

Kehilath Jeshurun Bulletin



Volume LXXII, Number 5

March 1, 2003

27 Adar I 5763

RABBI NATHANIEL (NATI) HELFGOT TO BE SHABBAT SCHOLAR

March 15

Shabbat Morning, March 15

At Conclusion of Services (Services at 9:00 AM)

A LITERARY ANALYSIS OF MEGILLAT ESTHER

Shabbat Afternoon

At Seudah Shlishit following Mincha at 5:30 PM

DAAT TORAH: WHAT IT MEANS FOR US

RABBI HELFGOT

Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot is a Maggid Shiur and Director of the Tanakh and Jewish Thought Departments at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. He is also on the faculty of the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education. An alumnus of the Jerusalem Fellows program, he

received ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University, and holds an MA in Jewish Education from their Azrieli Graduate School of Education. He has published widely in the areas of the Bible, halakha, and Jewish thought.

THE MEANING OF ISRAEL

Rav Hershel Schachter

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

8:00 PM

LAND FOR PEACE

FRIDAY NIGHT ONEG SHABBAT PROGRAM 8:30 PM

RABBI JOSHUA CYPRESS

MARCH 14

At the home of

Rebecca and Rabbi Josh Cypress
300 East 85th Street (at Second Ave)

RABBI BINNY FRIEDMAN

MARCH 21

At the home of

Pamela and George Rohr
875 Park Avenue, #8-A (bet. 78 & 77)

YOM HASHOAH – HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 28, 2003, 7:30 PM

IN THE MAIN SYNAGOGUE

Mark your calendars NOW for our annual observance of Yom Hashoah. As we work for Jewish solidarity and brotherhood in our own day, let us remember all those who died *al kiddush Hashem* in our history. Be present as we daven in their behalf and in support of those who miraculously survived.

SURVIVORS AND THEIR OFFSPRING

Those who themselves survived the Holocaust, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are asked to participate in our very moving candle-lighting ceremony at the start of the evening.

Please call Joel Ney at the Synagogue office (212) 774-5655 to confirm your attendance.

KJ BEGINNERS
PURIM PARTY
 and
READING OF
THE BOOK OF ESTHER — THE MEGILLAH

Monday, March 17, 2003

READING AT 8:00 PM

Explanations provided throughout!



PURIM PARTY WITH
FOOD . . .
FRIENDS . . .
AND THE STAND-UP COMEDY
OF NEIL FLEISCHMAN!
AT 9:15 PM

GROW WITH EDAH AT KJ

Wednesday Night Series

MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26, APRIL 2

INNOVATION AND TRADITION
IN THE INTERPRETATION OF TORAH: PSHAT AND DRASH

RABBI NATI HELFGOT

of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah

7:30 - 8:45 PM

This class will explore classical, medieval and modern Jewish sources surrounding the tension between freedom of interpretation and fealty to received traditions in understanding the words of the Torah. We will examine this fascinating subject both as it pertains to narrative and halakhic portions of the text. Time permitting we will also compare and contrast this phenomenon to trends in the Christian and Muslim exegetical traditions.

PREPARING FOR PESACH:
THE OUTER AND INNER TASKS

RABBI SAUL BERMAN

Director of Edah

9:00 - 10:15 PM

This series of classes will focus on getting the mind, body, soul and home ready for the redemptive force of Passover. We will study the place of Pesach in the cycle of Holidays in the Jewish calendar. The detailed laws of Chametz and Matzah will be reviewed from both behavioral and theological perspectives. We will analyze the laws and customs of the Seder with particular emphasis on understanding the structure and meaning of the Hagaddah.

\$40 per person for all 10 classes. Please call Edah at 212-244-7501 to register.

KJ BEGINNER'S
SEDER

Under the leadership of Rabbi Barry Gelman, KJ will again host a beginner's Seder, designed and planned as a learning experience. It is intended for those who wish to learn and understand more about the content and meaning of the Seder and how to conduct it properly. This special Seder will be held on the first night of Passover, Wednesday, April 16.

The cost is \$70 per person, (children under 3 may be seated with parents at no charge, without their own meal).

Reservations can be made by forwarding a check to the synagogue office listing the names of those planning to attend. The deadline for reservations is Thursday, April 10.

