

ד'תשפ"ג
MARCH
2013
Nissan 5773

PESACH EDITION

KESHET

קהילת שערי תפילה

CONGREGATION SHAARE TEFILLAH

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

RABBI KENNETH A. SCHIOWITZ

As I rush to complete this column in the final seconds before this Pesach edition of our newsletter goes to print, it strikes me that “rushing” is really the theme of Pesach. We all rush to clean, shop, cook, clean, shop, cook, etc. or pack, travel, unpack, pack, travel, unpack, etc. in order to “make it” to “make Pesach.” In essence, I suppose, this is the oldest tradition of Pesach, as the Jews rushed out of Mitzrayim and ate unleavened bread because it had no time to rise. We eat matzah every Pesach to symbolize this dimension

of the Exodus that we re-live ourselves in our own Pesach preparations.

Subsequent to the redemption, the rush continued, as we traveled through the desert towards Israel at a pace that was three times faster than the norm (according to Rashi in *Bamidbar 10:33*) before we were slowed up with a 40-year detour subsequent to the sin of the spies. Interestingly, the sin of the calf occurred because the people were concerned about the fact that Moshe was detained upon Sinai for an extra day (*Shmos 32:1*).

I believe that the message of this all is that there are some moments in life that are so powerful and redemptive that we should rush to make sure that we do not miss them. At the same time, we have to be sure to not get caught up in the rat race and to slow down enough to fully experience the meaningful moments of our lives.

I close with wishes for a relaxed and meaningful Pesach!



והם אכלו מצות
שמואל וזבולן בצאתך וישעיהו
הר יקראו שם יזבולו וזבולו יצחק כי שפע יבנים
יזבולו וישעיהו שמואל וזבולו
אמר ברור ברוח גור כלבא שכן ושרה ורוע
אף קדקד וירא ראשית לו כי שם זכרית מוזקק
ספון ויתא ראשי עם צדקת יהודה עשה ובשפטי
עם ישראל
אמר דן גור אריה יצחק בן הבשע ולצפתלי אמר

In This Issue

Rabbi's Message	1
President's Message	1
Masthead	2
Youth Department	3
Committee Guide	4
Member Spotlights	6
Announcements	8
D'var Torah	9
Seder Fun	10
Feature Article	12
Tehillim Group	14
Pesach Recipe	14
Photo Essay	15
Davening Schedule	16

This issue was generously sponsored by:
Stefanie Diamond
Photography
www.stefdiamond.com

SPONSOR AN ISSUE OF
KESHET FOR 2X CHAI
IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE
OR TO CELEBRATE
A SPECIAL EVENT

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

MICHAEL CANTOR

Wow! What an incredible start it has been to 2013 for Shaare Tefillah! We kicked off the year with our most amazing and successful Dinner yet. Every aspect of the evening—from the food to the venue, speeches, honorees, and raffle—exceeded our expectations, resulting in a fantastic evening for everyone. Thanks again to our Dinner & Raffle Committees for their continuous hard work on behalf of the shul.

We carried that momentum right into Purim! It is truly a rare occasion when someone gets something 100% right on their first try (especially when that someone is a Jewish institution) but we really set the bar high for ourselves with our first Purim evening Chagigah in our new building. Again, we received some extremely positive feedback as to how the program was perfect

for our shul. A huge *yashar koach* to Nomi Schwartz, Ashley Klapper, Chana Schneck, Kate Davis and Arie Schnipper for putting together such an amazing evening!

With barely a moment to come up for air, we jumped right into an event that has really been a long time coming for Shaare Tefillah—our weekend extravaganza, combination *Chanukat*, *Habayit*, and *Hachnasat Sifrei Torah*. The activities of the weekend were planned to perfection, with inspirational speakers, moving dedications, *sefer torah*-themed youth programming, dancing in the street and, of course, delicious food. We express tremendous *hakarat hatov* to those involved in coordinating the weekend's events. Thank you to Rabbi and Shira Schiowitz, Larry Gilbert and Benji Burnat.

(Cont. on pg 14)

CONGREGATION SHAARE TEFILLAH
510 CLAREMONT AVENUE
TEANECK, NJ 07666
TEL: 201-357-0613

Rabbi & Rebbitzin	Kenneth Schiowitz	201-289-5474	schowitzk@gmail.com
	Shira Schiowitz	201-928-1490	schowitzs@gmail.com
President	Michael Cantor	201-248-1567	amichaelcantor@hotmail.com
Ritual Committee	Benjy Burnat	201-692-7903	benjyburnat@gmail.com
Sisterhood	Dena Cohen	201-357-5100	dcroog@gmail.com
	Audra Lichter	201-692-0352	AudraDSny@aol.com
Youth Groups	Nomi Schwartz	201-530-0530	nomigs@aol.com
Kiddush	Mendy Schwartz	201-530-0530	markjschwartz@waterbills.com
Finance Committee	Eric Orgen	201-692-3956	ericorgen@gmail.com
	Avi Goldin	201-836-6528	avigoldin@gmail.com
Fundraising	Michael Cantor	201-248-1567	amichaelcantor@hotmail.com
Membership	Matt Diamond	201-286-5639	membership@shaaretefillah.org
Security/Building Committee	Eli Ehrenfeld	201-913-2490	eselliot@gmail.com
	Jonathan Mantell	917-692-3919	jimantell@gmail.com
Strategic Planning	Josh Wasserman	201-540-9277	joshwasserman@gmail.com
Welcoming Committee	Laurie Beckerman	201-836-1950	lauriebeckerman@yahoo.com
Shifra-Puah Committee	Audra Lichter	201-692-0352	AudraDSny@aol.com
Webmaster	Keith Kaplan	201-357-2213	kkaplan@gmail.com
Newsletter	Dena Cohen	201-357-5100	dcroog@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Michael Cantor

Vice Presidents: Avi Goldin, Josh Wasserman

Secretary: Matt Diamond

Treasurer: Eric Orgen

Directors: Benjy Burnat, Natan Cohen, Larry Gilbert, Jonathan Mantell

Past-President: Mendy Schwartz

KeSHeT

The Newsletter of Congregation Shaare Tefillah

Editor: Dena Cohen

Layout Editor: Kate Davis

Contributing Reporters: Rabbi Maccabee Avishur, Tsippi Cantor, Kate Davis,
Audra Lichter, Jonathan Mantell, Yossi Shapiro, Zal Suldan

.....

