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What is Yom
Kippur ?

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NEWSLETTER



RoshHashana 18-20-09-2020 - Shana Tova

The Head of the Year

Rosh Hashanah ushers in the beginning of the Jewish year and is a holiday that celebrates the creation of the world, something that's reflected in its name, which means "head of the year" in Hebrew.

Rosh Hashanah commemorates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates in the Yom Kippur holiday, also known as the Day of Atonement.

Rosh Hashanah and **Yom Kippur** are the two "High Holy Days" in the Jewish religion.

Yom Kippur will be from 27th to 28th September 2020.

The **purpose of Yom Kippur** is to effect individual and collective purification by the practice of forgiveness of the sins of others and by sincere repentance for one's own sins against God. How it began: According to Jewish tradition, the origins of **Yom Kippur** date back to the time of Moses, after the people of Israel made their exodus from Egypt. When they arrived at Mount Sinai, Moses was given the Ten Commandments by God. When Moses came down the mountain, he found the people worshipping a golden calf.

October there will be Sukkot - Feast of Tabernacles from 3rd October to 10th October remembering the Exodus and the freedom from slavery.A

Dear friends and supporters!

Since our last newsletter a lot of things have happened - all over the world, in Israel, in our lives... Sometimes it seems that we are entering into the darkest times of human history, and we feel terrified and hopeless.

Our work gives us a privilege to meet every day amazing people. The sobering reality of their testimonies helps us to look at current situation from a different perspective. We had the honour to celebrate with a holocaust survivor the presentation of his book **"We remember"**. The author Avrum Sharnopolsky was a leader of a political movement for the rights of repatriated from the former Soviet Union and is the head of our action group. Now he is 87 years old and his life story is incredible. It reads like a thriller and phantasy book. His book is the story about Ukrainian tragedy - famine, war and genocide, about the annihilation of millions of people. He wrote about the Ukrainian ghetto **"Pechora"** in the Vinnyrza region, one of the worst in the history of the Shoa. The people did not get any food. Nothing. They were just thrown on the empty ground in the winter. No food, no water... They were dying one after another, the living were sleeping next to dead, waiting for their end. Only a few survived. Another of our survivor group, Lev Muchnik, was also in this ghetto. He is now 89 years old. He was in ghetto with his mother, when he was 10 years old. His mother also survived, because he saved her. He was stealing bread in the village close to the ghetto and bringing it to her. Sometimes he was drinking some milk straight from cows. When Soviet army liberated them, Lev was helping the soldiers to find those who were still breathing.

We could celebrate the release of the book with both survivors, Avrum and Lev as well as a limited number of the members of our group in midst of this Corona-pandemic. It was not just "We remember". In summary it was:

We survived the war! We are in Israel! We write books! We help people! We live long! We love life.

Some of them were fighting for a long time for their right to come to Israel. It was forbidden to learn Hebrew and to study the Tora. They were persecuted, lost their jobs, some of them were prisoners of their memories. But they never gave up, and they were not afraid to meet in the midst of the Corona pandemic. Usually we put a few photos. But in this letter we want to put more photos, because they speak more than words. Please look at their eyes and get inspiration, strength and encouragement, as we are receiving from them here in Jerusalem, the city of life and light.

***We wish you all a blessed and happy New Year
Shana Tova - Your Machaseh Team from Jerusalem***

**Have I not
commanded you?**

**Be strong and
courageous.**

**Do not be afraid; do
not be discouraged,**

**for the Lord your
God will be with you**



Avrum and Lev at the
book presentation



