

CHANUKAH/PURIM ISSUE



KEHILATH JESHURUN BULLETIN

Volume LXXVII, Number 2

December 1, 2007

21 Kislev 5768



**"THE ANCIENT JEWISH
COMMUNITY OF KAIFENG,
AND LESSONS FOR THE
MODERN JEWISH WORLD"
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16**

AT 6:30 PM

FEATURING

PROFESSOR XU XIN

Professor Xu Xin of Nanjing University is the foremost authority today on the history and sociology of Kaifeng Jewry. He has written and lectured widely on this subject, and his first book, *"Legends of the Chinese Jews of Kaifeng,"* was an outstanding critical success.

Professor Xu Xin is a Professor in both the Department of Religious Studies and the Department of Philosophy at Nanjing University, People's Republic of China, where he is also the Director of the Center for Jewish Studies and the President of the China Judaic Studies Association. In addition, Professor Xu Xin is the Editor-in-Chief of, and a major contributor to, the Chinese edition of the *Encyclopedia Judaica*.

KJ ANNUAL DINNER

to benefit

Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun

*And On the Fifth Night of Chanukah, We Had Fun At
An Evening of Charity and Good Cheer.*

Saturday Night, December 8

8:00 PM

Walk-in Registration

Welcome

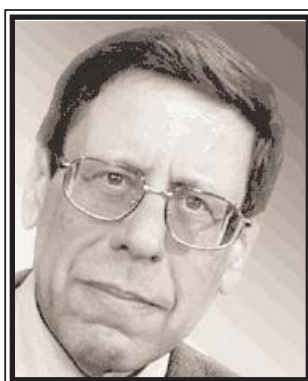
Morris and Ida Newman

Educational Center

60 East 78th Street, New York City

DINNER CO-CHAIRS

Sandy & Bob April, Judith & Dan Ottensofer, Phyllis & Jonathan Wagner



SAMUEL S. SILVERSTEIN SHABBATON

FEBRUARY 1-2, 2008

Our Featured Scholar

PROFESSOR ISAIAH GAFNI

February 1st - Friday Evening Dinner
immediately following 5:10 PM Shabbat services:

**"RABBINIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE SUPERNATURAL:
MAGIC, DEMONS, WITCHES, AND ALL THE REST"**

FRIDAY EVENING SHABBAT DINNER

	Members	Non-Members
Adults:	\$35	\$40
Juniors (ages 12-18):	\$30	\$35
Children (ages 2-11):	\$18	\$30

February 2nd - Saturday Morning
at the conclusion of

9:00 AM Shabbat services:

"SHOULD MAJORITY ALWAYS RULE?"

Dr. Isaiah M. Gafni is the Sol Rosenbloom Professor of Jewish History at the Hebrew University, where he has taught for over thirty years while also serving as a Visiting Professor at numerous universities abroad, among

them Harvard, Yale and Brown. He was recently honored as the Louis Jacobs Fellow in Rabbinic Thought at Oxford University, where he delivered a series of lectures on the Jewish diaspora in the Greco-Roman period.

UPCOMING KESHER EVENTS

Friday Night Progressive Dinner
Friday, December 14th

Melave Malka with Rabbi Avrumi
Saturday Evening, January 26th

Saturday Night Social Event
Saturday, February 9th

Uncle Moishy Concert
Sunday, March 16th

New Mother's Breakfast
Tuesday, March 25th

WINTER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

December 7- **Tot Shabbat Program**
December 8 - Open Gym Night for Grades 2-4
December 9 - KJBL
December 15 - Family Mishnayot learning with Rabbi Soloveichik for grades 2-4
December 15 - Open Gym Night for Grades 5-6
December 16 - KJBL
January 5 - Open Gym Night for Grades 7-12
January 5 - Family Mishnayot learning with Rabbi Soloveichik for grades 2-4
January 6 - KJBL
January 11 - Tot Shabbat
January 12 - Open Gym Night for Grades 2-4
January 13 - KJBL
January 18 - Bnei Akiva Shabbaton
January 19 - Tu B'Shvat Seder
January 19 - Open Gym Night for Grades 5-6
January 20 - Hello Yellow Art for Tots
January 20 - KJBL
January 26 - Open Gym Night for Grades 7-12
February 1 - Tot Shabbat Program

February 2 - Open Gym Night for Grades 2-4
February 3 - KJBL and Super Bowl Party
February 9 - Family Mishnayot learning with Rabbi Soloveichik for grades 2-4
February 9 - Open Gym Night for Grades 5-6
February 10 - KJBL
February 23 - Open Gym Night for Grades 7-12
February 24 - KJBL
March 1 - Open Gym Night for Grades 2-4
March 2 - KJBL
March 8 Family Mishnayot learning with Rabbi Soloveichik for grades 2-4
March 8 - Open Gym Night for Grades 5-6
March 9 - KJBL
March 14 - Tot Shabbat Program
March 15 - Open Gym Night for Grades 7-12
March 16 - KJBL
March 20 - Purim Night Celebrations
March 21 - Purim Carnival
March 22 - Open Gym Night for Grades 2-4
March 29 - Open Gym Night for Grades 5-6

WELCOME

Kehilath Jeshurun warmly welcomes the following new members who have joined the Congregation between the printing of the last Bulletin, September 4, and this Bulletin, which went to press on November 15 :