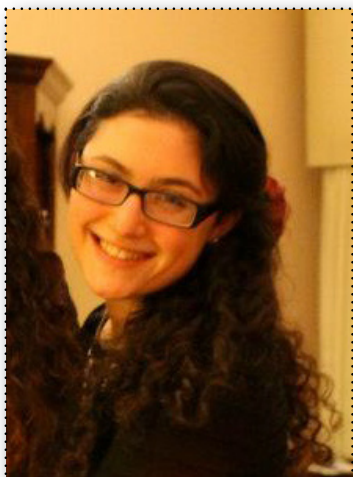
KeSHeT is published seasonally to announce news, activities,
davening times, and other important information to the Shaare Tefillah
congregation and the neighboring community.



Meet Four of Our Amazing Group Leaders!

Ahuva Ehrenberg

2-4-year-olds



- I'm a senior at Frisch
- This summer I'll be making lists of things that I should pack for my year in Israel
- My favorite food is black & white cookies
- My favorite part of groups is right after we've finished davening and we've got all the kids in a nice circle, and we sing songs with them, like "Chicken in the Pot." It

amazes me every time when kids ask for parsnip and it's adorable when they ask for extra carrots and noodles even though most of the group has already asked for them

Aviva Ehernberg

Kindergarten

- My favorite parts about groups are talking to the children about their week and playing games with them
- I'm a Sophomore at Mercy College in the Computer Arts Program
- Summer: Lifeguard at the JCC on the Palisades and I will hopefully get an internship at Thirteen, Marvel, Z100, 95.5, Thieme Medical Publishers, WAT-AAHH!, or the Israel Museum
- Favorite food: Cheesecake



Our Youth Department

Arie Schnipper.....	Director
Elisheva Gold.....	2-4-year-olds
Ahuva Ehrenberg.....	2-4-year-olds
Chezkia Lauer.....	Pre-K
Akiva Gold.....	Pre-K
Ehud Adler.....	Kindergarten
Aviva Ehernberg.....	Kindergarten
Naomi Manas.....	1 st & 2 nd grade
Talya Adler.....	3 rd -5 th grade

Akiva Gold

Pre-K



- School: 9th grade at Ramaz. I write for the school newspaper, am a member of the Debate Team, and participate in the Chidon competitions each year. My favorite subjects in school are most definitely History and Talmud, although Gym is definitely close behind
- Favorite food: Matzo ball soup....nothing else comes close!

• Favorite part of groups: watching each kid come into groups and asking them how their week went

• Hobbies: I love to write and draw, hang out with friends, and babysit

• Summer: Counselor at Moshava Bair in Paramus, and luckily I get to be a counselor and a group leader at the same time! I'm looking forward to continuing to have a great year in groups!

Elisheva Gold

2-4-year-olds

- My favorite part of groups is the free play time at the beginning of groups. The children are very innovative when using the blocks and making food using the toy food

• Summer: I am looking around for possible day camp jobs

• My favorite food: bagel from Sammy's Pizza

• School: Ramaz

• Hobbies: babysitting, reading, baking, and performing



Committee Community: A Guide to Who Does What

See some of the many ways to be involved in the Shaare Tefillah community!

Security & Building Committee:

This committee oversees the safety and security of our shul. Last year, we were successful at obtaining a \$75,000 security grant from the Department of Homeland Security. Building and maintenance issues as well as certain design aspects pertaining to the building are handled by this committee. The committee also oversees our rental policy and calendar for those wishing to rent our social hall for a simcha or event.

Contact: Eli Ehrenfeld, Jonathan Mantell

Membership Committee:

The goal of the Membership committee is to nurture the relationship between our members and the shul. Our recent focus has been on our new members, making sure that they are welcomed properly and set up for meals, and that they feel comfortable with the Shaare Tefillah experience. In the future, our goal is to maintain an ongoing dialogue with our members to understand what their needs are and to ensure that those needs are being met.

Contact: Matt Diamond

Strategic Planning and Growth Committee:

The job of the committee is to look 3-5 years ahead and attempt to plot a definite course based on indicators of what we believe our shul may look like at that time. We want to be proactive in anticipating the shul's needs and setting a plan in place that allows the development of resources required to support those needs (rather than react to them). The committee's goal is to help set the shul's objectives and to build a high-level plan for achieving those objectives. While the long-term goal of the committee is long-term thinking, short-term items are already being discussed. Examples may include, but are certainly not limited to, the definition of realistic membership targets, paths for expansion and growth (not exclusive to the physical building), and creation of additional membership resources. Positive energy, drive, and out-of-the-box thinking are absolutely critical to the success of the committee.

Contact: Josh Wasserman

Fundraising Committee:

This committee is tasked with raising funds for the shul. The committee explores traditional and innovative ways to secure new streams of revenue to support our capital and operational budgets. Examples include sponsorship of items around the sanctuary, dedication of books and furniture, and even naming rooms or sections of the building like the kitchen. The fundraising committee was instrumental in raising over \$600,000 to support the purchase of our new building at Claremont Place. Fundraising is always in the works, and we are always looking for additional talented individuals to join the ranks.

Contact: Michael Cantor

Programming Committee:

This committee seeks out new opportunities for shul programming and ensures the shul is meeting communal expectations for all aspects of programming. Examples of this includes the formation of a Men's Club, Trips/ Outings, and Speaker Programs/Scholars in Residence. The committee will often coordinate with other committees (eg, Youth, Sisterhood).

