

CONGREGATION SCHOMRE ISRAEL

Bulletin

Rabbi Shlomo Krasner

Established 1888



ק"ק שומרי ישראל

בס"ד

July - August 2022

2 Tamuz - 4 Elul 5782

Message From the Rabbi



Shalom Ubracha,

I sit here on the doorstep of summer, anticipating the thrill of welcoming in the warmth, freshness, beauty and fun that summer brings. But I cannot become excited, as I am reeling over the horrific tragedy that just took place in Uvalde, Texas, which followed the tragedy in Buffalo, which followed the tragedy in the NYC Transit. My mind cannot bring myself to imagine the pain of those families, wrought by people of pure evil.

Right after the Uvalde tragedy, my high school WhatsApp chat filled up in conversation and in argumentation about what needs to be done in order to halt future tragedies. And I read over chat after chat from the same individuals, with the same arguments that occur every time there is a tragedy. And every time this goes on until the moderator reminds them that this is a non-political chat, and they will be removed. Silence reigns for a day, until one of them peeps up, with a "While I am not saying anything political, but ...", and everything starts all over again. Nothing has changed from the previous tragedies, yet each time, those with strong opinions take to the phone in order to let everyone know how their way, and only their way, is the approach that the governments and society must take. Instantly. And the same battles ensue.

I was contemplating these conversations for a while, and I realized that neither side was even listening to each other. Each one was just waiting for the other to opine their voice, and right away they would pounce with a study or news article to prove how they were right. This left me to imagine what the world, and especially the Jewish people, would be like if people were to actually respect and listen to others who had different opinions and world views. Some of us developed our viewpoints from specific events and occurrences, some from the training of our parents and teachers. Some of us picked up our belief system from hearing and watching specific points of view on the radio and TV, and some from a late 1:00 AM Shabbos conversation with a roommate after a night deep in the study of Torah.¹ And while I am not asking of myself or of anyone to change their beliefs that they hold to be inherent truths, what I am envisioning is a people and a society that is willing to open up and listen. To respect the judgments of your friend enough to have a real conversation and dialogue, and to respect your friend to consider and to listen to what they have to say. Even if not a single person were to change their mind, many of the wrongs in this country could be

¹ Hi Aaron Homnick

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fixed with the respect, love and care that would come out of listening to each other. And even if you do not change or plan on changing your opinion, if one listens they may start to see an aspect or a facet of their friend's belief that they never understood or viewed before. Alternatively even if they do not change their mind, they may come to a mutual compromise that would enable them to take action, in order to fix up the situation instead of having the problem remain stagnant. And another benefit would be that through opening of ones ears and honest conversation, ideas that are not even within the realm of the argument may come to surface. Let me provide an example or two ideas that originate from history.

A few decades ago, after a specific mass shooting, a Jewish girls school where I grew up decided that they needed to take actions to provide security for their daughters. Someone sponsored a system with reinforced doors and doorframes. In case of an emergency, the principal or a teacher could activate a button, which would raise the alarm and the new doors would swing shut and bolt, preventing entry from a gunman. The girls would prepare and go through active shooter drills akin to the fire drills. Likewise, around fifteen years ago, a philanthropist in the same city posted flyers encouraging all the schools to be prepared. Since they hold close our most precious treasure and the future of our people, they cannot just wait for a tragedy to strike, G-d forbid. Instead of just hiring a guard who may not be prepared to act in an unexpected active shooter situation, they elected to hire one or two swat team members or marines, who are trained to properly take action when our worst fears come to our doorstep. And he was successful, as that entire community came together to ensure there would be adequate security for all of the Jewish schools in the in the locality.²

When one only listens to himself speak, it will be rare that he will think outside of the box, and come up with proper plans in order to take action. Yet when one has a respectful and caring approach to others and is willing to open his ears and listen to those with whom he does not agree, then he will often be able to understand to a greater perception what needs to be done to fix up the rifts that evil causes. As it is stated in *Ethics of the Fathers*, "with more advice comes more discernment and understanding".

