

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Nitzavim-VaYailech
September 4, 2026 / 22 Elul 5786
Volume 31, Issue 45
Candlelighting: 7:36 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · www.clevelandjlc.com

Friday, September 4

6:20pm Early Mincha / Maariv
7:36pm Candlelighting
7:40pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, September 5

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
Yehoshua Gelfand in
honor of the recent JLC
simchas*

6:30pm Pirke Avos
7:30pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
8:43pm Maariv

Sunday, September 6

6:30am Selichos / Shacharis

9:15am Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"
(R. Stoll)

8:30pm *Maimonides' Laws of
Repentance*
(R. Nisenbaum)

Monday, September 7

6:30am Selichos / Shacharis /
breakfast / shiur: "Shofar
when Rosh Hashana is on
Shabbos"

8:00pm *"Lessons from Yonah"*
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, September 8

6:30am Selichos / Shacharis
8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, September 9

6:30am Selichos / Shacharis
8:00pm Nach Still Speaks –
MISHLEI (R. Stoll)

Thursday, September 10

6:30am Selichos / Shacharis

Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

Class Connection

R. Nisenbaum:
425-436-6200 #352171
"The Torah Podcast" weekly
at all podcast locations

R. Stoll:
Zoom: 876-619-3551
Audio: 669-900-9128

Parsha: Nitzavim-VaYailech

Although these two portions are the shortest in the Torah, their message is an important one, especially before the High Holidays. After warning the Jewish people about the terrible consequences awaiting them if they transgress the Torah and mitzvahs, Moshe had the people make a new covenant with G-d. Although the laws of the Torah already bound them, they now accepted *arvus*, or responsibility, upon themselves for one another. A Jew is not only obligated to keep the mitzvahs himself, but he is also responsible for the observance of every other Jew too.

When a single Jew sins, there is a collective responsibility upon the whole community. Had others perhaps chastised the sinner, or even better, had they acted in a more appropriate manner themselves, thereby exerting a positive influence, the sinner may have never transgressed in the first place. This is what is meant by the popular phrase, "All Jews are responsible for each other."

Moshe foretold that after the nation would experience the punishment for their sins, they would be inspired to return to the ways of the Torah. G-d always accepts repentance, and He

will then gather the people from throughout the exile and return them to Israel with great blessing.

Moshe encouraged the people to repent and observe the Torah, assuring them that it was not too difficult to do so. The Torah is not in the

heavens or across the seas making it impossible to attain spiritual heights. It is within the capability of every Jew to accomplish greatness, if he or she just puts forth the effort.

In closing, Moshe reminded the people that the choice of keeping the Torah is nothing less than choosing between good and bad, life and death. If the Jewish people keep the mitzvahs properly, they will merit eternal life, and if they do not, the result will be destruction, not merely for

the present but also for the future.

This responsibility for the future is also seen in the mitzvah of *hakhel*, the gathering of the entire nation in Jerusalem every seven years. The Torah says that every man, woman, and child are to appear in Temple after Sukkos following the seventh year, where the king reads the Torah. Although an infant is incapable of understanding the proceedings, it is important that the parents set the stage properly for their child's future development.

Mazel Tov!

Rabbi and Rebbetzin
Moshe Stoll upon the birth
of a grandson

Drs. Michael and Brenda
Altose upon the
engagement of their
daughter

High Holiday Seats

Contact the shul to
reserve your seats.

Insights: Nitzavim

You should choose life in order to live... (Deut 30:19) The Chidushei HaRim of Ger's son, Rav Avrohom Mordechai, was very ill and the doctors despaired of his life. The Rebbe sat by his son's bed and whispered into his ear. "When you are so sick there are not many mitzvot you can fulfill. However, there is a mitzvah for a person to want to live in this world, as it says 'You shall choose life.' That is your only mitzvah now, and I truly hope that you will not give up your desire to live, to recover and to have a child." Indeed, Rav Avrohom Mordechai lived for several years more and had a son the following year who grew to become the Sefas Emes.

Did You Know?

Although shofar is a time-bound mitzvah, and women are thus exempt from the mitzvah, it has been accepted by women to fulfill the mitzvah, thus making it required. A woman should thus make an effort to hear at least thirty blasts of the shofar on Rosh Hashana, the minimum to fulfill the Torah obligation. If a man sounds the shofar for a woman after he has already fulfilled the mitzvah himself, it is preferable that she should recite the beracha herself. If that is too difficult the man blowing the shofar may recite the beracha.

Thought for the Week: Our greatest error of omission is our failure to think (A Candle By Day)