KJ SISTERHOOD
PRE-PESACH BOUTIQUE

Sunday, April 6

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Hats Tablecloths Jewelry
& More

Save the Date:

SISTERHOOD LUNCHEON

May 20

FAMILY PORTRAIT DAY

Sponsored by

KJ SISTERHOOD

will be held on

Sunday, April 6

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COME IN FOR A FREE GIFT

INTERMEDIATE SERVICE**SHABBAT MORNING**

MARCH 15, 2003

9:00 AM

Led by

Rabbi Barry Gelman*In the Gottesman Center*Followed by
a Beginners Lunch**HASHKAMA MINYAN**Followed by a Shiur
By Rabbi Eliezer Rubin

Shabbat Morning

March 22, 2003

7:15 AM

*In The Etra Chapel**The Next***CARLEBACH
FRIDAY NIGHT
DAVENING***will be*

March 28, 2003

at 6:10 PM

KESHER*Presents***PROGRESSIVE
DINNER & DESSERT**

Saturday Evening, March 8

For

ALL SINGLE & MARRIED

20's, 30's, & 40's

\$50 / person Couvert

\$68 / person Sponsor

\$86 / person Patron

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at ADShiff@aol.com*For Information and Reservations***THE 30TH ANNUAL
SYNAGOGUE SHABBATON
APRIL 11-12, 2003
SHABBAT DINNER AND LUNCH****SHABBAT SCHOLAR****DR. DAVID SHATZ**Professor of Philosophy
Yeshiva University*Further details will be coming.*We urge you to mark the date down on your
calendar now and make reservations so that you
do not miss this great Shabbat at KJ.**JUST A WEEK BEFORE PASSOVER**

This Means

NO COOKING FOR YOU!**MEMBERS**

Adults \$60 for 2 meals

Juniors \$50

Children \$30

NON-MEMBERS:

Adults \$70 for 2 meals

Juniors \$60

Children \$50

RSVP BY MONDAY, APRIL 7

*Space permitting***KJ's UJA CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF
TUESDAY, MARCH 11**The annual Kehilath Jeshurun
drive on behalf of UJA-Federation and
its campaign 2003 will begin at a
cocktail party at the home of Marian
& Bill Rosner on Tuesday evening,
March 11 at 6:30 PM.All members of the congregation
are encouraged to attend and to pledge
their support of UJA-Federation at that
time. For further information, pleasecall either Robert J. Leifert in the
synagogue office, 212-774-5665 or
Gila Varnai at UJA-Federation
headquarters, 212-836-1102. We ask
that you advise one or the other of
your intention to attend.The co-chairs of this event are
Matthew and Ray Lindenbaum and
Dr. Barry and Susan Stein.

PURIM SCHEDULE

FAST OF ESTHER

Fast begins at 4:53 a.m. and ends at 6:37 p.m.
Morning services begin at 6:55 a.m.

MINCHA, MAARIV AND MAIN MEGILLAH READING

Mincha is at 5:45 p.m. in Main Synagogue, followed by Maariv at 6:25 p.m. and first reading (noisy, many children) of Megillat Esther, followed by Purim Pizza Party in the Heyman Auditorium. Remember to bring tzedaka for machatzit ha-shekel and the other holiday obligations.

CHILDREN

At 6:15 p.m. children in 3-year-old Nursery through 1st grade should assemble in the Max J. Etra Chapel, while children in 2nd through 6th grade should assemble in the Riklis Social Hall. All children will receive groggers, and will be escorted by Youth Department staff from their respective assembly locations into the Main Synagogue for Megillat Esther. Throughout the service, children are expected to be either participating in their special youth groups or sitting quietly next to an adult. We ask that you communicate this policy to your children so that the mitzvah of hearing Megillat Esther can be fulfilled and enjoyed by both young and old.

After dropping children off, parents are asked to join the regular service in the Main Synagogue until its conclusion, at which time they may pick up their children from the specially designated child seating areas in the front of the Main Synagogue. Once reunited, families should proceed from the Main Synagogue into the Heyman Auditorium for the Purim Pizza Party.

SECOND EVENING READING

6:35 p.m. - Second reading (quiet, no children) of Megillat Esther with Rabbi Barry Gelman in the Gottesman Center.

BEGINNER'S MEGILLAH READING

8:00 p.m. - Beginners Megillah Reading with Rabbi Barry Gelman in the Riklis Social Hall, followed by Purim Party and the comic entertainment of Neil Fleischman.

PURIM MORNING

EARLY MORNING SERVICE AND MEGILLAH

Morning Services at 7:00 a.m. in the Main Synagogue followed by Megillah reading and the Vice President's breakfast in the Heyman Auditorium.

Second shacharit and Megillah reading starts at 9:30 a.m. in the Main Synagogue followed by Youth Carnival.

PURIM YOUTH CARNIVAL

This will take place in the Gottesman Center from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

MINCHA

5:40 p.m. in the Main Synagogue.

PURIM SEUDAH

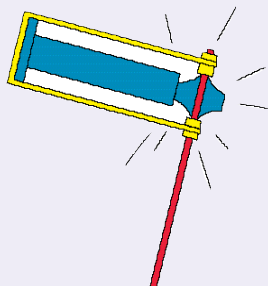
Purim seudah will be in the Heyman Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. featuring the talented performers of "KJ Live."

