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Tevet/Shevat 5769

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Rabbis Message

One of the classic questions about the story of Chanukah is why was a miracle necessary when the circumstances were clearly beyond their control? The Pnei Yehoshua answers that the miracle was one of the historically dramatic and open demonstrations of God's love for the Jewish people. Thus, at Chanukah, we commemorate the combination of our effort and God's reward of that effort with the miraculous.

In considering the last few years of our capital campaign we also must conclude that what has been accomplished is also not too short of miraculous. However, our present project, although much smaller in scale than the previous projects, is probably the most important. Our new entryway is key to both more rental revenue and improved office administration.

So for those of you who have already responded to Executive Vice President Ken Meeker, know that you have become part of our essential rededication, or *Chanukat HaBayit*, as it were. And now, anyone else who is in a position to help, please also become the human component of our Chanukah story so the miracle can continue.

Happy Chanukah,

Jonathan Glass

Schtiklach – Tidbits from around the Shul

Minyan Corner

Our weekday minyanim continue to grow, expand and thrill.

One of our new daveners, Matthew Adereth, became engaged and was having difficulty finding a hall. His co-davener Ken Paskar saw his plight and suggested that he hold his wedding at Synagogue for the Arts. Thus on Sunday November 30th he wed his fiance Bianca Salivery in our beautiful sanctuary and entertained his guests in our reception hall.

But to top it off the suggestion was made that since he'd be working the following week, that it would be a thrill to make a Sheva Brachot at breakfast. So on a Thursday morning Matthew brought his bride to minyan and under the guidance of Nachman Kramer of Kramer Textile the ritual was performed (Rabbi Glass was out of town), and yet even newer ground was broken at our morning services.

Also, after a year hiatus, our weekday evening service has reestablished itself at 5:20pm. A highlight was latkes for the weekday evenings during Chanukah provided daily by Dolores Wine.

CCS JOO CROO

After a quiet start on a Monday evening, where a few kids got to see the studios of Z100FM, the youth group had a great pre Chanukah party Saturday night December 13th. We are lucky to have our new member Ondine Harris, a local product, taking up the helm in place of Yehudis Glass, who is in school in Maryland.

Sixteen kids and young adults first competed at latkes and then at dreidel. Again the boys edged out the girls at latkes but the girls narrowed the difference. After lighting candles Brina was 1st prize dreidel winner and Ezra Louvis was 2nd prize.

Tanach

Tanach Returns!

Once again the Tanach class performed a beautiful siyyum ceremony for their latest accomplishment, the book of Jonah. Although the original plan was to do so at Yom Kippur, they chose the occasion of our scholar in residence Dr. Aaron Demsky's presentation of Jonah. So on Shabbat afternoon November 22nd, Marilyn Sontag, Susan Blakeley and David Rheingold presented their verses which concluded the class' study of that book.

Now, on January 13th, the class will begin its next project, the book of Esther, which is the third of the 4 books that Dr. Demsky said are the most idiosyncratic of our Bible. Two of which we have already completed, namely Daniel and Jonah, and the 4th is Ecclesiastes.

So please join us that Tuesday night at 6pm for yet another new opportunity to jump in to some regular Torah study!

T'ai Chi

Check your e-news for details.

Gallery Space News

to 1/11, Brian Shapiro, *Paintings of Israel and New York*, focusing on landscape, architecture, and everyday life.

1/15 – 2/22, Mindell Seidlin, *Experiments in Matter*, mixed media collage and collage/relief.

2/26 – 3/ 29, *Avanti Duo: New York Kaleidoscope '09*, paintings by Elinore Bucholtz and Diane Waller. Contrasting visions and responses to the impact of the city.

Opsherin – Upsherin- Upsharin

Gail F. Nalven, Educational Director

As you look this newsletter, you will see a few "mazel tovs" on someone's *opsherin*. While the transliteration often varies, this custom has been around for many years and is now seeing resurgence among liberal Jews. I have attended several, from the traditional end of the spectrum to the more liberal. I encourage you to explore this ritual, as well as others, as a path to enriching your spirituality and exploring new aspects of Judaism. And, it's always a good reason to have a party!

From Ritualwell.org

It is traditional to let a child's hair grow until his or her third birthday. According to some this is based on the prohibition against picking the fruit of a tree until it is three years old. For *chasidim*, the cutting of a boy's hair on his third birthday is really a creating of peot, or sidelocks (the hair is cut away to reveal the *peot*). Similarly, the third birthday is significant from the point of view of tradition -- a boy is obliged to the *mitzvot of peot and tzitzit* (ritual fringes) and is seen as having arrived at the age of reason. His wildness (represented by his uncut hair) must now be channeled and tamed.

According to the Encyclopedia Judaica "hair is regarded as life index which possesses an independent soul and is the seat of the vital spirit (cf. The Samson story). The belief in the magic power of hair as the seat of man's 'life force' may have given rise to the taboos on cutting hair during the first year (or three years) of an infant's life."

