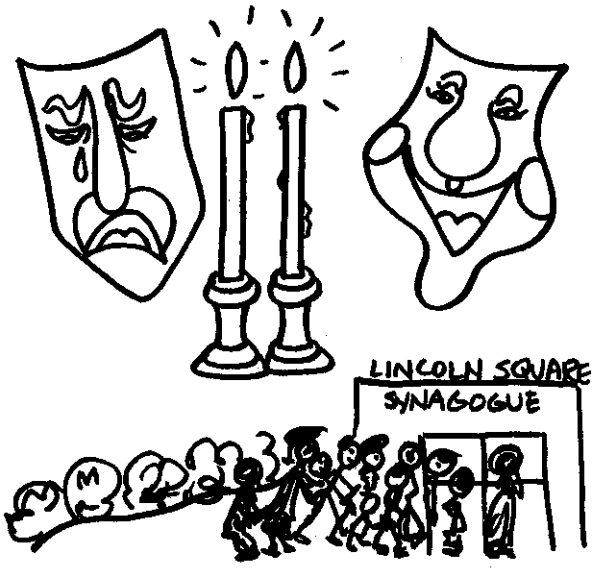
FROM PURIM SCHPIEL TO PURIM SCHPIEL

by Miriam Cyrulnick

My earliest memories of a synagogue are very pleasant. When I was about five, my father was President of the shul and sat on a large, ornately carved armchair next to the ark were the Torahs were kept. It was very clear to me that he was a big shot -- probably a king or something equally stupendous -- which meant that my brother and I had the run of the joint. My mother, and everyone else's, sat upstairs in a balcony overlooking the action on the main floor.

The rabbi was a very elderly man with a long white beard (before Rabbi Buchwald, I would have said, "Isn't every rabbi?!). He never seemed to leave the corner where he sat with his tallis covering his head. The exception was on Simchas Torah, when he would lead a procession of children up and down the aisles of the shul, all of us carrying paper flags topped with apples.

After my brother's Bar Mitzvah, we happily fled the Hebrew school environment, substituting piano lessons, Girl Scouts, and football practice to the fill the after-school void. We continued to observe the major holidays -- Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Chanukah, and Passover -- but never entered a synagogue in between.



And so, while I always knew there was more to being Jewish than fasting on Yom Kippur and eating latkes on Chanukah, I never truly appreciated the many pleasures found in a life of Jewish observance. It was only when I discovered the Beginners Service and embarked on my own journey of discovery that these joys became so clear to me.

First, of course, is Shabbat. I would definitely classify it as a miraculous concept -- surpassing even fax machines and pantyhose that don't run. Taking a full day each week out of my chronically overbooked schedule seemed like an impossible request. Friday, after all, was manicure night, and my Saturday shopping excursions were legendary. The list of prohibitions was daunting.

These days, though, I've come to anticipate Shabbat for all the things it allows me to do, rather than the things it prevents me from doing. I have time to spend with my friends and actually talk to them, face to face. I have time to read a book. I have time to rest, stroll, laugh, daydream, and watch the busy crowds. Now, I'll be the first to admit that taking one day off makes the other six proportionately more insane, but without that one day, all seven would be indistinguishable.

Also worth mention is the experience of celebrating a year's worth of holidays and seeing it begin all over again. For me, the years seem to be measured from Purim Shpiel to Purim Shpiel. Each season brings its own observances -- not all of them happy --- but always underscoring the cyclical nature of life. Besides, each time a holiday is repeated, I have another chance to look less like a Beginner!

Most significant, perhaps, was the sense of connection to my heritage. As the child of a Holocaust survivor, I've always been very aware of my Jewishness, but never more so than the first time I heard Havdalah. I stood in the darkness, mesmerized by the bright flame, listening to the congregation as it sang. The thought occurred to me that thousands of Jews around the world were saying the <u>same</u> prayer at the <u>same</u> moment. It was almost overwhelming, but at the same time I felt a strong sense of belonging to a greater whole.

I couldn't imagine any other place I'd rather be.

