern
Neva Peretz and Mark Marmer
Kayla Cooper and Leonard Rosen
Kellie Price and Elisha Rothman (oops 2/06)
Tamara King and Michael Stark (oops 12/05)
Mazal Tov to parents Joan and Arnold Stark
Mayelin (Maye) Rodriguez and Dr. Mark Vaynkhadler
Tsvi Kobre and Yitzchak Zuckerman
Mazal Tov to parents Miriam and Jeff Zuckerman

BIRTHS

Tamarah and Tsurial Bialeh, on the birth of a boy, Yuval Yair
Mazal Tov to grandparents
Anne Bossewitch and Ken Bossewitch
Chava and Naftali Burnham, on the birth of a boy, Ariyeh Aitan

Arona and Steve Gittleson, on the birth of a boy, Gadiel David
Lisa and Paul Glazer, on the birth of twins,
Eliana Rivkah and Michael Yaakov
Miriam and Rabbi Ephraim Osgood, on the birth of a girl,
Dina Faiga
Davi Osgood and Chris Heagney, on the birth of a girl,
Sadie Fay
Mazal Tov to grandparents Marilyn and Armin Osgood
Dr. Tina Sichrovsky and Dr. Boaz Kurtis,
on the birth of a boy, Tubia Ariel
Sara and David Wolkenfeld, on the birth of a boy,
Shraga Feivel Noam
Mazal Tov to grandmother Dr. Jo Lang Wolkenfeld

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Noah Daniel Adler
Mazal Tov to parents Karen and Stuart Adler
Michaela Rachel Elias
Mazal Tov to parents Sheryl and Ernest Elias
Olivia Devillers
Mazal Tov to parents Carla and Claude Devillers
David Faust
Mazal Tov to grandparents Adair and Norton Goodman
Moshe Yitzchak Bezalel Jacober
Mazal Tov to parents Vardi and Dr. Chaim Eliezer Jacober
Amitai Aviv Ruskin
Mazal Tov to parents Maura and Adam Ruskin

Daniel Sokol

Mazal Tov to parents Miriam and Stacy Sokol

SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA

D'vorah Deena bat Malka

CONDOLENCES

Dr. Janice Bennett, on the loss of her father,
Dr. Jack Drandell
Susan Blond, on the loss of her husband, Michael Feiner
To the family of Irv Elias
Susan Esken, on the loss of her father, Howard Kent
To the family of Paul Kaufman
David Landau, on the loss of his mother, Queenie Landau
To the family of Phyllis Nevins
Robert Novig, on the loss of his father, Abraham Novig
To the family of Sara Rofheart
Michele and Nina Sacharow, on the loss of their husband
and father, Larry Sacharow
Susy Sarfaty, on the loss of her father, Roberto Sarfaty Salong
Ellen Silber, on the loss of her mother, Harriet Silber
Robert Stark, on the loss of his father, Irving Stark
Amy Tarshis, on the loss of her father, Julius Tarshis

THANK YOU

To Dr. Leonard Davidman and Dr. Stuart Blaustein who conducted the Beginners Service with much devotion during the summer.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Fri September 1, 2006 -
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 7:11 PM
 Mincha 7:15 PM

Sat September 2, 2006 - 9th of Elul
Ki Teitzei
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 6:00 PM
 Mincha 7:00 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 8:11 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:10 PM

Mon September 4, 2006 - 11th of Elul
LABOR DAY
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Fri September 8, 2006 - 15th of Elul
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:59 PM
 Mincha 7:05 PM

Sat September 9, 2006 - 16th of Elul
Ki Tavo
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 5:50 PM
 Mincha 6:50 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 7:59 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:55 PM

Fri September 15, 2006 - 22nd of Elul
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:47 PM
 Mincha 6:50 PM

Sat September 16, 2006 - 23rd of Elul
Nitzavim-Vayeilech
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 5:35 PM
 Mincha 6:35 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 7:47 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:45 PM
 Early Selichot 10:00 PM
 Late Selichot 12:50 AM

Sun September 17, 2006 - 24th of Elul
 Morning Services 7:10 & 8:30 AM

Mon September 18, 2006 - 25th of Elul
 Selichot & Morning Services 6:40 & 7:30 AM

Tue September 19, 2006 - 26th of Elul
 Selichot & Morning Services 6:40 & 7:30 AM