Many *sephardim* bring their three-year-old sons to Mt. Meron on Lag B'Omer (the 33rd day of the Omer) for their first haircuts. There, outside the tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, the locks are clipped and blessings recited. This has

become an important pilgrimage for *hasidim* and the haircutting, a communal celebration and significant rite of passage.

This custom has enjoyed something of a surprising renaissance among more modern Jews as well, who celebrate the custom for both their sons and daughters. In his book, *Jewish Family and Life*, Yosef Abramowitz describes his eldest daughter's first haircut on *Lag B'Omer* following her third birthday.

Gail F. Nalven

Calendar

January

1 Office Closed, New Year's Holiday
5 Hebrew School resumes
6 Fast Day
19 No Hebrew School, MLK Day
26 *Rosh Hodesh Shevat*

February

6 *Shabbat* Dinner for *Tu B'Shevat*
7 Tot Shabbat, 10:30am
16 No Hebrew School, President's Day
24 & 25 *Rosh Hodesh Adar*

Service Times

✧Friday evening at candlelighting time.
✧Saturday morning services begin at 9am
✧Morning *Minyan* meets at 7:30am on T, W, F and at 7:20am on M, Th, and 7:10am on other Torah reading days
✧*Mincha* meets at 12:40pm and 1:40pm M-Th.
✧*Maariv* at 5:20 pm M-Th

What's Cooking with Dolores Wine

PUMPKIN BREAD

4 eggs
 1 can (15oz) 100% canned pumpkin
 1 cup vegetable oil
 2/3 cup orange juice
 3 1/4 cups flour
 2 t baking soda
 1 1/2 t salt
 2 t cinnamon
 1 1/2 t ground nutmeg
 2 1/2 cups sugar
 grated orange rind-optional

Beat the eggs till frothy. Add the pumpkin, oil and orange juice. Blend well. Mix all the dry ingredients in a separate bowl. Add to the pumpkin mixture. Mix well so there are no lumps. Mix in grated rind if using.

Grease and flour 2- 9 X 5 loaf pans. Pour batter in pans so they are about even.

Bake 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes

This recipe comes from a book called *Taste of Jerusalem* by Joan Nathan. I think this is her first cook book, published sometime in the late 60's.

Mia Chiara Aibel-Stastny will become Bat Mitzvah in March of this year. Below is a letter detailing her mitzvah project.

December 12, 2008

Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Relatives,

As I prepare for my Bat Mitzvah in the coming year, I have the loving support of my parents. Some children, however, feel threatened in their own homes. Believe it or not, there are more than 330,000 children living in Israel who have experienced unimaginable abuse. Many have been removed from their homes by the Ministry of Welfare. Orr Shalom is a non-profit organization based in Israel that helps 1300 of these kids by providing them with residential and therapeutic services. They maintain several small group homes that give these children the sense of home and family which they so desperately need and deserve.

Before they got to Orr Shalom, these unfortunate kids probably never had a birthday party, or holiday celebration. Their Bar or Bat Mitzvah might be the first time they can feel special, and share their joy with others. I have decided to spend the next few months raising funds to pay for a Bat Mitzvah celebration for a girl of my age, living at Orr Shalom. I'm also hoping to collect additional money to pay for after school arts classes.

I am going to sell baked goods, hot cocoa, and various items to raise money. I will also be collecting donations through UJA-Federation's Give a Mitzvah-Do a Mitzvah program. I hope you will consider making a contribution to this organization. I am asking for donations of \$18.00 (the number 18 means "life" in Hebrew), but no amount is too small. Even \$1.00 can make a difference. Please make checks payable to UJA-Federation of New York (write "Mia Aibel-Stastny's Bat Mitzvah project" on the memo line of the check) and send them to UJA-Federation of NY, c/o Leslie Cohen Kastner, 130 East 59th St., NY, NY 10022. The UJA-Federation will keep track of the donations and make sure they get to Orr Shalom.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,
 Mia Chiara Aibel-Stastny

In Our Family

MAZEL TOV

- ✧ Larisa Svechin & Steven Hildrew on the naming of their daughter-Chava (Misha) Svechin Hildrew
- ✧ Larisa Svechin & Steven Hildrew on the upsharin of their son-Yosef (Oliver) Svechin Hildrew
- ✧ Avram Turkel on passing the New York & New Jersey Bar
- ✧ Cantor Moshe Berkowitz on passing the New York Bar
- ✧ Etan & Stephanie Butler on the upsharin of their twins-Gal & Lev
- ✧ Patricia Rudden, High Holiday Family Service leader, on becoming a Full Professor at NYC College of Technology, CUNY
- ✧ Burt Sohayegh on his marriage, the *aufruf* was held at the synagogue.
- ✧ Stuart Ebner on his engagement

BARUCH DAYAN EMET

- ✧ Mary Rapaport, mother of Dr. Aaron Rapaport
- ✧ Mother of our former member Naomi Dorfman

BRUCHIM HABAYIM TO NEW MEMBERS

- ✧ Michael & Irina Somoroff
- ✧ Moshe & Fia Hatsav

TODDAH RABBAH

- ✧ Dolores Wine for cooking latkes for our school Hanukah celebration and for all that she does for the Hebrew School
- ✧ Jack and Arlene Ancona for providing Hanukah gifts to our Hebrew School students.