To murder, to take away someone's dreams, aspirations and lifeline that was given by G-d, and to cause untold suffering and pain to family and friends is one of the epitomes of evil. I think that one of the roots of this evil lies in narcissist dispassion. The murderer has no respect for the others, that in his twisted and perverted mind³, he views his emotions and wants, revenge or a few bucks as being more important than the entire life of another and the anguish of their friends and family. And while we need to do what we can to stop these vile people from implementing their attacks, we need to likewise fix the world with compassion, love and respect to others and their opinions as well. And one way to fill the world with goodness, is to train ourselves to respect others, to respect their viewpoints, to care and love them, even if we are not going to agree with them.

There is an old axiom, "Let everyone sweep in front of his own door, and the whole world will be clean."⁴ While I do not fully agree, as there will always be filth in this world, yet imagine how much more beautiful the world would be if each and everyone of us did our part. If we looked into our own heart and shared that love that we have for our individualistic self and opinions, and we shared it with the love for others with their individualism and views. If we listened and cared for others that we do not agree with. For yes, it is my opinion, that respect, care and love conquers most.

² I recently went back to the school I grew up in, and noticed that they had two professionally trained guards, one at the gate entrance and one at the school entrance, as well as armed staff directing and ensuring everything was safe.

³ Which in my opinion is by the attention that the media gives, including reading off the despicable creatures' manifestos and notes, which in their twisted minds serves as a cause celebre, which fascinates others who expect the same glory. This was evident from the way the Sandy Hook shooter quoted the Virginia Tech's manifesto that could have been tossed instead of read.

⁴ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

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May Hashem bless the United States, the State of Israel, and His people with love, respect, care and security, and may he shower us speedily with the blessing of "Upon your walls of Jerusalem, says the Lord, I will set up guardians the entire day and the entire night. I will grant peace in the land, and none shall make you afraid." Amen.

Rabbi Shlomo Krasner



Clergy and Professional Staff Meeting held at Congregation Schomre Israel.

Mazel tov to Rabbi Polish and Cantor Hirschenfang on their retirement from Congregation Shir Chadash and wishing Susan Canning and family much success on her new job and their relocation.

CALENDAR FOR JULY — AUGUST 2022
 845.454.2890 - schomre1@aol.com - www.schomreIsrael.org

PLEASE NOTE: THE BELOW TIMES HAVE BEEN CALCULATED FOR 12603. OTHER LOCATIONS MAY NEED TO MODIFY THE TIMES BY A FEW MINUTES.

DATE	SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING			MIN- CHA	TORAH PORTION	SHABBAT ENDS
	Earliest	In Shul	Latest			
July 1	7:00 PM	7:20 PM	8:15 PM	7:00 PM	Korach	9:16 PM
July 8	6:58 PM	7:20 PM	8:13 PM	7:00 PM	Chukat	9:14 PM
July 15	6:56 PM	7:20 PM	8:10 PM	7:00 PM	Balak	9:10 PM
July 22	6:52 PM	7:20 PM	8:05 PM	7:00 PM	Pinchas	9:05 PM
July 29	6:46 PM	7:20 PM	7:58 PM	7:00 PM	Matot - Masei	8:58 PM
Aug. 5	6:40 PM	7:20 PM	7:50 PM	7:00 PM	Devarim (Shabbat Chazon / Erev Tisha) B'Av	8:50 PM
Aug. 12	6:33 PM	7:20 PM	7:41 PM	7:00 PM	Va'etchanan (Shabbat Nachamu)	8:41 PM
Aug. 19	6:24 PM	7:20 PM	7:31 PM	7:00 PM	Ekev	8:30 PM
Aug. 26	6:15 PM	7:20 PM	7:20 PM	7:00 PM	Re'eh (Rosh Chodesh)	8:19 PM
Sept. 2	6:06 PM	7:09 PM	7:09 PM	7:00 PM	Shoftim	8:08 PM
Sept. 9	5:56 PM	6:57 PM	6:57 PM	6:55 PM	Ki Tetze	7:56 PM

DATES TO REMEMBER . . .

July 11	Board Meeting
July 17	Fast of Tamuz (FAST BEGINS (12603) 4:24 AM – FAST ENDS 9:10 PM)
July 29	Rosh Chodesh Av
August 1	Board Meeting
August 7	Tisha B'Av (FAST BEGINS (12603) 8/6 8:07 PM – ENDS 8/7 8:49 PM)
August 12	Tu B'Av
August 27 and 28	Rosh Chodesh



Everyone is invited to attend Rabbi Krasner's Live and/or Zoom classes . . .