Miriam Cyrulnick is a law clerk for the Hon. Michael L. Pesce, of the New York State Supreme Court, Kings County, and a member of the Beginners Service at Lincoln Square Synagogue.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Eva Fishman and Arthur Bodek
Susan Greenberg and Dr. Les Yarmush
Judith Heiklen and Andrew Coren
Nancy Jacobs and Lenny Cohen
Marsha Perlmutter and Dr. Ira Kalina
Joann Sesholtz and Paul Hammond
Shelley Zelin and Victor Megerman

Beginners Shabbat Luncheons

June 5, Sept. 4

cost $15

All-Night Shavuot Learn-in

Tues, May 25, 11:30 PM - 6:45 AM

Rosh Hashana Services

Wed-Fri, Sept. 15-17

MARRIAGES

Ellen Aschendorf and Robert Shasha
Dr. Lidia Cearnechi and Dr. Mark Lidagoster
Wendy Coan and Richard Platt
Hildy Feinberg and Louis Parks
Nancy Jo Friedman and James Margolin
Natalie Gittelson and Mort Lachman
Eve Goldberg and Andrew Berman
Miriam Kaster and Alan Magill
Sheryl Katz and Ernest Elias
Lisa Pachtman and Adam Schlesinger
Sharon Rothner and Evan Klein

BIRTHS

Susan and Andy Fleisch, on the birth of a girl, Shira Lea
Dr. Chava and Dr. Steven Kaplan, on the birth of a girl, Sara Tova
Elisheva and Yaakov Potesky, on the birth of a boy, Shlomo
Sheryl and Mark Schwartz, on the birth of a girl, Sara Michal

BAR MITZVAH

Yitzchok Shalom, son of Miriam and Samuel Gluck

REFUAH SH'LEIMAH (Speedy recovery)

David Black — Anne Linhart
Steven Klein — Margot Zitter

CONDOLENCES

Audrey Daum, on the loss of her father, Arnold Edward Daum
Melanie Kaminetsky, on the loss of her father, Mietek Renchner

CONGRATULATIONS

Vivian and Mark Gelberman upon receiving the Nathan K. Gross Service Award from Congregation Ohab Zedek
Chaim (Carl) Henry upon reaching his 80th birthday
Freya and Richard Wigler on the engagement of their daughter, Jacqueline to Nathan Shalom

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sa[illegible]ay, May 29th (NASO)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.

Daf Yomi ..... 6:25 p.m.
Bible Class ..... 6:55 p.m.
Talmud Class ..... 7:10 p.m.
Mincha ..... 7:55 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:10 p.m.

Monday, May 31st Memorial Day
Morning Services ..... 7:05 and 8:30 a.m.

Friday, June 4th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 8:05 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 & 8:10 p.m.

Saturday, June 5th (BEHAALOTECHA)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi ..... 6:30 p.m.
Bible Class ..... 7:00 p.m.
Talmud Class ..... 7:15 p.m.
Mincha ..... 8:00 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:15 p.m.

Friday, June 11th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 8:09 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 & 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 12th (SHELACH LECHA)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi ..... 6:35 p.m.
Bible Class ..... 7:05 p.m.
Talmud Class ..... 7:20 p.m.
Mincha ..... 8:05 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:20 p.m.

Friday June 18th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 8:12 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 & 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 19th Rosh Chodesh Tamuz (KORACH)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi ..... 6:40 p.m.
Bible Class ..... 7:10 p.m.
Talmud Class ..... 7:25 p.m.
Mincha ..... 8:10 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:20 p.m.

Sunday, June 20th Rosh Chodesh Tamuz
Morning Services ..... 7 & 8:30 p.m.

Friday, June 25th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 8:13 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 & 8:20 p.m.

Saturday, June 26th (HUKKAT)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.

Daf Yomi ..... 6:40 p.m.
Bib[illegible] Class ..... 7:10 p.m.
Ta[illegible] lass ..... 7:25 p.m.
Mi[illegible] ..... 8:10 p.m.
Da[illegible] ncha and Maariv ..... 8:20 p.m.