Wed September 20, 2006 - 27th of Elul
 Selichot & Morning Services 6:40 & 7:30 AM

Thu September 21, 2006 - 28th of Elul
 Selichot & Morning Services 6:40 & 7:30 AM
 Late Selichot 9:00 PM

Fri September 22, 2006 - 29th of Elul
EREV ROSH HASHANA
 Selichot & Services 5:45 & 6:45 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:36 PM
 Mincha 6:40 PM

Sat September 23, 2006 - 1st of Tishrei
ROSH HASHANA 5767
 Kolllel Minyan 7:30 AM
 Main Sanctuary 7:45 AM
 Ballroom 7:45 AM
 Beginners 9:00 AM
 Daf Yomi 5:40 & after Maariv
 Mincha 6:25 PM
 Yom Tov candles after 7:36 PM
 Maariv 7:36 PM

Sun September 24, 2006 - 2nd of Tishrei
ROSH HASHANA
 Kolllel Minyan 7:30 AM
 Main Sanctuary 7:45 AM
 Ballroom 7:45 AM
 Beginners 9:00 AM
 Tashlich 5:35 PM
 Mincha 6:35 PM
 Maariv 7:36 PM
 Yom Tov ends 7:36 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:25 PM

Mon September 25, 2006 - 3rd of Tishrei
TZOM GEDALIAH
 Fast Begins 5:34 AM
 Selichot & Services 6:20 & 7:15 AM
 Mincha 6:15 PM
 Fast Ends 7:20 PM

Tue September 26, 2006 - 4th of Tishrei
 Selichot & Morning Services 6:30 & 7:15 AM

Wed September 27, 2006 - 5th of Tishrei
 Selichot & Morning Services 6:30 & 7:15 AM

Thu September 28, 2006 - 6th of Tishrei
 Selichot & Morning Services 6:30 & 7:15 AM

Fri September 29, 2006 - 7th of Tishrei
 Selichot & Morning Services 6:30 & 7:15 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:24 PM
 Mincha 6:30 PM

Sat September 30, 2006 - 8th of Tishrei
Ha'Azinu SHABBAT SHUVA
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Mincha 5:55 PM
 Shabbat Shuva Drasha 6:20 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 7:24 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:20 PM

Sun October 1, 2006 - 9th of Tishrei
EREV YOM KIPPUR
 Selichot & Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
 Mincha 1:30, 3:00 & 4:10 PM
 Candle Lighting 6:20 PM
 Kol Nidre 6:25 PM
 Daf Yomi after Maariv

Mon October 2, 2006 - 10th of Tishrei
YOM KIPPUR
 Kolllel Minyan 7:30 AM
 Main Sanctuary 8:00 AM
 Ballroom 9:00 AM
 Beginners 9:00 AM
 Final Shofar Blast 7:20 PM

Fri October 6, 2006 - 14th of Tishrei
EREV SUKKOT
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:12 PM
 Mincha 6:15 PM
 Begin Meal in Sukkah after 7:01 PM

Sat October 7, 2006 - 15th of Tishrei
SUKKOT
 Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
 Daf Yomi 5:15 PM
 Mincha 6:00 PM
 Yom Tov candles after 7:12 PM
 Maariv 7:12 PM
 Begin Meal in Sukkah after 7:12 PM

Sun October 8, 2006 - 16th of Tishrei
SUKKOT
 Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00 AM
 Daf Yomi 5:30 PM
 Mincha 6:15 PM
 Maariv 7:12 PM
 Yom Tov ends 7:12 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:05 PM

Mon October 9, 2006 - 17th of Tishrei
SUKKOT (CHOL HAMOED)
COLUMBUS DAY
 Morning Services . . . 6:45, 7:30 & 8:30 AM

Tue October 10, 2006 - 18th of Tishrei
SUKKOT (CHOL HAMOED)
 Morning Services . . . 6:45, 7:30 & 8:30 AM

Wed October 11, 2006 - 19th of Tishrei
SUKKOT (CHOL HAMOED)
 Morning Services . . . 6:45, 7:30 & 8:30 AM

Thu October 12, 2006 - 20th of Tishrei
SUKKOT (CHOL HAMOED)
 Morning Services . . . 6:45, 7:30 & 8:30 AM

