Although we didn't have our typical Purim festivities, I hope people were still able to get into the joyful spirit of the day. We had a tremendous turn out to safely hear the Megillah, and we still enjoyed tons of Mishloach Manot and delicious Purim meals. Thank you to everyone who made the festivities possible!

But the truth is, at least according to Rashi, that joy was not and should not be relegated to only one day of Adar.

The Gemara in Taanit (29b) famously tells us that when one enters the month of Adar one increases his/her joy. The conventional interpretation of this phrase is that the celebration of Purim, with its uniquely dramatic qualities, spreads throughout the entire month. Even when the month starts, we should already be turning up our positive mood. This interpretation would imply, however, that after Purim, we should be winding it down, bringing our mood back to equilibrium.

If one looks at Rashi on that Gemara, one finds a peculiar and counterintuitive comment. Rashi, on the words "when one enters Adar", explains "Purim and Pesach were miraculous days for the Jewish people". While Purim plays a role in the increased joy of Adar, it is not the only source of it, nor is it the end of it. In the scope of the Jewish calendar, Adar is just the beginning of our celebratory occasions. As we now look towards Nissan, and therefore Pesach, we don't wind down, but instead continue increasing our joy (according to Rashi).
While Rashi’s commentary is not brought down lehalacha (neither is Mishenichnas Adar at all, for that matter), we still have to ask a question about how we should look at the coming months. Despite Rashi’s opinion, that Pesach is included in this season of celebrating miracles, surely it is not the same kind of joy. We do have a Seder on Pesach night, but it does not include a requirement to "get drunk" or have a particularly festive "feast". It has many kinds of foods, but they are not all for the sake of enjoyment. The maror is to elicit the opposite emotions, and the matzah is not exactly anyone's favorite dish.

Instead, the joy of Pesach is a more fundamental, more innate joy- of being part of the Jewish people. We don't celebrate with lively and physically indulgent feasts, but we enjoy meaningful and profound rituals. Every aspect of the Seder contributes to understanding the overall journey we went through to become a people, in and out of Egypt. While the joy of Purim is fleeting and momentous, the joy of Pesach is profound and enduring.

As we begin our preparations for Nissan and Pesach, that feeling of joy may not be our first emotional association. We'll think about the cleaning, the recipes, the shopping lists, and the late nights at the Seder. But we should also make sure to reserve a mental seat for joy. Keep in mind the undercurrent of satisfaction and pride to be part of a people with such profound customs and meaningful exercises. In the moment they may be onerous tasks, but in the grand scheme of the upcoming season, they’re what make the entire process that much more enjoyable.

Chodesh tov,

Rabbi Katz
TRIBUTES IN FEBRUARY

To: Ephraim Zinberg in memory of his mother, Menucha Zinberg
From: Veronika & Miriam Segelbaum, Janet & Rochelle Ginsburg
To: Leonard Pollack, Todah Rabbah
From: Stuart Teger
To: Rabbi Ephraim Applebaum in memory of his father
From: Paula Katz
To: Rabbi Zev Bhati & son, Todah Rabbah
From: Paula Katz
To: The Schon family in memory of Larry Schon
From: Jeffrey Taurig, Elaine Kahn
To: Ruvi Singal & family, in memory of his mother, Sara Singal
From: Jack & Helen Berke
To: Mayer Fox in memory of his father, Hyman Fox
From: Raiselle Snow, Elaine Kahn, David & Julie Sklar, Harvey & Marion Bronstein, David & Sandy Loeffler
To: Reyna Katz in memory of her sister, Simcha Shami
From: Ephraim & Rose Zinberg, Marc & Sheila Meissner, Veronika & Miriam Segelbaum
To: Jason Feld in memory of his mother, Roslyn Feld
From: Mayer & Sarita Fox, Gil & Chani Stebbins & family, Clara Katz
To: Ben & Vikki Waxenberg, Mazel Tov on their daughter, Miriam’s engagement
From: Milt Neuman

For tributes, call the office, (248) 967-3655

YOUTH TRIBUTES IN FEBRUARY

To: Mr. & Mrs. Dan Mendelson in memory of their uncle, Martin Lieberman
From: Debbie Devries & Elizabeth Kirshner
To: Mr. & Mrs. Dan Mendelson, Mazel Tov on the birth of their grandson, Cobi
From: Debbie Devries & Elizabeth Kirshner
To: Dr & Mrs. Harvey Sabbota Mazel Tov on the birth of their great-grandson, Samuel
From: Debbie Devries
To: Mayer Fox in memory of his father, Hyman Fox
From: Robin Tanzman
To: Reyna Katz in memory of her sister, Simcha Shami
From: The family of David & Lottie Tanzman

Youth Tributes in February

Please shop through Amazon Smile and choose Young Israel of Oak Park, when ordering anything on Amazon. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchase to YIOP, when you shop at smile.amazon.com. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon, with the same prices, with the added benefit of supporting YIOP.

