



PESACH/SPRING
5776/2016

G E S H E R

Washington Heights Congregation

PO Box 1066 • New York, NY 10040-9998 • Tel/Fax (212) 923-4407 • www.bridgeshul.com



A Message From The Rabbi ...

Juxtaposing Redemptions

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman

In a leap year, I find myself wishing Purim were in Adar I rather than the second Adar. Why should we have to wait an extra holiday-less month after Chanukah for Purim to arrive? To add insult to injury, we have to switch gears and start worrying about Pesach immediately thereafter! Why not spread the wealth?

The Talmud (Megillah 6b) states that Purim and Pesach should be celebrated as close together as possible because both have the theme of redemption (מסמך גאולה לגאולה עדיף). However, the reason for this is unclear.

I believe a comment Rashi made in a totally different context provides one answer. Tractate Taanit (29a) states that when the month of Av enters, we reduce joy; conversely, we increase joy when Adar enters (כשם שמשוננס אב ממעטין בשמחה כך משוננס אדר מרבין בשמחה). Rashi explains that the reason we increase joy in Adar is *שחזר* (פורים ופסח היו לישראל פורים ופסח), Purim and Pesach are miraculous days for the Jewish people. This seems very difficult: what does Pesach have to do with Adar? It's not until the following month!

Rashi here is making a fundamental distinction between the moods of Av and Adar. The mourning of Av has a set end point: Tisha B'Av. When Adar arrives, on the other hand, we must maintain our spiritual high beyond Purim all the way to Pesach. Were Purim and Pesach too far away from each other, we would lose the momentum of happiness that we developed leading up to Purim by the time Pesach came around. We must celebrate them in proximity to get ourselves in the proper frame of mind for the original holiday celebrating our redemption.

It is hard for us to relate to distant historical events. The events of Purim, however, are only too reminiscent of the Jewish people's current and recent struggles against annihilation. The holiday serves to strengthen our faith that, now as then, we will be able to defeat our enemies with the help of the hidden Divine hand. The enslavement and openly miraculous deliverance of Passover are farther removed from

our current experience. Yet it is specifically on Pesach that we are obligated to view ourselves as if we personally went forth from Egypt. The mood lift we have on Purim, one day of very intense celebration, and the joy of Adar, hopefully will become the happiness required as the cornerstone of Passover observance. 🏰

Shul Events:

January 30, Tu B'Shvat lunch. Once again we had a lunch on Shabbat to celebrate the holiday. **Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman** gave an interesting talk entitled “Does Tu Beshvat Matter Today?” Catered by Y & Y Caterers, it proved an enjoyable and informative event. Special thanks to **Bob Wolf, May Deutsch,** and **Ilse Gruenspecht.**

March 4-5, Scholar-in-Residence. The shul hosted **Rabbi Michael Zylberman**, Geirus Coordinator of the Rabbinical Council of America and Assistant Director/Gittin Coordinator at the Beth Din of America, as our Shabbat Scholar-in-Residence. Shabbat started with an oneg Shabbat on Friday night at **Rabbi & Mrs. Hoffman's** (new!) apartment to welcome **Rabbi Zylberman.** On Shabbat morning, Rabbi Zylberman gave the drasha and then gave a more formal talk after a special hot kiddush about “The Politics of Conversion: A Halachic Analysis.” Finally, he spoke between Mincha and Maariv on “Addressing Recalcitrance in the Get Process.” He also answered questions. It was a lively and very interesting Shabbat for everyone. Many thanks to **Rabbi Hoffman** for suggesting this speaker and arranging for him and his family to spend Shabbat here.

March 23-24, Purim. Once again we had the pleasure of **Rabbi Hoffman's** beautiful leining of Megillat Esther from a distinctive leather scroll that he himself wrote. Also like last year, the Hoffmans treated us to a delicious brunch in lieu of conventional Mishloach Manot. It was a wonderful way to start Purim day!

April 10, Aaron Bulman Memorial Lecture. People from all parts of Washington Heights gathered to hear **Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman** speak about “A Different Night Indeed: Laws and Customs of the Seder You

Never Heard Of.” He was introduced by **Pinny Bulman**, who spoke briefly about his father, well-known and fondly remembered for *ahavat habriot v’ahavat am yisrael* (love of all God’s creatures and of the Jewish people).

March 25 was the first meeting of “Greeting the Shabbat Bride: Meditations on Lecha Dodi,” a new shiur given by **Elan Rieser** a half an hour before mincha every Friday. The song *Lecha Dodi* is one of the most beloved pieces in the Shabbat liturgy. Elan discusses and contemplates its language and themes in preparation for Shabbat.

Upcoming Events:

SAVE THE DATE for our **annual Yom Yerushalayim lunch** to be held on June 5th. Thanks to **May Deutsch, Morris Whitcup, and Ilse Gruenspecht** for their work on the event.