Friday, July 2nd
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 8:13 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 & 8:20 p.m.

Saturday, July 3rd (BALAK)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi & Bible Classes ..... 7:10 p.m.
Mincha ..... 8:10 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:20 p.m.

Sunday July 4th
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 8:30 a.m.

Monday July 5th Independence Day
Morning Services ..... 7:05 & 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday July 6th
Fast of 17th Day of Tammuz
Fast begins ..... 4:19 a.m.
Morning services ..... 7 & 7:30 a.m.
Mincha ..... 8:05 p.m.
Fast concludes ..... 9:01 p.m.

Friday, July 9th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 8:11 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 & 8:20 p.m.

Saturday, July 10th (PINCHAS)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi and Bible Classes ..... 7:10 p.m.
Mincha ..... 8:10 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:15 p.m.

Friday, July 16th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 8:07 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 & 8:10 p.m.

Saturday, July 17th (MAATOT/MASEI)
Hashkamah Minyan ..... 7:40 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi and Bible Classes ..... 7:05 p.m.
Mincha ..... 8:05 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:10 p.m.

Monday July 19th Rosh Chodesh Av
Morning Services ..... 7 & 7:40 a.m.

Friday, July 23rd

Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 8:02 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 & 8:05 p.m.

Saturday, July 24th (DEVORIM) Shabbat Hazon
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 p.m.
Mincha ..... 8:00 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:05 p.m.

Monday July 26th
Eve of Tisha B'Av
Fast begins ..... 8:16 p.m.
Mincha and Maariv ..... 8:20 p.m.

Tuesday July 27th
Tisha B'Av
Morning Services ..... 6:30 & 8:00 a.m
Mincha ..... 7:45 p.m.
Fast concludes ..... 8:47 p.m.

Friday, July 30th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 7:55 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 & 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 31st (VAETCHANAN) Shabbat Nachamu
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi & Bible Classes ..... 6:50 p.m.
Mincha ..... 7:50 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 7:55 p.m.

Friday, August 6th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 7:47 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 & 7:50 p.m.

Saturday, August 7th (EKEV)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi & Bible Classes ..... 6:45 p.m.
Mincha ..... 7:45 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 7:50 p.m.

Friday, August 13th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 7:38 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 6:45 & 7:45 p.m.
Last Week of early Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, August 14th (REEH)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi & Bible ..... 6:35 p.m.
Mincha ..... 7:35 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 7:40 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday August 17th & 18th
Rosh Chodesh Elul
Morning Services ..... 7 & 7:40 a.m.

Friday, August 20th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 7:28 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 7:35 p.m.

Saturday, August 21st (SHOFTIM)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi & Bible Classes ..... 6:25 p.m.
Mincha ..... 7:25 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 7:30 p.m.

Friday, August 27th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 7:18 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 7:25 p.m.

Saturday, August 28th (KI TETZE)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi & Bible Classes ..... 6:15 p.m.
Mincha ..... 7:15 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 7:20 p.m.

Friday, September 3rd
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 7:07 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 7:10 p.m.

Saturday, Sept 5th (KI TAVO)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi & Bible Classes ..... 6:05 p.m.
Mincha ..... 7:05 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 7:10 p.m.

Friday September 10th
Kindle Shabbat Candles ..... 6:55 p.m.
Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat ..... 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 11th (NITZAVIM/VAYELECH)
Shabbat Morning Services ..... 8:45 a.m.
Daf Yomi and Bible Classes ..... 6:50 p.m.
Mincha ..... 6:50 p.m.
Daily Mincha and Maariv ..... 6:55 p.m.
Early Selichot ..... 10:15 p.m.
Rabbi's Drasha ..... 11:30 p.m.
Selichot ..... 1:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 12th
Morning Serivces ..... 7:10 & 8:30 a.m.

Monday & Tuesday September 13th & 14th
Selichot & Morning Services ..... 6:40 & 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 15th
Erev Rosh Hashanah
Selichot & Morning Services ..... 6:00 & 7:00 a.m.