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

SUNDAY

Talmud Studies with Rabbi Krasner - 9:20 AM. Studying the Talmudic topics of mezuzah, tefillin and sefer Torah. This class is a live and in-person class.

TUESDAY On summer hiatus - Classes **resume** September 6th

We will study The Collected Writings of Maimonides - 10:30 AM. This class is presented in a hybrid form. Maimonides has been considered one of the greatest Jewish Philosophers, Fundamentalists and Teachers of all time. What made Maimonides and his teachings so respected and cherished throughout all of the ages. Join us as discuss the Maimonidean philosophy, and study together his classic works.

THURSDAY On summer hiatus - Classes **resume** November 3rd

Discussion of contemporary halachic questions - 7:00 PM. This class is a live and in-person class. What goes into a Halachic Torah decision. While some answers are pretty straightforward ("no, you cannot kill him") there are some which are exceedingly complex. Every Thursday night we will take a contemporary topic and question which has vexed laymen and scholars alike, and then analyze and debate the approach until we come out with the Torah's approach.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

SUNDAY

4K (Kvetching, Kvelling, Kibbitzing, Koffee) **Club** meetings are held the last Sunday of each month (July 31, August 28) at 10:00 AM. This class is a live and in-person class.

THURSDAY

Yiddish Club - It will usually be held inside on the last Thursday of the month (July 28, August 25) at 10:00 AM. If you want to speak *a bisele*, to *chap a nosh*, to *shmooze then this club is for you*. The Yiddish club is a nostalgic trip to the times and culture of our *bubbies* and *zeydies*, mixed with Yiddish music, Yiddish comedy, Yiddish *lernin*, Yiddish *Hanae* as well as a look at how Yiddish is fairing in contemporary times. As with all events and programs spearheaded by Schomre Israel, this is intended to be open to all in the community. You don't need to be fluent in the language.

Hands on Judaism Mitzvah Workshops with Rabbi Krasner . . .

Thursday evening, **September 8th** from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, **Create your own Shofar** - Join us as we take a raw horn, and learn how to expertly transform it into a 100% authentic and Kosher shofar.

RSVP by August 30th.

\$15 for a ram shofar, \$30 - \$50 for an exotic shofar.



Please watch for emails from Rabbi Krasner and/or go to our website www.schomreisrael.org for current information on all events and programs

Tisha B'Av 2022/5782 at Schomre Israel



Saturday, August 6th:

Fast begins: 8:07 PM

Maariv: 9:30 PM and **Megillat Eichah and Kinot**

Sunday, August 7th:

Shacharit: 8:30 AM - during davening a dozen Kinot will be chosen to discuss the historical and mourning context.

5:30 PM - Special Tisha B'Av video presentation for Youth - *Rebuilding the Bais Hamikdash* ft. Master Storyteller Rabbi Mayer Erps

6:30 PM - Inspirational Tisha B'Av video for adults

Mincha: 7:30 PM with Tallit and Tefillin

Fast ends: 8:49 PM

This year Tisha Biav falls on Shabbos and is observed on Sunday, which causes some very interesting laws and customs.

- However, concerning private matters, one should keep the laws of mourning. Therefore, one should not take extra pleasures that they usually do not do on Shabbos, i.e., Shalos Seudos on Shabbos afternoon, if one usually does not have guests they should refrain this Shabbos.
- On Shabbat, all public displays of mourning are strictly prohibited. On this day we eat, drink and rejoice as is customary.
- No mournful "separation meal" is conducted before the fast. Instead, shortly before sunset we partake of a full pre-fast meal. Care must be taken, however, that this meal ends before sunset.
- We sit on chairs of regular height and wear normal footwear until nightfall. Only washing, eating and drinking are prohibited starting with sunset.
- If you daven Maariv right after Shabbat, immediately after the "Barchu" passage is recited in the Saturday night prayer service, remove your leather shoes and don non-leather footwear. However, if you are going to wait for Shabbat to be over, and then drive to shul after Shabbat in order to listen to Eicha, such as what we are planning in Schomre Israel, you should say, "Baruch Hamavdil"* and then switch your shoes and start sitting on the floor.
- Havdalah is recited on Sunday night. In the evening prayers, the usual Shabbat night insertion, "Atah Chonantanu," is included. The prayer "Vihi Noam" is omitted.
- Sometime on Saturday night (ideally right before the reading of Eicha), kindle the havdalah candle and recite the appropriate blessing. (We do not recite the blessing of the spices.)
- If there's an ill person who needs to eat during the fast, he or she should recite the havdalah before eating.
- The Havdalah preferably should either be a non-grape beverage or the minimal amount (a cheekful). Sunday night one should make a shortened havdalah (just the Hagefen & Hamavdil blessing) which can be on wine or grape juice. While we usually wait until the afternoon after Tisha B'Av to resume normal activities, this year one can get a haircut, do laundry, bathe, etcetera Sunday night. Wine, meat and music should wait till Monday morning.