מזל טוב / Congratulations

To **Eli Varenberg** on his engagement to **Hayley Sevitz** in Israel

To **Bertha Gruenspecht** on the bar mitzvah of a great-grandson

To **Ina Sondheim** on the engagement of her grandson **Sam Sondheim** to **Shelley Silverstein**

Welcome New Members:

Baruch Benattar

Shmuel & Chavie Kadosh

Kiddush Sponsors:

January 2, Parashat Shemot: **Elaine Manning** on the yahrzeit of her parents, **Clara & Louis Tischler**

January 9, Parashat Vaera: **Helena and Moxe Meiri**

January 16, Parashat Bo: **Judy & Elan Rieser** on the 2nd yearzeit of Elan's maternal grandmother **Menucha Paltiel**

January 23, Parashat Beshalach: **Judy & Elan Rieser** on the 6th yearzeit of Elan's maternal grandfather **Yehuda Paltiel** and the 16th yearzeit of Judy's paternal grandmother **Zelda Wohlberg Kunofsky**; and by **Bob & Tamsin Wolf** on the 2nd yearzeit of Bob's mother **Shirley Wolf**

February 6, Parashat Mishpatim: a Scotch, Bourbon, and trimmings kiddush, sponsored by **Harry Epstein, David Kach, Ari Rieser,** and **Morris Whitcup**

February 27, Parashat Ki Tisa: **Baruch Benattar** on the yearzeit of his father **Harav Amram Raphael ben Avraham a"h**

March 19, Parashat Vayikra/Shabbat Zachor: pre-Purim ice cream kiddush sponsored by **Morris & Laura Whitcup**

March 26, Parashat Tzav: **Margot Fein** on the yearzeit of her father **Louis Fein a"h, Lev ben Moshe**

April 2, Parashat Shmini: **Dr. Thomas & Judy Hoffman** on the yearzeit of Dr. Hoffman's father, **Pesachya ben Yehoshua**

April 9, Parashat Tazria: **Charlie & Marjorie Gregor** on the first birthday of their granddaughter **Yehudis Gregor**, born on Rosh Chodesh Nisan in Jerusalem

April 16, Parashat Metzora: **Gary & May Deutsch** in honor of **Josh & Na'avah Brown's** wedding

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

רפואה שלמה /

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery

To **Ira Schatten**, who is now at the Atria, 3718-3726 Henry Hudson Parkway, Riverdale. His phone number is 718-432-7410.

Condolences to:

Condolences to the family of **David Gitler** on the loss of their husband, father, and grandfather

Condolences to **Suri and Shana Esther Kahn** and family on the loss of **Trude Kahn** o"h, mother of our late **Chazan Leon Kahn** o"h

Condolences to **Gloria Spira** and the rest of the family of **Max Spira**, o"h

May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Max Spira, o"h, with his *eishet chayil* **Gloria**, exemplified the idea of service to our shul for more than sixty years. His *auf-ruf* was held in the old shul on 161st Street in 1950, and the newly-wed couple became active in the congregation, raising their children Suri and Reuven there. They remained so even after moving to the Bronx. Returning to Washington Heights in 1973, the Spiras became essential to all of the shul's activities. Besides serving as Vice President, Treasurer, and Board member of the Congregation, he also was the regular *Baal Koreh* for many years and the mainstay of the daily minyanim. There was no aspect of the running of the shul that he neglected, and no detail too small for him to mind. Max Spira was, truly, a founding member of the shul we have today.



HATZOLOH
(212) 230-1000

For current status
of the
Hudson Heights Eruv,
call the Eruv Hotline:
(646) 450-ERUV
3 7 8 8

Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

Pesach to Shavuot 5776

“Greeting the Shabbat Bride: Meditations on Lecha Dodi”
 a shiur about its language and themes given by **Elan Rieser**,
 meets 30 minutes before mincha every Friday

SHABBAT HAGADOL PARASHAT METZORA

APRIL 15-16, 2016

Mincha/Kabalat Shabbat	7:15
Candle Lighting	7:18
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:00
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:20

EREV PESACH TAANIT BECHOROT

APRIL 22, 2016

Eat Chametz	before 10:20 am
Destroy Chametz	before 11:30 am
Shabbat/Yom Tov Candle Lighting	7:26
Mincha/Maariv	7:35
Kiddush	not before 8:19
Chatzot	12:54

SHABBAT/PESACH DAY 1 APRIL 23, 2016

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:25
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:28

Yom Tov Candle Lighting (from an existing flame) and preparation after 8:28

PESACH DAY 2

APRIL 24, 2016 (SUN)

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:35
Maariv/Havdalah	8:29

EREV SHVII SHEL PESACH

APRIL 28, 2016 (TH)

Candle Lighting	7:32
Mincha/Maariv	7:40

PESACH DAY 7

APRIL 29, 2016 (FRI)

