



**THE CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE OF  
FIFTH AVENUE  
11 EAST 11 STREET NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003  
NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2017**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**



We will soon be celebrating the beginning of a new year. I know we are all looking forward to the beautiful High Holiday services which will be led by Rabbi Schwartz and Sara King at the Center for Jewish History. We are also all looking forward to celebrating the holiday season with friends and family, and to festive meals at home or with the CSFA community.

The beginning of the new year is always a time for reflection and commitment to renewal and change. This is especially true for CSFA where the coming year will bring many opportunities to enact change. We will be searching for a new rabbi, and making decisions regarding the future of our building. These important decisions should help us focus and define our vision for the synagogue and think seriously about what kind of Jewish community we are trying to build.

This will be an exciting year for CSFA filled with opportunities and challenges. I hope all our members will join with myself and the board in a spirit of cooperation as we move forward to strengthen and renew our beloved CSFA.

Shana tova.

Beth Farber

## A Message from Rabbi Joseph Schwartz

One of my rabbis, Rabbi Bradley Artson, often remarks that many American Jews get turned off from Judaism because they only attend synagogue on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. The Yamim Noraim, or "Days of Awe" can often seem like Awful Days: The services are the longest of the year, and the theology they reflect -- God as King and Judge, a book recording our sins before him -- are as out of tune with the democratic, egalitarian, non-judgmental Zeitgeist as you can get. But, stresses Rabbi Artson, that theology and those tedious services aren't representative of Jewish practice. He wishes more Jews, if they had to choose just a handful of days to attend synagogue, would come on Sukkot and Simchat Torah -- joyful, festive, playful times, when God is felt much more intimately.

I would never discourage anyone from coming to our High Holiday services. We certainly do everything in our power to make them engaging and enjoyable -- and also to make them opportunities for reflection, for connection to one's inner life, for prayer. Above all, I hope it is an opportunity to speak with God, whether God is understood to be a king reigning on high or through some other metaphor: As a father or mother, perhaps, or as a therapist, or as a confidant. But I also agree with Rabbi Artson. You might do well, if it isn't your usual thing, to skip one day of Rosh HaShanah and join us for Sukkot instead.

But what Rabbi Artson doesn't say is what makes the Days of Awe so difficult for many Jews is not their length or the metaphors the liturgy employs. The central problem of the High Holidays is also present in Sukkot: The problem of God. These days are fundamentally, inescapably days of God-centeredness. There is no Rosh HaShanah or Yom Kippur -- and no Sukkot, either -- without God, not really. Any attempt to convert these days into a day of cultural nostalgia will, sooner or later, fail. Without some attempt to reach God, I fear all of Jewish religious life is, ultimately, empty.

This is a hard pill for many American Jews to swallow. We are told again and again that, unlike Christianity, Judaism does not demand that we believe in God *per se*. And, indeed, Jews can be forgiven for believing that Judaism is (in the words of a hip downtown rabbi) "God-optional." It is entirely possible to attend Jewish services year after year and never hear God invoked (in English) once. How much of your Hebrew-school curriculum focused on God? Even among observant Jews, whose lives are dictated by the observance of halacha, the emphasis is often on *observance*, on the meticulous attention to halacha, and very rarely on God.

How many High Holiday sermons have I sat through about Israel, or about politics, or about some vague issue of vague spirituality? And how few about God?

Have I ever heard one of my rabbis speak deeply, passionately, intimately, candidly about God? Have I ever spoken in that way?

The songwriter and poet Leonard Cohen, who passed away last Cheshvan, said this in a particularly arresting way at a symposium on the "Future of Judaism" back in 1963:

"There is an awful truth which no Jewish writer investigates today, which no Jewish poet articulates. It is a truth that the synagogues and the cultural establishment cannot efface: *We no longer believe we are holy.*

"This is the declaration that I wait to hear going out of synagogues, and from the lips of cultural Jews and ethical Jews. This is the confession without which we cannot begin to raise to our eyes: the absence of God in our midsts. And interesting that in two symposia I have been to within the Jewish community in the past few months, no one has mentioned the word "God."

The absence of God in our midsts is a deep, rotten cavity that has killed the nerve of the people. . . . There will be no psalms, there will be no light, there will be no illumination until we can confess the position into which we have decayed.

"Let us declare a moratorium on all religious services until someone reports a vision. Or breaks his mind on the infinite. Jews without God are lilies that fester."

Now, Cohen was a poet with the poet's gift for pugnacious hyperbole. Religious services continue to have a purpose even if none of us reports a vision. If we are not prophets, says the Talmud in several places, we are at least the children of prophets.

But Cohen is absolutely right that we, the Jewish community, and most Jews must add to our *vidui*, to our confessions, a radical disconnection from God. We are disconnected not only from God but from our disconnection from God, as well. Many of us can't imagine the alternative.

This year, as the long month of Tishrei comes around, I urge you to turn your minds and hearts to God. Even if you can't begin what that actually means, even if you find your thoughts bouncing off the idea of God like light off a mirror, take the time to meditate on what is repelling you. See to what places a God-centered Tishrei takes you.

I hope it will be a challenging, thought- and feeling-provoking, uncomfortable and comforting Tishrei for you and me, both.

## News from the Chesed Committee

By Susan Leimsider

The Chesed Committee volunteered at an event sponsored by Volunteers of America on August 16. We filled back-to-school book bags for children living in shelters in New York City. We also did quality control on already-filled book bags, to ensure that each bag had been filled with all the supplies necessary. Finally, we sorted the book bags so that the appropriate ones went to the designated shelter.

Looking forward, we will again participate in food service at The Bowery Mission, and delivery of food and visiting with clients with Dorot. Those dates are to be announced. I plan to hold another coat drive for New York Cares, as winter approaches.

