

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Nitzavim-Vayailech  
September 27, 2024 / 23 Elul 5784  
Volume 29, Issue 50  
Candlelighting: 6:56 pm

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

## Friday, September 27

6:58pm Candlelighting  
7:00pm Mincha / Maariv

## Shabbos, September 28

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is available for sponsorship.*

6:00pm Pirke Avos  
6:50pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos  
8:03pm Maariv

## Sunday, September 29

6:30am SELICHOS / Shacharis

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

## Monday, September 30

6:30am Selichos / Shacharis  
8:00pm **Art of Forgiveness – The Gift of Divine Forgiveness (4/4)**  
(R. Nisenbaum)

## Tuesday, October 1

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

## Wednesday, October 2

6:15am Selichos / Shacharis  
6:48pm Candlelighting  
6:50pm Mincha  
7:48am Maariv

## Thursday, October 3 – Friday, October 4 ROSH HASHANA

SEE THE FULL HOLIDAY  
SCHEDULE

## 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

## Parshas: 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**  
to Larry Rothenberg upon the  
birth of a granddaughter

**Condolences**  
to the family of Marilyn Weiss  
upon her passing

## Insights: Ki Savo

**Gather the nation—men, women, and babies...they will hear and they will learn... (Deut 31:12)** The emphasis on bringing little babies to the Beis Hamikdash is because they are so impressionable. Rav Ahron Shteinman related he had heard from an elderly Jew who recalled hearing a speech as a young boy from an itinerant maggid. The maggid spoke about our forefather Avraham's growing up in his father Terach's home. He described Avrohom having his own little pot to cook in because his father did not keep kosher. Rav Shteinman was amazed how the man recalled every detail from the speech and he would stress how important it is to instill proper character traits and fear of G-d into a child's heart even as babies.

## Did You Know?

It is customary to decorate one's sukkah in order to beautify the mitzvah. Preferably, one should not hang large decorations lower than 15-16 inches from the s'chach, as it could sometimes be considered a separation between the s'chach and those sitting in the sukkah. The decorations may not be moved at all on Yom Tov or Shabbos, as they are considered muktzah. Similarly, if the s'chach or decorations fell down on Shabbos or Yom Tov, they may not be moved directly, however, they may be pushed to the side with one's foot or elbow. After Sukkos, one should throw decorations in the trash, as that is considered disrespectful. They should first be wrapped before throwing them out.

**Thought for the Week: "Planned parentlessness" would be closer to the truth.** (A Candle By Day)