Shacharit	8:40
Mincha/Maariv	7:25
Candle Lighting (from an existing flame) and preparation after 7:33	

SHABBAT/PESACH DAY 8 APRIL 30, 2016

Shacharit	8:40
with Yizkor about	10:00
Mincha	7:10
Maariv/Havdalah	8:37
<u>Do not use sold chametz until</u>	<u>10 PM</u>

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT ACHAREI MOT

MAY 6-7, 2016

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:34
Mincha/Kabalat Shabbat	7:15
Candle Lighting	7:40
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:40
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:45

SHABBAT PARASHAT KEDOSHIM

MAY 13-14, 2016

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:40
Mincha/Kabalat Shabbat	7:20
Candle Lighting	7:47
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:45
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:53

SHABBAT PARASHAT EMOR

MAY 20-21, 2016

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:45
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00
Candle Lighting	7:54
Shacharit (note time)	8:35
Mincha	7:55
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:01

SHABBAT PARASHAT BEHAR

MAY 27-28, 2016

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:50
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05*
Candle Lighting	8:00
Shacharit (note time)	8:35
Mincha	8:00
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:08

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT BECHUKOTAI

JUNE 3-4, 2016

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:55
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:10*
Candle Lighting	8:05
Shacharit (note time)	8:30
Mincha	8:05
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:14

EREV SHAVUOT SHABBAT PARASHAT BAMIDBAR

JUNE 10-11, 2016

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:58
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:09
Shacharit (note time)	8:30
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:18
Candle lighting (from an existing flame) and preparation after	9:18

SHAVUOT DAY 1 JUNE 11, 2016

Shacharit	8:30
Shiur	7:10
Mincha	8:10
Shiur	
Maariv	9:19
Candle Lighting (from an existing flame) and preparation after	9:19

SHAVUOT DAY 2 JUNE 12, 2016

Shacharit	8:30
with Yizkor about	10:00
Shiur	7:10
Mincha	8:10
Shiur	
Maariv/Havdalah	9:19

*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**

Manhattan style & quality in the heart of Riverdale



RIVERDALE GRILL HOUSE
K



FISH • STEAK • KEBAB

Sun - Thu: 11am - 11pm Fri: closed (winter) Sat: 6pm - 12 am

**We open at 6 pm after Shabbat
featuring live music**

Dine in

Takeout

Delivery



Free parking

Restaurant
Catering Hall

Live Music
Jazz, Blues



Private rooms up to 60 people

Come celebrate your special event

5693 Riverdale Ave, BX, NY 10471 (corner of 259 St)

www.kgrillhouse.com kgrillhouse@gmail.com 718-706-7940

Please Patronize Our Advertisers

DR. ELLIOTT GUTMAN

GENERAL DENTISTRY

801 WEST 180th STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10033

(212) 923-1982

**LATEST TECHNOLOGY
DIGITAL X-RAYS**

**SAFER AND FASTER
90% LESS RADIATION**

House Calls Available

In House Laboratory

- *Dentures*
- *Implants*
- *Bridgework*
- *Root Canal*
- *Bleaching and*
- *Cosmetic Dentistry*

Please Patronize Our Advertisers



Y & Y Caterers

Tel. (212) 304-4852

KAJ SUPERVISION

GIDEON'S {GRUENEBAUM'S} BAKERY
Known for Fine Pastries and Cakes

810 West 187th Street
(212) 927-9262

Under the Supervision of the Orthodox Union



**Apple
Bank**
for Savings

- Established 1863 • Member FDIC
- Equal Housing Lender
- Equal Opportunity Lender

Stop in your local branch today!
Joseph Wroblewski, branch manager

**706 West 181st Street at Broadway
New York, NY**

banking hours

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am - 4:00pm

Friday: 8:30am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am - 2:00pm



BD
BRIDGE DENTISTS

Steven C. Kaufman, D.D.S.
Howard Bloom, D.D.S.

427 Fort Washington Avenue
New York, NY 10033
(212) 795-8070

Please Patronize Our Advertisers

Put your money where the rates are.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: COMPETITIVE RATES & PERSONALIZED SERVICE FOR ALL:

- Personal Checking, Savings, CDs
- Business Checking, Savings, CDs
- Personal & Business Lending

and much more, all with unparalleled service.

ADDED CONVENIENCE: EVEN MORE WAYS TO BANK WITH US.

VISIT US



Find us throughout the
NYC area or in the Hudson Valley.

BANK ONLINE



Use BerkOnline® & BerkMobile
to access your accounts anywhere, 24/7.

MAKE THE SWITCH: CALL US TODAY FOR RATES & MORE INFORMATION.

(212) 568-0013



THE BERKSHIRE BANK

The Bank that puts your interest first

www.berkbank.com



Please Patronize Our Advertisers