



PESACH/
SHAVUOT
5777/2017

G E S H E R

Washington Heights Congregation

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HAPPY
SHAVUOT

A Message From The Rabbi ...

The Anti-Appeal

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman

Only once in history has a Jewish institution conducted an anti-appeal: Please don't give anymore! It's enough already! In Parashat Vayakhel, we read about how donations to the building of the Tabernacle became so excessive that Moses had to instruct the people to keep their gifts to themselves.

How would you have expected the Israelites to react to this announcement? With relief! “Yay! We can keep our stuff!” Their actual response, however, boggles the mind: **וַיִּנְלֵא הָעָם מִהֲבִיָּא**. The word **וַיִּנְלֵא** is from the same root as **נָלַא** ‘restraint, prison.’ In other words, the people wanted to continue giving so much that to restrain themselves from giving more required great self-control.

Clearly, our ancestors' relationship with their property was quite different from what we consider the norm. For us, the default state of being is to hold on to our possessions. Separating from them, if indeed really warranted, is a momentary break in our customary inertia. Our ancestors' default, on the other hand, was to give.

This idea can help us find significance in the fact that we read Parashat Vayakhel shortly before Passover. In the pre-holiday rush of cleaning and shopping, a crucial aspect of preparing for the Yom Tov often gets short changed: **מַעֲוֹת חֵיטִין**, literally “coins for wheat”—the ancient institution of making sure everyone in the community can provide for their Passover needs. Unfortunately for **מַעֲוֹת חֵיטִין**, it comes on the heels of **מַתְּנוֹת לְאַבְיוֹנִים**, the Purim gifts to the poor. We tend to think, “another holiday fundraising drive? But I just gave!”

We see from Parashat Vayakhel that this attitude is inappropriate. Our default state must be to give. When we simply don't have enough, or the cause requesting funds is truly unworthy, we should have to feel as if we are holding ourselves back from giving. Such a relationship with our money is much more religiously healthy than the opposite attitude – i.e. having to prod ourselves to donate when the opportunity arises.

(continued next page)

During the Passover season, we focus on the experience of our ancestors at the time of the Exodus. One of the most important lessons we can learn from them is that the default setting for the Jewish wallet is “open.” 🏠

Shul Events:

Tu b'Shvat luncheon, Feb. 11: This year Tu b'Shvat fell on Shabbat, so the shul's luncheon was on the holiday itself. Catered by Y & Y Caterers, it included the traditional products of Israel associated with the day, artfully assembled by **May Deutsch**. Thanks to **Bob Wolf** and **May Deutsch** for organizing this!

Purim, March 11-12: Once again we had the pleasure of Rabbi Hoffman's beautiful leining of Megillat Esther from a distinctive leather scroll that he himself wrote. As they have for several years, the Hoffmans treated us to a delicious brunch in lieu of conventional Mishloach Manot. A festive spread, it included French toast and lovely salads as well as home-baked cookies, cakes, and much else. It was a wonderful way to start Purim day!

Save the date! Our annual **Yom Yerushalayim lunch** will be held on **May 20, Parashat Behar-Bechukotai**. **Rabbi Ellis Bloch** has agreed to be our speaker.

מזל טוב / Congratulations

To **Dvora Hersh** on the birth of a granddaughter, **Eliana Leeba**, and to the parents **Yaakov & Shani Hersh**

To **Ilse Gruenspecht** on her special birthday and her 25 years of service to our shul

To **Sonya Jacobs** on the birth of a great grandson

To **Alexander & Nina Srogovich** on the Bat Mitzvah of a great granddaughter

To **Dr. David Sclar**, on his paper “Adaptation and Acceptance: Moses Hayim Luzzatto’s Sojourn in Amsterdam among Portuguese Jews” being published in the *Association for Jewish Studies Review*

To **Sonya Jacobs** on the birth of a great granddaughter

To **Shelley Bulman** on the bar mitzvah of **Aharon Eliyahu**, son of **Meir & Dvora Bulman**

Kiddush Sponsors:

Jan. 7, Vayigash: **Elaine Manning** on the yahrzeit of her parents, **Clara & Louis Tischler**

Jan. 14, Vayechi: **Judy & Elan Rieser** on the 23rd yahrzeit of Judy’s maternal grandmother, **Alice Einhorn Cohen**, o”h, and **Dvora Hersh** on the 19th yahrzeit of her brother, **Robert Alan Lowe, Yitzchok ben Kalonymus**, o”h

Jan. 21, Shemot: **Alma Schatten** to celebrate the birth of a great-grandson in Israel and the 50th birthday of her daughter **Sandy**

Feb. 4, Bo: **Elan & Judy Rieser** on the 3rd yahrzeit of Elan’s grandmother, **Menucha Paltiel**, o”h

Feb. 18, Yitro: **Judy & Elan Rieser** on the 7th yahrzeit of Elan’s maternal grandfather, **Yehuda Paltiel**, and the 14th yahrzeit of Judy’s paternal grandmother, **Zelda Wolberg Kunofsky**

March 4, Terumah: Washington Heights Congregation in honor of **Ilse Gruenspecht**’s special birthday and in recognition of her 25 years of service to the shul

March 11, Tetzaveh: **Margot Fein** on the yahrzeit of her father, **Louis Fein, Lev ben Moshe**

April 1, Vayikra: **Marjorie & Charlie Gregor** to celebrate the 2nd birthday of their granddaughter **Yehudis Gregor**

If you are interested in sponsoring a Kiddush, please call the Shul office **(212) 923-4407**

Condolences to:

Condolences to **Monica**, her daughters, and the whole Spier family on the passing of beloved longtime member **Martin Spier (Moshe ben Avraham)** o"n

Links to the hespedim given by Rabbi Ellis Bloch and Yaakov Hoffman at the levaya are posted on our website under Weekly Announcements.