Reservation forms will be accepted through Wednesday, March 12. To join the KJ Purim Shpiel, contact Mark Meirowitz at Markmeirowitz@aol.com

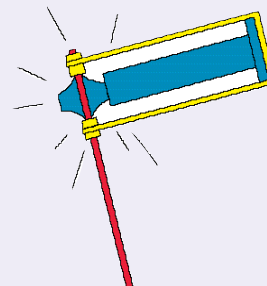
MEGILLAH READERS — 5763

Stephen Davis	Rafi Magid
Natan Edelsburg	Alex Meirowitz
David Ellenberg	Rafi Nunberg
Aaron Gordon	Jacob Olidort
Ben Gordon	Jonathan Rappaport
Daniel Gordon	Peter Spaet
Avi Grumet	Jonathan Speiser
Daniel Lauchheimer	Jason Sugarman
Evan Lieberman	Andy Tuchman

סעודת פורים



THE KJ ENSEMBLE *Presents* KJ LIVE

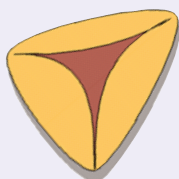


FAMILIES SINGLES PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

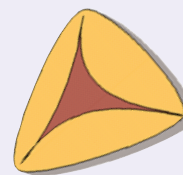
Are Gleefully Invited

By the KJ Men's Club, Sisterhood and Keshet

To the Annual



PURIM SEUDAH



Tuesday Evening, March 18, 2003

at 6:00 PM

**Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun
125 East 85th Street, New York, NY**

Festive Dinner Live Music

Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun 125 East 85th St, New York, NY 10028 (212) 774-5600

PLEASE RESERVE FOR KJ PURIM SEUDAH

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Seating Requests _____

Deadline for Reservations: Wednesday, March 12th

*Seating is limited and reservations will be accepted
on a first come, first served basis.
No phone reservations accepted.*

Members

_____ Adults at \$30 each
_____ Juniors (12-18 yrs) at \$25 each
_____ Children (2-11 yrs) at \$15 each

Non-Members

_____ Adults at \$35 each
_____ Juniors (12-18 yrs) at \$30 each
_____ Children (2-11 yrs) at \$25 each

\$_____ Total enclosed

SPACE PERMITTING

*Kindly indicate proper number of reservations
and enclose a check payable to "Kehilath Jeshurun."*

PURIM: THE JEWISH WAY TO REJOICE

MARCH 17 & 18, 2003

BY RABBI JOSHUA CYPRESS

WHAT IS PURIM?

Purim, the holiday on the 14th of Adar, is one of the happiest days of the Jewish calendar. Adar is the last month of the Jewish calendar, roughly corresponding to the feeling we have in March of coming in like a “lion” and leaving like a (Pesach) lamb. The Talmud (Ta’anit 29b) states “when Adar begins we increase in Joy” – because Adar and Purim hallmark God’s greatest gifts and salvations of the Jewish people.

This year is a leap year which means an extra *month* is added, a second Adar (intercalations are always added to the end of the year, e.g. February was at one point, the end of the Julian calendar!). Purim is always the second Adar when the leap month is added (which leaves the 14th and 15th of the first Adar as minor holidays). This is because Purim must always be one month before Passover.

Even though Purim is not a Torah holiday, there is a Biblical book (The Scroll of Esther) which details the action of the holiday and the history of the events. Being of *Biblical* level gives the holiday a great deal of importance, emphasis and authority. The Talmud designates the holiday as *Divrei Kabbalah* (note, Kabbalah in the Talmud means “Tradition” or, in this context, the Prophets and not the modern meaning of “mysticism”).

MESSAGE OF THE HOLIDAY

Purim is a festive day because God rescued us from our enemies. Yet, as seen in the ancient work *Megillat Ta’anit*, there were hundreds of days of the year that were considered minor festivals of thanksgiving. Only two, Purim and Chanukah, were applied to all Jewish communities at all times because the inherent messages of the days were considered all encompassing.

Tradition teaches us that Purim is about how God rescues the Jews in the Diaspora — where God needs to operate in a hidden manner with hidden miracles. A popular lesson about the name *Megillat Esther* is that the word Esther means “hidden” (like *hester panim*) and Megillah means “revealed”. Hence *Megillat Esther* is the “revelation of what’s hidden.”

God is hidden in the Megillah; the story is a set of confounding coincidences that appear to be catastrophes until the critical turnabout when the Jews emerge mighty and victorious. God’s name is not

mentioned in the megillah, but God’s invisible touch is active throughout.

The name of the holiday, Purim, comes from the Persian word for randomness: *pur*. Our enemies used a lottery (*purim*) to determine the date for the Jewish extermination. In the earthly realm, our enemies see randomness and chaos, but we see God’s intervention — especially in those events that go beyond human power. The holiday of Purim is, as a result, a holiday where we in the Diaspora learn how God interacts and communicates within the hidden.

THE HISTORY OF THE HOLIDAY THE STORY OF ESTHER

The story of Esther takes place while the Jews lived in Persian empire, during the exile of 70 years (circa 366-355 BCE). The main characters are: **Mordechai** (rabbi, hero), **Esther** (his niece, becomes queen of Persia), **Achashverosh** (king of Persia, easily swayed to either side), and **Haman** (from Amalek; hates Jews, tries to commit genocide).

