

# The Bulletin

Magain



David



**Magain David Sephardim Congregation**

San Francisco

Alain Azan, President

Rabbi Simon Benzaquen, Scholar-in-Residence

(415) 752-9095

[info@magaindavid.com](mailto:info@magaindavid.com)

[www.magaindavid.com](http://www.magaindavid.com)

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## High Holiday Greetings from the Board of Directors

Dear Congregants,

We once again welcome you to Magain David for the High Holidays. Attendance is open to the entire community and we look forward to seeing many familiar faces.

Services will be led by Rabbi Simon Benzaquen and Hazzan Uzi Shazzo. The two will bring us warm and spiritually uplifting services, with melodies and tunes from the Sephardic tradition. Please see the following pages for thoughts from the Rabbi and for the schedule of services.

**Seat Reservations:** Many of you have already become members of the synagogue for 5780 (2019-2020). Thank you for your support. This year seats will be reserved for our paid members of the synagogue. For non-members, a seat reservation costs \$100 for either Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, or \$150 for both. Call us at 415-752-9095 or visit [magaindavid.com/seat-reservations](http://magaindavid.com/seat-reservations) to reserve a seat.

**Membership:** If you are not already a member, please reflect on what the synagogue brings into your life. Your participation and membership contributions help us to continue to perpetuate our traditions and culture in San Francisco. To join Magain David as a member, please email the board of directors at [info@magaindavid.com](mailto:info@magaindavid.com), or visit us at [magaindavid.com/membership](http://magaindavid.com/membership).

**Sederim:** As in past years, we will have sederim each night of Rosh Hashanah. Please join the Rabbi and Hazzan and other members of the congregation to celebrate with us. To register for the seder, please visit [magaindavid.com/rosh-hashanah-seder.html](http://magaindavid.com/rosh-hashanah-seder.html), or text or call us: 415-752-9095. \$80/person, children under 5 free.

**Staying Updated:** You can stay updated on events and news at Magain David with our synagogue e-mail newsletter. Email us, or visit [magaindavid.com/mailling-list](http://magaindavid.com/mailling-list). We also can send you text updates to your phone. Please email us your cell phone number, or text us your name to 415-752-9095.

We wish everyone in our community a meaningful Shana Tova and a happy and healthy 5780 .

Alain Azan, President

Richie Greenberg, Vice President

Dan Serfaty, Treasurer

Angela Beniflah

## A note from Rabbi Simon Benzaquen, 2019 Scholar in Residence at Magain David

### For the H”H 2019/5780

**To my dear Magain David Sephardim Congregation,**

I am looking forward to meeting every one of you this Rosh Ha’Shana and Yom Kippur.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you closely, during the last four years on Rosh Ha’Shana and Yom Kippur, as well as during the rest of the year, when my wife Cecilia and I come for Shabbat. We have established many great friendships.

I would like to wish you this year 5780, great blessings, and looking forward to seeing you again at services at Magain David Synagogue on Rosh Ha’Shana and Yom Kippur and personally greeting you and your family.

To every one of you, I wish you, **Tizku Le’Shanim Rabot Neimot Ve’Tovot.**

May Ha’Shem grant you all a prosperous year, when all your good desires should be realized, including **good health, Good Parnassa, wonderful family relationships**, and above all **good relations with the Almighty so that all your prayers are answered for good.**

If anything has characterized our Sephardic community it has always been the love for Torah, respect and admiration for our Hachamim.

What is the one thing that every Jew has in common, no matter what their level of observance and practice? It is the study of our common heritage, the **Torah**, our beautiful **customs**, and **beautiful melodious liturgy**, especially for **Rosh Ha’Shana and Yom Kippur**.

My wife Cecilia and I, are looking forward to be joining you during the High Holidays and to be praying together our beautiful traditional melodies, sung so beautifully by our great Hazan **Uzi Shazzo** and share some Torah with you, and get to know you even better, on this, one of the best moments of the year, Rosh Ha’Shanah and Kippur.

**Tizku Le’Shanim Rabbot Neimot Ve’Tovot**

**Rabbi Simon Benzaquen**

## Important Notes and Links

### Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Seat Reservations

Seats are reserved for members. For non-members, seat reservations for either Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur cost \$100, or \$150 for both holidays.

To make a reservation, please visit [magaindavid.com/seat-reservations](http://magaindavid.com/seat-reservations) or contact the synagogue at 415-725-9095 or [info@magaindavid.com](mailto:info@magaindavid.com).

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### Rosh Hashanah Sederim

*Sunday, September 29 and Monday, September 30*

There will be a seder open to the community on each night of Rosh Hashanah at Magain David following services.

The cost is \$80 per person per night, Children under 5 are free.

