

CHANUKAH/PURIM ISSUE



KEHILATH JESHURUN BULLETIN

Volume LXXVIII, Number 2

December 15, 2008

18 Kislev 5769

Women's Torah Scholarship Celebrated at KJ *Rabbi Lookstein's 50 Years as Rabbinic Leader Honored*

Great minds came together at a mini-Hakhel held at KJ on Sunday, November 16, in honor of Rabbi Haskel Lookstein's fifty years as KJ Rabbinic leader. Sponsored by MaTaNa, a Jerusalem-based Women's Institute for Torah Studies, the program embodied the commitment to tradition and learning shared by KJ and Ramaz.

Rabbi Lookstein welcomed the overflow crowd with a D'var Torah, inspired by Professor Yeshayahu Leibowitz, comparing the two types of *yirat Elokim* mentioned in parashat Vayera. The first is mentioned in conjunction with Avimelech, king of Gerar. The reason Avraham lied to Avimelech about Sarah not being his wife was because Avraham was afraid that there was no *yirat Elokim* in that city and he would surely be killed so

that Avimelech could take Sarah for himself. In this case the fear of God is similar to the fear one has of a policeman or a judge who metes out punishment.

Yirat Elokim is later attributed in the parasha to Avraham when he demonstrated a willingness to obey God's command to sacrifice his only son, Yitzchak. In this situation, however, the fear of God comes from total commitment to, and faith in, God. Avraham may have been conflicted and terrified by this commandment, but he was nonetheless prepared to obey God's words.

The enthusiastic audience then had the opportunity to learn from four MaTaNa scholars, all of whom embody the concept of *yirat Elokim* as emulated by Avraham. Dr. Bryna Levy, Dean of the Joan and Shael Bellows Masters Program at MaTaNa

and the author of *Waiting for Rain: Reflections at the Turning of the Year*, led off the program by raising the question of who from Bnei Yisrael should be present at Hakhel, the gathering of the Jewish people every seven years when the Torah is read.

After giving her audience opportunity to independently study the texts on which her presentation was based, *b'chavruta*, Dr. Levy reviewed the historical contributions of Shafan (the scribe of King Yoshiya), Ezra, and Rabbi Akiva to the reading of, and the study of, Torah. She concluded, based upon the analysis, it was determined that **all** of Bnei Yisrael - from the most scholarly to children - needed to be at Hakhel because we never know who the next champion of the Torah will be.

Rabbanit Malka Bina, the founder and

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SAMUEL S. SILVERSTEIN SHABBATON

JANUARY 30-31, 2009

January 30 - Friday Evening Dinner
immediately following 5:05 PM Shabbat services:

**"THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS
TO THE STUDY OF JEWISH HISTORY"**

January 31 - Saturday Morning
at the conclusion of
9:00 AM Shabbat services:

**"ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE:
FRIENDS OR FOES"**

Our Featured Scholar

DR. LAWRENCE H. SCHIFFMAN

FRIDAY EVENING SHABBAT DINNER

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

Dr. Lawrence H. Schiffman, chairman of New York University's Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, serves as Ethel and Irvin A. Edelman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies and is also a member of the University's Centers for Ancient Studies and Near Eastern

Studies. An expert on the Dead Sea Scrolls, Professor Schiffman received his BA, MA and PhD degrees from Brandeis University and currently serves as editor-in-chief of the Center for Online Judaic Studies in New York.

Yoetzet Halakhah to Visit KJ

The laws of *taharat hamishpacha*, family purity, can seem daunting and confusing, especially for those who are newly married and or/observant. A *yoetzet halakhah* is a learned woman with recognized expertise in the field, to whom women can turn for advice, answers and encouragement.

KJ is proud to welcome Atara Eis, who learned at Nishmat's Keren Ariel Institute to become a *yoetzet halakhah*, and who will address the congregation on February 7th, Shabbat Parashat Beshalach. Atara will also offer monthly programs on a wide array of women's health and *halakha* topics, and she will assist the synagogue rabbis by advising women on sensitive issues of *taharat hamishpacha* and health.

Atara can be reached at 610-639-7474 or at ataraeis@gmail.com

HALAKHAH, SEX, AND SEXUALITY AT KJ

A fabulous new class for women, taught by KJ's own Surie Sugarman, explores Jewish sources spanning the generations covering topics such as the mitzvah of marital sex, hilkhot niddah, immersion in the mikvah, the mitzvah of procreation, and contraception. The class will address the following questions: What does Judaism have to say about sex and sexuality? What laws govern the sexual relationship between husband and wife?

