

**Lewis Baylor**

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**From:** Elliot Price [dadprice@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2013 7:12 PM  
**To:** 'Elliot Price'  
**Subject:** CORRECTION - AJCSS Weekly Announcements - August 18th  
 CORRECTION – Bagels and Blox – September 15th



## WELCOME TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR AT THE AJCSS

***CLASSES START THIS SUNDAY – August 18<sup>th</sup> at  
CCI from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm***

### AJCSS HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ **First Session** – August 18<sup>th</sup>
- ★ **Parents Meeting** – August 25<sup>th</sup> 10:15 am to 10:45 am – Warren Umansky, speaker
- ☐ **NO SCHOOL, Labor Day Weekend** – September 1<sup>st</sup>
- ★ **Bagels and Blox** – September 15<sup>th</sup>

## PREPARE FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS!!!

The month of [Elul](#) (started August 7, 2013 this year) is a time of repentance in preparation for the High Holy Days of [Rosh Hashanah](#) and [Yom Kippur](#). Tradition teaches that the month of Elul is a particularly propitious time for repentance. This mood of repentance builds through the month of Elul to the period of [Selichot](#), to Rosh Hashanah, and finally to Yom Kippur.

The name of the month (spelled [Alef-Lamed-Vav-Lamed](#)) is said to be an acronym of "Ani l'dodi v'dodi li," "I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine," a quote from Song of Songs 6:3, where the Beloved is [G-d](#) and the "I" is the [Jewish people](#). In Aramaic (the vernacular of the Jewish people at the time that the month names were adopted), the word "Elul" means "search," which is appropriate, because this is a time of year when we search our hearts.

According to tradition, the month of Elul is the time that [Moses](#) spent on Mount Sinai preparing the second set of tablets after the incident of the golden calf (Ex. 32; 34:27-28). He ascended on Rosh Chodesh Elul and descended on the 10th of Tishri, at the end of Yom Kippur, when repentance was complete. Other sources say that Elul is the beginning of a period of 40 days that Moses prayed for G-d to forgive the people after the Golden Calf incident, after which the commandment to prepare the second set of tablets was given.

### Customs of Elul

During the month of Elul, from the second day of Elul to the 28th day, the shofar (a hollowed out ram's horn) is blown after morning services every weekday. See [Rosh Hashanah](#) for more information about the shofar and its characteristic blasts. The shofar is not blown on [Shabbat](#). It is also not blown on the day before Rosh Hashanah to make a clear distinction between the [rabbinical rule](#) of blowing the shofar in Elul and the [biblical mitzvah](#) to blow the shofar on Rosh Hashanah. Four blasts are blown: tekiah, shevarim-teruah, tekiah. The MIDI file on the [Rosh Hashanah](#) page emulates this combination of blasts. [Rambam](#) explained the custom of blowing shofar as a wake-up call to sleepers, designed to rouse us from our complacency. It is a call to repentance. The blast of the shofar is a very piercing sound when done properly.

Elul is also a time to begin the process of asking forgiveness for wrongs done to other people. According to Jewish tradition, [G-d](#) cannot forgive us for sins committed against another person until we have first obtained forgiveness from the person we have wronged. This is not as easy a task as you might think, if you have never done it. This process of seeking forgiveness continues through the [Days of Awe](#).

Many people visit cemeteries at this time, because the awe-inspiring nature of this time makes us think about life and death and our own mortality. In addition, many people use this time to check their [mezuzot](#) and [tefillin](#) for defects that might render them invalid.

**L'shalom,  
Elliot Price  
Principal  
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