Penny Basch
Ilana and Daniel Benson
Daniele and Steven Bleier
Adriana and Yehuda Fruchter
Amir Elbaz
Drs. Aren and Ram Roth
Andrea and Hanan Halili
Tikva and Zalmie Jacobs
Eric Mann
Jessica and Andy Mauk
Benay and Dr. Ira Meisels
Lisa and Dr. Edward Ostad
Dr. Nechama and Michael Pielet
Andrew Plevin
Ruth and Michael Rosenblatt
Tali and Ivan Rubinstein
Ilana and William Schubin
Teri and Dr. Massimiliano Szulc
Simeon and Dr. Susan Wallis
Andrea and David Weingard
Jennifer and Jeremy Yashar
Robyn Barsky and Ira Ziff

Upcoming Sisterhood Events

Brunch and Museum Event
Tuesday, December 11th

Evening Cooking Class
Tuesday, February 5th

Brunch and Museum Event
Thursday, February 28th

Ladies Night Out
Wednesday, March 5th

Women's Health Symposium
Sunday, March 30th

KJ SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP:

BE A PART OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Contact
KJ Executive Director
Leonard Silverman
at 212-774-5680 or
LSS@CKJ.org

TO JOIN THE KJ ONLINE COMMUNITY, SEND AN E-MAIL WITH YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME TO:

ARONA@CKJ.ORG

BE SURE TO VISIT KJ'S WEBSITE

WWW.CKJ.ORG

KJ TO PRESENT BAR MITZVAH PROGRAM FOR FATHERS AND SONS

KJ is happy to offer a learning program for fathers and sons from our community reaching bar mitzvah age. The KJ Bar Mitzvah program is an opportunity to explore, in creative and interactive ways, the challenges and opportunities of reaching bar mitzvah.

The Bar Mitzvah Program, developed specifically for KJ, explores the Jewish sources on daily living and ritual practice in a way which is hands-on, exciting and meaningful.

Through text study, projects and interactive learning, each parent/child "chavruta" will connect with these Jewish sources and become partners on the spiritual journey of what it means to be a Jewish adult today.

The Bar Mitzvah program is led by Rabbis Jeffrey Kobrin, Elie Weinstock, Shlomo Schwartz and Hillel Rapp, meeting on Sundays between 9:30 and 11:00 am on March 9, 16, 23 and 30. To register or inquire, please contact Hillel Rapp at rapp@ckj.org or 212-774-5652.

PLANNED GIVING: WHEN IS "THE RIGHT TIME?"

When is the right time to start thinking about your legacy? Your legacy is what you leave behind. You can leave behind a meaningful bequest to charity through your Will, Trust or other estate planning document. Now may be the right time to start thinking about something meaningful. KJ has a Planned Giving Committee comprised of estate planning, tax and financial professionals who can assist you or your advisor in establishing a charitable legacy to benefit the Synagogue.

If properly structured, your legacy to KJ can provide tax benefits to your estate. Or you can set up a Charitable Remainder Trust that can provide you with both an income tax deduction and a lifetime income stream, while at the same time ensuring a charitable gift to KJ.

This may be the time to act. For more information, please contact Leonard Silverman at (212) 774-5680 or LSS@CKJ.org



On September 23rd, KJ families led by Rabbi Elie Weinstock decorated the sukkah of the "Y" of Washington Heights, as part of another wonderful chesed initiative of "UJA at KJ." Shown here are the Y's appreciative seniors and KJ Volunteers. To participate in future "UJA at KJ" events, contact Stacy Scheinberg at stacyron@aol.com or Elisa Bryskin Gage at elisabgage@yahoo.com

NATHAN AND VIVIAN FINK MEMORIAL LECTURE

RAV HERSHEL SCHACHTER

**Wednesday, January 9
8:00 PM**

Rav Hershel Schachter is one of the foremost halakhic thinkers of the Modern Orthodox community. His annual mini-course at KJ is a valuable resource and we are honored to host him in our community.



NEXT LECTURE: MARCH 12

YACHAD SHABBATON March 28-29

Join the Ramaz Upper School and KJ and give of yourself by reaching out to the special members of Yachad. Come discover how they bring happiness and joy to so many.

WHEN SERIOUS ILLNESS STRIKES AND DECISIONS HAVE TO BE MADE

Who Decides - the Patient, the Physician, the Rabbi, the Family?
A Practical Guide for Orthodox Families

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16TH
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

**Join Rabbi Haskel Lookstein as
he moderates a panel of
noteworthy speakers**

*In Conjunction with the Orthodox
Union*

CHANUKAH BEGINS TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 4

Chanukah celebrates the miracles of the spiritual and military victories of the Maccabees against the Hellenist tyrants that imposed anti-religious rule and desecrated the Holy Temple in 165 BCE. The 25th of Kislev was the day the Maccabees entered the Temple following the battle and wanted to restart the Holy Service that had ceased under the foreign rule. The Maccabees found only one day's supply of oil that they could use to rededicate the Menorah. Yet that tiny flask lasted until they were able to create new, pure oil – a delay of eight days.

The victory established Jewish religious and political sovereignty in Israel during the second Temple times. This miracle of Jewish independence had not been seen since the destruction of the First Temple and the assassination of the then governor, Gedalyah.

