



Kehilat Chovevei Tzion

WINTER BULLETIN

JAN-APRIL 2019 | SHEVAT - NISSAN 5779

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KCT PROGRAM GUIDE

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DESIGN
Yael Joffe/YELLmedia
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SEASON AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

- 5 SIR Rabbi Ari Sytner
(YUTMK Living Torah Series)
- 8 Bet Midrash Lecture Series -
Rabbi Shmuel Fuerst
- 11 Be'er Torah/Oneg Shabbat for
the Yahrzeit of the Baba Sali
- 12 Film "Mesashe"
- 19 Teen Minyan
- 21 Tu B'Shvat Seder
- 26 Couples Event @ Bowlero

FEBRUARY

- 8 Be'er Torah Oneg
- 9 Ladies Night Painting
(\$30 per person)
- 12 Bet Midrash Lecture Series -
Rabbi Zvi Engel
- 22 Youth Oneg @ The Gelmans
- 23 Teen Minyan

MARCH

- 5 Bet Midrash Lecture Series -
Rabbi Gershon Schaffel
- 9 Film "TBD"
- 15 Teen Oneg @ The Gelmans
- 17 Jewish Life on College Campus
- 20 Purim Night Activities
- 21 Purim Day Palooza
- 21 Purim Seuda
- 23 Teen Minyan
- 24-6 AIPAC PC in Washington DC

APRIL

- 2 Bet Midrash Lecture Series -
Rabbi Yona Reiss
- 6 Cholent Cookoff
- 7 Matzah Factory
- 10 Pesach Prep Class
- 13 KCT Family Shabbat Lunch
- 16 Pre-Pesach Movie (Youth)
- 28 Mimouna
- 28 Post-Pesach Food Drive
Kick-off Chesed Week

RABBIS' GREETINGS

As we make our way through the midpoint of the Jewish calendar, Chanukah is in our rearview mirror and Purim is approaching. One of less touched upon themes of the Megilat Esther is that of walls. We know that the holiday of Purim is unlike any other holiday in the Jewish calendar in that it can be celebrated on a number of different dates, ranging from the 11th to the 15th of Adar. How is the date determined? According to the Mishna it depends upon whether you live in a walled city or an unwalled city. Thus the celebration of Purim is especially unique as multiple groups of Jews are celebrating the very same Purim, during the very same year on different dates. When I was in yeshiva in Israel it was considered by some a fashionable thing to gravitate between walled and unwalled cities so as to maximize your Purim celebration!



Why would our Sages setup such a system? It's so confusing and would be much easier if we could just declare one set day observe the mitzvot of Purim!

In Chapter 4 of Megilat Eshter, we encounter one of the many conversations between Mordechai and Esther. This time Mordechai has rent his garments and is in a noticeable state of mourning, a stark contrast with Esther's pristine and glamorous royal garb. Seeing Mordechai at the gate in such a condition, Esther attempts to send a proper set of clothes to her uncle, but Mordechai is unwilling to accept them. He explains that he joins the Jewish people in mourning over the ensuing decree they are facing. This seems to be news to Esther, she is not only unaware of what has transpired, but she is living a pampered and oblivious existence. One Jew on one side of the wall, and another on the second side – unaware of the reality faced by their counterpart! The resolution to the decree is only achieved when Esther remembers that she is a Jew, when she is able and willing to see through the veil that exists between her and the Jews of Shushan. This is the broader objective of Purim – identify with other Jews, break down the walls!

We must recognize that there are profound differences between the various communities and factions among us and to then go and break them down. We don't always know what is going on in the other person's life, we are unaware of their challenges and so we never think of offering to assist or to lend an ear. For this reason, the Manot HaLevi explains that we have a mitzvah to give *mishloach manot* on Purim, so as to foster *reut*, camaraderie and friendship. In addition, we doll out *tzedakah* like no other time in the year, to break down the barriers that exist between us. Purim is observed on different days, depending on which side of the wall you happen to live. The goal must be to see through that wall and connect with the other side – we all observe the same holiday, we all share a common past and have a common destiny.