I am very grateful for all the support I've received from the congregation, especially from those who volunteered with me. I am very proud of what we did, and how successful all the projects were.

I will be setting-up the 2017-2018 volunteer projects, and will post the date for each activity as it is confirmed. I welcome new volunteers and welcome back those of you who have already been with me on this journey.

Conservative Synagogue of Fifth Avenue  
11 East 11 Street New York, New York 10003

212-929-6954

Csfa11e11@aol.com

<http://www.csfanyc.org>

Joseph Schwartz, Rabbi  
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Lynn Kutner, Secretary  
Merril Mironer, Vice President, Emeritus  
Leslie Penn, Executive Director

## From the Special Events Committee

By Pam Wolf

Hi everyone-

Hope you are all having a great summer. The Special Events Committee continues to look for new and fun ideas. In the meantime, we will continue with the film screenings on Thursday evenings. We are in the process of selecting a date and buying tickets for "The Band's Visit" which is a delightful show now moving to Broadway. Once the holiday season is over, we will begin in earnest to plan for all our usual fall and winter events.

We welcome input and participation from the entire community. If there is some activity you think the synagogue should establish, please let us know.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Julian Green	9/6/2017
Benjamin Lawrence Oppenheim	9/7/2017
Norma Rosenthal	9/7/2017
Elisia Abrams	9/8/2017
Harlan S. Green-Taub	9/13/2017
Thomas S. Kaplan	9/14/2017
Laurette Reisman	9/15/2017
Carol Jochnowitz	9/19/2017
Charles R. Tribbitt	9/23/2017
Fanny Schwartz	9/28/2017
Liam Uziel	9/28/2017
Theodore Charles Garfinkle	9/30/2017



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Roselle and Merrill Mironer	9/1/2017
Carol and George Jochnowitz	9/2/2017
Susan and Thomas Leimsider	9/4/2017
Sam Akabas & Sasha Segall	9/6/2017
Suzanne and Leon Schein	9/10/2017
Lester Taub & Melissa Green	9/30/2017

## September Yahrzeits

Lawrence Greenfeld	9/1/2017	Elul 10, 5777
Joseph Unger	9/3/2017	Elul 12, 5777
Helen Belth	9/4/2017	Elul 13, 5777
Irving Berman	9/4/2017	Elul 13, 5777
Lillian Koenigsberg	9/4/2017	Elul 13, 5777
Harry Leimsider	9/4/2017	Elul 13, 5777
Esther Mandel	9/4/2017	Elul 13, 5777
Michael Schwind	9/4/2017	Elul 13, 5777
Selma Weisburgh	9/4/2017	Elul 13, 5777
Rena Levy	9/5/2017	Elul 14, 5777
Elaine Simon	9/5/2017	Elul 14, 5777
Miriam Sontag	9/5/2017	Elul 14, 5777
David Reisman	9/6/2017	Elul 15, 5777
Inez Kimmel	9/7/2017	Elul 16, 5777
Sanford Matloff	9/7/2017	Elul 16, 5777
Harvey Libowitz	9/8/2017	Elul 17, 5777
Ethel Rivkin	9/9/2017	Elul 18, 5777
Paul Springer	9/9/2017	Elul 18, 5777
Sadie Anfang	9/10/2017	Elul 19, 5777
Harriet Fleisher	9/10/2017	Elul 19, 5777
Morris Lushewitz	9/10/2017	Elul 19, 5777
Minnie Gross	9/11/2017	Elul 20, 5777
Helen Jochnowitz	9/11/2017	Elul 20, 5777
Ruth Straus	9/11/2017	Elul 20, 5777
Robert Edelman	9/12/2017	Elul 21, 5777
Mary Shapiro	9/13/2017	Elul 22, 5777
Harry Newman	9/14/2017	Elul 23, 5777
Anna Greenberg	9/15/2017	Elul 24, 5777
Morris Mesch	9/15/2017	Elul 24, 5777
Robert Swartz	9/16/2017	Elul 25, 5777
Harold Taub	9/16/2017	Elul 25, 5777
Jean Charas	9/17/2017	Elul 26, 5777
Gertrude Fyman	9/17/2017	Elul 26, 5777
Max Zweig	9/17/2017	Elul 26, 5777
Pearl Horowitz	9/18/2017	Elul 27, 5777
Mina Nachimowicz	9/20/2017	Elul 29, 5777
Anna Penner	9/20/2017	Elul 29, 5777
Jack Furman	9/21/2017	Tishrei 1, 5778
Mollie Lefkowitz	9/21/2017	Tishrei 1, 5778
Herbert Kampton	9/22/2017	Tishrei 2, 5778
Alfred Levi	9/22/2017	Tishrei 2, 5778
Augusta Levi	9/22/2017	Tishrei 2, 5778
Helen Rosenberg	9/22/2017	Tishrei 2, 5778
Celia Perlman	9/23/2017	Tishrei 3, 5778
Evelyn Reisel	9/25/2017	Tishrei 5, 5778
Rebecca Juni	9/26/2017	Tishrei 6, 5778
Sarah Lieberman	9/27/2017	Tishrei 7, 5778
Irene Robbins	9/27/2017	Tishrei 7, 5778
I. Bernard Spiegel	9/27/2017	Tishrei 7, 5778
Toby C. Birenkrant	9/29/2017	Tishrei 9, 5778
Evelyn Steinman	9/29/2017	Tishrei 9, 5778



## From the Israel Group

By Stella Schindler

### BANKRUPTING TERRORISM ONE LAWSUIT AT A TIME

I attended the Shurat HaDin Seminar - the Israel Law Center located in Ramat Gan - in June. Shurat HaDin is at the forefront of fighting terrorism and safeguarding Jewish rights worldwide. They bring terrorists and their supporters to trial to compensate victims and to block the funding of terror. They are fighting to end the use of social media for inciting violence and promoting terror. Shurat HaDin is using court systems around the world to go on the legal offensive.

