

KOL MEVASSER

Consolation & Commitment

Rabbi Marc D. Angel

“Be comforted, be comforted My people, says the Lord... Oh you who tells good tidings to Zion, get up onto the high mountain, lift up your voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid...” (Isaiah 40: 1, 9).

During the three weeks between 17 Tamuz and 9 Av, the Jewish people experiences a period of mourning. We reflect on the tragedies of the past—the destructions of our First and Second Temples in ancient Jerusalem, the spiritual dislocation caused by prolonged exile, the physical toll of death and travail that have afflicted Jews through the centuries. We fast, we pray, we cry.

This year, the three weeks have been made heavier by the anxiety of the State of Israel being at war with Hamas terrorists. Thousands of missiles have been fired into Israel; underground tunnels have penetrated into Israel with the goal of bringing terrorists into the country to murder its citizens. Israel has waged a forceful battle against Hamas in Gaza, and we lament the deaths and suffering of courageous Israeli warriors as well as the deaths of Palestinian civilians who allowed themselves to be ruled by the tyranny of Hamas. . . . The Jewish people are resilient. We haven't wended our way through [over] 3500 years

of history by accident. We have found the strength, courage and optimism to persist. One of our secrets is our ability to remember, to mourn past tragedies. Another of our secrets is our ability to think beyond tragedy and to look forward to the future.

On Tisha B'Av we fast, we chant dirges and the book of Lamentations. But in the afternoon of this most somber day, we declare “Nahamu,” be comforted. On the Shabbat following Tisha B'Av we chant Isaiah's beautiful words of consolation and we begin a seven week period of consolation. Tragedy is part of life; but so are consolation and redemption. Sadness is part of life; but so are joy and peace. We never lose hope for a better, happier future, for ourselves and for all humanity.

Rabbi Hayyim Yosef David Azulai, a great rabbi of the 18th century, cites a rabbinic observation that the Hebrew words Nahamu Nahamu have the same numerical value as the name of Isaac (208). Our forefather Isaac is, thus, identified with the consolation of the people of Israel. What does Isaac have to do with consolation?

Rabbi Azulai refers to Shabbat 89b where the Talmud imagines a future conversation between God and our forefathers. God will come to Abraham and Jacob and tell them that the people of Israel have sinned. Abra-

(Continued on page 2)

KJ Schedule Shabbat Nahamu Parashat Va'etkhanan

Erev Shabbat Nahamu Friday, August 8th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	6:45 pm
Minhah/Arbith	7:00 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting.....	7:29 pm

Shabbat Nahamu Saturday, August 9th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit.....	7:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah	8:36 pm

Erev Tu B'Av / Sunday, August 10th

Shaharit.....	7:30 am
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Tu B'Av / Monday, August 11th

Shaharit.....	6:30 am
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Weekdays

Tuesday to Friday, August 12th to 15th

Shaharit.....	6:30 am
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Erev Shabbat / Friday, August 15th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	6:45 pm
Minhah/Arbith	7:00 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting.....	7:21 pm

Shabbat Nahamu Readings

Devarim / Deuteronomy 755 to 776
Haftara from the Neviim/Prophets
Yishayahu / Isaiah 776 to 779

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorah

(Continued from page 1)

ham and Jacob seek to excuse Israel's sins and ask God to be merciful. When God approaches Isaac with the words, "your children have sinned," Isaac replies boldly: "Are they my children but not Your children?" Isaac then negotiates with God and expresses his willingness to accept responsibility for half of Israel's sins if God will accept responsibility for the other half.

Isaac becomes identified with the consolation of Israel because he speaks out strongly for his people. He does not simply bow his head and ask for mercy. Rather, he stands tall and shows his willingness to shoulder responsibility for his people. Because of that spiritual courage, Isaac is also identified with the quality of "gevurah," heroism. He is a lion in defense of the people of Israel.

Consolation is connected to strength. Consolation calls on us to rise from mourning and declare "Nahamu Nahamu," we will be consoled, and we will offer consolation. We will identify with each other with the same sense of responsibility that was demonstrated by our forefather Isaac.

An ancient rabbinic teaching has it that only those who mourn for the sadness of Jerusalem's tragedies will rejoice at Jerusalem's redemption. On Tisha B'Av we cry for the tragedies that have befallen our people; but we also proclaim Nahamu Nahamu. We arise from our mourning. We cast our eyes forward to a happier and better time. May the Almighty Who creates the harmony of the heavenly spheres bring harmony and peace to us, to Israel, and to good people everywhere.

Condolences

We send our condolences to the family of Sally Bekhore, z"l, sister of Clara Saltoun, z"l aunt of Diana Gazal and Benjamin F. Elias. May Hashem comfort all the family together with all the mourners of Tzion.

Refuah Shlemah

Mordechai Cohen / Mordecai ben Avraham
Moselle Amron/Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana
Tilda Levy / Tilda bat Miriam
Joseph Sharaf / Yossef ben Jamila
Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha
Pnina Herzbrun / Pnina bat Esther
Michael Herzbrun / Michael Baruch ben Sarah
Sal Sassoon / Shlomo ben Sasson Menashe

Mazal Tov

Congratulations to parents, Ruth & Anthony Molinari, and siblings, Lorenzo and Mateo, on the birth of a baby boy.
Mazal Tov to grandparents Majdoline & Nassim Hay Mussry, Joy & William Molinari.

Condolences

We send our condolences to the family of Jacob Hakak, z"l, son of Carole & Dr. Lev Hakak, brother to Oshri Hakak and Rashelle Hakak-Lavi. May Hashem comfort them together with all the mourners of Tzion.

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for August 9 to 16, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

14 Av / Sunday, August 10th

Moshe Hagani

Moshi Hagooli *Moshe ben Yehezkel*
Eliyahu Mizrahie *Eliyahu ben Mordechai*
Pinchas ben Channah

17 Av / Wednesday, August 13th

Jacob Jonah *Yaacov Yonah ben Yonah Yitzhak*
Sabih Kattan *Sabiha bat Gurjiya Horesh*
Matilda Levi *Massoodah bat Tirkie*

18 Av / Thursday, August 14th

Khadoori Sasson *Kadoori ben Sasson*

19 Av / Friday, August 15th

Esther Shapiro *Ester bat Rivka*

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