Primarily, we celebrate Chanukah with spiritual expressions: (1) lighting candles in commemoration of the miracle of the rededication of the Temple, (2) singing Hallel in praise of God's deliverance from our enemies, and (3) adding *Al Ha-Nisim* in our prayers of thanksgiving in recognition of both aspects of the miracle of Chanukah. We also have physical pleasures and celebrations by having (4) special foods, (5) gift giving, and even (6) parties.

The Candles

The prevailing custom is for each member of the family to light his or her own menorah which will have as many candles as that night of the holiday plus the shamash. Since the Chanukah candles are to commemorate the Menorah of the

Temple, we apply the same rules to both: the candles and their flames become holy and as such cannot be used for any other purpose. With the exception of the Shamash, we cannot read by their lights or use them to light another candle.

Time for Lighting

Candles must be lit after nightfall (about 40 minutes after sunset) and last for at least a half-hour. On Friday afternoon, Chanukah candles should be lit before Shabbat candles, and should be of a type that will last over an hour (this leads to many adopting the custom of using olive-oil based lamps). On Saturday night, the candles are lit after Havdalah.

Candle Arrangement

The candles are set from the right side of the Menorah as the candle lighter faces it. The Menorah should be placed in an area where it will not need to be moved after being lit. **Safety is also a major concern, so please do not leave the home with the candles unattended.**

Lighting the Candles

The lights are lit from left to right – starting with the newest candle first. We begin by lighting the shamash, then we say the blessings: (1) *ner shel Chanukah*, (2) *she-asa nisim*, and on the first night we add (3) *shehecheyanu*. Once the blessings are said, we light the first candle and begin singing the songs "Hanerot Hallalu" – which explains the reasons for the ceremony – and "Maoz Tzur" which describes all the salvations wrought by God for the Jewish People.

Publicizing the Miracle

We light the Menorah so we can publicize the miracle to as many people as

possible. We start with our own family but we often place the Menorah in the window to proclaim our belief to others.

Moreover, we publicize the miracle by singing the complete Hallel in the morning service and by adding *Al Ha-Nisim* in our daily *Shemona Esrei* and in *Birkat ha-Mazon*.

Material Pleasures

In addition to the spiritual nature of the holiday, we have added, in later times, the physical pleasures of special foods (latkes, jelly donuts), gift-giving (never a bad idea, especially Jewish books), and parties (that serve as a means for fellowship and for publicizing the miracle).

Chanukah is a time when we should renew our commitment and devotion to God. The brave Maccabees who risked their lives for religious freedom should serve as a model for us to celebrate those freedoms and our joy in service to God.

The Gift of Candles

Through the courtesy of the Kehilath Jeshurun Benevolent Fund, Chanukah candles have been sent to every recipient of the KJ Bulletin.

The proceeds of the Fund are used for deserving individuals who might not otherwise come to the attention of public charity.

Those who receive candles are urged to contribute to the KJ Benevolent Fund by sending a check to the synagogue office.

May you and your family have a Happy Chanukah!

SHABBAT AT KJ

KESHER YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINYAN

Gottesman Center - 9:15 AM

December 8, January 5 & 19

February 23, March 8

HASHKAMA MINYAN

Max. J. Etra Chapel - 7:15 AM

December 8 & 22, January 5 & 19

February 9 & 23, March 15 & 29

WOMEN'S TEFILAH GROUP

Max J. Etra Chapel - 9:15 AM

January 12 & March 15

TOT SHABBAT

For families with children 5 years and younger

Third Floor Dining Hall

Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, Mar. 14



For over 25 years, a dedicated group of KJ members has been visiting patients at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital on Shabbat, enhancing Shabbat for both the volunteer and the very ill. Shown here, from left to right, are KJ Members and Bikur Cholim veterans Brenda Bernstein, Rita Woldenberg and Marci Heit. For more information, please contact KJ Bikur Cholim Chair the Hon. Jerome Hornblass at 917-806-7595.

PURIM SCHEDULE



FAST OF ESTHER, Thursday, March 20

Fast begins at 5:46 a.m. and ends at 7:40 p.m.
Shacharit at 6:50 a.m. & Mincha at 6:45 p.m.
Please remember to bring Tzedaka.



MINCHA, MAARIV & MAIN MEGILLAH READING

Thursday Evening, March 20

Mincha is at 6:45 p.m. in the Main Synagogue. The readings of Megillat Esther will begin in both the Main Synagogue and the Gottesman Center following Maariv at 7:30 p.m. The reading in the Main Synagogue will be followed by a Purim Pizza and Ice Cream Party in the Heyman Auditorium, featuring Rabbi Avrumi Sacks. Cost: \$5.00/person.



CHILDREN

At 7:15 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 KJ Gym. 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.

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 and Ice Cream Party.



SECOND EVENING READING

7:40 p.m. - Second reading (quiet, no children) of Megillat Esther with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik in the Gottesman Center.



BEGINNER'S MEGILLAH READING

8:45 p.m. - Beginners Megillah Reading with Rabbi Elie Weinstock and Shilo Kramer in the Gottesman Center.



MORNING SERVICES AND MEGILLAH

Friday, March 21

Morning Services at 7:00 a.m. in the Main Synagogue followed by Megillah reading and breakfast in the Heyman Auditorium, which constitutes the Purim Seudah this year.

Second Shacharit and Megillah reading starts at 9:30 a.m. in the Main Synagogue, followed by breakfast and Carnival.