It was my good fortune to attend this most amazing Seminar. We visited the courts - including the military courts - heard from current and former ambassadors and dignitaries and learned how to litigate against: those promoting terror and those supporting the BDS movement; and how to follow the money and seize assets of those engaged in the business of terror.

A high point was a private meeting with Justice Gabriel Bach, a primary investigator and prosecutor of Adolf Eichmann. Justice Bach is 90 years old - and he has practically total recall of the entire episode. It was my honor to meet him. Much of what I learned from him I hope to incorporate to enhance my tours of the Museum's newest exhibit on Eichmann, *Operation Finale: The Capture and Trial of Adolf Eichmann*.

The Seminar began at eight in the morning and did not end until six thirty in the evening. It was informative, fascinating, inspiring and will be of particular use to me now and in the future.

I also had other fun: the Philharmonic, Opera, all the wonderful museums and exhibits - none of which reciprocated with the MJH pass! - and great food.

This was a trip for the mind, body and soul. I hope this comment spurs you all to go to Israel!!

#### AGENDA

The kick-off meeting of the Israel Committee will be on **Wednesday, September 27 @ 7**. I invite you all to attend.

1. Discussion of book we will read for a December meeting: David Grossman, *A Man Walks Into a Bar*;
2. Possible craft fair;
3. Discussion about a congregation trip to Israel
4. I will give a short presentation about Shurat HaDin for discussion
5. Any new business raised by you.

L'Hitraot,

## June and July Contributions

### Shabbat Honors

Chana Neumann  
Pamela Wolf & Douglas Gersten  
Rozanne Seelen  
Ruthe Unger  
Laurette Reisman

### Kiddush

Joseph & Alyson Schwartz  
*In memory of Ellen Schwartz*  
Peter & Barbara Cooper  
*In honor of Herb Rubin's 99th Birthday*  
Donald Rubin  
*In honor of Herb Rubins's 99th Birthday*  
Marc & Caroline Teichman  
*In honor of Herb Rubin's 99th Birthday*  
Pamela Wolf & Douglas Gersten  
Martin S. & Muriel Fox  
Edward W. Kerson & Ellen J. Odoner  
*In honor of Chava Grant*  
Rozanne Seelen  
*In honor of her Hebrew Birthday*

### Kiddush Club

Laurette Reisman  
Leon & Suzanne Schein  
Leeor Sabbah  
Toby & Russell Winer

### Yahrzeit

Ira & Andrea Lippel  
*Yahrzeit of Harold Lippel*  
Lawrence & Gay Sternhorn  
*Yahrzeit of Sidney Green*  
Martin R. Kupferberg & Susan J. Lorin  
*Yahrzeit of Joan Kupferberg*  
Harold Anfang  
*Yahrzeit of Harold Lippel*  
Cherrie Fleisher Strauss  
*Yahrzeit of Myer R. Strauss*  
Barbara Jozwiak  
*Yahrzeit of Harold Lippel*  
Burton & Joyce Weston  
*Yahrzeit of Eddie Shire*  
Burton & Joyce Weston  
*Yahrzeit of Pauline Liebling*  
Rita G. Buckholtz  
*Yahrzeit of Sadie Buckholtz*  
Charlotte Fainblatt  
*Yahrzeit of Leon Fainblatt*  
Thomas J. & Susan Leimsider  
*Yahrzeit of Minna Hartstein*  
Joseph L. & Daryl Boren  
*Yahrzeit of Ricki Steinman Rossi*  
Cyrena P. Konecky  
*Yahrzeit of Dr. Joseph Parker*  
Merril & Roselle Mironer  
*Yahrzeit of Betty Mironer*  
Corinne Rosenberg  
*Yahrzeit of Joseph Rosenberg*

### Yizkor

Chana Neumann  
*In memory of parents*  
Bernice Rosenblum  
Barbara Dagen

## June and July Contributions

*(continued)*

### In Memory Of

Judith Feldman  
*In memory of Zoltan Ghytzy*  
Susan Schoenberg  
*In memory of father, Harry Phillip Schoenberg*

### In Honor Of

Nancy Lord  
*In Honor of Herb Rubin's 99th Birthday*  
Rebecca Burcham  
*In Honor of Herb Rubin's 99th Birthday*  
Harriet Mayer  
*In honor of Michael Schwartz*  
Toby & Russell Winer  
*In honor of Herb Rubin's 99th Birthday*  
Merril & Roselle Mironer  
*In honor of Herb Rubin's 99th Birthday*  
Charlotte Fainblatt  
*In honor of Inge Gaffney*  
Harold Anfang  
*In honor of Inge Gaffney's Birthday*  
Jerrold & Rita Winer  
*In honor of Russ & Toby's Anniversary*

### Adult Ed

Rozanne Seelen

### Gala

Leeor Sabbah

### Chumash Imprint

Harold Anfang  
*In memory of Morton Glick*

### Journal

Leah Rose Jacobs  
Adam & Stephanie Pfeffer  
Michael W. Schwartz & Claudia Aronow  
David S. Brown  
Barbara Dagen  
William & Cheryl Gross  
Ira & Andrea Lippel  
Irving Kallins & Beverly Altschuler  
Tristram Associates Inc.  
Paul Kutner  
Robert Reicher & Michael Devlin  
Victor J. & Norma S. Bellino  
Charlotte Fainblatt  
Martin R. Kupferberg & Susan J. Lorin  
Andrew & Sandra Shire Pearlstein  
Certified Laboratories Inc.  
Kips Bay Endoscopy Center  
Thomas J. & Susan Leimsider  
Sylvia Shire  
Chana Neumann  
Michael & Miriam Shire Wien  
Stephen & Jessica Pfeffer  
Lawrence M. & Kim Dupuis Perlman  
David & Inge Gaffney