"Baruch Hamavdil Bein Kodesh lichol bein ohr Lichoshech, bein yisroel lamim, bain yom Hashivei Lisheshes yimei Hamaaseh, Baruch Hamavdil bein Kodesh lichol"

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TISHA B'AV

The saddest day of the year, Tisha B'Av, commemorates several tragedies. These include:

- A. The Hebrew spies returned from their reconnaissance of Israel, filling the Jewish people with negative reports. The Jews cried that night against Hashem which caused that generation to be denied access into Israel and started a night full of tears for generations.
- B. The destruction of both the first and second Temples in Jerusalem (420 B.C.E. and 70 C.E.).
- C. The fall of Bethar in the Bar-Kochba rebellion (135 C.E.).
- D. This disaster marked the end of all Jewish aspirations for freedom from Rome. To signify the destruction of the Jewish people, the Romans plowed over the Temple Mount.
- E. In later centuries other sad occurrences were associated with this day. Among them the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492.

The severity of Tisha B'Av equals that of Yom Kippur in that both fast days commence on the previous evening. The atmosphere in Shul is gloomy, the lights are dimmed, the curtain is removed from the Ark and most worshippers sit on low stools or on the floor. The Book of Lamentations (Megillas Eichah) is read, and the special Kinot (prayers of lamentations) are recited.

Among other Halachic injunctions observed on Tisha B'Av are:

- 1. Complete fasting.
- 2. No bathing.
- 3. No conjugal relations.
- 4. No leather shoes are worn (rubber or canvas shoes are allowed).
- 5. It is even prohibited to study Torah on this day because Torah study is considered a very great joy and happiness. (There are certain texts that are permitted).
- 6. It is not customary to greet people with the usual greetings such as "hello" or "good morning". However, if you are greeted by someone who doesn't know the law, you should answer in a soft voice in order not to offend or hurt their feelings.
- 7. One should try to avoid business transactions or important decisions on this day if possible. Needless to say, in all cases where health is an issue the law is very lenient. The Rabbi should be consulted in all such cases.

Congregation Schomre Israel takes this opportunity to wish

Ros Fox, a belated, but heartfelt, mazel tov, on the occasion of her **99th Birthday** on May 13th.

May G-d bless you with good health and happiness 'biz 120'.

Congregation Schomre Israel takes this opportunity to wish

Jack Gruberg

mazel tov, on the occasion of his **102nd Birthday** on June 16th.

May G-d bless you with good health and happiness 'biz 120'.

Congregation Schomre Israel extends a hearty Mazel Tov to . . .

Jane Friedland on the graduation of her grandson, Darren Friedland, from Arlington High School.

Ellie and Marty Korfman on the college graduation of their grandson, Matthew Bernstein. Matthew graduated summa cum laude with high honors in neuroscience from Brandeis University. He will



Memorial Day Service 5782/2022



Jewish War Veterans
Pvt. Herman T. Siegel Post 625
Members: Martin Korfman,
Martin Hochhauser
and Ralph Schwartz

Enjoying our teen lounge



PLEASE INFORM THE RABBI

Congregants are urged to call Rabbi (845.454.2890) if you hear, Heaven forbid, of any member who is ill. It is a great Mitzvah to visit the sick and very often we just don't get to hear of a member's indisposition. Your help in this endeavor is much appreciated.



