Dear Woodside Family,

I hope everyone is successfully adjusting back from the beautiful month of Tishrei to their "regular" routine.

Several people asked me for the sources of some of the stories I shared over the Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkos season 5778. I am taking the liberty of sharing a few of the stories and related lessons with everyone, in the hope that it will keep the inspirational flames of Tishrei burning strong.

- The links are gathered at the end of this note, numbered according to the lesson.

Here are the lessons I wanted to get across

1. Let’s remember what life is really about. Live what we believe, and don’t forget life’s big picture as we live day to day (Rosh HaShanah Drashah)

2. Let’s remember that our neshamah is our most precious treasure, which we will live with for eternity. Just as our bodies need to be nourished, so do our souls. Our neshamah is thirsty to be polished with Torah study, devotion to Tefillah, service of Hashem, and performance of Chesed. We each have our unique way of caring for our own neshamah. (Yom Kippur Drashah)

3. We often give up when we are so so close to scoring, on the one-yard line. We never know which Tefillah is going to be the one to secure whatever it is that we are davening for. Don't stop davening because you don't see results just yet- keep on going and doing all that you are doing (on all fronts) because the next tefillah (or other aspect) may be "the one" that gets you to the end zone. (Neilah Drashah)

4.  Let’s remember that small actions can have a profound impact now and in the future. Don't just live for today, but always think about the "tomorrow" that’s the whole future and the incredible impact you can have on others in myriad ways. A smile, a good morning, a good word, a short phone call, an e-mail to another can help in ways that you may only hear about in 65 years, or beyond. (Shemini Atzeres Drashah)

5. Let’s remember that failure and success are not antonyms, but that failure is often a step toward reaching success. Don't get knocked down and stay down because you are not achieving the spiritual goals you wished to accomplish. Get back up, try again, and keep on going, as Shlomo HaMelech states in Mishlei 24:16” For though the righteous one may fall seven times, he will arise." (Shabbos Breishis Drashah)

Finally, let me let you know that the Walter family continues to make entries in our Hashgachah Pratis notebooks, noting how Hashem helps each of us in multiple ways throughout our day. We would be so happy for others to join our efforts by creating your own notebook, so we can together see Hashem's presence in our world and lives. Please feel free to be in touch with any of us about this.

If you have chosen an alternative kabalah (acceptance of responsibility) for the coming year, I hope you are finding small victories in the aspiration that you have taken on.

It’s never too late to start, and always too early to throw in the towel.

Wishing everyone a Chodesh Tov, and Wonderful Shabbos.

Rabbi Moshe Walter

1. Edward Reichman
<http://www.aish.com/sp/so/Why-Did-Edward-Reichmann-Want-to-be-Buried-with-his-Socks-On.html?s=srcon>

2. Rabbi Soloveichik

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuRf13rX4SQ>

3. N.E. Patriots

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/4-life-lessons-from-super-bowl-2017_us_589b6499e4b02bbb1816c244>

4. R’ Goldman, Abe Foxman

<https://www.guideposts.org/inspiration/miracles/gods-grace/holocaust-remembrance-day-an-unlikely-reunion>

5. Michael Jordan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45mMioJ5szc>