

מִתְחִיל

NEWSLETTER BEGINNERS' MINYAN

LINCOLN SQUARE SYNAGOGUE, 200 AMSTERDAM AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023

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THE J.S.I. SUMMER INSTITUTE

This year a group of people went away for their summer vacations, yet they never left the Upper West Side. I was among them. Four mornings a week at approximately 8 am we would report to this paradoxical oasis. At that hour it was still bearable to walk outside. But soon the streets would sizzle, the Manhattan bustle would mount and the general discomfort level would hit all-time peaks. But little did we care. We felt far away from all that. We were the students at the Joseph Shapiro Summer Torah Institute at Lincoln Square Synagogue, a six-week kollel or class. And there it felt like a different side of the world.

Inside the synagogue it was quiet and cool. About forty students gathered each day. We ranged in age from 16 to 50. Among us were businessmen, teachers, doctors, a farmer, an actor, various undecideds and others. First we davened. Then classes began. We were split into three levels. We chose our own speed. There was a teaching staff of five: Rabbis Moshe Morduchowitz, Jonathan Kolatch, and Yosef Adler, with Rachel Taub and Leora Reich. The classes included Chumash, Talmud, Nach, philosophy, laws of Shabbat, laws of kashrut, and special sessions for the holidays. All were presented with vigorous excitement, and received--at least by me--with a sense of wonder and privilege just for being able to glimpse into the world of Torah learning. It was momentous.

For many of us it was the first time we had done so. We may have listened in on random shiurim, but this was involvement.

The approach was traditional and designed to engage us. It did.

For those who have learned for many years it may be difficult to imagine a first time. For many of us, until recently, Torah was a remote realm and the works of the sages and commentators, by name, were meaningless. Now six weeks of immersion. That's quite a leap. But then learning Torah turned out to be like nothing else we had ever experienced.

It's not like reading any book on any subject. There's no activity like it that I know. Nowhere, including museums, are so many historical moments re-created with such precision, love, and meaning. And unlike the passive museum go-er or history reader, one feels merged with a personal past--both on an immediate level, and on a deeper one as well--when learning.

We would go to Mt. Sinai's base. Dawn. There was the shofar's voice rising over all the world's clamor. And later, in Elul, the shofar would sound in the Bet Midrash again. Or we would watch Rabbi Jose dining over the Mediterranean in old Acco, confounding his students as he'd contentedly nibble his Friday lunch past the onset of Shabbat! And if we concentrated hard, like Rabbi Jose, we might feel Shabbat like a dew, descending on us, on our group, as we began our Shabbaton in the Bet Midrash; coming on its own, inexorably.

And that's a sample from just one morning's classes. In the afternoon we might have witnessed a stooped man walking through Jerusalem's Dungs Gate. He'd be crying out
(Continued on next page)

weighted at the neck by the yoke of an ox. And strangely, at the end of the day, we'd squint back out at the steamy, brusque world on our way home and for a moment--one of lucidity perhaps--we'd half-expect Jeremiah the Prophet to turn the corner of Broadway and cross our path.

That was the effect of a full day's learning. As the days went on it all became palpably real. Ancient things, medieval things. And that's why it feels like we went away. It was restful, re-charging, but more than just a great vacation.

Now that I think of it, no one dropped out during the six weeks. But there were several new faces along the way. That says something. I think all those who have supported the Joseph Shapiro Institute, especially the Summer Intensive Institutes, deserve a great deal of thanks.

-Jack Raisner

I met G-d in song today,
every hopeful, tender note for Him--
Even the off-key parts, like the chink
of a dairy spoon landing in the
special pile reserved for mistakes.
Sometimes I imagine G-d to be like a
proud papa at his child's first
violin concert.
He knows she's no master, but what a smile
of satisfaction those first, squeaky
sounds bring to his face!

