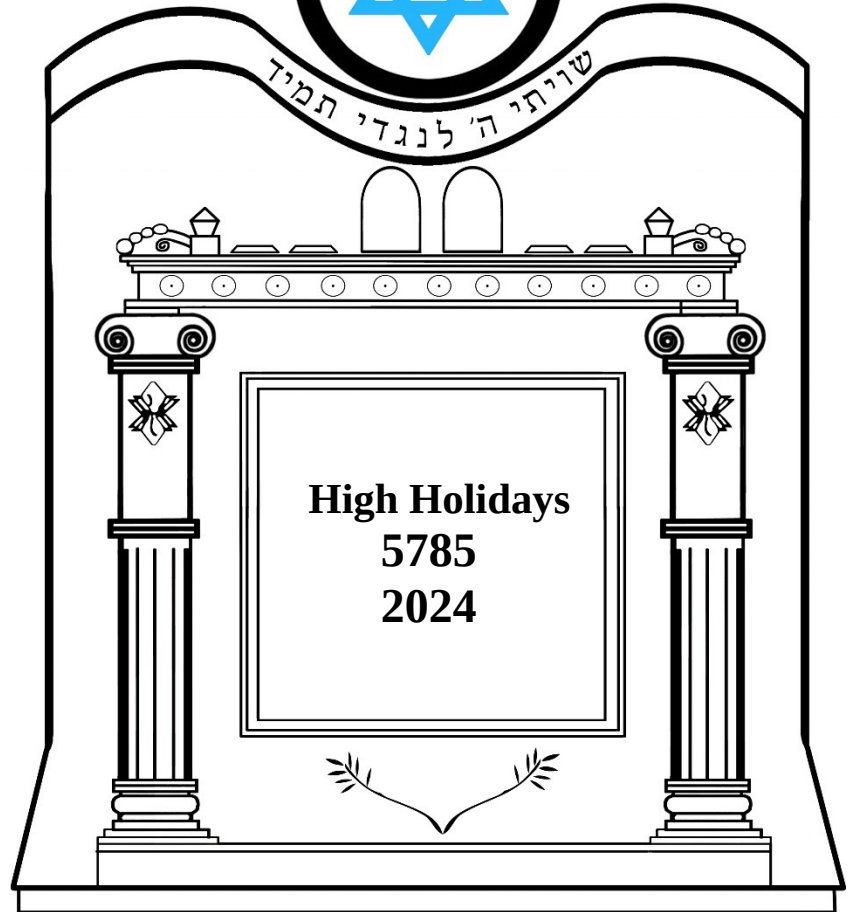


# The Bulletin

Magain



David



**Magain David Sephardim Congregation**

San Francisco

Alain Azan, President

Rabbi Simon Benzaquen, Scholar-in-Residence

(415) 752-9095

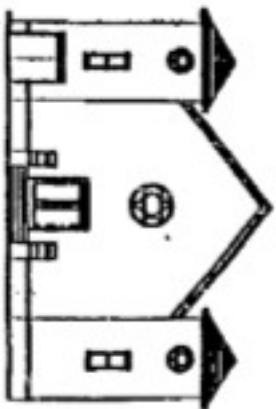
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**MAGAIN DAVID SEPHARDIM CONGREGATION**

351 FOURTH AVENUE \* SAN FRANCISCO \* CA \* 94118

**DATED MAIL**



## **5785 High Holiday Services Schedule**

**Daily Selichot for month of Elul:** 6:00 AM, Anshey Sfarad @ 16<sup>th</sup> Ave & Clement St

**Erev Rosh Hashanah** - Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Selichot-Hatarat Nedarim: 5:30 AM at Magain David

Candle Lighting: 6:32 PM Mincha and Arvit: 6:00 PM  
*Service followed by seder and dinner (reservations required)*

**Rosh Hashanah Day 1** – Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</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: 4:15 PM  
Tashlich (at Mountain Lake Park & 12th Avenue): 5:30 PM  
Candle Lighting: 7:27 PM Arvit: 6:45 PM  
*Services followed by seder and dinner (reservations required)*

**Rosh Hashanah Day 2** - Friday, October 4<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*

**Class taught by Rabbi Benzaquen 5:15 PM**

**Erev Shabbat Shuva** – Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>  
Candlelighting: 6:29 PM Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 6:15pm  
*Followed by a meal at the synagogue*

**Shabbat Shuva** – Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>  
Shacharit: 9:00 AM **Parashat “Ha'azinu”**  
*Services followed by Kiddush and Lunch at the synagogue*  
Mincha: 5:30 PM Seuda: 6:00 PM, Arvit and Havdalah 7:15 PM  
Shabbat concludes: 7:25 PM  
**Tizku l"shanim rabot!**