ACTION OF THE MEGILLAH

The life for the Jews in exile is precarious. Achashverosh holds a party where he kills his wife in response to her insolence. The king then searches for a new queen and chooses the youthful Jewess Esther (who was counseled by her uncle Mordechai). Later on, Haman (bad guy) is insulted that Mordechai does not pay him proper respect and Haman convinces Achashverosh to allow him to kill all the Jews. Haman chooses the date of warfare by rolling dice (which are called *pur* in Aramaic, see above). He rolls the date of the 13th of the month of Adar. Mordechai hears of the plot and impresses on Esther to plea to the King to spare her people. At first she refuses, for fear of her life, but then risks everything to appeal to the king. The appeal is successful, Haman is thwarted, and the favor of the king is such that he allows Esther’s people (the Jews) to fight back on the 13th of Adar. We were able to fight back so successfully, that we created a holiday on the day afterwards as a remembrance of God’s miraculous salvation that worked behind the scenes.

HOW WE COMMEMORATE AND CELEBRATE

Shabbat Zachor

The preceding Shabbat of Purim (this year, March 15, 2003) is called Shabbat

Zachor. We choose this Shabbat to observe the commandment to remember the evil of the nation of Amalek who are central to Purim as well. In **Exodus 17:8-16**, we read about their terror war against the Jewish people when they attacked us without mercy. The command in **Deut. 25:17-19** states: “Remember what Amalek did to you, on your way as you departed from Egypt... you shall obliterate the memory of Amalek, you shall not forget.” According to most authorities, it is a Torah level commandment to hear this portion read in synagogue.

Taanit Esther (13th of Adar)

The day preceding Purim is a thematically connected fast day (this year, Monday, March 17th). The 13th of Adar is mentioned in the Megillah as the day chosen by Haman to destroy the Jewish people. We fast in memory of the war that took place on that day and, like the fast of the first born, we use the fast to recognize our salvation. (cf. **Esther 9:31**). There was also a fast by Queen Esther (cf. **Esther 4:16**) but that was on a different day (most likely on Pesach). Taanit Esther is unlike the other fasts of the Jewish calendar, insofar that it is a day of thanksgiving and not sadness.

Customs of the Fast Day

The “half-shekel” is donated at the afternoon service (in commemoration of the half-shekel census, cf. **Exodus 25:11-16**, we use the half currency of the realm, e.g. three half-dollars.) The money is used for communal funds and even synagogue repair. Another custom of the day, sorry, is that we don’t break the fast until after we hear the Megillah (for a list of exceptions, please ask one of the rabbis).

PURIM (14th of Adar)

Work is not forbidden on Purim, but we also have no *tachanun*, eulogies or fasting; a mourner displays no outward signs, like on Shabbat. There are a number of commandments to fulfill on Purim (that apply equally to men and women):

Night

Megillah: The sages tell us we must hear every word of the Megillah reading. Please help others fulfill this mitzvah by following the instructions of the community leaders as to when to cease noisemaking.

Day

Megillah: The obligation is both at night and during the day. We cannot hear

(Continued on Page 10)

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA MARCH 7, 2003

On March 7, 2003 tens of thousands of people across the United States and Canada will come together to eat, drink relax, dance, enjoy, debate and celebrate the 7th annual Shabbat Across America/Canada.

Many of those people will be participating in this exciting event at KJ when our KJ beginners program plays host.

This innovative program introduces Jews across North America to the beauty of Shabbat. Shabbat is welcomed with an explanatory Friday Night service followed by a traditional Friday Night Shabbat meal.

There is much that you can do to enhance this program even if you will not personally take part in it.

Join us for Friday Night services in order to welcome participants as they enter and make them feel comfortable during the service. All you need to know how to do is smile!

Join us for dinner so that each table will have someone (or 2) with basic knowledge of a Friday Night Dinner in order to help the others and answer some of their questions.

Make telephone calls to those on our phone list to urge them to participate.

Suggest to friends, relatives or co-workers whom you feel will benefit from such an innovative learning experience that they attend this program.

Help make this event a success!

This annual program takes place on March 7th, but receives rave reviews all year round.

769-4400
PLAZA JEWISH COMMUNITY CHAPEL
Andrew Fier, Director
Amsterdam Avenue and 91st Street
SERVICES AVAILABLE IN FLORIDA
1-800-227-3974

SHABBAT MEAL DELIVERY PROGRAM STARTS STRONG

The KJ community demonstrated its overwhelming commitment to Chesed by volunteering in droves to deliver Shabbat meals to senior citizens on the Upper East Side. This joint initiative with DOROT, a social service agency dedicated to enhancing the lives of the elderly, is the first of its kind to offer congregants the opportunity to combine the weekly delivery of a fresh Shabbat meal (generously donated by Park East Kosher Butchers) with a mutually rewarding personal visit.