PURIM YOUTH CARNIVAL

In the Gottesman Center from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., 114 East 85th Street. Buy tickets in advance by contacting the KJ Youth Director at Eytan@ckj.org



CANDLELIGHTING & MINCHA

Candle Lighting is at 6:52 p.m. Mincha is at 6:45 p.m., followed by Kabbalat Shabbat.

MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

FILMS

The Making of a Martyr

With Director Brooke Goldstein
Sunday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m.

A Cantor's Tale

With Director Eric Greenberg Anjou
Sunday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Hill 24 Doesn't Answer

Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

AM HASEFER BOOK CLUB

Awake in the Dark

With Author Shira Nyman
Sunday, December 9 at 8:00 p.m.

David and Bethsheba

With Author Joel Cohen
Sunday, February 3 at 8:00 p.m.

Abraham Epstein:

The Forgotten Father of Social Security

With Author Pierre Epstein
Sunday, February 24 at 8:00 p.m.

SPECIAL LECTURES

Jews in Latin America

With Ariel Kwacz, Daniele Lassner, & George Rohr
Sunday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m.

The Holocaust and the Peter Bergson Group

With Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, Robert Bier,
& Professor Rebecca Kook
Sunday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENT

Second Annual KJ Salon

Featuring Bonnie Dietrich and other musicians
Saturday Evening, January 12 at 8:00 p.m.

KIDDUSH DISCUSSION

With Lucette Lagnado
Author of "The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit"
Shabbat, January 12

PURIM: THE JEWISH WAY TO REJOICE - March 20 & 21, 2008

WHAT IS PURIM?

Purim, the holiday on the 14th of Adar, is one of the happiest days of the Jewish calendar. The Talmud (Taanit 29b) states "when Adar begins we increase in Joy" because Adar and Purim are hallmarks of God's salvation of the Jewish people.

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.

MESSAGE OF THE HOLIDAY

Purim is a festive day because God rescued us from our enemies. Yet, as seen in the ancient work *Megillat Taanit*, 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 their inherent messages 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 the Persian empire, during the exile of 70 years (circa 366-355 BCE). The main characters are: **Mordechai** (rabbi, hero), **Esther** (his cousin, becomes queen of Persia), **Achashverosh** (king of Persia, easily swayed to either side), and **Haman** ym"sh (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 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 plead with 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 Shabbat preceding Purim (this year, March 15, 2008) 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. 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). 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

Normally we go straight from the fast to the Megillah reading - only eating after we have fulfilled that mitzvah. This year, 5768, we treat the fast day like any other.

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 synagogue repair.

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 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.

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.

(Continued on page 7)

Seudah: This year, as Purim is on Friday, a festive breakfast after davening is an ideal way to fulfill this obligation

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 a bit 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): "we are still servants to Achashverosh."

Purim Customs

During the readings of the Megillah, we fulfill the commandment to "blot out" the name of Amalek by making loud noises whenever Haman's 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 **groggers**: 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.

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 (although a few other cities in Israel have taken on both days as a longstanding custom, e.g. Acco, Yaffo, Tiberias). May you have a healthy, happy, *freilichen* Purim!

חמש סירופ גח!



ANNUAL BNEI AKIVA SHABBATON

JANUARY 18, 2008

Experience the vitality, ruach and togetherness of Bnei Akiva in a Shabbaton filled with singing, great food, learning and special activities brought to you by the world's largest Religious Zionist youth movement.

FEATURING:

**Friday Night Dinner
at 6:00 PM**

Oneg at 8:00 PM

**All following 4:50 PM services
at KJ**

Dinner is \$15 per person
Registration deadline: January 14th
For more information, contact Bnei Akiva Shlichot Revital and Pirchit
at 347-297-9308 or
BrownsteinR@ramaz.org

9TH ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

Special Gala Seudah Shlishit

Honoring Members of:

Chevre Kadisha

Bikur Cholim

Hatzolah

Congregational Chesed Volunteers

March 15th

Following 6:35 pm Mincha

**Special Presentation by:
Marshall Huebner
"Moshe's Family"**

This event is held in conjunction with Moshe Rabbeinu's yahrzeit (Adar 7)

There is no charge, but we ask that you please confirm your attendance by contacting Sara@ckj.org



February 2008

Book Drive to benefit Jewish Child Care Association's Bukharian Teen Lounge.

In concert with National Literacy Month, we will be collecting books for the Bukharian Teen Lounge, which offers after school programs specifically targeting Bukharian teens, many of whom are at-risk youth in need of support, guidance and a safe space.

March 16, 2008

Join us as we head to the Shorefront Y in Brighton Beach to help them run their annual Purim Carnival for Jewish families from the former Soviet Union.

To participate in future "UJA at KJ" events, contact Stacy Scheinberg at stacyron@aol.com or Elisa Bryskin Gage at elisabgage@yahoo.com



KJ BEGINNERS PRESENTS
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

RAV BINNY FREEDMAN
DIRECTOR OF ISRALIGHT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 6:00 PM
Carlebach services followed by dinner

Save the Date: March 7, 2008 at 6:45 pm
Shabbat Across America

Featuring Rabbi Haskel Lookstein
Carlebach services followed by dinner

JEWISH LEARNING INSTITUTE AT KJ



**“Beyond Belief: Reflections on
Jewish Faith, Reason
and Experience”**

With Rabbi Elie Weinstock

Maimonides, articulated thirteen principles that are at the core of Jewish faith and define our consciousness. Taken together, they form the basis for a deeply satisfying relationship with God, with the world in which we live and with our true selves.