To register, visit [magaindavid.com/rosh-hashanah-seder.html](http://magaindavid.com/rosh-hashanah-seder.html) or contact the synagogue at 415-752-9095 or [info@magaindavid.com](mailto:info@magaindavid.com).

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### Hoshana Rabba - all night learning

*Saturday evening, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 11pm until Dawn  
at Magain David*

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### Lulav and Etrog Sets

The cost is \$50 per set. Place an order as soon as possible.

To order, visit [magaindavid.com/lulav-order-form](http://magaindavid.com/lulav-order-form) or contact the synagogue at 415-752-9095 or [info@magaindavid.com](mailto:info@magaindavid.com).

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### Sukkah Construction

We will be putting up the new Sukkah at the conclusion of Yom Kippur. If you are interested in participating in mitzvah of building the sukkah, please contact us at [info@magaindavid.com](mailto:info@magaindavid.com) or 415-752-9095.

## 5780 High Holiday Services Schedule

**Daily Selichot:** 5:30am at Magain David

**Erev Rosh Hashanah** - Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

Selichot-Hatarat Nedarim: 5:30 AM

Candle Lighting: 6:37 PM

Mincha and Arvit: 7:00 PM

*followed by seder and dinner (reservations required)*

**Rosh Hashanah Day 1** - Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

Shacharit: 8:30 AM Torah Reading: 10:45 AM (approximate)

Sermon / Shofar Blowing: 11:30 AM (approximate)

Mussaf: 12:00 PM

*Services followed by Kiddush and Lunch at the synagogue*

Mincha: 5:00 PM

Tashlich (at Mountain Lake Park & 12th Avenue): 6:15 PM

Arvit: 7:15 PM

*followed by seder and dinner (reservations required)*

**Rosh Hashanah Day 2** - Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

Shacharit: 8:30 AM Torah Reading: 10:45 AM (approximate)

Sermon / Shofar Blowing: 11:30 AM (approximate)

Mussaf: 12:00 PM

*Services followed by Kiddush and Lunch at the synagogue*

Mincha: 5:30 PM

Class taught by Rabbi Benzaquen 6:15 PM

Arvit 7:15 PM

Yom Tov ends: 7:22pm

**Tzom Gedaliah** – Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Fast begins: 5:49 AM Fast concludes: 7:21 PM

**Erev Shabbat Shuva** – Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

Candlelighting: 6:30pm ; Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 6:30pm

*Followed by a meal at the synagogue*

**Shabbat Shuva** – Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

Shacharit: 9:00 AM

*Services followed by Kiddush and Lunch at the synagogue*

Mincha: 5:45 PM Seuda: 6:15pm

Arvit and Havdalah 7:10 PM Shabbat concludes: 7:26pm

**Erev Yom Kippur – Tuesday, October 8th**

Selichot - Hatarat Nedarim: 5:30 AM

Candle Lighting / Fast begins: 6:41 PM

Tallit put on no later than: 7:12 PM

Lecha Eli / Kol Nidrei: 6:45 PM

**Yom Kippur – Wednesday, October 9th**

Shacharit: 8:00 AM

Torah Reading: 10:30 AM      Rabbi's Sermon: 11:15 AM

Mussaf: 11:45 AM – 2:30 PM      Mincha: 3:30 PM

Neilah: 5:45PM      Shofar / Fast ends: 7:20 PM

*followed by small snacks to break the fast*

**Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah (times may change; check website)**

*Food will be available in the sukkah following services each day*

Erev Sukkot, Sunday October 13, candle 6:17pm      Mincha 6:20pm

Sukkot Day 1 and Day 2 (Mon Oct 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>) 9:15am / 6:20pm

Kabbalat Shabbat, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm

Shabbat Hol Moed, October 19<sup>th</sup>, shachrit 9:15am / 6pm

Tikkun Leil Hoshana Rabba, Saturday, October 19th: 11pm

Erev Shemini Atzeret, Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>: 6:07pm

Shemini Atzeret / Simhat Torah (Mon Oct 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>) 9:15am / 6:52pm

## High Holiday Highlights by Rabbi Simon Benzaquen

*Rabbi Benzaquen has shared these thoughts with us on the holidays. Please visit [magaindavid.com/posts](http://magaindavid.com/posts) for more insights.*

We are now in the month of Elul, the last month of the Jewish calendar. It begins a period of intensive introspection, to clarify life's goals, and to come closer to G-d. It is a time when we step back and look at ourselves critically and honestly, with the intention of improving.

The four Hebrew letters of the word Elul (aleph-lamed-vav-lamed) are the first letters of the four words Ani l'edodi v'edodi li — "I am to my Beloved and my Beloved is to me" (Song of Songs 6:3). These words sum up the relationship between G-d and His people. In other words, the month preceding Rosh Hashanah is a time when G-d reaches out to us in an effort to create a more spiritually-inspiring atmosphere, one that stimulates Teshuva (repentance). It is a time for us to take advantage, and get closer to G-d, since He, as it were, has put Himself in a situation of closeness with us and desires our presence in any way that we acknowledge Him, and especially when it brings credit to Him.