Over 30 eager congregants attended one of two training sessions to learn about DOROT's client population, guidelines for successful visits, and program logistics. Extensive information was gathered from each volunteer to enable DOROT's experienced social workers to make optimal matches with recipients. Volunteers were then 'buddied' to ensure program continuity and enable more congregants to enjoy this act of Chesed. Congregants were also given the option to participate in the DOROT *Friendly Visiting Program* that gives volunteers the flexibility to develop a meaningful relationship with a senior citizen at their convenience. (The Shabbat Meal delivery program takes place exclusively on Thursday afternoons.)

On January 9, each volunteer team visited their senior for the first time.

Response from both seniors and volunteers was extremely positive. Thanks to the dedication of KJ's volunteers and the highly professional staff at DOROT, the program has been running smoothly ever since, with each 'buddy' visiting on alternating weeks. The seniors, most of whom are over the age of 90, amaze and inspire their visitors with their vigor, will and life experience. They appreciate the delicious meal and the opportunity to be part of this community outreach program.

If there has been one downside to this initiative, it has been the inability to accommodate all volunteers in what is initially a limited-scope program. If it continues to run successfully, not only can it be expanded within the KJ community, it will become a model that DOROT can bring to other shuls throughout Manhattan, dramatically increasing its positive impact on elderly Jewish New Yorkers.

The KJ/DOROT Shabbat Meal Delivery Program marks the first new initiative of *Chesed Inside & Out*, a renewed emphasis on Chesed developed to give congregants meaningful ways to integrate Chesed into their daily lives. Please look forward to other *Chesed Inside & Out* programs coming soon.

Nicole Gruenstein
Co-Chair
KJ Chesed Committee

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AM HASEFER BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB

OLD MEN AT MIDNIGHT

By
Chaim Potok

Sunday, March 14
8:00 PM

At the home of
Pamela and George Rohr
875 Park Avenue, # 8A

*The ninth novel from Chaim Potok (**The Chosen, My Name Is Asher Lev**, etc.) is actually a series of three linked novellas, all of which vividly examine the horrors of war. The link is a woman, Ilana Davita Dinn, to whom three different men tell their stories.*

*In **The Ark Builder**, Davita, just out of high school in Brooklyn, gives English lessons to 16-year-old Noah Stremin in 1947. The only Jew from his Polish town to survive the Holocaust, he slowly opens up to Davita, telling her of his friendship with Reb Binyomin, the caretaker of his village's synagogue.*

*As a graduate student in **The War Doctor**, Davita encourages visiting lecturer Leon Shertov to write about his experiences under Stalin. A young soldier in World War I, Leon was saved by a Jewish doctor, to whom he secretly taught Hebrew. Later, Leon became a KGB interrogator, and after World War II, he encounters the doctor again this time as a prisoner, a victim of Stalin's paranoid campaign against physicians.*

Finally Davita, now a successful author herself, befriends renowned history professor Benjamin Walter as he struggles to write his memoirs. She helps him to remember such pivotal events as his adolescent tutelage under Mr. Zapiski, who served in World War I with his father, as well as his own experiences in World War II.

The stories Potok's men tell are as moving as they are riveting.

CHEVRA KADISHA, BIKUR CHOLIM AND HATZOLAH TO BE HONORED AT DINNER Monday Night March 10th at 6:15 PM

As is the custom in many Jewish communities, Kehilath Jeshurun will honor the members of the Chevra Kadisha / Burial Society on the 7th of Adar II, Monday, March 10. Traditionally, this event is held on this date in recognition of the Yahrzeit of Moshe (Moses) Rabeinu. At KJ, on this occasion, we also honor the members of our Bikur Cholim Society who visit the sick in area hospitals and who make other accommodations for the families of those who are in these area facilities. We are also proud to honor the members of the Upper East Side division of Hatzolah, our volunteer ambulance corps, who also perform a valiant service for the members of our community whenever the need arises.

The speaker for this year's dinner will be Dr. Vivian Mann. Her topic will be *The Art of the Chevra Kadisha*. Dr. Vivian Mann has a Ph.D. from New York University. She has been a research fellow in the Medieval Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and currently holds the chair in Judaica at the Jewish Museum.

Those who participate in any of these three groups or who wish to become involved in one of them is invited to attend this dinner as a guest of the congregation. Please call the synagogue office to make a reservation.

CALL PRESIDENT BUSH

We encourage all readers of this Bulletin to call President Bush every day between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM to express your support for Israel and the War on Terror. (202) 456-1111.

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DEDICATE

Members of the Congregation and others are invited to honor a friend or relative, celebrate a milestone event or memorialize a loved one by dedicating *Chumashim* or *Siddurim*.

**CHUMASHIM – \$45 each
SIDDURIM – \$25 each**

Call Alice Smokler
at 774-5670

In Memoriam

DR. ALEXANDER MULLER

A cherished, senior member of the congregation passed away after a long illness. Dr. Alexander Muller, a survivor of the Holocaust, came here together with his devoted wife, Elizabeth, as a refugee. He established an office in Washington Heights for the practice of general medicine, where his healing hands brought him large numbers of loyal patients; many of whom continued to return there to receive medical treatment from this skilled physician.