Schomre Israel Sisterhood fundraiser...

Flower Centerpieces for the Holidays

We will be ordering centerpieces from Hudson Valley Gardens and Florist for Rosh HaShanah 5783 for all members and non-members in the community who wish to have a beautiful floral centerpiece for the holiday. The cost per centerpiece will be \$25.

Prepaid orders should be made by September 14, 2022. Please complete the form below and mail with your check (payable to Schomre Israel Sisterhood) to the shul at 18 Park Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Pick up will be at the shul on Sunday, September 25, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM.

* * * * *

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: _____ E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Number of centerpieces: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

FOR OFFICE USE

Date Received: _____

Check #: _____

From Schomre Israel's 4K (Kvetching, Kvelling, Kibbutzing, Koffee) Club...

And Rachel was his Wife

(TTTO She Moved through the Fair)

*My young love said to me, "My mother won't mind
And my father won't slight you for your lack of kin"
Then she stepped away from me and this she did say:
It will not be long, my love, till our wedding day"*

*As she stepped away from me and she moved through the fields
And fondly I watched her, with her grace that she wield,
And then she went her way homeward with one star awake
Like the swans in the evening moves over the lake*

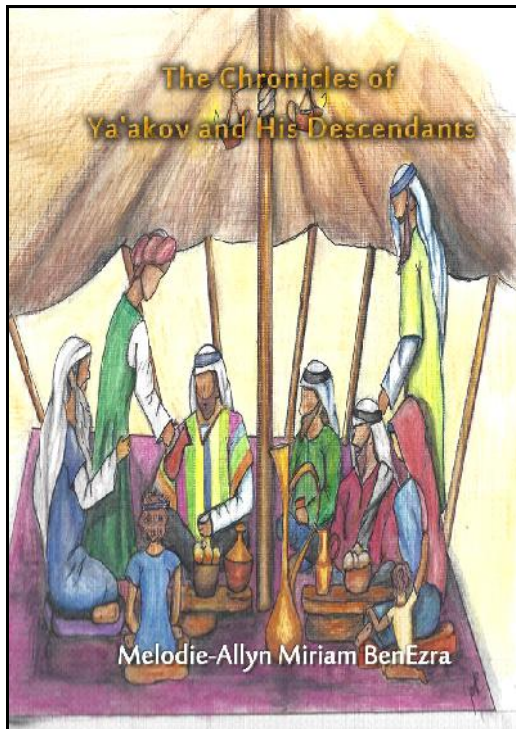
*The people were saying, no two could ever wed
And all they could talk of, was the fight that had led,
"You will be my daughter no longer, you must leave this land
If to that ignorant shepherd, you offer your hand"*

*Last night she came to me, my true love came in
So softly she entered, her feet made no din
As she laid her hand by me, and this she did say
"Promise me one thing, I need you to follow my way,
It will not be long, my love, 'til our wedding day*

*There is one thing I ask of, one thing I need,
For you to blossom anew, like a fresh and young seed,
Please go to Yeshiva, to study by the wise,
I want to watch your knowledge grow, see the brilliance in your eyes.
Just promise me this, for this my whole life I did pray,
Then it will not be long, my love, 'til our wedding day,*

It will not be long, my love, 'til our wedding day."

Meet the Author!



Our very own Melodie-Allyn Miriam BenEzra will be showcasing her newly released novel, *The Chronicles of Ya'akov and His Descendants*. The novel is a touching presentation of the story of Joseph, his brothers, and how they fare after Joseph receives his Cloak of Leadership from his father Jacob.

The story has been told many times, in the weekly Parsha. It's been dramatized, in many books and plays". Ms. BenEzra has created a Jewish masterpiece version, as a novelization built from the Medrash.

Starting from when Joseph was given his Cloak of Leadership, his brothers are concerned about what their spiritual inheritance will be. This is especially problematic because of the handsome youth's propensity to show off and carry tales of his older brothers' misdeeds. Jacob, a saintly man, loves all of his living wives and all of his children, but the children from his favorite wife, Rachel, have a special place in his heart. The family deals with serving God in complicated circumstances, loss, death, grief, marriage, famine, and forgiveness.

The story is filled with details that bring this very familiar bit of Torah to life.