### Synagogue Fund

Avram & Yael Mlotek  
Leeor Sabbah

## June and July Contributions

(continued)

### Synagogue Fund (CONTINUED)

Barbara Dagen  
Rozanne Seelen  
Toby Appel

### Building Improvement Fund

Barbara Dagen  
David S. Brown  
Joseph L. & Daryl F. Boren  
Rozanne Seelen

### Sadie Anfang Memorial Fund

Ellen French  
*In Honor of Harold Anfang*

### Garden fund

Rozanne Seelen

### A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Leslie Penn

As we begin the process of preparing ourselves for the upcoming High Holidays, we enter a time of serious introspection and reflection. It is a time when each of us is charged with considering the kind of lives we have lived and we create a personal balance sheet, listing our assets and our liabilities, our good deeds and our shortcomings. While I am confident that we all have a positive net worth, with our assets (good deeds) far outweighing our liabilities (shortcomings), the second stage of our evaluation is our commitment to improve and correct our shortcomings so that next year we will be able to appear before the Almighty with less for which to atone.

The sad reality, however, is that most of us confess our sins on Yom Kippur, beg for forgiveness, and then, like the New Year's resolutions of the secular calendar year, go right back to doing what we did before the holidays. For some it is lack of respect for our parents and elders, for some it is not being truthful, for some it is ignoring the less fortunate, for some it is bearing tales. Whatever our sin, we seem unable to correct or behavior. We are like children, who are scolded by their parents but still do the same mischief they did before.

Do we really think this is what God wants of us? Do we really believe that God does not see through the emptiness of our confession? Is this year's confession just another empty promise for which we will have to atone next year? The challenge, my friends, is to make at least an earnest attempt to correct our ways in the coming years. It is as if our nature as human beings is to do wrong, and Jewish law is there to instruct us in a set of rules that will cause us to control our nature for the sake of the greater good.

It is interesting to note that all our prayers of confession during the High Holidays are in the plural. We have sinned, we have engaged in *loshen hara*, we have dealt unfairly with others, we have not respected our parents and our teachers, etc.etc. We, as a community, as a people, have not done what we should. When we beg for forgiveness, we beg for the entire Jewish people.

Isaac Bashevis Singer, the Nobel Laureate author, noted, "I do not need to make a decision to eat breakfast. When I say making a decision, I mean making a decision against my desires. The Ten Commandments are commandments against human nature. Many people would like to steal if they knew that they could do it without being punished. It is also their nature to commit adultery if they can have their way without too much trouble. But Moses came and he said that if humanity want to exist it has to follow certain rules no matter how difficult they are. I would say that even to this day we have not yet convinced ourselves that people can make such decisions and keep them. Even when they make them, they can only keep them if they make them as a collective. If people live together like the Jews in the ghettos they keep to their decisions. Why? Because one guards the other. In a collective, if a Jew wanted to commit adultery, there were many in the little ghetto who would have learned about it and they would have a great outcry to stop it."

The power of the group, of the community, to help each one of us, individually, to live a better life is not a message lost on the Jewish community. Being a part of the Jewish community continually reminds one of one's obligations to the community, to each other, and to God.

That observation brings me to the core message of this column. We, the Conservative Synagogue of Fifth Avenue community, are here to help you fulfill your promise to God this Yom Kippur. I encourage you to become an active participant in this unique and loving community.

One of the promises people often make on Yom Kippur is to attend services more regularly. We are here to help you fulfill that promise. Once you have joined with us and made the CSFA community your own, you will look forward to seeing your friends each Shabbat morning. Once you have started to attend classes at the synagogue, or have Shabbat Dinner at CSFA, or watch movies at the synagogue, or volunteer in a CSFA chesed project, you will have made the first step in genuinely attempting to control your impulses and actually change your ways. God willing, next year you will not be asking forgiveness for the same sins as last year and your balance sheet will look a lot better.

With every best wish for a Happy and Healthy New Year, and may you and your loved ones be inscribed and sealed for a year of Good Health, Happiness, and Peace.

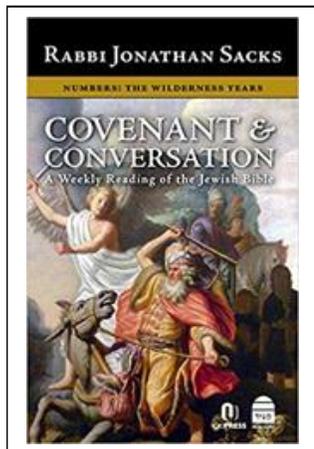


### The Drama Book Shop is 100 Years Old!!

Although legend has it that I have been there from the beginning, I have only been there 48 years. Please join me to celebrate this momentous event on Monday, October 2, 2017 at any time from 2:00 PM to midnight.

Entertainment ... Food ... Celebrities

## BOOK REVIEWS FROM THE JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL AND ELSEWHERE



### COVENANT AND CONVERSATION

#### NUMBERS: THE WILDERNESS YEARS

BY  
Rabbi Jonathan  
Sacks

Review by Yaakov (Jack) Bieler

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi Emeritus of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth, has recently published a compendium of short essays on the weekly Torah readings for the book of Numbers. This volume complements similar books that he has written on the books of Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus, with the entire set of Torah commentary soon to be completed by a forthcoming volume on Deuteronomy. This book, the latest in the series, includes four to six essays for each of Numbers' Parashiot, as well as an interesting introductory essay containing seven important exegetical principles that pertain specifically to this book of the Torah.