**Tzom Gedaliah** – Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>  
Fast begins: 5:53 AM Fast concludes: 7:16 PM

**Erev Yom Kippur** – Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
Selichot - Hatarat Nedarim: 5:30 AM at Magain David  
Candle Lighting/Fast begins: 6:19 PM Tallit no later than: 6:36 PM  
Lecha Eli / Kol Nidrei: 6:19 PM

**Yom Kippur** – Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>  
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 **followed by words from Rabbi Benzaquen.**  
Neilah: 6:15 PM. Shofar / Fast ends: 7:15 PM followed by Arvit.  
*Followed by small snacks to break the fast*

**Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah (times change; check website)**  
*The schedule is not finalized at this time. However, these are the zmanims for the Sukkot holidays. Please watch our newsletter before Yom Kippur for the final schedule.*

Erev Sukkot, Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup> Candles 6:12 PM  
Sukkot Day 1 and Day 2 (Thu. and Fri., Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>) 9:00 AM  
Day 1 Candle lighting 7:08 PM  
Day 2 / Shabbat Candle lighting 6:09 PM

Tikkun Leil Hoshana Rabba, Tuesday night, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00 PM  
Erev Shemini Atzeret, Wed. October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Candle lighting 6:02 PM  
Shemini Atzeret / Simhat Torah (Thu. and Fri., Oct 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>)

Shabbat Parashat Bereshit Oct 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Candle lighting: 6:00 PM  
Motzae Shabbat 6:57 PM

## 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 you all.

Services will be led by Rabbi Simon Benzaquen and Hazzan Uzi Shazzo coming specially from Israel for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. 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 5785 (2024-2025). Thank you for your support. Seats will be reserved for our paid members of the synagogue but everyone is of course welcome to attend as is the tradition at Magain David. We also offer seat reservations for non-members: \$100 for Rosh Hashana only and \$100 for Yom Kippur only, or \$150 for both Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Reserve at: <http://www.magaindavid.com/seat-reservations>

**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).

**Seders:** As in past years, we will have a Seder 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. Cost per evening: \$75/adult, \$65 Senior/Student, \$18/children 6-17 and children under 5 years old are free. **You must reserve in advance - no admission at the last minute.**

**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 5785.

Alain Azan, President  
Richie Greenberg, Vice President  
Angela Beniflah, Board Member  
Dan Serfaty, Treasurer

## Rosh Hashana Message by Rabbi Simon Benzaquen



Truly, the passage of time as we grow older seems to be speeding. In fact, life is fleeting, and we have to make the most of the time that is granted to us by the Almighty. We must realize that life is precious and we cannot afford to waste a minute. We have to do those things that life is worth living for. To set us in this mood, that is why we have been given this season of the High Holidays. Rosh Hashana. Ten days of Penitence. Yom Kippur. Succoth and Simhat Tora. An entire month, preceded by the month of Elul, dedicated to reflection to action and commitment. Every aspect of our lives requires retrospection and evaluation, leading us to action and commitment. Whether it is in sad, happy or joyous moments, all of those require introspection in order to learn to value every aspect of our lives and to appreciate the difference in what is good and real, and what is fleeting and wasteful.

This year, before Rosh Hashanah, many of us find ourselves very busy thinking about what is happening to our world, to our city and to our United States. We live in a world that is unrecognizable, from what we are used to. Antisemitism has lifted up its ugly head and reached unprecedented levels of irrational hate. People are protesting against Jewish students in most of the famous non-Jewish universities in the United States and Europe, siding with Hamas the most cruel and inhuman Terrorist organization. On October 7, 2023 Hamas, entered from Gaza and breached Israeli border towns by breaking the border fences and massacring, over 1500 people who were celebrating at The Nova Festival. Hamas continued to murder men, women, children and the elderly in the border towns, entering kibutzim, slaughtering, and burning children alive, raping women in front of their families, and other atrocities which are too many to count. Hamas took over 200 hostages including men, women, young and old, including babies. The antisemite protestors siding with Hamas, is something unprecedented in the history of antisemitism. Just because we are Jews and are related to Israel.

This year before Rosh Hashanah, many of us find ourselves thinking about what is happening to our Israel. How can we support, strengthen, and contribute to Israel, how can we show our solidarity and pride, and love of Israel? How can we become involved in our community-at-large, and even how to strengthen our families and ourselves. Last year before October 7 2023 as we went on with our regular lives and ventures, we could never have imagined what the following day, week or even year was going to be like. But all of us have been caught off guard, by the Hamas terrorist organization and all the Palestinians who helped them commit such heinous crimes against Israel. The rise of unprecedented antisemitism has engulfed almost our entire world with devastating results. It has turned our entire world upside down. This is exactly the true adage that says "El hombre propone y D-o Baruch Hu dispone" "Man proposes but God disposes". Therefore, it is wise to consider every moment that God grants us and to make the most of it, with our families and our friends.