Let us use this great season to connect with one another and to break down the barriers which separate us, if not physically then at the very least, in spirit.

Rabbi Shaanan Gelman

The Seder night is considered the most observed Jewish ritual amongst the Jewish nation. If not for us being so accustomed to the Seder night, it would be easily mistaken for a religious game of charades. The theme of guessing and asking is one that is constantly revisited throughout the Seder. We encourage our children to guess and ask about all the inconsistencies they see at the Seder table. We take ourselves back 5000 years and reinvent the experience of slavery and freedom. We eat bitter herbs and matza to relive the experience of slavery and then recline and eat a lavish meal to celebrate our freedom. But the biggest, yet unspoken question is, why is all this necessary? Wouldn't have it made more sense for us to make a gigantic monument at the center of Jerusalem where we would all gather and dance around? What's the lesson behind this ancient religious game of charades?



Our Rabbis teach us that from the Seder night, we learn a great lesson about human development. It is our understanding that people's actions and decisions are a reflection of their belief and values. But in truth, our values and our own nature have the ability to be shaped and developed through our actions. If one wants to be kind a person, the first step is to actively act in a kind manner. If one wants to be more understanding of other people, the first step is to give a listening ear. In the words of the great Reb Aharon of Karlin, "אדם נפעל כפי פעולותיו" - "One's inner self is affected by his own actions".

The seder table teaches us how to engage our children and ourselves to being better observant Jews. We can talk and share many stories about slavery and freedom, but we won't grasp and connect to it, unless we physically engage ourselves through active experience. This is great lesson for each and every person climbing the ladder of personal growth and Avodat Hashem. We fool ourselves by thinking that we will and can only take the next step when we get inspired, when in truth we need to take the initiative first and the inspiration will follow.

Wishing you an amazing Passover!

Rabbi Netanel Isaacs



About Us

KCT is a warm, spiritual home, where Ashkenaz and Sephardic congregations are joined together under one roof and unified by Torah and a love of Eretz Yisrael.

Our services and practices follow halacha and customs within the Orthodox Jewish tradition. We are proud Americans, firm Zionists, and we actively seek to foster achdut, derech erez, and Torah in our community. KCT is proud to be the first synagogue in the area to serve as home to both Ashkenaz and Sephardic congregations, each given equal prominence within the structural and spiritual design.

ADULT

WEEKLY LEARNING

Coffee Talk for Women

Wednesdays 9:15 am
@ Emma's

Torah & Tea with Rebbetzin Isaacs

Tuesday Mornings

Bet Midrash with Rabbis Gelman and Isaacs

Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

NEW! Bet Midrash Lecture Series

January 8

Rabbi Shmuel Fuerst

February 12

Rabbi Zvi Engel

March 5

Rabbi Gershon Schaffel

April 2

Rabbi Yona Reiss

LUNCH & LEARN

Metroklub:

January 7

February 11

March 11

Mizrahi:

January 10

February 14

March 14

AIPAC PC

March 24-26

Washington DC

Living Torah Shabbaton/ YUTMTK

Rabbi Ari Sytner

January 5, 2019



Dr. Ari Sytner is the author of The Kidney Donor's

Journey, a licensed social worker, therapist, inspirational speaker, rabbi, Huff-Post contributor, blogger, organizational strategist, consultant and proud kidney donor. Ari's private practice includes individuals, but maintains a focus on relationships, dating, marriage and divorce, where he conducts interventions for couples looking to drastically improve and stabilize shaky relationships. He is the Director of Leadership and Community Development at Yeshiva University, where he travels to communities worldwide to train and inspire healthy and functional communal relationships and organizations. Ari holds a BA in Psychology, MS in education, MSW and PhD in social work. His positive messages of kindness and optimism universally resonate through all the work he does.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Living Torah Shabbaton/YUTMTK Rabbi Ari Sytner

January 5, 2019

"An Honest Look at Jewish Life on the College Campus"

March 17, 2019

Rabbi Elie and Miriam Schwartz explain the challenges and opportunities young Jewish adults face today on the college campus.

