



PESACH/SPRING  
5779/2019

# G E S H E R

Washington Heights Congregation

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חג פסח שמח!  
HAPPY PASSOVER



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## *A Message From The Rabbi ...*

# Honesty Beats Amalek

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman


**W**hy does God wait all the way until Parashat Ki Teitzei to command us to destroy Amalek? The original impetus to do so was way back in Parashat Beshallach. Furthermore, if God is already delaying introducing the mitzvah, one would expect the Torah to present it along with other commands that relate to war. Instead, it immediately follows the command to have just weights and measure.

Rashi explains that this juxtaposition indicates that if we cheat in business, we should start worrying about our enemies starting up with us. If we do not live up to the Torah's high ethical standards, we provoke the animosity of Amalek or those who think like Amalek in their sworn hatred of the Jewish people.

While dishonesty is certainly bad, what is the connection with Amalek specifically? Rav Hirsch explains the link as follows: The Jewish people's job is to represent God on Earth; taking unjust advantage of others is the very antithesis of the goal.

The fundamental goal of Amalek is to undermine the Jewish people and what we stand for. This is true in general, but the Torah notes that Amalek specifically preys on the defenseless – **וַיִּזְנוּ בְךָ כָּל הַנְּחַשְׁלִים – אַחֲרֶיךָ**. The Jewish way is to do anything to promote justice, whereas Amalek will stop at nothing to get ahead.

Not doing our spiritual job paves the way for Amalek to become stronger.

Besides impacting the general balance of power between the Jewish people and Amalek, a lack of integrity on our part has a very real impact on emboldening our enemies. In many circles, blatant anti-Semitism is frowned upon. However, when a scandal emerges involving a Jew, it gives people an opportunity to let out their inner feelings about Jews and speak and act against us. 

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## Shul Events:

**Purim, March 20-21:** 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 Purim morning in lieu of conventional Mishloach Manot. A festive spread, it included French toast as well as home-baked cookies, cakes, and much more. It was a wonderful way to start Purim day!

**Save the date! Our annual Bulman Memorial Lecture** will be held this year on **Yom Yerushalayim, Sunday, June 2**, at 5:30 in the TTC at Mt. Sinai. **Pinny Bulman, Ada Maccabee, and Rabbi Neil Fleischmann** will speak about a few of their favorite modern Hebrew poems.

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## מזל טוב / Congratulations

To **Ilse Gruenspecht** on the upcoming Bar Mitzvah on Pesach of her great grandson, **Binyamin Wenger**, and to the grandparents, **Esther & Isaac Secemski**, and to the parents, **Ronit & Amnon Wenger**

To **Sonya Jacobs** on the birth (on Purim) of a great grandson, and to the grandparents, **Nechama & Tovia Horowitz**, and to the parents, **Shaindy & Dovid Horowitz**

To **Sonya Jacobs** on the birth of a great granddaughter (on the first day of Rosh Chodesh Adar II), and to the grandparents, **Michele & Shmuel Jacobs**, and to the parents, **Devora & Yosef Weisz**

To **Anya & Alejandro Staroselski** on the birth of a daughter, **Talia Sarah**

To **Marjorie & Charlie Gregor** on the birth of a grandson, **Yechezkel**, in Jerusalem. Mazel tov also to the parents, **Aryeh & Tali Gregor**, and to the siblings, **Noach, Yehudis, and Rivka**

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To **Bertha Gruenspecht** on the wedding of a great granddaughter, **Yael Pfeffer**, to Simcha Kessler, and to the grandparents, **Ruth & Phillip Fyman**, and to the parents, **Debra & David Pfeffer**

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## Welcome New Members:

**Andrew Chernela**  
**Ephraim Rosenstock**

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## Kiddush Sponsors:

**Jan. 5, Vaera:** **Elaine Manning** on the yahrzeits of her parents, **Louis & Clara Tischler** (Label ben Duvid & Chaya bat Avraham)

**Jan. 12, Bo:** **Judy & Elan Rieser** on the 5th yahrzeit of Elan's maternal grandmother, **Menucha Paltiel**

**Jan. 19, Beshalach:** **Judy & Elan Rieser** on the 9th yahrzeit of Elan's maternal grandfather, **Yehuda Paltiel** and the 16th yahrzeit of Judy's paternal grandmother, **Zelda (Wolberg) Kunofsky**

**Jan. 26, Yitro:** **Bob & Tamsin Wolf** on the yahrzeit of Bob's mother, **Shirley Wolf**

**Feb. 23, Ki Tisa:** **Alejandro & Anya Staroselski** on the birth of a daughter, **Talia Sarah**

**March 16, Vayikra:** **Charlie & Marjorie Gregor** to celebrate the birth of a grandson, **Yechezkel**, on 24 Tevet/31 Dec 2018 in Jerusalem to **Aryeh & Tali Gregor**

**March 23, Tzav:** **Dvora Hersh** on the second yahrzeit of her mother, **Marjorie Lowe**

**March 30, Shemini:** **Margot Fein** on the yahrzeit of her father, **Louis Fein**

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**April 6, Tazria: Charlie & Marjorie Gregor** in celebration of the 4th birthday of their granddaughter, **Yehudis Gregor**

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

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## Condolences to:

We regret to inform you of the passing of our long-time member **Monica Spier** (Ruth bat Yaakov) o"n.

We regret to inform you of the passing of **Joseph Holtzer o"n**, the son of long-time congregant **Siggy Holtzer**.