Fri October 13, 2006 - 21st of Tishrei
SUKKOT (HOSHANA RABA)
 Morning Services . . . 6:15, 7:00 & 8:00 AM
 Candle Lighting 6:01 PM
 Mincha 6:10 PM

Sat October 14, 2006 - 22nd of Tishrei
SHMINI ATZERET
 Daf Yomi 7:15 AM
 Morning Services . . . 8:00, 9:00 & 9:30 AM
 Mincha 5:50 PM
 Yom Tov candles after 7:01 PM
 Maariv & Hakafos 7:01 PM

Sun October 15, 2006 - 23rd of Tishrei
SIMCHAT TORAH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM
 Womens Tefillah Group 9:00 AM
 Daf Yomi 5:20 PM
 Mincha 6:05 PM
 Maariv 7:01 PM
 Yom Tov ends 7:01 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:55 PM

Fri October 20, 2006 - 28th of Tishrei
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:51 PM
 Mincha 5:55 PM

Sat October 21, 2006 - 29th of Tishrei
Bereshit
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:40 PM
 Mincha 5:40 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:51 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 5:50 PM

Sun October 22, 2006 - 30th of Tishrei
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Mon October 23, 2006 - 1st of Cheshvan
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri October 27, 2006 - 5th of Cheshvan
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 5:41 PM
 Mincha 5:45 PM

Sat October 28, 2006 - 6th of Cheshvan
Noach
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 4:30 PM
 Mincha 5:30 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 6:41 PM
REMEMBER to set your clocks backwards
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:40 PM EST

Fri November 3, 2006 - 12th of Cheshvan
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:32 PM
 Mincha 4:35 PM

Sat November 4, 2006 - 13th of Cheshvan
Lech-Lecha
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:35 PM
 Mincha 4:20 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:32 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:35 PM

Tue November 7, 2006 - 16th of Cheshvan
ELECTION DAY
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM

Fri November 10, 2006 - 19th of Cheshvan
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:25 PM
 Mincha 4:30 PM

Sat November 11, 2006 - 20th of Cheshvan
Vayera
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:30 PM
 Mincha 4:15 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:25 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:25 PM

Mon November 13, 2006 - 22nd of Cheshvan
VETERANS DAY
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:50 AM

Fri November 17, 2006 - 26th of Cheshvan
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:18 PM
 Mincha 4:25 PM

Sat November 18, 2006 - 27th of Cheshvan
Chayei Sara
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:25 PM
 Mincha 4:10 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:18 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM

Tue November 21, 2006 - 30th of Cheshvan
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Wed November 22, 2006 - 1st of Kislev
ROSH CHODESH
 Morning Services 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Thu November 23, 2006 - 2nd of Kislev
THANKSGIVING
 Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 AM

Fri November 24, 2006 - 3rd of Kislev
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:14 PM
 Mincha 4:20 PM

Sat November 25, 2006 - 4th of Kislev
Toldot
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:20 PM
 Mincha 4:05 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:14 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:20 PM

Fri December 1, 2006 - 10th of Kislev
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:11 PM
 Mincha 4:15 PM

Sat December 2, 2006 - 11th of Kislev
Vayetzai
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:15 PM
 Mincha 4:00 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:11 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:15 PM

Fri December 8, 2006 - 17th of Kislev
 Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
 Candle Lighting 4:10 PM
 Mincha 4:15 PM

Sat December 9, 2006 - 18th of Kislev
Vayishlach
 Daf Yomi 7:00 AM
 Bible Class 8:30 AM
 Morning Services . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
 Talmud & Bible Class 3:15 PM
 Mincha 4:00 PM
 Maariv/Shabbat Ends 5:10 PM
 Daily Mincha & Maariv 4:15 PM

Fri December 15, 2006 - 24th of Kislev
 Chanukah Candles before 4:11 PM
 Candle Lighting 4:11 PM
 Mincha 4:15 PM

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES
at the New York Historical Society
 West 77th Street and Central Park West

ROSH HASHANAH
 Fri., Sept. 22, 6:40 pm
 Sat. & Sun., Sept. 23 & 24, 9:00 am
 Sat., Sept. 23, 6:25 pm

YOM KIPPUR
 Sun., Oct. 1, 6:25 pm
 Mon., Oct. 2, 9:00 am

Tickets
 LSS Members \$75, Non-Members \$100