Contact: Larry Gilbert

The Sisterhood:

Focusing on the unique and vital role of Jewish women in our society, the Sisterhood provides a venue and platform for women to reach out to each other. The Sisterhood serves as the women's social arm of the shul, incorporating formal and informal events ranging from guest speakers to adult and family events. Fundraising events (eg, mishloach manot) support the shul in an exceptional fashion. Drawing exclusively on volunteers, the Sisterhood offers attractive and creative events and opportunities to meet people in our community.

Contact: Audra Lichter, Dena Cohen

Youth Committee:

The Youth Committee develops programming to enhance the experience each individual child has with the shul. Whether through Shabbos groups, Holiday events or other exciting activities, the goal is to connect our youth to the shul and allow parents to enrich their time in the process.

Contact: Natan Cohen, Nomi Schwartz

Member Spotlight: The Wasserman Family

BY JONATHAN MANTELL

Where are you guys from?

We are both originally from Rockland County. Josh is from Monsey (*Eer Ha Kodesh*, as he likes to call it) and Hillary is from Suffern.

Where/how did you meet?

We met while working at Camp Ramah in Nyack. Josh worked as a counselor and Hillary worked as a lifeguard. We had a good relationship during our 4 summers working there, but we didn't begin to date until much later. We also both attended Binghamton University, but it wasn't until Hillary was a senior and Josh was a year out of school that we began to date.

What was your best date?

Josh: The second one, since that meant I didn't mess anything up during the first one.

Hillary: I don't really remember. We had a very nice movie date once when we saw the "Patriot" with Mel Gibson (as shameful as that sounds now). I think it was the first time that I really thought I might like Josh.

JW: Weren't we dating for months already?

HW: uh.....yeah....

What is your spouse's best trait?

JW: Hillary's best trait, besides patience for her husband, is her ability to relate and listen to people. She's an incredible listener and a wonderful person with whom to share ideas, vent, or talk about anything.

HW: Josh's best trait is his sense of humor. He often struggles to be serious at times, but I can always count on him for a well-timed (though occasionally inappropriate) joke or remark.

What would you like more of and less of in life?

That's a tough question—of course we all want more money and less expenses. We wish we had more time. We feel like we rarely have enough time to spend with each other, or even the kids, and it's very easy to get wrapped up in life's daily challenges. We wish we had more time for vacation, eating at fine restaurants, and spending stress-free time with close friends and family.

What are your favorite Sunday activities?

We love starting Sunday off by bringing the whole family to the gym. The kids go to an indoor playground while Hillary attends Bodycombat class and Josh lifts weights or swims in the pool. Assuming we don't have birthday parties, weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, or school functions, we are always excited to head to the pool in the summer, go apple picking or hiking in the fall, and, of course, BBQ outside pretty much year round. Of course yelling at Josh to stop checking stattracker for all of his fantasy sports leagues is a regular occurrence (Let's be clear that only Josh considers that to be a "favorite" activity).



If you could meet any famous person who would it be and why?

HW: I'd love to meet Albert Ellis, the founder of the Highly Effective Rational Behavior Therapy. He was a no-nonsense guy and author of some of my favorite unmentionable quotes.

JW: Alexander the Great. I can't even keep track of my expenses and bank accounts with computers, spreadsheets and smart phones, yet he built the biggest empire the world has ever known without so much as a cell phone or satellite. I'd love to have him at one of our board meetings.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

We both love Hawaii. It's safe, tranquil and beautiful, and presents so many opportunities to do so many different things. Maui, specifically, is one of the

nicest spots we've ever visited. The locals have a saying, "Maui No Ka Oi," which means Maui is the best. It's the only place we've swam with sea turtles, dolphins and amazing fish over a partially submerged crater while witnessing whales breach the water less than 100 yards from our boat.

What was the most exciting experience you have ever had?

JW: I went ice climbing on a glacier in Switzerland while on 5 hours of sleep and nursing a bad hangover. Probably not the smartest thing I've ever done but it was challenging and exhilarating at the same time. The Maui experience mentioned above is also one of the most amazing things I've ever done.

HW: Childbirth.

JW: Oh yeah, that's way up there also.

Ever been embarrassed by something your kids have said?

Shockingly not. Shaya had a tendency to urinate on the doctor when he was a baby, but we actually don't consider that to be all that bad.

If you could be any age, what age would you be and why?

HW: I'd be 21 again—you can do just about anything you want but no one has any real expectations of you.

JW: 5. Kindergarten is amazing. You feel like one of the big kids since you aren't in nursery school, but your job is pretty much the same. You are expected to play all day, finger painting is still encouraged, snacks are provided, and you still even get rest time. No one judges you if you eat Play-Doh (or really about anything) and the bus is a thrilling part of the day. It's the beginning of the end of your innocence but you don't know it, which makes it wonderful.

Anything else you would like the community to know about you and your family?

We think it's amazing how quickly our community has grown and evolved over the past 5 years. We look forward to getting to know all of you, so please don't be shy, and introduce yourself to us if we don't get a chance first!

Member Spotlight: The Davis Family

BY JONATHAN MANTELL

Where are you guys from?

Dani: I did time in Monsey before relocating to West Hempstead in 4th Grade. Shortly after moving to West Hempstead, my father became the Cantor at KJ on the Upper East Side. Our home was in West Hempstead, but we spent every Shabbos and Yom Tov in Manhattan. That's where the bulk of my friends and family were, and so I identified more with the Upper East as my community.

Kate: Queens, Queens, and more Queens.

Where/how did you meet?

DD: We were both passengers on a luxury cruise liner that sailed from Southampton, England. Kate came from a family of great wealth, power and influence. I was just a simple boy of modest means with big dreams. One day, while I was walking around the ship, I found Kate about to jump overboard. I was able to talk her off the ledge and a beautiful romance was born. Her family tried to keep us apart but our bond was unbreakable and the rest is history.

What was your best date?