But still we face different anxieties and worry, There is a lot that is bad and confusing in our world, like Russia joining forces with Iran, Syria and China to put Israel in a corner. Israel's enemies are trying to paralyze the country. When Israel reacts to the criminal intent of its enemies to defend itself, our enemies make Israel out to be the aggressor. We are definitely living in troubled times and concerned

about an uncertain future. And these days with the rampant anti- Semitism that is raising its ugly head again, and the state of our world in reference to us and to Israel, we cannot fathom how G-d runs this universe of ours, since He does this in combination with our actions and our free will.

Yet nothing is clear, for we are faced with things that happen in front of us that confound us and cloud our perspective of what is right and what is wrong. Many of us looked forward to the future, with our own plans of what we think ought to happen; suddenly we find that all of our plans are disrupted. Then we begin to wonder why? When it was planned it looked perfect, it was well thought out only to find out that in the bigger scheme of things, our thoughts, our plans and our evaluations amount to nothing.

This is the lesson that all of us should learn from last year. That we might be planning as we should, but never forget that we are only planning, but the ultimate decider is G-d, not us. This is why I believe Rosh Hashanah and Kippur and this entire season is necessary to awaken in us our inner faith, hope and belief in a better future with G-ds help. Not to succumb to the quagmire of despair. To activate our inner energy within our souls, to pray to the One who is All- Powerful. We may not have an exact strategy, but if we assume a resigned attitude, we will lose even before we begin.

Our Jewish tradition is that every challenge, every adversity must begin with absolute fortitude and belief that with faith in Ha'Shem victory is at hand. This is the root of faith. Faith that we will prevail with G-ds help. The breaths of fresh air of the newness of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and the resolve of our faiths will have the power to counter the winds of our uncertainty. Rosh Hashanah is urging us, open the window of your heart and breathe the fresh air of faith, as you are.

We must make our utmost endeavor to celebrate them, and not to discard the impact of celebrating them as a family. And try to smell the flowers of gratitude to Ha'Shem for what you have and feel the hopeful breeze of your life. At the beginning of the year, G-d decides and plans the entire year. This year I am praying to Hashem to grant us miracles. To keep all our soldiers safe. To have our soldiers in Eretz Israel achieve their goals to succeed in this war against our enemies Iran. Hamas. Hezbollah. The Houthis. And all the others who seek our demise. May Hashem give wisdom to our Israeli leaders to come to wise and proper decisions and to achieve Victory for our people against all our enemies. May hashem return all our hostages safe to their homes and heal all our injured soldiers. May we see with our own eyes the healing of our sick congregants, to answer our prayers with a yes, for Refuah Shelema, to grant us and our families a good healthy and peaceful year with good Parnassa (livelihood) to be able to do Tzedaka, charity and kindness for others. To receive good news from our children and grandchildren, to be granted harmony in our Congregation Magain David as well as all other Congregations. And to crown the efforts of our members for the enhancement and strength of our congregation. May this year bring us closer to our complete redemption and may we be blessed with a good and healthy Year.

**"Tizku Leshanim Rabbot Neimot Vetovot Amen".**

**Rabbi Simon and Cecilia Benzaquen**

## Important Notes and Links

### Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Seat Reservations

Seats will be reserved for our paid members of the synagogue but everyone is of course welcome to attend as is the tradition at Magain David. We also offer seat reservations for non-members: \$100 for Rosh Hashana only and \$100 for Yom Kippur only, or \$150 for both Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. To reserve your seat please visit the link: <http://www.magaindavid.com/seat-reservations> or let us know in person or by email at [info@magaindavid.com](mailto:info@magaindavid.com).

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### Rosh Hashanah Seders

*Wednesday, October 2 and Thursday, October 3*

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

The cost per evening is \$75/adult, \$65 Senior/Student, \$18/children 6-17, children 5 or under are free.

**You must reserve in advance - no admission at the last minute.**

To register or download our [guide](#), 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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### Lulav and Etrog Sets

This year unfortunately we had to order before we sent the bulletin, so we will not be able to take orders at this point. However, we have a few extra sets coming, let us know if you need one and if there are some left, you can buy one of those. The cost is \$75 per set. Let us know as soon as possible either by phone at: 415-752-9095 or by email at: [info@magaindavid.com](mailto:info@magaindavid.com).

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### Sukkot And Sukkah Construction

This year we will build the Sukkah on the Sunday after Rosh Hashana, on October 6. Building the Sukkah is a big mitzvah, please come and help, for whatever time you can spare. 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