**40-DAY PERIOD** Over 3000 years ago, when the Jewish people were privileged to hear G-d utter the Ten Commandments set in tablets of stone, the Jews later sinned with the Golden Calf. Moshe desperately pleaded with G-d to spare the nation. He did, and that same day that G-d spared the Nation, it became a "Day of Forgiveness" - "Yom Kippur".

On the first day of Elul, Moshe ascended Mt. Sinai, and 40 days later — on the seminal Yom Kippur — he returned to the people (Jews) with a new, second set of stone tablets in hand.

For us as well the month of Elul begins a 40-day period that culminates in the holiest day of the year, Yom Kippur. During this period, many people increase their study of Torah and performance of good deeds.

**Selihot** We Sefaradim begin reciting Selihot from the first day of the month of Elul onward until Yom Kippur. Selihot is a special series of beautiful prayers that invoke G-d's mercy. In most Congregations, including Magain David, Selihot are recited early in the morning, before Shaharit.

After the sin of the Golden Calf Moses asked G-d to explain His system for relating to the world. G-d's answer, known as the "13 Attributes of Mercy," forms the essence of the Selihot prayers.

The "13 Attributes" speak of G-d's patience. The same G-d who created us with a clean slate and a world of opportunity, gives us another chance if we've misused the first one.

Selihot should be said with a minyan. If this is impossible, then it should still be said alone, omitting the parts in Aramaic and the "13 Attributes of Mercy".

Selihot are held every Sunday and weekday morning at 5:30am.



**Two Aspects to Rosh Hashana** When Rosh Hashana arrives we are keenly aware of its significance. On one hand it is the awesome Day of Judgment when G-d determines the outcome of our entire year. We become anxious and frightened not knowing what awaits us. On the other hand, on Rosh Hashana night we also dip our apples into honey or sugar and partake of those symbols which signify what we hope for in the coming year; in which a happy and joyous mood prevails.

Sefaradim emphasize this happy and joyous mood of the Holiday especially in our Liturgy.

Notably, we do not recite "Unetane Tokef" ("Let us express the mighty holiness of this day") one of the most solemn and powerful prayers of Rosh Hashana, recited by our brethren Ashkenazim as introduction of The Kedusha during The Amida of Mussaf. Attributed to Rabbi Amnon of Mainz (10th century), "Untaneh Tokef" is a heart wrenching prayer, filled with emotional and powerful words which would lead us to cry and emphasize the sad aspect and judgment of the Rosh Hashana Yom Tov. In contrast, our sister Congregations, The Ashkenazim, make this Prayer the central theme of the Rosh Hashana Amidah.

Reviewing the laws of Rosh Hashana further reminds us that within judgment itself there is cause for rejoicing. We enter the day clean and dressed in our best garments as a sign of our confidence in a favorable judgment. On Rosh Hashana we do not recite the vidui (confession). Rather than focusing on past sins and seeking forgiveness, we look forward with optimism to the future.

When we properly understand the future of the judgment on Rosh Hashana, however, the apparent paradox of rejoicing in judgment evaporates. We recognize that it is we who require the Divine Judgment, the annual opportunity for spiritual stocktaking. We summon G-d to judge us with the blasts of the Shofar that herald the convening of the Divine Tribunal. Our voluntary submission to judgment arouses Divine Mercy; that is the secret of the Shofar. The shofar also reminds us of the merits of our patriarchs, Abraham and Isaac, who were willing to sacrifice their lives for the love of G-d, and in their place a ram was brought.

On the two nights of Rosh Hashana we should make sure that we partake of the symbols that we hope for in the coming year. Also, during the two days of Rosh Hashana, Monday, September 30th, and Tuesday, October 1st, we blow the shofar in our Synagogue. Everyone should come to the Synagogue both days of Rosh Hashana.

Hearing the Shofar is the most important obligation of the two days of Rosh Hashana.

**TASHLICH** We have a beautiful custom. On the first day of Rosh Hashana we recite the Tashlich Ceremony near a body of water. Tashlich are prayers recited while symbolically throwing away our sins.

Minha: 5:00 PM. Tashlich (Lake Park @ 12th Avenue): 6:15 PM. Arvit: 7:15 PM

**ZIARA - CEMETERY PILGRIMAGE** On the Eve of Rosh Hashana it is customary to make a pilgrimage to the cemetery (Ziara) to recite memorial prayers at the grave of the righteous, including members of our families who are buried there. The purpose for doing this is to pray to G-d to hear our prayers in the merit of the righteous.

Tizku Le'Shanim Rabbot.

*Rabbi Simon Benzaquen*