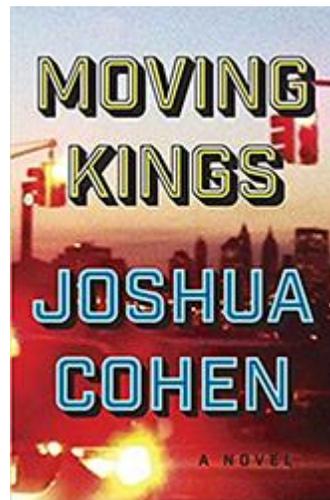
In his introduction, Rabbi Sacks writes that Numbers: "...is a key text for our time. It is among the most searching, self-critical books in all of literature about what Nelson Mandela referred to as 'the long walk to freedom.' Its message is that there is no shortcut to liberty." He expands upon this theme both in essays specifically dedicated to this concept ("Time as a Factor in Politics", and "The Long Walk to Freedom") as well as in his numerous applications of the distinction made by Ronald Heifetz between "technical" and "adaptive leadership." The former challenge merely calls upon the leader to solve objective problems as they present themselves to the nation, something that Moses competently addressed in the books of Exodus and Leviticus. The latter, which becomes the dominant challenge of the book of Numbers as the people prepare to enter the Promised Land, requires finding ways to influence the entire Jewish nation to change and evolve in order to address new realities. This role proved much more difficult for Moses. In "Leadership and the Art of Pacing," Rabbi Sacks convincingly argues why as the Jews were emerging from their former "slave mentality" and becoming more independent, Joshua was now more able to serve as the proper leader for the people.

Another theme that Rabbi Sacks highlights in his introduction and invokes on numerous occasions throughout many of the essays, is how the interplay between biblical discussions of law followed by narrative, serves as an important counterpoint. For while not negating man's free will, it nevertheless attempts to

impose a modicum of order upon the sometimes anarchical tendencies within human beings' social organization.

Throughout this volume on Numbers, as in the many other works he has published on various topics over the years, Rabbi Sacks's considerable erudition is evidenced through his numerous references to atypical primary Jewish sources as well as to various philosophers, ethicists, social scientists, and political thinkers. Also of interest are multiple references to the same primary source, with different emphases being placed in light of the specific context in which the source is being used.

This work by Rabbi Sacks offers a great deal of food for thought regarding major topics in the book of Numbers, that should enhance a great many individual's appreciation not only of this book of the Bible, but also of major themes in Jewish thought and how such matters pertain to our contemporary experience. It is highly recommended.



### MOVING KINGS

BY  
*Joshua  
Cohen*

Review by Bob Goldfarb

Joshua Cohen's gripping, atmospheric new novel bursts with vivid characters and action aplenty. Yet it is also a tragedy that ponders why human lives come to bad ends. How much is due to bad choices, and how much to destiny?

David King, who inherited the moving-and-storage business Kings Moving, swerves back and forth between legitimate business and corruption. His instinct is always to assess what works to his own advantage; decency and the law are just factors in his calculations.

Only one thing inspires him emotionally: Israel, the incarnation of "an ancestry, a mystery, a primitive significance." When his cousin Yoav, whom he barely knows, finishes a stint in the Israel Defense Forces, David doesn't think twice about providing him with a job and a home.

A sensitive man, Yoav Matzav (his last name means "situation," "how things are") has led a passive life, doing what he had to in the army, both in the Gaza war and later at a Palestinian checkpoint. His aggressive squad mate Uri Dugri ("no-nonsense") joins him in New York, also working illegally for Kings Moving. On-the-job experience teaches them which customers they can take advantage of, and which ones to treat with care: a hierarchy of race and class.

Their work as movers is not very different from their service in the IDF, "swarming the houses of strangers, taking furniture apart, breaking shit by accident, and not by accident." Both jobs traffic in possession and dispossession. The military analogy isn't casual; each household move, we're told, is like a mission. In case the parallels weren't already clear enough, there are even incidents in New York involving the abuse of an Arab shopkeeper and a convert to Islam.

At first this premise might sound like a crude political analogy intended to deplore Israel's behavior toward Palestinians. Characters do say things like "Israel's the rogue state at this point." But if the actions of movers are comparable to dispossession in Palestine, shouldn't the moving and storage business inspire equal protest? The larger point is that powerful people take advantage of the powerless when they want to, regardless of the specific context.

Yet context can't be escaped. In Israel, Uri once received advice from a wonderworking sage called the Baba Batra (named for a tractate in the Talmud that deals with inheritance). The rabbi admonished, "you can't stop being a soldier, just like you can't stop being a Jew." A soldier's destiny is to follow orders, repeating the same actions again and again, without regard to his own wishes.

David King also succumbs to repetition in the ways he treats the women in his life, his clients, and his employees, sliding ineluctably toward failure. His daughter works for a social-justice nonprofit and tries to be everything David's not, yet she buys drugs illegally. Yoav tries to break free of his past but fails to escape it. The tragedy is that no one can choose the situation into which they're born. Each of us can only try, again and again, to cope with what we're given.

In terms of craft, this novel astonishes on every page. The narrative verve, the wealth of detail about on-stage and off-stage characters, and the rich descriptions of places and events, bear comparison to Tolstoy. That alone would be enough to distinguish this book, but its engagement with perennial questions of existence—what it means to be at home, or a visitor, or to mediate between the two—raises it to an even higher level that few writers can attain. Joshua Cohen has proven himself yet again to be a major voice in contemporary fiction.