<https://images.shulcloud.com/658/uploads/Hespedim/Eulogy-for-Martin-Spier---Rabbi-Hoffman.pdf>

<https://images.shulcloud.com/658/uploads/Hespedim/Martin-Spier-Hesped---Rabbi-Bloch.pdf>

Condolences to **Dvorah Hersh** and her family on the passing of her mother, **Mrs. Marjorie Lowe (Peryl bat Nossan)** o"n

Condolences to the **Spier family** on the passing of **Mr. Alfred Spier** o"n, the brother of **Martin and Walter Spier**

Condolences to **Yosef Rabinowitz** on the passing of his mother, **Shirley Rabinowitz (Sheindl bas Aharon Ha-Kohen)** o"n

May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

הַמָּקוֹם יַנְחֵם יְנַחֵם אֶתְכֶם בְּתוֹךְ שְׂאֵר אֲבֹלֵי צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם

**If you have any questions or needs,
please call the Shul office at (212) 923-4407
The answering machine is checked frequently.
You may also consult our website at www.bridgeshul.com**

The Eruv

Information about the boundaries of the Washington Heights and YU Eruvin can be found at http://images.shulcloud.com/131/attachments/6279_DOC082112-003.pdf.

Note that the eruv does not extend into Fort Tryon Park or Gorman Park.

Find the CURRENT STATUS of both eruvim at <http://www.mtsinaishul.com/>, or call 646-450-ERUV, or send a text message (SMS) to 412-213-8991. If only the YU eruv is listed as unchecked, check www.yueruv.org closer to Shabbat, or listen to announcements in shul on Friday night.

Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

Spring - Pesach / Shavuot 5777

Zmanim subject to change: please consult the website and weekly e-mails for the latest times

EREV PESACH TAANIT BECHOROT

APRIL 10

Eat Chametz	before 10:30am
Destroy Chametz	before 11:35am
Chatzot	12:57pm
Candle Lighting	7:12
Mincha/Maariv	7:20
Kiddush not before	8:04

PESACH DAY 1

APRIL 11

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:20
Maariv	8:13
Candle Lighting from an existing flame and preparation	after 8:13

PESACH DAY 2

APRIL 12

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:20
Maariv/Havdalah	8:14

SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED

PESACH

APRIL 14-15

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05
Candle Lighting	7:16
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:15
Maariv/Havdalah	8:18

EREV SHVII SHEL PESACH

APRIL 16

Candle Lighting	7:18
Mincha/Maariv	7:20

PESACH DAY 7

APRIL 17

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:25
Maariv	8:20
Candle Lighting from an existing flame and preparation	after 8:20

PESACH DAY 8

APRIL 18

Shacharit	8:40
with Yizkor	about 10:00
Mincha	7:10
Maariv/Havdalah	8:21

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM

PARASHAT SHMINI

APRIL 21-22

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05
Candle Lighting	7:23
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:25
Maariv/Havdalah	8:26

SHABBAT PARASHAT

TAZRIA-METZORA

APRIL 28-29

Earliest candles	6:23
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05*
Candle Lighting	7:31
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:30
Maariv/Havdalah	8:34

SHABBAT PARASHAT ACHREI MOT-KEDOSHIM

MAY 5-6

Earliest candles	6:28
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05*
Candle Lighting	7:38
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:40
Maariv/Havdalah	8:43

SHABBAT PARASHAT EMOR

MAY 12-13

Earliest Candles	6:34
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05*
Candle Lighting	7:45
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:45
Maariv/Havdalah	8:51

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM

PARASHAT BEHAR-

BECHUKOTAI

MAY 19-20

Earliest Candles	6:39
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05*
Candle Lighting	7:52
Shacharit (note early start)	8:35
Mincha	7:50
Maariv/Havdalah	8:59

SHABBAT PARASHAT

BAMIDBAR

MAY 26-27

Earliest Candles	6:44
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05*
Candle Lighting	7:58
Shacharit (note early start)	8:35
Mincha	8:00
Maariv/Havdalah	9:06

EREV SHAVUOT

MAY 30

Candle Lighting	8:01
Mincha/Maariv	8:10
Kiddush not before	8:59

SHAVUOT DAY 1

MAY 31

Shacharit	8:35
Mincha	8:00
Maariv	9:10
Candle Lighting from an existing flame and preparations	after 9:10

SHAVUOT DAY 2

JUNE 1

Shacharit	8:35
with Yizkor	about 10:00
Mincha	8:00
Maariv/Havdalah	9:10

SHABBAT PARASHAT NASSO

JUNE 2-3

Earliest Candles	6:49
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:10*
Candle Lighting	8:04
Shacharit (note early start)	8:30
Mincha	8:05
Maariv/Havdalah	9:12

SHABBAT PARASHAT

BEHA'ALOTCHA

JUNE 9-10

Earliest Candles	6:53
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:08
Shacharit (note early start)	8:30
Mincha	8:05
Havdalah/Maariv	9:17

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM

PARASHAT SH'LACH

JUNE 16-17

Earliest Candles	6:56
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:11
Shacharit (note early start)	8:35
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Havdalah	9:20

*For those whose families daven with the shul's minyan, candles should be lit no later than 25 minutes after Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat starts

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