Rock climbing at Chelsea Piers was a great night. But for the next week, we were insanely sore and could barely walk. Have you ever seen a 2-year-old try to walk in her mom's heels? It looked a lot like that.

What is your spouse's best trait?

DD: Kate is the most talented and generous person I know and has the most incredible focus and follow through I've ever seen. She can accomplish literally anything she sets her mind to and she's able to juggle a million things at once. Whether she's designing concert posters, hand-making accessories for Anthropologie, or volunteering for virtually every committee in Bergen County, she does everything with love and with a remarkable amount of polish and professionalism. She also makes awesome chop-chop salad.

KD: Yikes. I wish I answered these first. That's a hard act to follow. I'm going to go with his sense of humor. No, wait. Um. His patience. Drrr. So hard to pick just one! Ok—I'll choose (and stick with) kindness. Dani is the kindest person I know, whether he's with our family or friends or a stranger, he goes out of his way to be kind, thoughtful and respectful—I admire that about him.

What would you like more of and less of in life?

DD: I would like to own more Manhattan real estate, completely debt-free. I would like fewer crickets.

KD: More ice cream. Less of a need for the gym.

What are your favorite Sunday activities?

We like lazy Sundays. Playing in the yard, shuttling the kids to birthday parties, Vampire Weekend dance parties in the living room, cow tipping. We've also gotten SUPER into MegaMega Game Night. It's lots of fun and basically legal. Call Eric Orgen for details.

If you could meet any famous person who would it be and why?

DD: Ryan Gosling because he's dreamy.

KD: Ryan Gosling because he's really smart.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

DD: Total no-brainer for me. Baros Resort in the Maldives.

KD: Yes, Maldives please.

What was the most exciting experience you have ever had?

DD: I'm going to break from character and say the birth of our children.

KD: Shoot. I can't agree with you three times in a row. That's a dangerous *chazaka* so I'll go with scuba diving with sharks.

Ever been embarrassed by something your kids have done?

KD: Yes! Oy. In our apartment building in Riverdale the doormen in the lobby wore fancy uniforms. All

of the workshops and mechanisms in the building were in the basement and the staff and handymen wore blue uniforms and we would see them in the basement. One day we were at my in-law's apartment building on the Upper East Side and one of the handymen walked into the lobby and Josh, who was curious about how their building operated, exclaimed, "What's that basement person doing in the lobby?" The handyman shot me a horrified look, which I matched.

If you could be any age, what age would you be and why?

DD: I'm very happy with where I am right now. I love our family and love our new home and new community. Honestly couldn't be happier.

KD: Ditto. Good job answering this, Dani, without saying how old we are.

Anything else you would like the community to know about you and your family?

We are just so thrilled to be a part of this amazing community and we look forward to getting to know everyone!



MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baruchim Haba'im:

Allan and Yael Sebbag
Yoni and Esther Jozsef
Joe and Bridget Herman
Shaya and Adina Fleischmann
Jeffrey and Eva Katz
Ezra and Bess Bogner
Daniel and Lisa Buhasira
Bruce and Becca Glassberg
Gil and Kari Chachkes
Dani and Kate Davis
Yossi and Malka Shapiro
Chaim and Esther Adler
Mark and Shoshana Schimel
Neil and Laurie Kleid
Zachary and Devorah Merriam

Condolences:

Yossi Muszkat on the loss of his father,
Yitzhak Dovid Muszkat

Mazal Tov:

Noam and Elana Lefkowitz on the birth of their son, Yitzchak Feivel, Isaac
Tikva and Larry Yudkowitz on the birth of a grandson, born to their children Shira and Avi Zimmerman
Aaron and Naomi Mandelbaum on the birth of a granddaughter, born to their children Avi and Michal Mandelbaum
Aaron and Naomi Mandelbaum on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Daphna Ziffer, daughter of Esti and Yossi Ziffer
Esther and Chaim Adler and family on the birth of their daughter, Leora
Yael and David Zinberg on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Yaakov
Esther and Yoni Jozsef on the birth of their daughter, Liah Rose
Yosef and Rochi Crystal on the birth of their daughter
Shani and Ari Weinstock on the birth of their daughter, Adi
Peretz and Miriam Benoff and family on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Nava
Fred and Tzvie Fisch on the engagement of their son Nachum to Dawn Gordon
Fisher family on Chana's Bat Mitzvah
Leshaw family on the engagement of David to Rachel Weber of Teaneck
Kahan family on Eli's Bar Mitzvah
Sam and Marcia Kaplan on the birth of a grandson, born to Zack and Deborah Merriam
Dani and Kate Davis on the birth of their son, Liam
Zalman and Dora Suldin on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Eliana
Rabbi Ezra and Azadeh Frazer on the birth of their daughter, Tamar
Ezra and Chana Schneck on the birth of their son, Eli
Dr. Asher Dan and Aliza Rabinowitz on the birth of a grandson
Robert and Judy Friedman on the engagement of Robert's son Cobi to Liron Eiger
Yanki and Judy Lichtman on the birth of a grandson born to Aryeh and Rivka Lichtman in Israel

If the *Wall Street Journal* Reported on Pesach

BY RABBI MACCABEE AVISHUR

“**M**oshe, son of Amram— a modern-day Cassandra.”

That's the headline I imagine would grace the article below the fold on the front page had the *WSJ* been charged with reporting the events recounted in the Pesach Seder. For those who need a refresher on Greek mythology, Cassandra was a mortal who was granted the gift of prophecy by Apollo in his attempt to woo her. When she rejected Apollo's advances, he cursed her, leaving intact the gift of prophecy, but causing the rest of the world to doubt her predictions. No one would ever believe her prophecies, even though they all turned out to be true.

The story of *Yetziat Mitzrayim* and Moshe's role in that saga might shock the modern reader. How is it possible that Pharaoh and Mitzrayim failed, time after time, to believe Moshe's warnings? As we spill wine from our glasses while we recite each of the ten plagues, I wonder if we are commemorating the tragic loss of life suffered by our enemies or if we are decrying the greater tragedy of a lack of *Emunah*, faith, in the face of the obvious presence of God.

