

## Have you...

- ✓ Returned your High Holy Days reservation form to CSH
- ✓ RSVPed to CSH for the Zvi Gitelman Shabbat Dinner on August 13th

### August 8 / August 9

## FINDING OUR WAY TO THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

With Rabbi Ed Feld and Merle Feld



### August 11<sup>th</sup>

## Rosh Chodesh Elul

### Morning minyan at 8:30am

(The countdown to the High Holy Day begins)

Come hear the shofar blown for the first time this season helping us begin our spiritual preparation for the High Holy Days



### August 13th / August 14th

*We welcome back*

## Dr. Zvi Gitelman

Preston R. Tisch Professor of Judaic Studies  
at the University of Michigan

**who will join us for Shabbat Dinner  
Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**

Dinner is being sponsored by  
**Lorraine and Herb Schottenfeld  
and Gary Gaines**

**Please RSVP by August 5th**  
Following dinner Professor Gitelman will speak about  
**Litvak-Galitsianer Wars**

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On Shabbat morning, August 14<sup>th</sup> Professor Gitelman will speak about

**ISRAEL'S RUSSIAN REVOLUTION:**

How the largest aliyah in history -- one out of five Israelis is now from Russia --has influenced the nature of Israeli culture, politics (and the strength of the right wing), and the question of "Who is a Jew"?

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**August 21<sup>st</sup>**

CSH welcomes  
**Ruth W. Messinger**

the president of American Jewish World Service (**AJWS**), a faith-based international human rights organization that works to alleviate poverty, hunger and disease in the developing world will join with CSH on Shabbat morning when she will talk about

**Fighting Hunger in a World of Plenty**

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**August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**General Membership Meeting**  
10:00am at 258 Redwood Road  
Our traditional French Toast brunch following the meeting.

Friday August 6, 2010     **Candle Lighting 7:44pm**

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6:30pm**  
at the home of Rabbi Jan Uhrbach  
258 Redwood Road (directions below)

**Shabbat Morning 9:30**  
Old Whalers Church  
Union Street, Sag Harbor  
Kiddush sponsored by Miriam and David Brous

This week's Torah reading: **Re'eh**  
Annual (Deut. 11:26-16:17): Etz Hayim p. 1061  
Triennial (Deut. 15:1-16:17): Etz Hayim p. 1076  
Haftarah (Isaiah 54:11-55:5): Etz Hayim p. 1085

**Musings on Re'eh** -- "See I place before you all today blessings and curses - the blessings, if you listen to the commandments... and the curses, if you don't listen to the commandments...." (Devarim 11:26-28)

The title of this parasha, Re'eh, is the command word "see" in the singular. Two Shabbats prior, the people were commanded to "hear" (Shema). What is the difference between the way we learn

with our eyes and the way we learn with our ears? The sages say in Talmud Bavli Tractate Rosh Ha Shana, "hearing is not comparable to seeing."

Why does the Torah sometimes command us to look and other times to listen? What does Rabbi Israel Salanter, founder of the mussar (ethics) movement of Judaism, mean when he writes, "the distance between the mind and the heart is greater than the distance between the sun and the earth?" Which affects us more: An event that we heard about or an event that we witnessed? When we learn something in our minds, it is useless to us until we can move it into our hearts and act on it.

<http://www.zimbio.com/The+Torah/articles/QKouh68KtIJ/RABBI+ARTHUR+SEGAL+ECO+JUDAISM+EH+RID+KELIPOT>



What exactly are we meant to see? And according to the verses here, it actually all depends on listening. So do we need our eyes or our ears? Perhaps we need our hearts.

The key here, I think, is the word "today". Every single day there are all sorts of circumstances in front of us. It depends how we look at them if we see them as blessings or curses. Either way, our belief is that everything comes from God. It's only our interpretation, the way we listen, that dictates whether the experience good or bad. Every single day, indeed every single moment, we can choose how we view things.

So seeing is about whatever is in front of us. Listening is about what goes inside of us. Allowing God's Word in, that's what allows us to view the circumstances before us as blessings. It is so crucial to be open - open-hearted and open-minded - to the Divine. It is the access to a blessed life.

May we always place God before ourselves, seeing God in all that comes our way. May we accept all that is in front of us as Divine. May we all be open to God's blessings. And may those blessings be infinite.

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs076/1102527936292/archive/1102670076984.html>



### **Think about this**

God's blessing alone can make you rich;  
so in your stinginess, think about this:

One man gives and always has more,  
while the miser withholds and ends up poor.

*Vidal Benveniste*

(Translation from "The Dream of the Poem" Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain 950 - 1492 by Peter Cole)

<http://www.limmud.org/publications/tasteoflimmud/5767/archive/>



But right at the beginning of the parshah Moses places a dramatic choice before *bnei Yisrael* (children of Israel): "*Re'eh anochi noten lifneichem hayom brachah uklalah. Re'eh*"– "See, this day I set before you blessing and curse: blessing, if you obey the commandments ... and curse, if you do not obey the commandments." (11:26-30)

So our parshah offers the Israelites a choice – follow the mitzvot (commandments) and get blessed or don't and get cursed. That doesn't sound like a great choice, does it? Not exactly what you would call freedom and individual autonomy. But let's have a closer look at the *passuk* (verse):

"*Re'eh anochi noten lifneichem hayom brachah uklalah.*" If you write this sentence in a Hebrew ulpan, your Hebrew teacher would (hopefully) gently point out that the sentence begins in the singular (*re'eh* - see) and continues in the plural (*lifneichem*) – I am setting before "you all" (plural) blessing and curse.

