



# בר'אשית

783

Vol. IV, No. 4

Bereshith: "In The Beginning"

5742 Sivan/May 1982

DOES YOUR FAMILY COMPLAIN THAT YOU'RE "TOO KOSHER" ?

DO THEY MEAN MORE THAN JUST THE WAY YOU EAT?

by Pnina Edelhart

Of all the troublesome situations baalei teshuvah, beginners, face, dealing with our parents can be one of the most delicate. Many parents will see our burgeoning interest in our religion as a rejection of them and the way they raised us. Others feel simply that having observant children is very inconvenient. Some feel that being obviously Jewish is dangerous in this day of rising anti-Semitism.

Whatever the reason, parents do find it difficult to cope with newly religious children. It is important that we do our best to understand their feelings and work with them to improve our relationship despite the differences. If we can get our parents to talk about their feelings and listen to ours, that's half the battle. Also, in our zeal to be observant, we must remember to be as considerate of our families as we want them to be tolerant of us. We are, after all, the ones who have changed, not they, and as much as possible we should bear the brunt of the inconvenience associated with our religion.

Some tips that might help make visits easier:

--Don't visit over Shabbat, if you can avoid it. Go on Saturday night or Sunday morning instead. There are so many problems involved in Shabbat visits, they're best avoided.

--If you want special foods, buy them and bring them. Make them simple so that your food preparations don't interfere with normal kitchen goings on.

--If talking about your religious beliefs makes your family uncomfortable, don't emphasize it. Give them time and respect their feelings.

--Please don't be self-righteous and rigid! If your new found devotion has turned you into the sort of person that no one likes to have around, you've missed the point. Take it easy, relax and enjoy.

Have you got any problems or suggestions for dealing with parents? Write 'em down and send them to us. We'll print the best suggestions in the next newsletter. And pay special attention to the box at the left.

## RESERVE THIS DATE

Come share your problems, complaints funny stories and feelings with other beginners. Get some feedback and suggestions at the first monthly Beginners' Schmooz on Monday, May 24th at 8 p.m. The focus will be on coping with families. If the first one is successful, we will make it a regular event on the third Thursday of every month. Please call Pnina Edelhart at 265-2339 by Thursday, May 24 if you plan to attend.

There'll be some coffee and cookies served. Better yet, we'll have a good chance to mull over some important questions!



## CONGRATULATIONS

## AND MAZEL TOV

### ENGAGEMENTS

Hope Harris &  
Steven Block

Sharon Kalimian &  
David Ginsberg

### MARRIAGES

Tzipora Kim &  
Moshe Rothkof

### BABIES

Aidel & Ephraim  
Buchwald on the birth  
of ORLY DORIT.

Nan & Robert Ehrlich  
on the arrival of  
YAAKOV YISRAEL

Barbara & Sheldon  
Gewirtz on the birth  
of TZVI HIRSCH

## FROM THE RABBI'S DESK ...

### PLEASE DON'T INTERRUPT OUR AMIDAH

The Amidah (or Shemoneh Esrei) is the heart of every prayer service. It is what the Rabbis refer to as "prayer." Everything else is but a prelude to this silent devotion--the human attempt to commune with G-d. Hence, one may not permit oneself to be interrupted at any time during its recitation. The Mishnah in Berakhot 5:1 relates that one may not interrupt the Amidah prayer in order to respond to the greeting of an important personage, or even to acknowledge the greeting with a nod. Only the gravest emergency justifies the interruption of one's conversation with G-d. Indeed, the classic commentary of the Mishnah by Rabbi Ovadiah MiBartinura, the Rav, admits only two: the greeting of a king other than the king of Israel who, thinking the lack of an answer might be a form of insolence, might try to kill the person praying or if a scorpion, viper or other poisonous snake wraps itself around the heel of the one at prayer. Both of these occurrences are, to be sure, an unlikely possibility at our Beginners' Minyan.

In light of the above, we respectfully request that if you enter the Beginners' Service during the recitation of the silent Amidah, or its repetition, please wait until the conclusion of the Amidah to find your seats, unless you are certain that you are able to do so without disturbing those at prayer.

--Ephraim Z. Buchwald

### A Poem

A little girl was drawing a picture in the sand  
on the beach and a man said to her,  
"What are you drawing?" And she said,  
"I am drawing a picture of G-d." So he said,  
"Nobody knows what G-d looks like." And she said,  
"They will soon."

--submitted by Paul Kaufman

# REFLECTIONS ON PESACH

By Ariella Sofia

My first thought about Pesach this year is it's hard to believe it went by so fast. All those preparations--First locating the chametz which lurked seemingly everywhere in my apartment. It was obvious in the boxes of pasta, but even in my tamari sauce? Then the cleaning. A new definition for Spring: that's the time when an observant Jew becomes intimately familiar with every square inch on his/her stove. Now plan a menu for the first night's seder. Out to the supermarket for "kosher l'Pesach" foods. I can't wait for Mashiach to come. Haven't any of these vendors learned that a sophisticated West Sider can't live by salt, pepper, and paprika alone? The hour for candlelighting is approaching. Rush, rush, prepare an eruv tavshilin so there'll be food on Shabbat which arrives right after the second day of Yom Tov. Somehow it all comes together with a few moments to spare. My kitchen is wrapped in aluminum foil and looks like it just stepped out of a Woody Allen movie. My guests are due any minute. I go over to the candles, pick up a match. A scratching sound, the acrid smell of sulfur as the match tip bursts into flame. "Baruch attah..." Despite fatigue, my smile comes from deep inside me. This is the second year I've actually given a seder myself. That makes two years in the past seventy that there's been a proper orthodox seder in my family.