-Carolyn Sofia

IN MEMORY OF HENRIETTA COHEN

On Erev Shabbat, October 10, our beloved Henrietta Cohen suddenly passed away. She was 74 years old but possessed the enthusiasm and vigor of a much younger person. Henrietta and her sister Bessie (92 years old) were long time members of Lincoln Square Synagogue, but only when Henrietta began coming to the Beginners' Service about one and a half years ago did I get to know her. She had always davened in the Main Sanctuary but she wanted to learn more so she joined the Beginners' Service. She had a consuming desire to understand the Hebrew prayers and while she rarely spoke up during the services, she always had a question for me before or after services. She requested that I arrange a Hebrew tutor for her, which I did. She studied literally until the day she died! Before long Henrietta began to help set up the Shabbat Kiddush. She would call to apologize if she missed a week.

At Henrietta's suggestion, I began to visit her sister Bessie at the Florence Nightengale Home, and learnt a great deal about these remarkable women and their family. Hen-

rietta was totally devoted to her family and spent a good part of her life caring for her elderly parents and siblings when they took ill. She was most unassuming. Who would have imagined that Henrietta was an accomplished pianist?

In a very real sense, Henrietta's life serves as a most inspiring and meaningful lesson for all of us. Many are troubled by the question of whether it is too late to change, too late to learn, too late to consider new perspectives on life. Henrietta showed us that as long as one maintains one's youthful enthusiasm and curiosity that it's never too late. This vitality is exactly what the psalmist alludes to in psalm 92: "They shall yield fruit even in old age; vigorous and fresh they shall be, to proclaim that the L-rd is just!" May her memory be blessed. It would be a beautiful act of Chessed for our members to continue Henrietta's loving commitment to her sister Bessie. I encourage you to visit her at the Florence Nightengale Nursing Home, 175 East 96th Street, New York. It will be a very special experience.

-Rabbi Buchwald

LEARNING BIBLICAL HEBREW

Quite often those who attend the Beginners' Service want to learn the language in which the prayers are written and spoken -- Biblical Hebrew. The Joseph Shapiro Institute offers an excellent course in Biblical Hebrew that requires no prior knowledge of Hebrew and yet is a rigorous, college level course.

The class is taught by Rabbi Dr. Mitchell Orlian of Yeshiva University. During the first term Rabbi Orlian proceeds slowly, making sure each student understands the vocalization of the alphabet and the vowels, and stressing syllabification, which is subtle but must be understood to make progress in the language. Thus, the student gets a true understanding of the diacritical marks of Biblical Hebrew-- those puzzling dots and dashes below, alongside, and above the consonants.

After laying this foundation, Rabbi Orlian works through the course textbook, Weingreen's A Practical Grammar for Classical Hebrew, covering the parts of speech in logical order. The vocabulary given in the book ties in nicely with the Hebrew prayers we know from the Beginners' Service.

This semester's course started on Oct. 6th, but if you're serious about understanding your Jewish heritage, learning Biblical Hebrew is obviously important, so consider taking the course the next semester it is offered.

-Donald M. Kresge

MAZAL TOV

MARRIAGES

- Florence Adler and Robert Rothman
- Michelle April and Mark Fleischman
- Gina Berly and Daniel Kramer
- Jean Bonsignore and Sam Kirschenbaum
- Sherry Mass and Howard Katz
- Barbara Pomerantz and Sheldon Gewirtz
- Shelly Schwartz and Dennis Nakonechny
- Simone Zapune and David Harris

ENGAGEMENTS

- Tamar Garmaise and Alex Gindis

BIRTHDAYS

- Freeda Goodman -- 80 years old!

BIRTHS

- To Miriam and Jeffrey Zuckerman:
a boy Aron Meir

TZETCHEM L'SHALOM -- FAREWELL

- To Susanna Morgenthau on her departure to Israel for at least a year

OUR CONDOLENCES

- To Susanna Morgenthau on the loss of her father, Prof. Hans Morgenthau

* * * * * UPCOMING EVENTS * * * * * UPCOMING EVENTS * * * * *

Friday, November 7

- Kindle Shabbat Candles 4:26 P.M.
- Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 4:35 P.M.
- Oneg Shabbat 8:30 P.M.