Nearly a thousand years ago, Ibn Ezra (12th Century) commented on this "mistake" that the verse "addresses each individual Jew". 600 years later, his brief observation is picked up by the Vilna Gaon (18th Century) when he taught, "Should a person say to himself: As everyone else is wicked, why should I be any better?" he is told, "See! Do what is proper and ignore what everyone else does."

The decisions we take as individuals have impact far beyond the circle of our lives. We have seen in the last three hundred years how the unchecked rape and abuse of the planet's resources have left us with a world that now hangs precariously in the balance. Will it sustain life for a few more generations, or will we find that we have pushed this world just too far? Blessing or curse? What do we choose?

Everything that we decide to consume is a choice of blessing or curse. Will we continue to purchase over-packaged non-foods that contain more chemicals than recognisable ingredients, the latter of which were harvested using unsustainable farming methods by underpaid workers and then shipped across the globe to shave a few cents off the cost? Or will we create communities that support locally grown produce, live humbler, simpler lives connected to the land that sustains us and ensuring that the generations to come choose blessing over curse?

As it states later in the parshah when talking about kashrut, "for you are a people holy to the Eternal your God". Let us make choices that are holy and that bring blessing to ourselves, our communities and the world we live in.

<http://www.limmud.org/publications/tasteoflimmud/5768/Re%E2%80%99eh/>



**FYI** -- Catherine Silver and Joyce Silver are having an art exhibition at the Depot Gallery in Montauk, August 13<sup>th</sup> – August 23<sup>rd</sup>.



### **Quote of the Week**

I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world. And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being. And I saw that the sacred hoop of my people was one of many hoops that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight, and in the center grew one mighty flowering tree to shelter all children of one mother and one father. And I saw that it was holy. *Black Elk's Vision*

May Elul bring you satisfying self-reflection and repair of your relationships, may you find forgiveness for anything that troubles you, and may we all choose blessing and life together as a community.

### **Shabbat shalom.**

Stacy

Stacy Menzer  
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Directions to  
Home of Rabbi Jan Uhrbach  
258 Redwood Road

#### *From East Hampton and points east (via Route 114)*

Take Route 114 north to Sag Harbor. Turn left on Union Street (there is a restaurant on the near left corner called Cilantro's). Turn left onto Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

#### *From Sagaponack or Wainscott (via Sagg-Main)*

Take either Sag Harbor Tpke or Sagg-Main Street into Sag Harbor. Turn left on Union Street. Take the first left onto Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

#### *From Bridghampton (via Bridge-Sagg Pike)*

Take the Sag Harbor Tpke into Sag Harbor. Turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Watermill (via Scuttle Hole Road)*

From 27, turn left onto Scuttle Hole Road. Stay on Scuttle Hole Road until the end, then turn left onto the Sag Harbor Turnpike. Take the Sag Harbor Turnpike all the way into Sag Harbor, and turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Southampton, West Hampton, and points west*

Take 27 (Montauk Hwy) east. Turn left at the large green sign pointing toward Sag Harbor (just past East End Clambakes). This will be Sandy Hollow Road. Turn left at the first light onto North Sea Road. Take North Sea Road to Noyack Road – turn right onto Noyack Road, following the signs to Sag Harbor. Turn left onto Long Beach Hwy. Turn right onto South Ferry Road at the traffic circle (sign will say Route 114 South). Cross the bridge into Sag Harbor. Turn right onto Main Street (opposite the windmill and the wharf). Go straight along Main Street past the stores. Toward the end of the stores there is a fork in the road (at the monument and Allen Schneider realty); bear right to stay on Main Street. Turn right onto Glover Street (directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

*From Southampton, West Hampton, and points west - Alternate*

Take 27 (Montauk Hwy) east. Turn left at the large green sign pointing toward Sag Harbor (just past East End Clambakes). This will be Sandy Hollow Road. Turn left at the first light onto North Sea Road. Take North Sea Road for a very short distance, and make a right onto North Sea Mecox Road. Take that to the end, then turn left on Seven Ponds Road. At the end of Seven Ponds there is a stop sign, and fork in the road. Take the middle path (always a good idea anyway), onto Lower Seven Ponds Road. Make a left at the end of the road onto Head of the Pond Road, and bear right at the next fork, staying on Head of the Pond. Stay on Head of the Pond Road until the end (it will curve and turn a fair amount, then take a left turn on Scuttle Hole Road. Stay on Scuttle Hole Road until the end, and turn left onto the Sag Harbor Turnpike. Take the Sag Harbor Turnpike all the way into Sag Harbor, and turn left onto Glover Street (just past Canio's Bookstore and directly across the street from the Cove Delicatessen). Pass Long Island Avenue on your right, and turn left at the next stop sign onto Redwood Road. Pass the marina on your right, and take the first left onto Cove Road. As the road swings to the right, number 258 will be the second house on the left, the tan house with the red door.

**PARKING**

You may park in the driveway, or on the street, but please be particularly careful of the neighbors' driveways. There is also a small public parking area on the right side of Redwood Road, just past the marina and directly opposite the left turn onto Cove Road. It is then a very short walk to the house.