*May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem*

הַמָּקוֹם יַנְחֵם יְנַחֵם אֶתְכֶם בַּתּוֹךְ שָׂאֵר אַבְלֵי צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם

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### **MORIAH OLDER ADULT LUNCHEON CLUB**

was founded in 1974 to serve seniors of all ethnicities in Washington Heights and Inwood – two communities which contain the highest percentage of seniors in the New York area. Moriah creates an atmosphere of warmth, comfort and emotional support as it serves fresh, nutritious, hot lunches daily to approximately 100 seniors.

***Moriah is the only Glatt Kosher Senior Center  
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In addition, Moriah enhances the lives of its senior congregates by sponsoring a varied recreation and education program.

The program includes nutrition education, music, discussion groups, craft classes, chair dancing, movies, computer lab and computer education, exercise and bingo. We also feature a book club and periodic concerts. Holiday parties and birthday parties are an integral part of our program.

This year, we expanded our program to include a Wellness Project, offering weekly yoga classes and monthly massage therapy sessions.

For more information and/or to receive their e-mail news letter please go to **<http://www.moriahseniorcenter.org>**  
or call **212-923-5715**

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# Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

## Spring 2019 / 5779

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

### EREV SHABBAT/ EREV PESACH TAANIT BECHOROT APRIL 19, FRIDAY

Eat Chometz	before 10:25
Destroy chometz	before 11:30
Shabbat/Yom Tov Candle Lighting	7:21
Mincha/Maariv	7:25
Shema and kiddush	after 8:14
Chatzot	12:55

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### SHABBAT/PESACH DAY 1 APRIL 20, SHABBAT

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:20
Maariv	8:24
Yom Tov Candle Lighting from an existing flame and preparation	after 8:24

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### PESACH DAY 2 APRIL 21, SUNDAY

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:30
Maariv/Havdalah	8:25

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### EREV SHVII SHEL PESACH APRIL 25, THURSDAY

Mincha/Maariv	7:25
Yom Tov Candle Lighting	7:28

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### EREV SHABBAT/ PESACH DAY 7 APRIL 26, FRIDAY

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha/Maariv	7:25
Shabbat/Yom Tov Candle Lighting	7:29

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### SHABBAT/PESACH DAY 8 APRIL 27, SHABBAT

Shacharit with Yizkor	8:40
Mincha	7:30
Maariv/Havdalah	8:32

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### SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT ACHREI MOT MAY 3-4

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00*
Candle Lighting	7:36
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:35
Maariv/Havdalah	8:40

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### SHABBAT PARASHAT KEDOSHIM MAY 10-11

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:32
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00*
Candle Lighting	7:43
Shacharit	Note Early Start 8:35
Mincha	7:45
Maariv/Havdalah	8:49

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### SHABBAT PARASHAT EMOR MAY 17-18

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:38
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00*
Candle Lighting	7:50
Shacharit	Note Early Start 8:30
Mincha	7:50
Maariv/Havdalah	8:57

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## SHABBAT PARASHAT BEHAR MAY 24-25

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:43
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00*
Candle Lighting	7:57
Shacharit	Note Early Start 8:30
Mincha	7:55
Maariv/Havdalah	9:04

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## SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT BECHUKOTAI MAY 31-JUNE 1

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:48
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05*
Candle Lighting	8:02
Shacharit	Note Early Start 8:30
Mincha	8:00
Maariv/Havdalah	9:10

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## EREV SHAVUOT/SHABBAT PARASHAT BAMIDBAR JUNE 7-8

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:52
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:10*
Candle Lighting	8:07
Shacharit	Note Early Start 8:25
Mincha	8:05
Maariv	9:16
Yom Tov Candle Lighting from an existing flame and preparation	after 9:16

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## SHAVUOT DAY 1 JUNE 9, SUNDAY

Shacharit	8:25
Mincha	8:05
Maariv	9:16
Yom Tov Candle Lighting from an existing flame and preparation	after 9:16

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## SHAVUOT DAY 2 JUNE 10, MONDAY

Shacharit with Yizkor	8:25
Mincha	8:05
Maariv/Havdalah	9:17

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## SHABBAT PARASHAT NASSO JUNE 14-15

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:55
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:11
Shacharit	Note Early Start 8:25
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Havdalah	9:20

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## SHABBAT PARASHAT BEHA'ALOTCHA JUNE 21-22

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:57
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:13
Shacharit	Note Early Start 8:30
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Havdalah	9:22

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## SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT SH'LACH JUNE 28-29

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:58
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:14
Shacharit	Note Early Start 8:30
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Havdalah	9:22

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

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](http://www.bridgeshul.com)

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# **Jewish Community Council of Washington Heights & Inwood**

**121 Bennett Avenue, Suite 11A**

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## **Social Services**

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Crisis Intervention

## **Housing Department**

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Apartment Referrals

## **Programs**

Social & Holiday Programs

Senior Trips and Events

Community-wide Workshops

Volunteer Opportunities

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## 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](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 eruvin 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](http://www.yueruv.org) closer to Shabbat, or listen to announcements in shul on Friday night.

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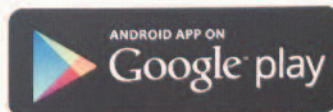
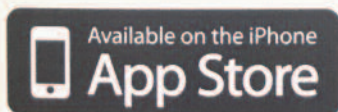
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