Saturday, November 8 (Toledote)

- Shabbat Morning Service 8:30 A.M.
- Talmud and Bible Classes 3:40 P.M.
- Mincha 4:25 P.M.
- Daily Mincha and Maariv 4:35 P.M.

Sunday, November 9

- Yesh Chodesh Kislev
- Morning Services 7:15 and 8:30 A.M.

Friday, November 14

- Kindle Shabbat Candles 4:20 P.M.
- Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 4:30 P.M.
- Oneg Shabbat 8:30 P.M.

Saturday, November 15 (Vayetzay)

- Shabbat Morning Service 8:30 A.M.
- Talmud and Bible Classes 3:35 P.M.
- Mincha 4:20 P.M.
- Daily Mincha and Maariv 4:30 P.M.

Friday, November 21

- Kindle Shabbat Candles 4:14 P.M.
- Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 4:25 P.M.
- Oneg Shabbat 8:30 P.M.

Saturday, November 22 (Vayishlach)

Shabbat Morning Service 8:30 A.M.
 Talmud and Bible Service 3:30 P.M.
 Mincha 4:15 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 4:25 P.M.

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving Day
 Morning Services 7:15 and 8:30 A.M.

Friday, November 28

Kindle Shabbat Candles 4:11 P.M.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat 4:20 P.M.
 Oneg Shabbat 8:30 P.M.

Saturday, November 29 (Vayeshev)

Shabbat Morning Service 8:30 A.M.
 Talmud and Bible Classes 3:25 P.M.
 Mincha 4:10 P.M.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv 4:25 P.M.

Tuesday Evening, December 2

Kindle First Chanuka Candle

Special Junior Congregation and Nursery

Rosh Hashana - Thursday and Friday 10:30-11:45 A.M.
 Yom Kippur - Friday Evening 6:30-7:15 P.M.
 Shabbat 10:30-11:45 A.M.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Shabbat Early Services followed by classes in Bible and Talmud 7:50 A.M.
 Regular Services—Main Sanctuary 8:30 A.M.
 Service for beginners and those with little Synagogue background 9:15 A.M.
 Chumush Shiur—Cholent Kugel Minyan 9:45 A.M.
 Junior Congregations 10:00—11:15 A.M.
 Shabbat Nursery (3-5 years old) 10:00 A.M.

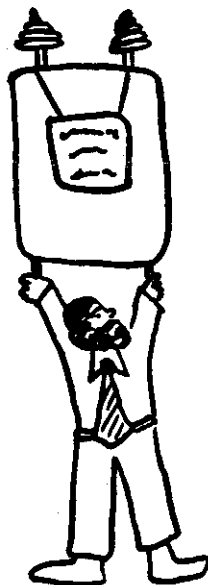
DAILY MINYAN

Weekdays 7:15 and 7:50 A.M.
 If a member requires a shiva minyan at his home, the second minyan meets there.
 Sunday 7:15 and 8:30 A.M.
 Legal Holidays 8:30 A.M.
 Rosh Chodesh 7:00 and 7:40 A.M.
 Fast Days 7:00 and 7:30 A.M.

ON PRAYER:

To engage in prayer is the most obvious and the most universal reflection of man's relationship with G-d. Prayer in its highest form and at its most sincere levels is called "Avodah She'blev" --a service of the heart. It constitutes one of the many way by which love of G-d is expressed.

Our thanks to Roberta Cuber and Hank Borenson for serving as ushers on Rosh Hashana.



- * Free Hebrew Lessons
- * Help making your home kosher
- * Giving a D'var Torah on Shabbat
- * Helping with this newsletter
- * Getting an appointment with Rabbi Buchwald
- * Taking a course at the Joseph Shapiro Institute
- * Anything else!

Call: Arlene Porath
 LSS, after 2:15
 (Mon.-Thurs.)
 874-6105