The YIOP website now accepts online payments. Whether making a donation or paying for an event, you can make the payment by going to yiop.org/donate

BARUCHIM HABAIM

To: Drs. Benjamin & Tammy Movsas who have rejoined YIOP

For tributes, call the office, (248) 967-3655

YIOP Ha’Bonim Members

Adina & David Barth
Melissa & William Berlin
Sharon & Steven Cohen
Debbie Devries
Miriam Falcon
Rebecca & Gil Feldman
Mayer & Sarita Fox
Ronald Herman
Shiffy Jubas
Margery & Dr. Howard Klausner
Dr. Steven Lorch
Milt Neuman
Sherrill Platt
Shoshana & Dr. Leonard Pollack
Drs. Mintzi & Gene Schramm
Esther & Dr. Dov Sherizen
Julie & Eugene Sherizen
Shelley & Ruvi Singal
Drs. Michael & Ora Singer
Gil & Chani Stebbins
Mallei & Gary Torgow
Leah & Dr. David Ungar
TO ACCESS THE CLASSES:
1) At the prescribed times, visit Zoom.us and enter the class ID (Or visit Zoom.us/s/[Class ID])
2) To call by phone, dial (646) 558-8656 and enter the Class ID when prompted and press #. Password for Rabbi Katz' classes is 613613.ff

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In addition to the opportunity to sponsor a Zoom class, all regular sponsorships are still available while we are closed. Please call the office at 248 967-3655 if you would like to sponsor our non-events or email julie@yiop.org.

MEMBERS’ ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Mazel Tov to Robin Tanzman on her upcoming Julian Bernstein Distinguished Service Award by the Westchester Jewish Council. Robin, a YIOP member as well as an active member at Mt. Kisco Hebrew Congregation, is the daughter of David & Lottie Tanzman, (י”ר) longtime Young Israel of Greenfield & Oak Park members.

TODAH RABBAH
To Our non-Kiddush Sponsor: Howard & Margery Klausner, Mitchell & Rebecca Klausner, Bryan & Amy Gottlieb
To Our Teen Minyan Take-Home Kiddush Sponsors: Ira & Lisa Winer
To Our Youth non-Kiddush Sponsors: Shiffy Judas
To Our Seudah Shlishet Sponsor: Ruvi & Shelley Singal, Miriam Falcon
To Our Shabbat Davening Sponsors: Anonymous, Sam & Dorit Flatt
To Our Dvar Torah Sponsors: The Katz families, Jerry & Sandi Begel
Zoom Havdalah Sponsor: Yerachmiel & Sarah Shaw
To Our Beit Midrash Sponsors: Avy & Jessica Schreiber, Eugene & Cherna Kowalsky, Ron & Elaine Miller
To Our Daf Yomi Sponsors: Daniel & Shoshana Kohn
To Our Megillah Reading Sponsor: Debbie Devries
To Our Yad Ezra Volunteers: Bryan & Ari Gottlieb, Wayne Lusky, Steven, Sophie, Sam & Oliver Thompson
To Yerachmiel Shaw for taking care of our Shamos.
To David & Adina Barth for donating a Koren Sukkot Machzor in memory of Hyman Fox.
To Sam Flatt, Steve Katz, Evan Rice & Ruvi Singal for shoveling the snow.
To Jimmy (י”ר), Veronika, Bradley (י”ר), & Miriam Segelbaum for donating a Sefer in loving memory of their son & brother, Ricky (י”ר) Segelbaum.
To Milt Neuman for donating an Art Scroll Sukkot Machzor in memory of Roslyn Feld.
To Jerry & Sandi Begel for donating an Art Scroll Sukkot Machzor in memory of Roslyn Feld & a Sefer in memory of Hyman Fox.
To Bryan & Amy Gottlieb for donating two Art Scroll Sukkot Machzorim in honor of their parents, Elaine & Dr. Harvey Sabotta & Arlene & Alan Gottlieb on the occasion of their grandson, Ari Samuel Gottlieb’s Bar Mitzvah.
MAZEL TOV

To Leonard & Shoshana Pollack on the birth of their granddaughter, Chaya Rivka to Rabbi Eli & Esty Pollack, of Cleveland.
To Ira & Lisa Winer on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Amalya.
To Chony & Chana Mandel on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Sruly.
To Bryan & Amy Gottlieb on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ari.
To Sue Sender on the engagement of her granddaughter, Chaya Rochel Sender to Simcha Stone.
To Hanna Ungar on the engagement of her granddaughter, Cami Kalvaria to Michael Speaker, both of NY & on the engagement of her great-granddaughter, Esti Wayntraub to Ari Merzel of Chicago, & on the birth of her great-great-granddaughter to Yaakov Tzvi & Ettie Wayntraub.

In this new section, I hope to highlight some reading material people may find insightful or meaningful. Each month will feature a sefer I use/have used and a book I’m reading/have read.

On the Rabbi’s...

...Shtender

Arvei Pesachim. The last chapter of Masechet Pesachim deals with very practical and relevant halachot, mostly about the Seder night, but branching into other important topics like Kiddush and Havdalah generally. Daf Yomi will be learning it for the next 3 weeks, and people should feel free to join it or the halacha whatsapp to learn about it—there are plenty of good Dvar Torahs for the Seder included, iyH!

...Nightstand

I recently read Stumbling on Happiness by Daniel Gilbert. The book discusses an array of mental tricks we play to make life easier in some ways, but more difficult in others. It talks about how we form memories and the emotional instincts we associate with them. It talks about how we plan or anticipate our future, even though we know the reality will be much different.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rabbi Katz will be hosting virtual open office hours on Thursday afternoons from 1:00-2:30PM on his Zoom channel. The Waiting Room feature will be enabled, to ensure privacy. Please contact Rabbi Katz if you’d like to schedule a meeting ahead of time. Otherwise, people are free to “stop by” the channel at that time.

This year’s nominating committee members are: Adina Barth, Sarita Fox, & Chani Stebbins. If you are interested in being slated for the board, please contact a committee member.

Save the Date: General Spring Membership meeting will be on April 14, 2021, at 8PM. Details forthcoming.
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For more information on Zoom see page 4