

The solemn majesty of Rosh Hashanah has come and gone. The white-clad awe of Yom Kippur has cleansed our hearts and souls and passed into the treasure house of our memories. We are now prepared for our annual outburst of . . . joy! Sukkos, the Time of Our Rejoicing! The Torah tells us to be "only joyous" for seven full days.

This joy was realized to its fullest when the Beis Hamikdash in Jerusalem was still standing. The streets bursting with throngs of excited people from near and far. The air perfumed by the aroma of the sacrificial offerings and the burning incense. The sounds of music, singing and dancing reverberating through every window and doorway. The spectacle of an exalted people united in a common outpouring of love and gratitude to the Creator of the Universe.

At the center of these splendid festivities was the Simchas Beis Hasho'evah, the celebration of the drawing of the water for the nisuch hamayim, the water libation on the altar in the Beis Hamikdash. The Talmud draws a vivid picture of the exultant singing and dancing that accompanied this ritual. It even tells of great and venerable sages juggling and leaping about like young acrobats. Indeed, the Talmud assures us that "whoever did not witness the Simchas Beis Hasho'evah has never seen true joy in his life."

But what was so remarkable about the ritual of the drawing of the water? What made it the most powerful stimulus to joy imaginable?

The commentators explain that the Hebrew word for joy, simchah, is related to the word for erasing, machah. Joy is not something that must be generated. It is our natural state. Nevertheless, the pain, sorrows and disappointments of life overlay and obscure our natural joyousness. When we erase these impediments to our happiness, we achieve true joy by default.

Still, why indeed is joy our natural state? Because joy is an expression of a perfect existence, of fulfillment to the highest degree possible. The essence of a person is the immortal soul, the neshamah, our spark of the divine. When our souls cleave completely to their Source and Creator, we are in a state of perfect existence, and we experience joy. However, when our sins and misdeeds come between our souls and their Divine Source, we feel the anguish of estrangement, and our joy is extinguished. Consequently, all the commonplace vexations of life become magnified far out of proportion to their true significance in the greater scheme of things. Therefore, in order to achieve true and perfect joy, we must erase the taint from our sublime souls so that they can again cleave perfectly to the Creator. Only then can we achieve fulfillment and the joy that results from it.

On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we cleansed and purified our souls. On Sukkos, we are finally capable of cleaving to the Creator and achieving true joy. The water libation symbolized this concept. Water has the property of absolute adaptability. It can attach itself to any shape or form so perfectly that no gaps or crevices are left unfilled. The ritual of pouring the water over the altar in the Beis Hamikdash, therefore, symbolizes the perfect and absolute attachment which the Jewish people have achieved to the Creator through

[...continued inside.]

Young Israel of the Main Line

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Succos

Starting September 22nd

סוכות

י"ד תשרי



Succos Schedule



Wednesday, September 22 - Erev Succos

Eruv Tavshilin

Light 6:40pm

Mincha 6:45pm

Thursday, September 23 - Succos I

Shacharis 8:45am

Mincha 6:45pm

Maariv 7:42pm

Light after 7:42pm

Friday, September 24 - Succos II

Shacharis 8:45am

Light 6:37pm

Mincha 6:45pm

Shabbos, September 25 - Shabbos Chol haMoed

Shacharis 8:45am

Mincha 6:35pm

Maariv 7:38pm

their prayers and repentance during the High Holidays. And perfect attachment leads to perfect joy.

If we aspire to that perfect attachment, we can all achieve it, no matter what walk of life we pursue. If we only allow ourselves to be like water, gladly adapting to Hashem's will, we can find the key to true contentment. We must only seek it. And the reward for finding it is a joy unlike any other we have ever known.

Adapted from "The Secret of Perfect Joy" by Rabbi Naftali Reich
<http://www.torah.org/learning/legacy/5770/sukkos.html>

Succos Schedule, Continued

Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday - Chol haMoed Succos

Sunday Shacharis 8:00am

Monday and Tuesday Shacharis 6:30am and 8:00am

Yeshivas ben haZmanim

Mincha 6:35pm

Wednesday, September 29 - Hoshana Raba

Shacharis 6:00am and 8:00am

Eruv Tavshilin

Light 6:28pm

Mincha 6:35pm

Thursday, September 30 - Shimini Atzeres

Shacharis 8:45am

Yizkor 10:30am

Mincha 6:35pm

Candle Lighting after 7:29pm

The Tiny Sukkah in Halacha (and Aggada) by Rabbi Steinberg

Maariv 7:29pm, followed by Hakafos

Friday, October 1 - Simchas Torah

Shacharis 8:00am

Light 6:25pm

Mincha 6:35pm

Shabbos, October 2 - Shabbos Bereshis - Isru Chag

Shacharis 8:45am

Mincha 6:20pm

Monopoly, Murkav, and Minhag: Rav Yitzchok Elchonon's

1875 Ban on Korfu Esrogim by Dr. Ari Weintraub

Maariv 7:26pm



- Mazel Tov to Rabbi & Mrs. Eli Back on the engagement of their daughter Shoshana to Moshe Levin of Baltimore.

Young Israel of the Main Line - Simchas Torah Luncheon

Adults - \$18, Children ages 6-12 - \$10, Children 5 and under - Free, Sponsorships - \$250. Reservations due by Sunday Chol Hamoed. Vegetarian meals available upon request. To reserve or help coordinate contact Shira Kupfer at shirakupfer@gmail.com or 610-668-0614.

To sign up to learn mishnayos l'iluy nishmas Mrs. Dorothy Laytin z"l, please visit <http://www.shloshim.org/> (search for Laytin) and select from the available masechtos.

The Chevra Mishnayos is learning Seder Taharos. See shul bulletin board to sign up or email eisenber@pol.net with your name and the masechta (and chapters) you intend to learn.

A Father-Son Shiur with Rabbi Steinberg (recommended age of 5th grade and up) studying Sefer Melachim Aleph (Kings I) Shiur will meet Monday nights at 8pm, starting Oct 4th. E-mail Rabbi Steinberg to join.

The Halacha Shiur with Rabbi Steinberg will be learning "classic" Yoreh Deah (Hilchos Basar v'Chalav, Taaruvos, etc.) The shiur will meet Tuesday nights at 8:30pm, resuming weekly Oct 5th. Visit the yiml website for instructions to join the online group for mareh mekomos and other updates and to be part of the massa umattan between shiurim.