I also wonder if the wine we spill is not simply about the Egyptians. While it is true that they suffered during the plagues and showed a lack of *Emunah*, they were not the only ones. One could argue that the greater sin of lack of faith lies with the Israelites.

Repeatedly throughout the story of *Yetziat Mitzrayim*, including the famous episodes at the waters of Marah and the golden calf, the Israelites demonstrated a jaw-dropping lack of faith in Hashem and in His messenger, Moshe. More than the Egyptians, who were not familiar with Hashem prior to Moshe's arrival in Pharaoh's palace, the Israelites, who had always been adherents of His ways, even in the toughest of times, were guilty of turning a blind eye to the obvious truth. The Midrash relates that the Israelites maintained their Jewish names, dress, and language throughout their sojourn in Egypt as a way of identifying with Hashem. How is it possible, then, that they so quickly and easily ignored Hashem's promise, related by Moshe, to protect them and care for them? By way of illustration, another Midrash explains that a full 80% of the Israelite nation perished and was buried during the plague of darkness because they didn't have faith in Hashem.

Each drop of wine that I spill during the Seder is a reminder of the danger of a lack of *Emunah*. The plagues, as the Ramban relates in his commentary to the Torah, were an explicit payback to the Egyptians for the evils they had perpetrated against the Israelites. Hashem was sending a message to His people that the enemies of His people were being punished measure-for-measure for all the things they had done to the Israelites. The *Makos* were meant as an *Emunah*-strengthening measure to steel the Israelites for the frightening and perilous journey that lay ahead. Yet, they were ultimately ineffective in achieving that goal. The Israelites couldn't bring themselves to trust Moshe as the messenger of Truth.

After completing the ritual of spilling wine from our cups, we pause to refill them. The *halachic* explanation, that we need to bless a full cup, takes away from the symbolism of spilling the wine in the first place. After all, how seriously will I take the meaning of spilling the wine as a commemoration of the tragedy if I know I'm just going to fill it up again? But if I understand the spilling of the wine as a symbol of our ancestors' lack of *Emunah*, the refilling of the glass takes on a different meaning.

Although our forebearers lacked *Emunah* in the face of God's obvious presence throughout the duration of the plagues and through their sojourn in the wilderness, this does not mean that I am doomed to emulate them. Apollo's curse on Cassandra's contemporaries is not a curse I need suffer. I have a choice to believe and to see God's hand in the details and broad strokes of my life. Filling up my diminished glass at the Seder is a symbol that I am repairing what was broken in the past. I am committed to replacing what was missing. I will believe.



ViHigadita LiVincha: 101 Ways to Make Your Seder Exciting!

Practical and creative ways to make the Seder engaging and meaningful for our children (and for ourselves).
In just a few small steps the Seder can be transformed into a really memorable experience.

(This article is taken from the Shaare Tefillah Sisterhood Shabbos Mevarchim Shiurim
given on this topic in March 2012 and 2013 with Shira Schiowitz.)

BY ZAL SULDAN

Wouldn't it be great if our children anxiously awaited the Seder? Wouldn't it be great if they were active participants, asked questions, gave answers, and were awake and excited the whole time? "You must be dreaming!" you're surely saying. But there really is no reason why the Seder can't be both fun and engaging. Yes, it does take planning. Yes, it does take effort. But it doesn't take much—and once you see the excitement in your children's eyes and those of your guests, you will never look at leaving Egypt the same way again.

Go to any Jewish bookstore or read any Jewish newspaper before Pesach and you will find a multitude of books and articles suggesting how to stimulate discussion at the Seder. Now, that's great for the adults... but if you try this with most kids, the Red Sea will come crashing down on you! Dora and I have worked hard to make our Seders exciting for our children (and before them, our nieces and nephews) ever since we hosted our first Seder almost 20 years ago. Although we probably didn't realize it at the time, these are some "key principles" which, in retrospect, have helped guide us:

- Friendly competition is good! (but real competition is not)
- Less is sometimes more
- Food is good; hungry is bad
- Get the children invested in the effort
- Movement is good

Our kids *love* a competition, even if it is as mundane as who will be the first

upstairs for a bath. They just *have* to be first! And it's all that much sweeter if they've come out ahead of their siblings! We've used this to our advantage in our Seders by printing "Pesach Points"—colorful "currency" that is passed out with each question, answer or song (or for no good reason whatsoever) to be redeemed at the end for a prize. This probably has got to be the number one idea of them all. Even after all these years, our children still look forward to the points. We have sent the template around to many friends and relatives, and as my cousin in New Orleans emailed last year, "Our winner every year now is the Pesach points! Everyone loves them!"



Depending on the age and personality of your children, be prepared to cut the intellectual discussions short (there, I said it). Sure, it would be wonderful to have the neighbors knock on the door in the morning announcing it's now time to recite the *Sh'ma*, but the real mitzvah is to pass the story and the experience of leaving Egypt on to the children. Many young children, although I would venture a guess most adults too, really cannot (and will not) sit through a long discussion. They're tired, they're hungry, they want excitement, and as we all know, THEY WANT FOOD! So be prepared to cut out the long discussions and just fly through those sections. There will come a time soon

enough when the children are older and they will start the discussions themselves and you will be the one who wants to end early.

But for now, keep it fluid, keep it exciting, and keep it entertaining. Plan games and activities around and during the Seders. Singing is a must! Sing whatever parts of the Haggadah you can. We all remember the songs we sang at our own childhood Seders (who doesn't remember *Dayenu*!) and our own children are no different.

Have games at the Seder both to keep the children's (and adults'!) attention and to provide a means to keep them supplied with snacks. We have played our own version of "Pesach Bingo," where marshmallows and jelly rings (or carrot slices for a healthier alternative) are used as markers when a certain section or activity is reached. Not only does this keep the kids looking for the next box to cover, but it provides them with a much-needed snack along the way.