Exceptionally devoted to his family, he put his two sons through Ramaz at great sacrifice. He was proud of their achievements in school and in life.

A refined European gentleman with classic dignity, Dr. Muller was an intellectual with well articulated views on current events. He was a passionate Jew who loved Israel and visited it virtually every year. Together with his wife, he was a generous donor to Kehilath Jeshurun and to many worthy Jewish causes, particularly in Israel. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Muller and to the entire family.

SUMMER STUDY IN ISRAEL FOR WOMEN

Nishmat is again offering women an opportunity to study in Israel for three weeks this summer.

The program will run from Tuesday, July 1, through Monday, July 21, 2003.

The theme of the program will be: *The Cycle of Women's Relationships*.

Nishmat offers beginner, intermediate and advanced level programs. It offers serious textual learning coupled with tours throughout Israel.

This summer give yourself a special gift! Immerse yourself in an exciting three weeks of Jewish learning and Israel.

For information, contact American Friends of Nishmat at 212-983-6975 or visit the Nishmat website at www.Nishmat.net.

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO

Each workshop offers an overview of the laws and customs related to the historical events that we commemorate each holiday, an analysis of the texts used and honest-to-goodness real explanations of why we do the things we do.

PURIM WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

8:00 – 9:30 PM

PASSOVER WORKSHOP

Tuesday, April 8, 2003

8:00 – 9:30 PM

Led by
Rabbi Barry Gelman

PASSOVER RELIEF — WE NEED YOUR GIFT NOW

Dear Members of the KJ Community:

THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS FOLLOWING PURIM IS MA'OT CHITIM - Passover Relief. Each year we make a special appeal for the Benevolent Fund in advance of Passover to help us meet extraordinary needs. Some examples of these needs are as follows:

1. *Poor people who come to our attention and who need special help.*

For example: a woman whose husband abandoned her with five children and whom we have been helping to support for more than thirteen years; a man who grew up in this community and is now almost sixty years of age, who has no family except for us, and who is institutionalized — we provide him with all of his personal needs, including spending money; another young man who grew up in our community who has emotional challenges — we help to pay for an apartment for him which enables him to remain in a supportive community, among his friends.

These are examples of people who do not — and should not — come to the attention of public charities. They and others require special grants in addition to almost \$2,000 a month which we spend on regular responsibilities such as the Bikur

Cholim apartment which we help maintain in the community.

2. *The Joint Passover Association* — to which we give a major contribution every year. This is New York City's Jewish charity to help poor Jews celebrate Pesach. Government cutbacks in aid to the Jewish poor make the assistance of the JPA more crucial than ever.

3. *Many religious, educational and social organizations in Israel — and some in America* — which deserve support, which desperately need such support, and which look to us for help particularly at this season of the year.

We do not conduct appeals in our congregation for individuals or for deserving institutions. Our Benevolent Fund is our community's way of supporting a variety of philanthropic causes — personal and institutional. Please, therefore, contribute generously now, taking into consideration that this one gift is in place of many potential appeals.

As we take care of the first responsibility listed in the *Shulchan Arukh* in the laws of Passover — *ma'ot chitim* — we pray that we will all be blessed with a happy and kosher Passover and a year of sustenance and support for ourselves and for the entire Jewish people.

Haskel Lookstein

PURIM: THE JEWISH WAY TO REJOICE By Rabbi Joshua Cypess

(Continued from Page 6)

two at night or two during the day to count for the whole holiday.

Mishloach Manot: Sending gifts of food to friends: Two foods to one person is the minimum. The foods must be ready-to-eat. There is a custom to give two separate "brachot". Another custom is to bake hundreds of Hamantaschen and force people to eat them.

Matanot l'evyonim: Gifts of money to the poor. Two coins to each of two poor-people. Money can be collected ahead of time with the intention that it will be dispensed on Purim day. We have a special collection in synagogue for this purpose, but don't be dissuaded from giving to a live person who asks on this day.

Seudah: Festive meal with rejoicing.

The custom in KJ is to begin the meal right before the end of the holiday, 6:00 p.m. on March 18, and have the meal extend into the night. This is the time for drinking, as well.

Intoxication: We are enjoined to drink intoxicating spirits on Purim. Many authorities limit the drinking to the *seudah*, and even then, the command is just to drink more than we are used to. In no fashion should we become so intoxicated that we would harm ourselves or others.

Special Prayers: We add *Al Ha-Nisim* to our *shemona-esrei* and to *bircat hamazon*. Yet, we do not say Hallel on Purim. Three reasons are given for the lack of Hallel. The first is that the Megillah acts as Hallel; the second is that the miracle of the day occurred secretly and outside the

land of Israel; the third is that (in the words of the Talmud, Arachin 10b): "we are still servants to Achashverosh."