## Recipes for the High Holidays

### POMEGRANATE BARBECUE CHICKEN



Pomegranates are a traditional Rosh Hashanah food. This recipe calls for two chickens, enough for a crowd. If you decide to make only one, you can save the extra barbecue sauce for another day, or another dish.

6 Servings

#### INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
8 garlic cloves, thinly sliced  
2 onions, chopped  
1 cup ketchup  
2 tablespoons mustard (yellow or Dijon)  
¼ cup pomegranate molasses (or substitute 3  
tablespoons apple cider vinegar plus 1  
tablespoon pomegranate syrup.)  
2 tablespoons honey  
½ teaspoon cinnamon  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
2 chickens, cut into eighths  
Pomegranate seeds, for garnish

#### PREPARATION

- 1 Preheat the oven to 425° F.
2. Heat extra virgin olive oil in a large, heavy saucepan. Sauté garlic slices 5 to 7 minutes, until golden brown. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside.
3. Sauté chopped onions in saucepan 3 to 5 minutes, until translucent.
4. Mix the ketchup, mustard, pomegranate molasses, and honey in with the onions. Stir in the cooked garlic. Mix the sauce well and bring to a boil. Stir occasionally until thickened.
5. Lay out the chicken pieces in a roasting pan in a single layer and season with salt and pepper.
6. Thickly brush each piece of chicken with the pomegranate barbecue sauce
7. Cook in preheated oven for 30 to 40 minutes until juices run clear when pierced with a knife, or until a meat thermometer registers 160° F.
8. Garnish with pomegranate seeds and serve.

## SLOW BRAISED BRISKET AND ONIONS



There is nothing more comforting and familiar than the knowledge that a brisket is quietly simmering away. Brisket has some of the tastiest and richest meat and fat of any cut of beef. I do not recommend a first cut brisket. It is just too lean, and cooking anything that lean for a long time yields a dry and flavorless dish.

A second cut, or even better yet, a whole brisket will feed an army with tender, melt-in-your-mouth meat. The fat encapsulates the meat and protects it from drying out while the long slow cooking session gently unwinds the tight muscle fibers, yielding a gelatinized, luxurious roast.

10 Servings

### INGREDIENTS

Extra virgin olive oil, such as Colavita extra virgin olive oil  
3 large Spanish onions, thinly sliced  
¼ cup tomato paste  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
1 (7-pound) Grow & Behold Foods whole brisket  
3 whole heads of garlic, cut in half to expose the      cloves  
3 cups beef broth  
1 cup dry red wine  
Bouquet garnish: several thyme sprigs, parsley stems, bay leaves tied to celery rib

### PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 300°F or preheat slow cooker to low.
  2. Heat a large sauté pan or Dutch oven, lightly coated with extra virgin olive oil, over medium-high heat. Brown onions until dark and very soft. Stir tomato paste in and continue cooking for a few minutes to sear tomato paste. Transfer onions to slow cooker, or if using a Dutch oven, push onions to the side.
  3. Season brisket with salt and pepper and brown on both sides in the same pan. You may need to cut brisket in half to fit into a slow cooker.
  4. Nestle brisket into pan with onions. Add garlic, broth, wine, and bouquet garnish.
  5. Cover and braise for 3½ to 4 hours in a 300°F oven or 8 hours on slow cooker, or until a fork inserted, comes out with no resistance.
  6. Cool brisket before refrigerating for up to 2 days.
- 
4. Nestle brisket into pan with onions. Add garlic, broth, wine, and bouquet garnish.
  5. Cover and braise for 3½ to 4 hours in a 300°F oven or 8 hours on slow cooker, or until a fork inserted, comes out with no resistance.
  6. Cool brisket before refrigerating for up to 2 days.
  7. Scrape off fat, slice brisket. Squeeze garlic out of heads and add to pan juices. Serve with pan juices and onions.
  8. Slice brisket if serving another day and store with pan juices in refrigerator. Reheat in a 300°F oven, covered, for 1 hour.

## POMEGRANATE CHICKEN WITH FREEKEH



Pomegranate has just the right amount of tartness and sweetness to make every dish complex and interesting. Simple roasted chicken becomes a VIP dish when lacquered with scarlet pomegranate molasses. Re-glazing during the cooking process will give your chicken a shiny, thick lacquer, but also will intensify the flavor.

6 Servings

### INGREDIENTS

#### *Chicken:*

2 whole chickens (3 to 4 pounds each), bone in, cut into 6 pieces  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
Extra virgin olive oil  
½ cup pomegranate molasses  
2 tablespoons honey  
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar  
1 cup chicken broth  
2 garlic cloves, finely minced  
3 shallots, finely sliced  
3 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme or 1 teaspoon dried thyme

#### *Freekeh*

1 cup freekeh  
2 cups water or chicken broth  
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
¼ cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley  
½ teaspoon fresh thyme leaves or pinch of dried thyme  
¼ cup raisins  
2 teaspoons honey  
Garnish: pomegranate arils, chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

### PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Arrange chicken pieces in large Dutch oven or casserole dish. Season chicken with salt, pepper, and a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil. Roast chicken in a 400°F oven for 20 minutes.
3. In a small bowl, whisk pomegranate molasses, honey, vinegar, and water or broth together. Add shallots, garlic, and thyme. Set aside.
4. While chicken is roasting, place freekeh and water or broth into a small saucepot over medium heat and simmer for 20 minutes, or until the level of the water is even with the level of freekeh. Turn off the heat, cover the pot for 10 minutes, so that the steam finishes the cooking process.

5. Pour pomegranate mixture over chicken and continue roasting for 20 minutes more.
6. Season cooked and steamed freekeh with evoo, lemon juice, salt, and pepper. Add parsley, thyme, raisins, and honey. Taste and adjust seasoning, if needed.
7. Transfer freekeh to a large serving platter. Arrange chicken on top of freekeh, then spoon pan juices over chicken. Garnish with parsley and pomegranate arils.