\$79 per class; \$135 per couple.

Try the first class for free!

No one is turned away for lack of funds
6 Mondays at 7:30 PM Starting February 4

**Pathways of Light and Meaning:
A Textual Study of Modern Jewish Theology**

with Rabbi Sam Shor

A year long exploration of the works of three 20th century theological giants - Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of Israel; Rabbi Kalonimus Kalmish Shapiro, the Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto; and Rabbi Shalom Noach Brazovsky, the late Rebbe of Slonim and author of the Netivot Shalom.

Wednesdays at 8:00 pm at different homes
December 5 & 19; January 9 & 23
February 6 & 20; March 5 & 26

Call 212-774-5678 for location
In Collaboration with Isralight

WINTER LEARNING AT KJ

Crash Course in Basic Judaism
with Rabbi Elie Weinstock
Starts January 8th at 7:00 pm

Jewish Essentials
with Rabbi Elie Weinstock
Starts January 8th at 8:00 pm

Hebrew Reading Crash Course
with Sara Rosen
Starts January 9th at 6:30 pm

Explorations in Hebrew Reading
with Shilo Kramer
Starts January 9th at 7:00 pm

Holiday Workshops
with Rabbi Elie Weinstock

Purim
Monday, March 17th at 7:00 pm

Passover
Monday, April 14th at 7:00 pm

*To find out about other learning opportunities
at KJ, call 212-774-5678.*

**THURSDAY NIGHT LEARNING
WITH
RABBI WEISER**

Profit from the Prophets
November 29, December 6, 13, 20

**The Second Temple:
Judaism, Hellenism, and Rome**
January 10, 17, 24; February 7

Purim in the Talmud
February 21, 28; March 6, 13

**Chad Gadya:
Topics in the End of the
Haggadah**
March 27; April 3, 10

Classes start at 7:00 pm

Studies in the Weekly Portion
with Rabbi Weiser
Starting January 10th at 8:00 pm

In Memoriam

FLORENCE COHEN

On the Friday before Labor Day, Florence Cohen volunteered to come in to help the office in preparation for the High Holy Days. She was struck by a car as she walked to work that morning and died 13 days later on the first day of Rosh Hashana, after the shofar was sounded for her in the ICU.

It was typical of Florence, who was the Secretary to the Rabbis at KJ for 40 years; first, serving the late Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein and then being the right-hand person of Rabbi Haskel Lookstein. But she was more than that: she was the servant of the entire KJ/Ramaz family. She never knew what a clock was or, for that matter, a calendar. She was totally devoted and committed to our family, beloved by young and old, and consistently a pleasant, warm and welcoming voice on the phone when any of us called the office.

She was the devoted wife of Josef Cohen, the loving sister of Fran Gottlieb and the adoring Aunt and Great Aunt of Fran's children and grandchildren. Privately, she was a deeply involved member of the Women's Chevra Kadisha of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, and a very generous provider of funds to people in need who came to her attention.

She lived a life of incredible service and loyalty to her family and to our community. Her soul will be forever bound up in ours.

ESTELLE KATSH

She was the loving wife of the late Professor Abraham I. Katsh, who was a pioneer in Jewish Studies in America and, most recently, the Head of the Department of Judaic Studies at NYU. Estelle Katsh devoted her life to her family. She was extremely proud and supportive of her illustrious husband and very often kept herself in the background, but those of us who knew the couple knew the strength and determination of Mrs. Katsh.

She was a wonderful mother to her three children, all of whom are alumni of Ramaz. She was extremely proud of them and of her grandchildren with whom she was very close.

She loved KJ and, until very late in her life, she used to love to come to shul, occupy her place in the ladies balcony and pray to God while associating with God's children, her many friends. She was an *eishet chayil* in every sense of that word.

DAVID LEVY

David Levy was a presence wherever he went and especially here in KJ. He came to us about 35 years ago and quickly became friends with everyone.

David was a very devoted husband to his late wife, Lynn, and to his son, Howard. He was an adoring grandfather to his grandchildren. He served as a Trustee, as an Officer of the Men's Club, and then as Vice President of the Congregation. His term of service on the Congregation's Executive Committee was the apex of a long and accomplished tenure as a community leader. He regularly traveled to midtown to attend the Rabbi's Talmud class where he enjoyed the scholarship and comradery.

David loved a party. He was an unending source of humor and jokes. He really cared about people. For many years, he was the Gabbai at the Concord Hotel on holidays, where he used to make sure that everyone who needed one received an honor. He was also extremely generous to many causes, some of which we knew about and some of which we only found out about after his death.

His passing created a big void. What he brought to us at KJ will never be forgotten.

IRENE SEPTIMUS

She died alone after an illness of which we were not aware. It was a very sad end to a vibrant and caring life. Irene Septimus was a fixture in our congregation for many years. She not only davened in our shul; she was present at every occasion, at classes and at lectures, at dinners and at Am Ha-Sefer gatherings. She always had a glowing smile on her face and greeted everyone with a cheerful countenance.