SHABBAT LEARNING

Be'er Torah

January 11, 2019

February 8, 2019

Daf Yomi

8:15 am

Rabbi Oren's Parsha Shiur

8:30 am

Gemara Chabura with Mr. Elisha Atkin

1 hour before mincha

Rabbi Worch's Shiur

1 hour before mincha

Rabbi Isaacs's Shiur

30 mins before mincha

Rabbi Gelman's Shiur

30 mins before mincha

EVENTS

Purim Night Activities

March 20, 2019

Children are invited downstairs to take part in arts and crafts activities during the night megillah reading.

Purim Palooza

March 21, 2019

On Purim day, there will be an amazing show for children and families!

Matzah Factory

April 7, 2019

Come join KCT Youth and learn how to bake your very own Matzah!

Pre-Pesach Movie

April 16, 2019

While parents are cleaning for Pesach, children are welcome to join us for a movie and pizza night!

Youth Oneg

@ The Gelmans

February 22, 2019

Join for a night filled with great songs, food, and people.

Teen Oneg

@ The Gelmans

March 15, 2019

Join for a night filled with great songs, food, and people.

Chesed Week

April 28-May 5

A week full of chesed events. Stay tuned for details.

YOUTH SHABBAT SCHEDULE

9:00 AM

Alef (Ages 2-4)

This group enjoys davening, learning the parsha, singing Shabbat songs and reading stories!

Bet (Nursery & Kindergarten)

This group enjoys davening out loud, playing parsha games and reading stories!

Gimmel (Grades 1-2)

This group enjoys discussing the parsha, davening together and playing games!

Daled (Grades 3 -5)

This group enjoys hearing devrei Torah, davening, snacks and games!

Teen Minyan (9:30 am)

Teens stretch their spiritual wings by leading and participating in a Shabbat tefilah in the Beit Midrash.

January 19

February 23

March 23

Shabbat Learning for Middle Schoolers

9:45 am -10:15 am

Once a month learning for middle schoolers

YOUTH LEARNING

Bar Mitzvah Club

Wednesday at 8:00 pm

with Rabbi Isaacs

Ages 11.5 - 14

Bat Mitzvah Club

For 5th and 6th Grade Girls

with Rebbetzin Isaacs

Sundays 10 am - 12 pm

January 6

February 3

March 3

April 7

Mishnah to the Max

for 5th - 7th Grade

Thursdays with Rabbi Friedman of YUTMK

Girls: 6:30 - 7:15 pm

Boys: 7:30 - 8:15 pm

Veshinantam L'vanecha Motzaei Shabbat

Join us for parent/child learning with YUTMK

January 5

January 12



YOUTH LEADER MESSAGES



I am a senior in ICJA who has been leading the 1st and 2nd graders since my freshman year. Every Shabbos I have gotten up at 6:45 am for Hashkama so I do not miss davening and can work with the groups. When asked "why do you wake up so early just to work with little kids?" My answer would be very simple. As a result of leading the KCT groups, I have grown and matured. I have built relationships with many of the kids over the years, learned about their lives, and I would like to believe that I have had an influence on them over the years that may have enhanced their shabbat experience. I explain the parsha to the kids and we daven together as a group which is rewarding to see as a group leader. We have fun playing gaga or connect four and watching them have a good time. I recommend being a group leaders to others that are interested in a really great experience.

- ADAM KOENIG, KCT Youth Leader

I've been a group leader since I was in 8th grade, and I'm currently a senior. I enjoy the responsibility of watching kids so their parents can daven worry-free. It's fun each year seeing the kids "graduate" to the next room and to see how they get better at playing with each other. When I see the kids in my groups outside of shul, they'll come up to me and give me a hug or say "hi". That always makes me feel good and understand the importance of being a group leader. I like watching and playing with the kids, and though being a group leader can be challenging at times, I am so glad to be one. I'm helping to teach these kids Parsha and give them a good experience in the shul environment. I remember having group leaders when I was younger and that would make groups and shul exciting. I hope to carry on that excitement with the kids!

- TOVA OLIFF, KCT Youth Leader