Why not create a second Seder plate for your table? But on this Seder plate (really a crudité plate), place different snacks that represent different aspects of the Seder and have the kids guess

what each one “replaces.” We’ve placed chocolate-covered matzah, grapes, ice cream sprinkles, red jello, marshmallows and gummy bears on ours (see if you can guess what each stands for!). And along the way, if your children just so happen to need to sample them... well, so much the better!

Last year we played “Jeopardy: The Unleavened Version” with the children while we waited for *tzeis hachochavim*, and all the last-minute preparations to be completed. The kids had a blast and our hosts had a few extra kid-free moments to finish up what needed to be done.



For most of the activities to be planned for the Seder, it is possible—no, make that important—no, make that crucial—to involve the children (and even your guests) in the planning and/or execution. Once they are involved, they will “own” the activity. They will make sure it's “cool” to participate and they will make sure it “works.” Eliana helped plan our Seder bingo boards. She spent several weeks picking what to list in each box, downloading pictures from the internet and setting up the boards. Yaakov and Adina cut the laminated boards and sliced the carrot markers. Not only did it become “their” Seder game, but Dora and I then had some extra time to work on other Seder ideas.

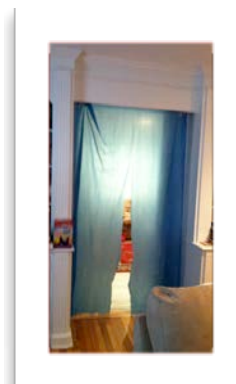
No one can possibly remain seated the whole Seder. But when it comes to action Seders, some communities really

S E D E R				
Stay awake the whole Seder 	Say Birkat HaMazon 	Drink first cup 	Pour wine for someone else 	Delicious! Compliment the chef for dinner
L'shana Habah B'Yerushalayim 	Share a memory of Pesach past 	Pesach Matzah Maror 	Wash with a bracha 	Hop like a frog for Makat Tzfardaya
Make a cracking sound for Yachatz 	Hey! What's in that charoset over there? 	Get Out of Egypt Free!!! 	Say ro Makot Backwards 	Maaseh b'Rabbi Eliezer
Eat a piece of maror and smile 	Eat Matzah 	Drink fourth cup 	Eat some karpas 	Tell a Pesach joke
Cross Yam Suf and sing Az Yashir 	Wash without a bracha 	Name something we can do because we're FREE! 	והיא שעמדה 	Find Moshe's name in the Hagadah

know what to do! In some Sephardic families, there is a custom of whipping your neighbor seated next to you with a scallion, to remind us of how the taskmasters beat the slaves. I am told those of Yemenite ancestry step over a pot of water—in lieu of crossing the Red Sea! Why not take this one step further? Several years ago I “found” Moshe's staff in our local park (how many of you knew Har Nevo was really the pitcher's mound in Phelps Park?). So now, right after we read the ten plagues, we all stand up and walk through the house, led by “Moshe” holding his staff. We walk from one room to the next crossing a doorway covered with a blue plastic tablecloth all the while singing “Az Yashir.” Movement = Good. Stationary = Bad. In our house, just when the kids are getting antsy because they've been sitting too long... Let's Go! Time to cross the Red Sea!

With just a little planning, the Seder will become a highlight of the year and will create memories the children will never forget! These are just a couple

ideas, but really they are just the tip of the iceberg. So much can be done—the limits are only the imagination.



"And when your child shall ask what is this service..."

והגדת לבנך ביום ההוא...

"And you shall tell your child on that day..."

If we can foster excitement in our children, we will pass the message on to them. I would argue this is not just laudatory, rather, this is the real *mitzvah* of the Seder!

The "Point" of Pesach

BY YOSSI SHAPIRO

With Pesach fast approaching, thoughts of Exodus have been on my mind.

When Hashem promised Moshe that He would deliver the Jews from slavery to freedom, He used four expressions of deliverance:

Vebotzeiti – I will take you out

Vebitzalti – I will save you

Vegaalti – I will redeem you

Velakachti – I will take you as a nation

For years, I have been taught various similar meanings for the four expressions, relating to the Jews being physically taken out of Egypt to the Jews being spiritually saved. If you would just bear with me one more moment, I would like to enlighten you with a new, current meaning to these expressions:

Vebotzeiti – I will take you out...of the cold winters and Sedarim in Teaneck

Vebitzalti – I will save you...from spending every winter break at Great Wolf Lodge

Vegaalti – I will redeem you...miles, points and rewards, which you will earn so easily

Velakachti – I will take you as a nation...on an amazing, free vacation!

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, if you were expecting a remarkable *D'var Torah* that you could say over at the Seder, you'll be sadly disappointed. But, if you'd like to spend next year's Seder in Miami or Puerto Rico or Israel, then this is an article worth reading. Because *L'shanah Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim*, ain't cheap...until now.

In the 8+ years we've been married, Malka and I (and now our 2-year-old, Kineret) have traveled several times a year to exotic (and some not-so exotic) locations. We've stayed at fancy hotels, traveled first class, and eaten...well, we usually eat a lot of kosher food that we bring from home, so that probably doesn't entice you. But the main idea behind this article, and Pesach itself, is **freedom**. We have paid nothing (other than some departure taxes and ancillary fees) out of pocket for any of these trips.

Now, you might say: Yossi, do I really want to stay up for 24 hours straight in order to win a free 7-night vacation by logging in all of my information into a website that gives a random 15-minute window once each day for a free trip (6:13 a.m. to be exact—wow, there really is so much Judaism in our everyday lives)? Do I want to order hundreds of thousands of dollars of presidential dollar head coins (shipped free) from the US Mint to earn credit card miles, only to deposit them right back in the bank (something Malka just loved to do—okay, not really, but it got us a 7-night stay in Barbados)? Maybe not, but while I have gone to some crazy lengths in order to secure free trips, there are also some very easy ways to do this.