Unbeknownst to most of us, she demonstrated exceptional thoughtfulness and concern for members of our congregation who needed a helping hand. She never forgot what it meant to live alone and perhaps that is why she was so devoted to others who shared the same kind of life.

Her death was a sudden blow to us all. We miss her terribly.

CREATE AN ENDURING LEGACY

Please consider participating in the Congregation's Endowment and Planned Giving Program, through which you can create an enduring legacy of active participation in KJ. Contact Leonard Silverman at 212-774-5680 or LSS@CKJ.org for information.

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PLAZA JEWISH COMMUNITY CHAPEL

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Raquel and E. Magnus
Oppenheim
gratefully acknowledge the many
expressions of support, caring
and friendship from the KJ
community upon the passing of
Magnus' mother,
GERDA P. OPPENHEIM, obm

BNAI MITZVAH



AMALIA KAUFMAN

Mazal Tov to Carol and Jeffrey Kaufman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Amalia, which took place in Israel during Chol HaMoed Sukkot where Molly delivered a Dvar Torah on the responsibilities she has assumed on becoming a Jewish woman.



EMMA BLINKEN

Mazal Tov to Barbara and Jonathan Blinken on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Emma, which took place on December 2nd at Congregation Orach Chaim where she delivered a Dvar Torah on how the Torah looks at the treatment of animals. Emma is in the 7th grade at the Hewitt School.



ARIANNA BRESLAUER

Mazal Tov to Lauren and Keith Breslauer on the forthcoming Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Arianna, which will take place on December 8th at St. John's Wood Synagogue in London where she will deliver a Dvar Torah. Arianna is in the 7th grade at the North London Collegiate School for girls.



GABRIELLA UVEGI

Mazal Tov to Clarissa and Harry Uvegi on the forthcoming Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Gabriella, which will take place on the sixth night of Chanukah, December 9th, at the Abraham Joshua Heschel High School. She will read from the Torah and deliver a Dvar Torah. Gabriella also read Parshat Toldot on November 8th at the Abraham Joshua Heschel Middle School, where she is in the 6th grade.



RAFFI SNOW

Mazal Tov to Lisa and Lee Snow on the forthcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son, Raffi, which will take place on January 26th in the Main Synagogue at KJ where he will read Parshat Yitro and deliver a Dvar Torah. Raffi is in the 7th grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



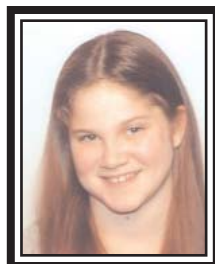
YONATAN BROOME

Mazal Tov to Aliza and Alvin Broome on the forthcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son, Yonatan, which will take place on February 2nd at KJ where he will read Parshat Mishpatim and the Haftarah. There will be a Bar Mitzvah celebration in Yerushalyim on February 15th and 16th. Yonatan is in the 7th grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



BENJAMIN RAPAPORT

Mazal Tov to Drs. Charmaine and David Rapaport on the forthcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son, Benjamin, which will take place on February 23rd in the Main Synagogue at KJ where he will read Parshat Ki Tisah. Benjamin is in the 7th grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



DANIELLA EVE WILNER

Mazal Tov to Judy and Dr. Philip Wilner on the forthcoming Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Dani, which will take place on March 1st at the Ramaz Upper School, where she will deliver a Dvar Torah on "Sibling Relationships in the Torah." Dani is in the 6th grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



JACK LEWITTES

Mazal Tov to Jane and Michael Lewittes on the forthcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jack, which will take place on March 15th at Congregation Orach Chaim where he will read Parshat Vayikra, Zachor, and the Haftarah. He will also deliver a Dvar Torah. Jack is in the 7th grade at the Ramaz Middle School.

West Side Mikvah
234 West 74th Street
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(Recorded Message)

East Side Mikvah
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Telephone: 212-359-2020

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

BIRTHS

Mazal Tov to:

Dina and Jacques Farhi upon the birth of their grandson, Jacob Saul, born to their children Talia and Joshua Sadres.

Janet and J. Michael Fried upon the birth of a granddaughter, Hannah Esther, to their children Miriam and Aaron Klein of Boca Raton.

Stacey and David Kanbar upon the birth of their second child and first son, Benjamin Reese.

Abby and Josh Kaufthal upon the birth of their first child and son, Joseph Leo.

Drs. Jody and Elie Levine upon the birth of their fourth child and first son, William Joseph.

Nicole and Joseph Meyer upon the birth of their first child and son, George. Mazel Tov as well to the proud KJ grandparents, Seryl and Charles Kushner.

Dr. Leora Mogilner and Richard Linhart upon the birth of their second son, Jacob Zachary. Mazel Tov as well to the proud KJ grandmother, Rochelle Mogilner.

Michaela and Nathaniel Muller upon the birth of their second daughter, Ora Ayelet.

Chrissie and Aaron Packles upon the birth of their first child and son, Max Aryeh.

Ori and Stefanie Pagovich upon the birth of their third child and first daughter, Sylvie Raya. Mazel Tov as well to the proud KJ grandmother, Talia Pagovich.

Janelle and Dr. Sheldon Pike upon the birth of their first child and son, Richard Levy.

Ingebord and Ira Rennert upon the birth of a grandson, Joshua Solomon, born to their children Nina and Mitchell Davidson.