Purim Customs

During the reading of the Megillah, we fulfill the commandment to "blot out" the name of Amalek by making loud noises whenever his name is read aloud. Historians tell us that the custom started when people would write Haman's name on the soles of their shoes and then stamp their feet during the Megillah reading. Nowadays, we use **graggers**: specially made noisemakers.

Another custom is to recite a few specific verses aloud as a congregation before the reader recites them. We read aloud four verses: **2:5, 8:15, 8:16, 10:3** and the list of the ten sons of Haman, **9:7-9**.

Another widespread custom is to wear **costumes**, while some authorities hold that "yom-tov" clothing should be worn (because it is called a Yom Tov in **Esther 9:19**). Costumes are to depict the "hiddenness" of the miracle of Purim, and also to lighten the "turnabouts" of the day. This is also the historical basis for the Purim "*shpeil*," which is a small play where yeshiva students would be able to lampoon their teachers and others in authority. The *shpiel* in KJ will take place after the Seudah.

SHUSHAN PURIM (15th of Adar)

Any city with walls since the time of Joshua celebrates Purim one day later on Adar 15. The Megillah relates how the war against our enemies lasted one day later in the city of Shushan. Nowadays, Shushan Purim only applies to Jerusalem (yet a few other cities in Israel have taken on both days as a longstanding custom, e.g. Acco, Yaffo, Tiberias).

As my Rebbe in Israel once said, in an attempt to have the students make *aliyah*:

"Israel does it correctly. In America there are two days of Passover and one day of Purim, in Israel, there are two days of Purim and one day of Passover!"

May you have a healthy, happy, *freilichen* Purim!

KJ/RAMAZ TO HOST ANNUAL YACHAD SHABBATON MARCH 28 –29, 2003

On March 28-29, 2003 Kehilath Jeshurun and Ramaz will be hosting the annual YACHAD Shabbaton. Each year the YACHAD Shabbaton is a rewarding experience for all those who participate. There is a community-wide *seudah shlishit* with the YACHAD members and staff on Shabbat afternoon. Beautiful singing and *divrei Torah* from YACHAD members are the highlights of the Shabbat. It will be an experience to remember!

YACHAD is responsible for a

multitude of programs for mentally and physically handicapped Jewish young adults. These programs allow the YACHAD members to be mainstreamed with young people their own age and give them the opportunity to have a great time.

If you would like to house YACHAD members and staff or would like to help in any other way, please contact Rabbi Ari Segal at (212) 774-8086 or asegal@ramaz.org as soon as possible.

SHMURAH MATZOHS

Kehilath Jeshurun is again pleased to offer its membership the opportunity to purchase Shmurah Matzoh through the synagogue. The Matzohs are available at \$14.00 per pound.

The pick up will be on Sunday morning, April 13th, in the synagogue lobby. That is the same day as the Kasher-In.

All orders must be prepaid and ordered by Tuesday, April 8th.

Please reserve _____ pounds of Shmurah Matzoh at \$14.00 per pound.

Make checks payable to the "KJ Special Projects Fund." \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone(Day) _____ Phone (Evening) _____

KESHER / YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINYAN

Saturday Morning

April 5, 2003

9:15 AM

In the Gottesman Center
Falk Auditorium

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

BIRTHS

Mazel tov to:

Marilyn and Greg Adler on the birth of a son, Mark Harry.

Fran and Benjamin Brown on the birth of a grandson, Samuel Paul, to their children, Suzanne and Alan Brown.

Deborah and David Kahn on the birth of a grandson, Elisha, to their children, Freddie and Adi Kahn of Jerusalem.

Rachel and Harris Lukashok on the birth of a son, Raymond Milton. Similar good wishes to the proud grandparents, Ruth and Ed Lukashok and the elated great grandmother, Mrs. Muriel Lukashok.

Ruth and Ed Lukashok on the birth of a grandson, Cyrus Astin, to their children, Jane and Michael Sabet. Similar good wishes to the proud great grandmother, Mrs. Muriel Lukashok.

Robin and Dan Mittman on the birth of a daughter, Charlotte Bess.

Suzanne and Robert Schwartz on the birth of a son, Jacob Mor.

May these children grow up in the finest tradition of Torah, chuppah and ma'asim tovim.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mazel tov to Elliot and Doris Weiss on

the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca, to Eric Sigman, son of Sandra and Ronald Sigman of Oceanside, New York.

May their wedding take place in happiness and blessing.

WEDDING

Mazel tov to Ingeborg and Ira Leon Rennert on the marriage of their daughter, Tamara, to Randall Winn.

May they enjoy their marriage with happiness and blessing.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to:

Wendy Greenbaum on the passing of her father, Willy Apfel.

Sam Kohl on the passing of his father, Rabbi Abraham Kohl.

Judy Lobel on the passing of her father, Gershon Stern.