Due to bank competition for new credit card users, credit cards are now offering big bonuses to entice customers. Over the past few years, some banks have given bonuses as high as 100,000 miles or points to sign up for a new credit card. To put this in simple terms, 100,000 miles or points can equate to either 4 tickets to fly in the US, 3 tickets to the Caribbean, 2 tickets to Europe, or even 2 tickets to Israel (as I will show you below). If you are responsible about your credit, then

applying for new credit cards is the easiest way to build up your account balances and turn your dream trip into a reality.

The most valuable currencies are currencies that transfer to other airlines or hotel programs. Chase Ultimate Rewards, American Express Membership Rewards, and Starwood Preferred Guest Points are programs in which you earn points that you can transfer to other airline or hotel programs. For example, while you can use Starwood Preferred Guest Points to stay at some high-end hotels (Sheraton, Westin, Le Meridien, W, and the St. Regis are just some of the luxury brands under this program), these points can also be transferred to 29 different airline programs, including American, Delta, United, and many others.

To show how to use this information to your advantage, I'd like to demonstrate through an example. Moshe and Tzipporah were newly married. Moshe's parents had just made *Aliyah* this past winter, and Moshe wanted to surprise them by flying in for Pesach. Tzipporah was okay with this, but she wanted to spend 3 nights away from Moshe's parents during *Chol Hamoed*, to make it a mini-honeymoon as well. Moshe started researching flights and hotels, but they were so expensive—tickets to Israel started at \$1,500, and hotel prices by the Dead Sea started at \$500 a night! He was newly married and didn't have that kind of money to spend on Pesach. So Moshe turned to his best buddy and asked for help getting to Israel on the cheap. And I said, "Here's what you do..."

To make this happen, both Moshe and Tzipporah needed a credit score of at

least 715, and the ability to spend \$2,000 in 3 months. Since both of those requirements fit, I told them to do the following:

1- Moshe – sign up for the American Express Gold Card, which currently has a signup bonus of 50,000 points after \$1,000 are spent in the first 3 months; also sign up for the Starwood Preferred Guest card, which offers 10,000 points after \$1 spent (it also offers an additional 15,000 points after \$5,000 spent in the first 6 months, but to make this trip happen, Moshe only needed to spend \$1). Since these are both American Express cards, both of these could be signed up for at the same time using the two-browser method (which basically entails signing up for two cards, one after the other, with two different browsers—say Internet Explorer and Firefox—and it will only result in one hard hit to your credit score, instead of two). Both of these cards are fee-free the first year, so Moshe would have no costs involved with signing up for them.

2- Tziporah – sign up for the American Express Gold Card, which will also provide Tziporah with 50,000 points after \$1,000 spent.

Once Moshe and Tziporah met their minimum spending requirements, they had a combined total of 102,000 American Express Membership Rewards points (100,000 bonus points plus 2,000 points for the \$1,000 they each spent), plus 10,000 Starwood Preferred Guest points.

If Moshe and Tziporah transfer 100,000 of their American Express Membership Rewards points into Flying Blue, the mileage program of Air France and KLM, they will have 100,000 Flying Blue miles. Since Air France and KLM are members of Skyteam alliance (an alliance of 19 airlines that provides you with access to a global network of over 1,000 destinations), as is Delta, Moshe and Tziporah can fly non-stop on Delta from New York to Israel for only 50,000 miles each, plus \$77 in mandatory taxes.

For 7,000 Starwood Preferred Guest points, Moshe can book 3 nights at the Le Meridien Dead Sea. The Le Meridien is a category 1 hotel, meaning it only costs 2,000 points to stay there on weekdays, and 3,000 points on weekends. There are no additional charges with staying here.

So, in exchange for signing up for three credit cards, all of which were fee-free for the first year, Moshe was able to surprise his parents, and Tziporah was able to get the mini-honeymoon she wanted. All it cost them was \$154 in taxes for the plane tickets, a savings of over \$4,500.

Now, before you try this, I'd like to mention a few basic rules by which you should abide:

1- *Keep track of your credit scores and reports*—annualcreditreport.com gives you one free credit report per year from each of the three major credit bureaus (Experian,

Transunion, and Equifax). Your credit rating is one of your most important assets, and you should treat it as such. If you plan on buying a house in the next year, do not sign up for more credit cards. Signing up for credit cards will have a (temporary) negative impact on your credit score. Inquiries stay on your credit report for 2 years, and too many inquiries coupled with a lower credit score will mean a higher mortgage rate for you, or even cause the bank to not accept you as a client. You need a track record of responsibility to show that you can manage your money efficiently and effectively.

2- *Timing is Key*—Timing is very important in many different aspects of the credit card game. If you don't pay your credit card bills off in full each month, you shouldn't be signing up for credit cards. With the high interest rates that these cards often charge, it won't offset the potential gain of free travel. Plus, not paying off your bill in full will negatively impact your credit score. Timing is also important when booking travel. While hotels can often be booked just days or weeks before you plan to travel, flights (especially when you're locked in on the days you can travel, which we often are during Malka's winter break) to a specific destination, especially popular ones, must often be booked 6+ months in advance. You may get lucky and award space may open up last minute, but who wants to take that chance? For our last three vacations, I've booked at least 6 months in advance, and our next one (which I already booked, even though it's in January 2014) I booked right when award space opened up, which is 330-360 days out for most airlines. If you're not someone who can plan in advance, you may be better off just getting a cash-back credit card.

3- *Don't Get In Over Your Head*—There's a lot of information, and you can often get caught up in it. Start off slow, and sign up for one or two credit cards with big sign up bonuses. Make sure to track all points and miles with a spreadsheet or website (awardwallet.com is a well-known one), as well as credit card accounts, due dates, and miles and points expiration dates. To do this, you need to be organized. If you tend to be an unorganized person, this may not be for you.