Ellen & David Scheinfeld upon the birth of a granddaughter, Batsheva Rena, born to their children U.S. Army Major Moshe and Rivka Scheinfeld. Batsheva joins big sister Tamar in this newly expanded outfit! Upon Moshe's honorable discharge from active duty in January, the family will make their home in Los Angeles.

Sara and Simon Shemia upon the birth of their third child and second son, Victor Abraham. Mazel Tov to the proud KJ grandparents, Marilyn Meltzer and Dr. Sheldon Muhlbauser.

Lois and Louis Smigel upon the birth of a grandson, Harrison Asher, born to their children Stephen and Julie Smigel.

Layaliza and KJ Associate Rabbi Meir Soloveichik upon the birth of their third child and first daughter, Serach.

Phyllis and Mark Speiser on the birth of a grandson, Netanel, born to their children David Speiser (Ramaz '00) and Eva Amsellem of Jerusalem.

Jennifer and Jared Wasserman upon the birth of their son, Noah Alan.

Ariel Groveman Weiner and Joshua Weiner upon the birth of their second child and first daughter, Yael Groveman Weiner.

Elliot and Doris Weiss on the birth of a granddaughter, Sophie Abigail, to their children Eric and Rebecca Sigman.

Jennifer and Jeremy Yashar upon the birth of their first child, a son, Jacob David.

May these children grow up in the finest tradition of Torah, chupah, and maasim tovim.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mazal Tov to:

Fay and Joshua Deutsch upon the engagement of their grandson, Jeremy Deutsch, to Lisa Sopher, daughter of Marilyn Sopher of Riverdale. Jeremy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Deutsch.

Bernard and Vivian Falk on the engagement of their son, Jeremy, to Elizabeth Silverman, daughter of Dr. David and Marjorie Silverman.

Susan and Peter Frankel on the engagement of their son, Michael, to Audrey Hutt, daughter of Ellyn and Steven Hutt of Denver.

Dr. Karin Katz and Joel Katz on the engagement of their son, Avery, to Annie Bernstein, daughter of Susan and Dr. Larry Bernstein of Hillcrest. Avery (Ramaz '02) is an analyst at Lazard Freres, and Annie, an NYU senior, plans to attend medical school in the fall of 2008.

Esther and Ira Krawitz on the engagement of their son, Aaron, to Emily Chanales, daughter of Betsy and Dr. Alan Chanales.

Alex Pollak, upon his engagement to Tova Kahan.

Cheryl Fishbein and Phil Schatten on the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Fishbein, to David Rak in Paris.

Janie and Dr. Robert Schwalbe on the engagement of their son, Joshua, to Aliza Susswein, daughter of Malka and Sam Susswein of Riverdale.

Nechi Shudofsky upon the engagement of her grandson, Eytan Shalev, to Yael Dvir. Eytan is the son of Miriam and Binny Shalev of Hoshaya, Israel.

Michael and Dr. Adina Singer on the engagement of their daughter, Gealiah, to Matthew Friend, son of Wendy Kaplan Friend and David Friend of Woodmere.

May their weddings take place in happiness and blessing.

MARRIAGES

Mazal tov to:

Marcia and Arthur Brody on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Rosie and Dr. Mark Friedman on the marriage of their son, Yosef, to Rivkah Geller, daughter of the late Jack Geller z"l, and Judy & Marty Blachman of Jamaica Estates.

Rose Gerszberg on the marriage of her daughter, Naomi, to Benjy White, son of Marcie Leff and Michael White.

Bertha and Henry Kressel upon the marriage of their grandson, Ariel Nechemya Ephrat, to Chana Gila Katz, both from Efrat, Israel. The wedding took place in Jerusalem's Great Synagogue in October.

Judy & Isaac Sherman on the marriage of their grandson, Jason Ingerman, to Dena Itzkowitz. Mazel tov as well to Jason's parents, Joanne & Jeff Ingerman; Dena's parents, Phyllis & Martin Itzkowitz; and Jason's greatgrandparents, Florence & David Cohen.

BNAI MITZVAH

Mazal tov to:

Bertha and Henry Kressel upon the June Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Perri Kressel.

Nechi Shudofsky upon the Sukkot Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Shachar Chesner, daughter of Rachel and Stuart Chesner of Israel.

COMMUNAL HONORS

Congratulations to:

Maks L. Birnbach, Chairman, Fullcut Manufacturers, Inc., on being honored at the 2007 New York Gala for the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Judy and Isaac Sherman on being honored at the Israel Cancer Research Fund Dinner.

Ralou and Ronnie Stern who were the Guests of Honor at the Annual Dinner of Ohr Torah Stone Institutions.

Robyn Price Stonehill and David Stonehill on being honored at AMIT's Annual Dinner.

Leon Wildes, who was honored by Yeshiva University at a gala celebration dinner for his work directing the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law Immigration Clinic and serving as Professor of Law there. A graduate of Yeshiva College, Leon has served as Treasurer of its Executive Committee since 2002.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Gil Golan upon completing the 300 mile Wheels of Love bicycle ride on behalf of Israel's ALYN Hospital, a world leader in the intensive rehabilitation of disabled children.

Dr. Henry Kressel upon receiving an honorary degree from Yeshiva University at their Chanukah Dinner and Convocation.