Jeffrey Margolin on the passing of his father, Jack Margolin.

Sandra Rothschild on the passing of her brother, Howard Simon.

Leonard Solinsky on the passing of his sister, Charlotte Newman.

Rebecca Steindecker on the passing of her father, Isidore Falk.

May these mourners be comforted among

those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

BAR MITZVAH

Mazel tov to Suzanne and Dr. Norman Javitt on the Bar Mitzvah in Chevy Chase, Maryland, of their grandson, Zachary Aaron Javitt, son of Drs. Jonathan and Marcia Javitt.

COMMUNAL HONOR

The Annual Dinner of the American Friends of Shalva will be held on Sunday evening, March 9, at the New York City Regent Wall Street Hotel. Among the honorees are our members, Lauren and Mitchell Presser and as a Bar Mitzvah tributee, Zachary Charles, son of Faith and KJ Trustee Andrew Charles. Shalva is a very worthwhile institution in Israel and we urge your participation in this event. Information can be obtained by writing to American Friends of Shalva, 22 West 38th Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone number (212) 921-8947.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Mazel tov to Jessica C. Langer, daughter of Naomi Winter Cohen and a Ramaz graduate, upon receiving her PhD in Stem Cell Biology from the Mt. Sinai Medical School.

BNAI MITZVAH



MILLIE MARCUS

Mazel tov to Renata and Robert Marcus on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Millie, which will take place on Saturday night, March 22.

Millie is a student in the sixth grade of the Ramaz Middle School.



ALEXANDRA STROMER

Mazel tov to Shoshana Bookson and Dr. Saul Stromer on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Alexandra, which will take place on Sunday, March 23, at the Ramaz Upper School, where she will deliver a Dvar Torah.

Alexandra is a student in the sixth grade of the Ramaz Middle School.



LILLY SASSOON

Mazel tov to Evelyn and Salomon Sassoon on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Lilly, which will take place on Sunday, March 30. She will make a Siyum in celebration of her completion of Megillat Esther and deliver a Dvar Torah relating to Megillat Esther.

Lilly is a student in the sixth grade of the Ramaz Middle School.

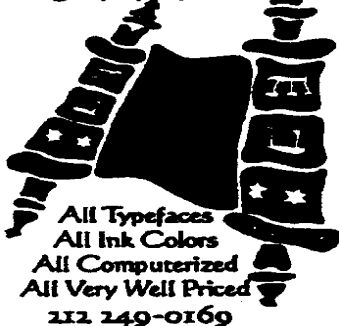


AMALIA LEAH ZIMMERMAN

Mazel tov to Gail Suchman and Dr. Jerald Zimmerman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Amalia, which will take place on Saturday, April 5. Molly will read the Torah portion of Tazriah and the Haftarah in the Women's Tefillah Group. She will also deliver two divrei Torah on Lashon HaRah.

Molly is a student in the sixth grade of the Ramaz Middle School.

Calligraphy by Ilene



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SHABBAT SCHEDULE

		Lighting of Candles	Friday Evening Services	Saturday Afternoon Services	Sabbath Ends
February					
28-March 1	Vayakhel (Shabbat Shekalim)	5:28 pm	5:40 pm	5:15 pm	6:23 pm
March					
7-8	Pekudei	5:36 pm	5:50 pm	5:25 pm	6:31 pm
14-15	Vayikra (Shabbat Zachor)	5:43 pm	5:55 pm	5:30 pm	6:38 pm
21-22	Tzav (Shabbat Parah)	5:51 pm	6:05 pm	5:40 pm	6:46 pm
28-29	Shmini (Shabbat Hachodesh)	5:58 pm	6:10 pm	5:45 pm	6:53 pm
April					
4-5	Tazria	6:06 pm	6:20 pm	5:55 pm	7:01 pm
11-12	Metzora (Shabbat Hagadol)	7:13 pm	6:45 pm	6:35 pm	8:09 pm

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Weekday mornings	7:30 am
Sunday mornings	8:30 am
Mondays and Thursdays	7:15 am
Rosh Chodesh Weekdays	7:00 am
Sabbath mornings	9:00 am

EVENING SERVICES

March 2-6	5:45 pm
9-13	5:50 pm
16-20	6:00 pm
23-27	6:05 pm
30-April 3	6:15 pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday & Wednesday, March 4-5

Rosh Chodesh Adar II
Morning services at 7:00 am

Monday, March 17

Fast of Esther
Fast begins at 4:53 am & ends at 6:37 pm
Morning services at 6:55 am.
Evening services at 5:45 pm

Tuesday, March 18

Purim
Morning services at 7:00 am, followed by Megillah
Second service at 9:30 am, followed by Megillah
Evening services at 5:40 pm

Thursday, April 3

Rosh Chodesh Nisan
Morning services at 7:00 am

A MODERN MIKVEH
is located in our Community at:
232-4 West 78th Street
(East of Broadway)
Telephone 799-1520

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Call the **ERUV HOTLINE**
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