Contributions

SIMCHA FUND

- ✧ Barbara Schindel in honor of her parents, Arnold & Beverly Schindel
- ✧ Larisa Svechin & Steven Hildrew on the naming of their daughter-Chava (Misha) Svechin Hildrew
- ✧ Larisa Svechin & Steven Hildrew on the upsharin of their son-Yosef (Oliver) Svechin Hildrew
- ✧ Sasson Nabi
- ✧ Stuart & Ava Greenberg
- ✧ Bernard Schwartz
- ✧ Shamsy Baradarian
- ✧ Howard Feldman
- ✧ Frank & Lillian Adler
- ✧ Nancy Greenberg

YOUTH EDUCATION

- ✧ Joan Rubinfeld in memory of David Drescher

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- ✧ Joan Rubinfeld in memory of David Drescher

MINCHA MINYAN

- ✧ Lawrence Reisman

KIDDUSH FUND

- ✧ 11/1 *kiddush* sponsored William & Cheryl Gross in honor of his sister Pamela on the anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah
- ✧ 11/15 *kiddush* sponsored by Arlene & Jack Ancona
- ✧ 11/29 *kiddush* sponsored by David Koral & Freema Gottlieb in memory of David's Grandmother
- ✧ 12/13 *kiddush* sponsored by Leslie Feffer in celebration of her birthday

- ✧ 12/20 *kiddush* sponsored by David & Sharon Butler in celebration of the *opsheren* of Gal & Lev Butler
 - ✧ 12/27 *kiddush* sponsored by Pamela Gross, in memory of her mother
 - ✧ 1/3 *kiddush* sponsored by Eli and Yael Weiss on the anniversary of his becoming a *bar mitzvah*
 - ✧ 1/10 Aaron and Sarah Rapaport on the *yarzheit* of his father
 - ✧ Susan & Robert Blakeley
- ### BREAKFAST MINYAN
- ✧ Peter Merker
 - ✧ Martin Rothman

OFFICE/ENTRANCEWAY CONSTRUCTION

- ✧ Barbara Schindel
- ✧ Justine Fisher
- ✧ Ethan Ellenberg & Barbara Glickstein
- ✧ Saul Goodman & Nathalie Rubens
- ✧ Ken & Leah Meeker
- ✧ Etan & Stephanie Butler
- ✧ Bernard Glezerman & Alexandra Friedman
- ✧ Robin Garner
- ✧ Allan & Debora Tannenbaum
- ✧ Arlene & Jack Ancona
- ✧ Robert & Susan Blakeley
- ✧ Iona Aibel & Peter Stasny
- ✧ Cheryl Lambert
- ✧ Roseanne & Joe Fisher
- ✧ Gordon & Dolores Wine

Contributions

(continued)

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

- ✧ Adir and Tamara Waldman
- ✧ Ken & Leah Meeker
- ✧ Carole Bergman Kulok
- ✧ Etan & Stephanie Butler
- ✧ Connie Orenstein & Adam Yefet in memory of Amnon Yefet

MEMORIAL FUND

From...In Memory Of

MEMORIAL FUND

- Ethel Goldenberg...her brother, Sidney Goldenberg
- Susan Amighi...Sarah Perlove
- Eleanore Gorochow...her aunt, Bella Katz
- Arlene & Jack Ancona...Norma Spector
- George & Phyllis Parker...their daughter, Wendy

- Lonnie Jaffee Levy...Blossom Levy
- Leonard Swern ...his parents, Samuel & Anna Swern
- Leonard Goldstein...Isabella Goldstein
- Murray Koven...mother
- Ken Meeker ...Robert Fertitta
- Michael Gottlieb...William Goldman
- Seymour & Grace Stromer...his father, Samuel Stromer
- ...his mother
- Thelma Goldner...her parents
- Karl Katcher...mother
- Alvin & Madeline Gunsher...Benjamin Gunsher
- David & Ronnie Hirschberg...William Goldman
- Louis Lazovick...his mother
- Stanley & Hannchen Greenberg...Jacob Levy
- Hyman Renshowitz...parents
- Allan Fraser...his father, Harold Fraser

- Gladys Miller...husband & parents
- Martin Gershon...parents & wife
- Lawrence & Rita Weingard...Hyde & Evelyn Weingarten
- ...Lena & Louis Posner
- ...Sara Rose & Saul Hupperd
- Peter Stastny
- Esther Pompeo
- Maryon Weingarten
- Dr Aaron Rapaport
- David Koral
- Jeffrey Bernstein
- Jacqueline Galory
- Estelle Saperstein
- Anna Kshondzer



Look for info about
our Tu B'Shevat
activities in you

January/February
2009

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