The second seder is at someone else's house so I get to relax and give more attention to the haggadah. What a beautiful piece of writing this is! More than writing really. It's song too and above all dialogue--dialogue in the haggadah itself, dialogue with the haggadah and dialogue with the other people at the table. The section about the four sons is my favorite part. I discover this year that it's because even within the same evening I feel like each son a little. I can formulate questions like the wise son, ask general questions like the simple son and sometimes count on others to open up a line of inquiry like the son who isn't even able to ask a question. And when I get to the multiplication of plagues that Rabbi Eliezer and Rabbi Akiba discuss, I'm even like the evil son wishing to separate myself from the whole thing. Through it all I'm acutely aware of how incredibly important it is for a Jew to be actively involved in the process called "being Jewish" and also how important questions and challenges are in the scheme of things. Judaism does not demand, like other religions do, that its members be passive, blindly obedient followers. There's room for a minority opinion here.

Even a week of celebrating the season of our liberation seems too short. But then, looking back now so many days into the counting of the Omer, I think--no, perhaps it wasn't fast enough. After all, ahead lies a greater miracle chail: Shavuot, the time of the giving of Torah.

## CONDOLENCES

Joe Taetle on the loss of his father.

We mourn the passing of Rabbi Hayim Donin, author of "To Be A Jew" and "To Pray As A Jew", who addressed our Beginners' Minyan last year.

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THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO HAVE TAUGHT A CRASH COURSE IN HEBREW READING:

- Lisa Roslyn
- Chavi Willig
- Hans Mayer
- Aliza Mayefsky
- Karyn Cohen
- Els Bendheim
- Deborah Leiber

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On Thursday, May 13th Iris Rosofsky a member of the Beginners' Minyan was heard on WNYC-AM reading a short story she wrote entitled "Who Heals All Wounds". Yaasher Koach, Iris!

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MARK THE DATE: JUNE 19th there will be another one of those terrific BEGINNERS' MINYAN LUNCHEONS. COST: \$10.00. If interested please send in your money and specify your special diet!!

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SHAVUOT

SCHEDULE  
OF  
SERVICES

**Thursday, May 27**  
 Eruv Tavshilin  
 Kindle Festival Candles ..... 7:58 P.M.  
 Mincha and Kabbalat Yom Tov ..... 8:10 P.M.  
 Midnight Bible Class ..... 11:30 P.M.

**Friday, May 28**  
 Hashkama Minyan ..... 4:50 A.M.  
 Shavuot Morning Service ..... 8:30 A.M.  
 \* Kindle Shabbat - Festival Candles ..... 8:01 P.M.  
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat - Yom Tov ..... 6:45 P.M.

**Saturday, May 29**  
 Shabbat Shavuot Morning Services ..... 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30 A.M.

YIZKOR MEMORIAL SERVICES

Talmud Class ..... 6:45 P.M.  
 Mincha ..... 7:45 P.M.  
 Followed by Seuda Shleesheet Neilat Hachag  
 Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:10 P.M.

**Friday, June 4**  
 \* Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 8:03 P.M.  
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 P.M.

**Saturday, June 5 — NASO**  
 Shabbat Morning Service ..... 8:30 A.M.  
 Talmud and Bible Classes ..... 7:00 P.M.  
 Mincha ..... 8:00 P.M.  
 Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:15 P.M.

**Friday, June 11**  
 \* Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 8:07 P.M.  
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 P.M.

**Saturday, June 12 — BEHAALOTECHA**  
 Shabbat Morning Service ..... 8:30 A.M.  
 Talmud and Bible Classes ..... 7:05 P.M.  
 Mincha ..... 8:05 P.M.  
 Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:20 P.M.

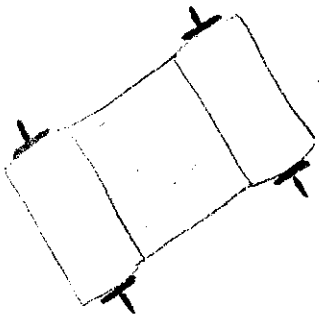
**Friday, June 18**  
 \* Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 8:10 P.M.  
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 P.M.

**Saturday, June 19 — SHELACH**  
 Shabbat Morning Service ..... 8:30 A.M.  
 Talmud and Bible Classes ..... 7:10 P.M.  
 Mincha ..... 8:10 P.M.  
 Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:20 P.M.

**Monday, June 21 and Tuesday, June 22**  
 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz  
 Morning Services ..... 7:00 and 7:40 A.M.

\* It is our custom to begin Mincha Friday afternoon at 6:45 P.M. throughout Daylight Savings Time. Those who usher in Shabbat earlier with the congregation must instruct those who are lighting Shabbat Candles that this must be done no later than 7:10 P.M. Once the congregation chants Mizmor Shir Leyom Hashabbat (The Psalm for Shabbat), Shabbat has officially begun for the worshippers and their families.

the Sabbath is terminated Saturday evenings one hour after the official candle-lighting time on the previous Friday afternoon.



**בְּרֵאשִׁית** Bereshith: "In The Beginning" is put together under the direction of Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald, Educational Director of Lincoln Square Synagogue, 200 Amsterdam Avenue, New York. Editor...Ariella Sofia Staff Assistant...Arlene Porath. A special Beginners' Minyan is held each Shabbat morning at 9:15 a.m. at the synagogue. Through its Joseph Shapiro Institute, Lincoln Square offers a number of adult education courses in Judaica.

Readers: This is your newsletter and we would like to hear from you. Article contributions are most welcome!