### SPINACH KUGEL CUPCAKES

This light side vegetable kugel packs an iron punch.



8 Servings

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1-2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 (8-ounce) carton button mushrooms, sliced
- 1 (1-pound) package frozen spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 2 eggs, lightly whisked
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon celery seed
- 2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons minced onion
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 ½ teaspoons dried parsley
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

#### PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In a large nonstick skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high heat.
3. Saute mushrooms until golden brown.
4. In a large bowl add mushrooms, spinach, eggs, mayonnaise, turmeric, sugar, celery seed, minced onion, onion powder, parsley, salt and pepper and mix until well combined.
5. Pour into a well greased muffin tins and bake at 350°F for 30 minute



**The Board of Trustees  
of the  
Conservative Synagogue of  
Fifth Avenue  
extend their best wishes  
to you and your loved ones  
for a  
Happy and Healthy New Year.**





# VOLUNTEER FOR DOROT'S ROSH HASHANAH PACKAGE DELIVERY

Brighten the day of a senior! Volunteer to deliver  
a package and visit with an older person.

Sunday, September 17, 2017  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## **West Side**

**DOROT**  
171 West 85th Street  
off Amsterdam Ave

## **East Side**

Temple Israel of the City of NY  
112 East 75th Street  
Between Park and Lexington Ave

ALL volunteers must bring photo ID to participate. Your ID number will be recorded.

**To Volunteer To Be Part Of A CSFA Group, please contact  
SUSAN LEIMSIDER via email at  
thomasandsusan@gmail.com**

*DOROT's Rosh Hashanah Package Delivery was generously endowed by the late Mrs. Bella Waxner in memory of her parents Lena and Harry Cabakoff. We are grateful to the estate of Sanford H. Goldstein for its support of DOROT's Holiday Package Delivery programs.*



For more information call DOROT at 212-769-2850.





**HIGH HOLIDAY 2017/5778  
AT THE CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE OF FIFTH AVENUE**



**DATE & TIME**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**  
(in the evening)

**SERVICE**

SELICHOT SERVICES

**LOCATION**

11 EAST 11 STREET

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

6:40 PM  
(CANDLELIGHTING AT 6:37 PM)

EREV ROSH HASHANA

11 EAST 11 STREET

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

8:30 AM  
10:30 AM  
FOLLOWING SERVICES

ROSH HASHANA  
SHACHARIT SERVICE  
SHOFAR/SERMON  
BUFFET LUNCH  
*\$25 PER PERSON BY RESERVATION*  
TASHLICH  
MINCHA/ARVIT  
CANDLELIGHTING

CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY  
15 WEST 16 STREET NYC, NY  
" " " " "  
" " " " "

6:00 PM  
7:30 PM  
7:43 PM

MEET AT 11 EAST 11 STREET  
11 EAST 11 STREET

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2017**

8:30 AM  
10:30 AM  
6:20 PM  
CANDLELIGHTING 6:33 PM

ROSH HASHANA DAY 2  
SHACHARIT SERVICE  
SHOFAR/SERMON  
MINCHA/KABBALAT SHABBAT/ARVIT

CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY  
15 WEST 16 STREET  
11 EAST 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017**

9:00 AM

SHABBAT SHUVA

11 EAST 11 STREET

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2017**

6:30 PM  
CANDLELIGHTING 6:22 PM

KOL NIDRE

CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY  
15 WEST 16 STREET

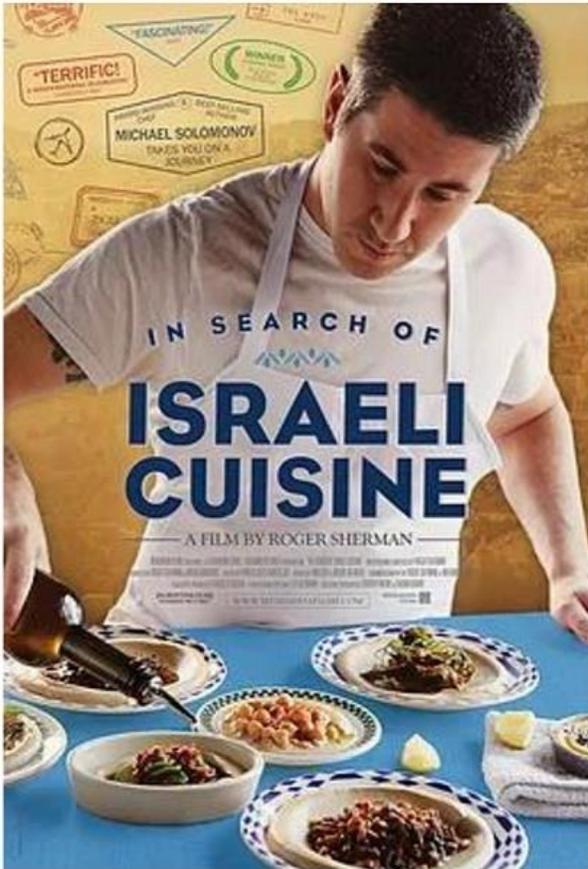
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

8:30 AM  
10:30 AM  
5:00 PM  
7:28 PM

YOM KIPPUR  
SHACHARIT  
YIZKOR / SERMON  
MINCHA/ NEILAH  
SHOFAR  
BREAK THE FAST BUFFET  
(*\$36 PER PERSON – BY RESERVATION*)

CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY  
15 WEST 16 STREET





## CSFA FILM NIGHT

Presents

### In Search of Israeli Cuisine

**THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2017**

**7 :30 PM**

In Search of Israeli Cuisine is a portrait of the Israeli people told through food. It puts a literal face on the culture of Israel. Profiling chefs, home cooks, farmers, vintners, and cheese makers drawn from the more than 100 cultures that make up Israel today – Jewish, Arab, Muslim, Christian, Druze a rich, complex and human story emerges. Through scenes that are mostly cinema verité— interviews, farms, markets, restaurants, kitchens, landscapes, and history—audiences will discover that this hot, multi-cultural cuisine has developed only in the last 30 years. In that short time, Israel went from being one of the poorest countries in the world to one of the most advanced. Its sophistication mirrors the current state of the Israeli people and their food: secular, outward looking and innovative.

