



Hallah at Home

Torah Portion of the Week: Nitzavim, Book of Deuteronomy 29:9- 30:20

The Spirit of Welcome

BY: RABBI DARREN LEVINE

The Torah portion of the week includes a well known passage: Moses says: “You stand here this day, all of you, before the Eternal your God - you tribal heads, you elders, you officials, all the people of Israel, your children, even the stranger within your camp, from woodchopper to water drawer - to enter into the Covenant of the Eternal One. . .” (Deuteronomy 29:9-10).

The central idea is that all people are welcomed into the Covenant with the Eternal - from “tribal heads to water drawers.” In other words, no matter your place in society, rich or poor, you are welcome to enter the Covenant.

I’m mindful of the opportunity we have as a young congregation to embrace the social ethic of this teaching: to welcome all. I hear too many stories of folks that felt unwelcome and/or uncomfortable at Jewish gatherings, where they felt like outsiders. When people describe such an experience to me, it’s often couched in the way they were greeted - or rather - not greeted. Did someone invite them to join in? Did someone go out of their way to say hello or to welcome them?

It’s been well documented that reaching out to new people in any group setting adds to the well being of individuals, both the person expressing welcome and the recipient. I hope that you will be an

ambassador of welcome at Tamid and offer with genuine interest and kindness, the spirit of welcome. I’d like Tamid to be well known as a place where people feel welcome and where a new person walks away from our gatherings saying, “It was my first time, but this very nice person just introduced themselves to me and we started talking about X, Y, or Z.” In my opinion, that would be high praise, and to accomplish this spirit of welcome, I need your help.

And it’s in this spirit that we launch our Hallah at Home experiment with the plan of sending you a hallah approximately the 3rd Shabbat of each month. We meet on the 1st Friday for our larger congregational Shabbat gatherings and I want to encourage you to create a small and intimate gathering of family or friends in your own homes on the 3rd Shabbat of each month. Here’s a great chance to invite new friends for a meal, to break bread with you and your family, to learn about the important work we’re doing at Tamid and to offer them - “all the people of Israel, your children, even the stranger within your camp,” the spirit of welcome.

TAMID TABLE TALK - IDEAS FOR CONVERSATION

1. Describe the most interesting person you ever met and how you met them. How was the spirit of welcome expressed?
2. Like in the Torah, “who are the strangers in your camp” and how can they be helped to feel less like strangers?
3. What are your three most favorite ways to start a conversation with a new person?

In the Community

Rosh Hashanah Luncheon

After services on Thursday, September 25, please join us for a light luncheon with food provided by Zucker’s Bagels and Smoked Fish on the patio at St. Paul’s Chapel.

For the younger set, come to SHABOOM! for the New Year beginning at 9 AM. All other service times can be found on the website.

Simchat Torah Shabbat

Come see the entire Torah unrolled, from the book of Genesis to Deuteronomy. Did you know the first letter of the Torah is *bet* and the last is a *lamed*? Together *lamed* and *bet* spell, *Lev*, the Hebrew word for heart.

Please invite a new friend or family to join you for this special gathering on Friday, October 17, 6 PM at St. Paul’s Chapel.

Sukkot Day Trip

Come to the orchards on October 13 to pick apples and pumpkins, drink cider, and listen to some authentic blue grass. You’re invited to ride on the Tamid bus which leaves Tribeca at 9 AM or meet us at the orchard in Northern Westchester. To RSVP or for more information and to get on the bus, visit tamidnyc.org/sukkotday

Hallah at Home: The How and the Why

Ehad Ha’am once said, “In as much as the Jewish people kept Shabbat, Shabbat kept the Jewish people.” At Tamid, we believe in the importance of Shabbat as a day to relax, to be calm, and to have fun with your family and closest friends.

Mealtime is the perfect place to enjoy time with one another and to experience the taste of Shabbat. So every 3rd Friday of the month, from September to June, expect a fresh hallah from us at Tamid along with a Hallah at Home newsletter and some Shabbat cards to enjoy!

Hallah at Home is a Shabbat program for Tamid members where we send the spirit of shabbat into your home with a hallah gift each 3rd Friday of the month. Share the joy of Shabbat. Shabbat Shalom!

Back issues of this newsletter can be read at: tamidnyc.org/hallah. Please extend the warmth of Judaism by inviting a new friend or neighbor to join you at the next Tamid gathering. See you soon!