4- *Have fun* - For me, this is enjoyable. I read 7 or 8 different blogs on award travel each morning. I follow and post on several forums each day (examples include flyertalk.com and milepoint.com). I often find myself looking at flights and hotels in different cities that I have no real intention of visiting, but still like to imagine doing so. I'm a bit of a travelholic. But for many, the amount of work that may go into this is a full-time job in itself, and the opportunity cost may not be worth the effort.

On Pesach, we recline when we eat and drink to show that we became like kings— which symbolizes **freedom** and aristocracy. Using miles and points is a way for all of us to live a little better off throughout the year.

(Cont. from pg 1)

We are also extremely grateful to the Tuchinsky/Houpt and Schwartz families for bestowing such a meaningful and heartfelt gift upon our shul.

The momentum that Shaare Tefillah is building right now is almost tangible. There is an undercurrent of communal warmth and growth combined with Torah and Jewish values within the walls of our shul that you can feel every time you enter the building. It is incumbent on each and every one of us to keep that momentum going. How? Become more involved. Join a committee. Invite a new family for a meal. Have the new friend your son/daughter (who am I kidding?) made in groups over for a play-date. Help out with Kiddush cleanup even if it's not your week. Help us sustain the weekday *shacharit* and *maariv minyanim* with your attendance.

The stage that we are in right now seems somewhat euphoric. New building, significant membership growth, terrific events and programming—let's make sure we preserve and keep that "high" by prioritizing Shaare Tefillah in our day-to-day lives and schedules.

As always, I am open to your feedback, questions and concerns.

Michael Cantor
amichaelcantor@hotmail.com
(201) 248-1567

Shaare Tefillah Tehillim Group

BY TSIPPI CANTOR AND AUDRA LICHTER

A little over a year ago, when one of Shaare Tefillah's long-time members and friends, Rachel David, became ill, the women from our shul and community got together to say *tehillim* for her recovery and many others who were fighting for their lives. It is because of Rachel David that the Shaare Tefillah Tehillim group began. We would like to dedicate the Shaare Tefillah Tehillim group to Rachel David in her memory.

Making the effort to come out and daven together is true *chesed*. There is strength in numbers (the power of *Rabbim*). We hope you can continue to join us every other Wednesday in the Shaare Tefillah Beit Midrash at 8:15PM. If you cannot be there in person and you would like to read with us at home, please respond to our announcements.



Our next meeting will be on:

Wednesday, April 10 at 8:15PM, the week after Pesach.

Chocolate Chip Cookie Sticks

Kosher for Pesach- Really!

- 1/2 cup oil (safflower is best)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup cake meal (a little less)
- 1/2 cup potato starch
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips



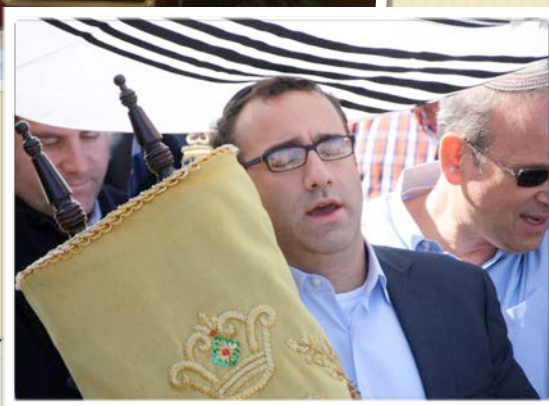
Mix by hand and refrigerate for an hour
Shape into two 3-4 inches wide logs
Bake at 350 for 15-20 minutes
Cool for 10 minutes, then cut into sticks

b'tei avon!

COOKING CORNER

BY KATE DAVIS

HACHNASAT SIFREI TORAH



On Sunday, March 10, we celebrated our Chanukat Habayit by welcoming three new Torahs into our shul.

One Sefer Torah was dedicated in memory of Racquel Houpt's grandparents by the Tuchinsky family, and two Sifrei Torah were dedicated by the Schwartz family in memory of Mendy's brother, Benjamin P. Schwartz.



Congregation Shaare Tefillah

Tel: 201.357.0613
www.shaaretefillah.org



	PARSHA/ YOM TOV	SHACHARIS	MINCHA	MAARIV	CANDLE LIGHTING	HAVDALLAH
Sunday 3/24	Hagolas Keilim 3:30-6:30 PM Ehrenfeld Home 537 Cumberland Ave.					
Monday 3/25	See Below for Chametz Times Chatzot- 1:02 AM	6:05 AM Followed by a Siyum by Jerry Leshaw	Mincha and Maariv 7:00 PM		6:55 PM	
Tuesday 3/26	Pesach Day 1 Chatzot- 1:01 AM	9:00 AM No Hashkama Minyan	Mincha and Maariv 7:00 PM		After 8:01 PM	
Wednesday 3/27	Pesach Day 2	9:00 AM No Hashkama Minyan	7:00 PM	7:57 PM		8:03 PM
Friday 3/29			6:59 PM		6:59 PM	
Saturday 3/30	Shabbat Chol Hamoed	7:15 AM 9:00 AM	6:44 PM	7:59 PM		8:05 PM
Sunday 3/31		8:30 AM	Mincha and Maariv 7:05 PM		7:02 PM	
Monday 4/1	Pesach Day 7	7:15 AM 9:00 AM	Mincha and Maariv 7:05 PM		After 8:08 PM	
Tuesday 4/2	Pesach Day 8	7:15 AM 9:00 AM	7:05 PM	8:03 PM		8:09 PM

Monday, March 25- Chametz Burning at the Ehrenfelds, 537 Cumberland Ave
Latest Time for **Eating** Chametz- 10:34 AM Magen Avraham*, 10:58 AM GRA
Latest Time for **Burning** Chametz- 11:48 AM Magen Avraham*, 12:00 PM GRA
* It is preferable to keep the Magen Avraham zmanim.

Chag Kasher v'Sameach!