The chef/guide of In Search of Israeli Cuisine is Michael Solomonov, the James Beard award winning chef/owner of Zahav and a number of other restaurants in Philadelphia. His book Zahav: A World of Israeli Cuisine was recently released and is on the NYTimes bestseller list. Mike was born in Israel and grew up in the States. He's smart, funny, self-deprecating, and very knowledgeable about the traditions and foods of Israel. Mike enters peoples' lives, and their kitchens, and discusses their roots, inspirations, what their grandmothers cooked, how they're preserving traditions and updating recipes with global influences.

Free Admission (although a voluntary contribution would be appreciated)

The Conservative Synagogue of Fifth Avenue  
11 East 11 Street New York, NY 10003  
212-929-6954 csfa11e11@aol.com www.csfanyc.org

*“the synagogue that nourishes more  
than your soul ...”*

invites you to join  
Rabbi Joe Schwartz  
Sarah King  
Rabbi Emeritus David Gaffney  
and the Members of CSFA

FOR

## *High Holiday Meals*



**Thursday, September 21, 2017**  
*(First Day Rosh Hashanah)*

**Saturday, September 30, 2017**  
*(Yom Kippur)*

### *Rosh Hashanah Buffet Luncheon*

**Thursday, September 21, 2017**  
**following services**  
**(1:30 p.m. approx.)**

at  
**Center for Jewish History  
Great Hall  
15 West 16 Street  
New York, New York 10011**

*Join together with the CSFA community as we continue in the spirit and warmth of our High Holiday services and share a festive meal.*

**Lunch includes Wine, Challah,  
Gefilte Fish, Chicken, Salmon,  
Salads, Fruit, and Dessert**

**\$25 per person**  
**(No charge for children under 10)**

### *Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast*

**Saturday, September 30, 2017**  
**following services**  
**(7:40 p.m. approx.)**

at  
**Center for Jewish History  
Great Hall  
15 West 16 Street  
New York, New York 10011**

*After the final shofar blow, why go home and start to prepare a break the fast meal, and then have to clean up? Break the fast with us instead ... at our own home at CSFA!*

**The meal includes  
Bagels, Smoked Fish, Salads,  
Herring, Cheeses,  
Coffee, Tea, Juices, Cookies,  
Fruit and Dessert**

**\$36 Per Person**  
**(No charge for children under 10)**

For Reservations, please email the Synagogue at  
[Csf11e11@aol.com](mailto:Csf11e11@aol.com)  
and please write “reservations” in subject line

# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 10th of Elul, 5777 <b>7:09p</b> Candle lighting	<b>2</b> 11th of Elul, 5777 Parashat Ki Teitzei <b>8:15p</b> Havdalah (50 min)
<b>3</b> 12th of Elul, 5777	<b>4</b> 13th of Elul, 5777  LABOR DAY	<b>5</b> 14th of Elul, 5777  730 pm BOARD OF TRUSTEES	<b>6</b> 15th of Elul, 5777	<b>7</b> 16th of Elul, 5777 MOVIE NIGHT « <i>TASTE OF Israel</i> »	<b>8</b> 17th of Elul, 5777 <b>6:57p</b> Candle lighting	<b>9</b> 18th of Elul, 5777 Parashat Ki Tavo <b>8:03p</b> Havdalah (50 min)
<b>10</b> 19th of Elul, 5777	<b>11</b> 20th of Elul, 5777	<b>12</b> 21st of Elul, 5777	<b>13</b> 22nd of Elul, 5777	<b>14</b> 23rd of Elul, 5777	<b>15</b> 24th of Elul, 5777 <b>6:45p</b> Candle lighting	<b>16</b> 25th of Elul, 5777 Parashat Nitzavim- Vayeilech Leil Selichot <b>7:52p</b> Havdala h (50 min) SELICHOT
<b>17</b> 26th of Elul, 5777	<b>18</b> 27th of Elul, 5777	<b>19</b> 28th of Elul, 5777	<b>20</b> 29th of Elul, 5777 Erev Rosh Hashana <b>6:37p</b> Candle lighting	<b>21</b> 1st of Tishrei, 5778 Rosh Hashana 5778 <b>7:43p</b> Candle lighting	<b>22</b> 2nd of Tishrei, 5778 Rosh Hashana II <b>6:33p</b> Candle lighting	<b>23</b> 3rd of Tishrei, 5778 Parashat Ha'Azinu Shabbat Shuva <b>7:40p</b> Havdalah (50 min)
<b>24</b> 4th of Tishrei, 5778 Tzom Gedaliah	<b>25</b> 5th of Tishrei, 5778	<b>26</b> 6th of Tishrei, 5778	<b>27</b> 7th of Tishrei, 5778  7 :00 pm ISRAEL GROUP MEETING	<b>28</b> 8th of Tishrei, 5778	<b>29</b> 9th of Tishrei, 5778 Erev Yom Kippur <b>6:22p</b> Candle lighting	<b>30</b> 10th of Tishrei, 5778 Yom Kippur <b>7:28p</b> Havdalah (50 min)