Classes and events at Schomre Israel



RAMBAM Class



Jewish Federation Lunch and Learn Bunch - May 2022



1888, THE YEAR THAT IT (OFFICIALLY) ALL BEGAN.

STATE OF NEW YORK : :
 SS:
 COUNTY OF DUTCHESS: :

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, TWO OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION HEREINAFTER MENTIONED: DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON THE 26TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1888, THE PERSONS OF FULL AGE BELONGING TO A CONGREGATION IN WHICH DIVINE WORSHIP IS CELEBRATED ACCORDING TO THE RITES OF THE JEWISH FAITH AND NOT ALREADY INCORPORATED, MET AT NO. 510 MAIN STREET IN THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE, COUNTY OF DUTCHESS AND STATE OF NEW YORK, THE PLACE WHERE THE SAID CONGREGATION STEADILY ATTENDS FOR DIVINE WORSHIP, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING THEMSELVES ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK FOR THE INCORPORATION OF RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES; DUE AND TIMELY NOTICE OF THE TIME WHEN, AND THE PLACE WHERE, THE SAID MEETING WOULD BE HELD HAVING BEEN GIVEN, AND IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED BY LAW, AND THEN AND THERE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT DID NOMINATE AND SELECT THE UNDERSIGNED TWO MEMBERS OF SAID CONGREGATION TO PRESIDE AND RECEIVE THE VOTES OF THE ELECTORS, AND AS RETURNING OFFICERS, AND DID THEN AND THERE ELECT BY PLURALITY OF VOTES, ISAAC EISNER, ABRAHAM STEIN AND MICHAEL WEISS, AS TRUSTEES OF THE SAID CHURCH, CONGREGATION OR SOCIETY; AND THE SAID PERSONS DID THEN AND THERE ALSO DETERMINE BY THE LIKE PLURALITY OF VOICES THAT THE SAID TRUSTEES AND THEIR SUCCESSORS SHALL FOREVER HEREAFTER BE CALLED AND KNOWN BY THE NAME OF

S C H O M R I E H A D A S S

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE HAVE HEREUNTO SET OUR HANDS AND SEALS AT THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE, IN THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS AND THE STATE OF NEW YORK, THIS 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER, 1888.

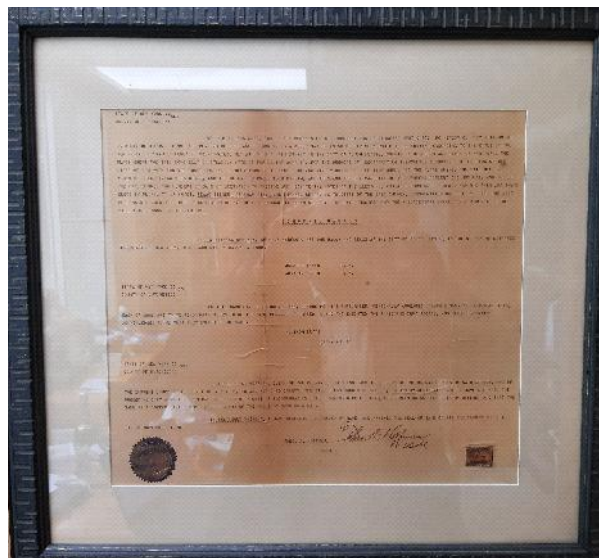
JOSEPH EISNER L. S.
 ABRAHAM STEIN L. S.

STATE OF NEW YORK : :
 SS:
 COUNTY OF DUTCHESS: :

ON THIS 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER, 1888, BEFORE ME, THE SUBSCRIBER, PERSONALLY APPEARED JOSEPH EISNER AND ABRAHAM STEIN, EACH OF WHOM ARE TO ME PERSONALLY KNOWN TO BE THE SAME PERSONS DESCRIBED IN AND WHO EXECUTED THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATE, AND THEY SEVERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO ME THAT THEY EXECUTED THE SAME.

ALLISON BUTTS,

NOTARY PUBLIC.



A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE . . .

Guess Who?

Email schomre1@aol.com the names of each person in the photo, without asking, and receive a special Schomre gift.



The first wedding held in our current building

Judy and David a'h Levine
October 20, 1968