Jonathan Oppenheim, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Magnus Oppenheim, authored an article in the online journal MyJewishLearning.com titled "The Origins of Jewish Performance from Prohibition to Precedent." Jonathan, a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of Arts, is a candidate for a M.Ph. in Ibsen Studies at the University of Oslo, Norway.

Ariel Shay, daughter of Susan and Scott Shay, on winning the Silver medal in the mixed relays in swimming at the Junior Macabiah games in August.

Joseph A. Sokol on completing the GoVertical Challenge by climbing the 103 flights of stairs of the Sears Tower as part of a fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Project, a private organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life of America's brave men and women in uniform who have been wounded in combat.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to:

Dr. Ellen Agoos on the passing of her father, Murray Tishberg.

David Bernstein on the passing of his father, Murray Bernstein.

Adam Emmerich on the passing of his father, Andre Emmerich.

Toby Gotesman Schneier on the passing of her brother, Mike Gotesman.

Yvonne Koppel on the passing of her mother, Elise Frohman.

Howard Levine on the passing of his mother, Evelyn Levine.

E. Magnus Oppenheim on the passing of his mother, Gerda P. Oppenheim.

George Rohr on the passing of his mother, Charlotte Rohr.

Joseph Romano on the passing of his mother, Victoria Romano.

Marian Rosner on the passing of her mother, Sarah Probst.

Naomi Smook on the passing of her father, Bert Smook.

Judy Tanz on the passing of her husband, Dr. Alfred Tanz, the father of Steven Tanz, Sarah Rich, Larry Tanz, and P.J. Slomovitz.

Jill Wildes on the passing of her father, Irwin Brandfon.

Dr. Jerald Zimmerman on the passing of his father, David Zimmerman.

May they be comforted among all those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem





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Meir Soloveichik Associate Rabbi
Elimelech Weinstock Associate Rabbi
Hillel Rapp Assistant Rabbi
David Flatto Rabbinic Scholar
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SHABBAT SCHEDULE

		<i>Lighting of Candles</i>	<i>Friday Evening Services</i>	<i>Saturday Afternoon Services</i>	<i>Sabbath Ends</i>
December					
30-1	Vayeshev	4:12 PM	4:25 PM	4:05 PM	5:09 PM
7-8	Miketz	4:11 PM	4:25 PM	4:05 PM	5:08 PM
14-15	Vayigash	4:11 PM	4:25 PM	4:05 PM	5:10 PM
21-22	Vayehi	4:14 PM	4:25 PM	4:10 PM	5:12 PM
28-29	Shemot	4:18 PM	4:30 PM	4:15 PM	5:17 PM
January					
4-5	Vaera	4:24 PM	4:35 PM	4:20 PM	5:22 PM
11-12	Bo	4:30 PM	4:45 PM	4:25 PM	5:29 PM
18-19	Beshalach	4:38 PM	4:50 PM	4:35 PM	5:37 PM
25-26	Yitro	4:47 PM	5:00 PM	4:40 PM	5:44 PM
February					
1-2	Mishpatim	4:55 PM	5:10 PM	4:50 PM	5:52 PM
8-9	Terumah	5:04 PM	5:15 PM	4:55 PM	6:00 PM
15-16	Tetzaveh	5:12 PM	5:25 PM	5:05 PM	6:08 PM
22-23	Ki Tisa	5:21 PM	5:35 PM	5:15 PM	6:16 PM
29-1	Vayakhel	5:29 PM	5:40 PM	5:20 PM	6:23 PM
March					
7-8	Pekudei	5:37 PM	5:50 PM	5:30 PM	6:31 PM
14-15	Vayikra - Zachor	6:44 PM	6:45 PM	6:35 PM	7:38 PM
21-22	Tzav	6:52 PM	6:45 PM	6:45 PM	7:46 PM
28-29	Shemini	6:59 PM	6:45 PM	6:50 PM	7:53 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

Dec. 2- 274:25 PM	Jan. 20-244:55 PM	Feb. 17-215:30 PM
Dec. 30-Jan. 34:30 PM	Jan. 27-315:00 PM	Feb. 24-285:35 PM
Jan. 6-104:40 PM	Feb. 3-75:10 PM	March 2-65:45 PM
Jan. 13-174:45 PM	Feb. 10-145:20 PM	March 9-316:45 PM

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed - Fri, December 5-7 Chanukah Service at 7:10 am Monday, December 10 Chanukah/Rosh Chodesh Tevet Morning Service at 7:00 am Tue-Wed, December 11-12 Chanukah Service at 7:10 am Wednesday, December 19 Fast of the 10th of Tevet Fast Begins at 6:03 am Morning Service at 6:50 am	Afternoon Service at 4:10 pm Fast Ends at 5:08 pm Tuesday, December 25 Morning Service at 8:30 am Tuesday, January 1 Morning Service at 8:30 am Tuesday, January 8 Rosh Chodesh Shevat Morning Service at 7:00 am Tuesday, January 22 Tu B'Shevat	Wed - Thurs, February 6-7 Rosh Chodesh Adar I Morning Service at 7:00 am Monday, February 18 Morning Service at 8:30 am Friday, March 7 Rosh Chodesh Adar II Morning Service at 7:00 am For Purim Schedule see page 5
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In preparing the Bulletin, we welcome all KJ members' announcements of communal, academic and professional achievements. Please e-mail Eva@CKJ.org or mail news to the synagogue, marked "ATTN: KJ Bulletin"

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