The class meets weekly on Thursday mornings at 8:30 in the Jess Ward Library. Surie Sugarman is a graduate of Barnard College and Columbia Law School and is a practicing attorney. A frequent guest teacher, she has studied Torah for many years at KJ and at Drisha Institute for Jewish Education.



Chanukah in the Park

Sunday,
December 21 at
5:00 pm

Join KJ Beginners and Chabad - Lubavitch of the Upper East Side as we celebrate and publicize the miracle of Chanukah at the 86th Street promenade in Carl Schurz Park.

- 🕒 Giant Menorah lighting
- 🕒 Music
- 🕒 Chanukah treats
- 🕒 Fun for the whole family!

WINTER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

December 6- Open Gym Night for Grades 2-4
 December 7 - KJBL
 December 13 - Open Gym Night for Grades 7-12
December 13 - Family Mishnayot learning with Rabbi Soloveichik for grades 2-4
 December 14 - KJBL
 December 14 - Hello Yellow
 December 20 - Open Gym Night for Grades 5-6
 December 21 - KJBL
 January 11 - KJBL
January 17 - Family Mishnayot learning with Rabbi Soloveichik for grades 2-4
 January 17 - Open Gym Night for Grades 7-12
 January 18 - KJBL
 January 24 - Open Gym Night for Grades 5-6
 January 25 - KJBL
 February 1 - KJBL
 February 1 - Hello Yellow
February 1- Super Bowl Party

February 6- Tot Shabbat Program
 February 7 - Open Gym Night for Grades 2-4
 February 8 - KJBL
 February 15 - KJBL
February 21 - Family Mishnayot learning with Rabbi Soloveichik for grades 2-4
 February 21 - Open Gym Night for Grades 7-12
 February 24 - KJBL
February 27 - Bnei Akiva Shabbaton
 February 28 - Open Gym Night for Grades 5-6
 March 1 - KJBL
March 7 Family Mishnayot learning with Rabbi Soloveichik for grades 2-4
 March 8 - KJBL
 March 9 - Purim Bash
 March 10- Purim Carnival
 March 15 - KJBL
 April 5 - Hello Yellow

UPCOMING KESHER EVENTS

Funkey Monkeys Concert
 Sunday, December 14th

Melave Malka
 Saturday evening, January 24th

Saturday Night Social Event
 Saturday, February 28th

New Mothers' Breakfast
 Tuesday, March 24th

Pre-Pesach Chesed Event
 Sunday, April 5th

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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 18:

Lauren and Justin Brody
 Norma and Dr. Howard Bruckner
 Dr. Daniel L. Crane
 Lisa Sopher-Deutsch
 and Jeremy Deutsch

Janice and Robert Montefiore
 Rachel and Craig Title
 Leah and Joel Weinberg
 Shahla and Barry Weiner

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

Simchat Torah day at KJ was truly joyous. We had the opportunity to demonstrate our Simchat Torah through the spirited dancing in the Main Synagogue and in the Women's Tefilah Group. Limud Torah was evident at the excellent shiur delivered by Surie Sugarman in which she examined the succession of Moshe Rabbeinu by Yehoshua. Kriyat haTorah brought us the merit of completing the Torah at which time we experienced a sense of loss with the death of Moshe and then the immediate rush which accompanies the reading from Bereishit.

What better representation could we at KJ have had as our three chatanim this year than our three beloved rabbis! We thank Rabbi Lookstein for reaching his 50th year in the KJ pulpit so that we could honor him, and Rabbis Weinstock and Soloveichik for their fine community service.

Introduction of the Chatanim Simchat Torah 2008

by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein

Why was the first chapter of the Book of Joshua chosen for the Haftarah of Simchat Torah? The question is asked by Dr. Bryna Levy in an article which she submitted for publication in the Jubilee volume that is to be published this winter in honor of my 50th anniversary in the rabbinate. She observes, quite properly, that there is a fairly simple answer to the question. At the beginning of the Book of Joshua, God announces, "My servant Moses has died..., and the time has come to transfer the torch of leadership to Moses' attendant, Joshua." Joshua's responsibility is exceedingly great. On the one hand it is his responsibility to bring the Jewish people to the Land of Israel and to conquer it. On the other hand, he has a second responsibility: To continue the pattern of life and the teaching of the Torah which Moses gave to the people of Israel. The verse is clear: "Let not this Book of the Torah move from your lips, but recite it day and night, so that you may observe faithfully all that is written in it. Only then will you prosper in your undertakings and only then will you be successful." The

responsibility was awesome; the challenges were enormous and therefore the new leader was commanded: "*Rak chazak ve'ematz* - be strong and courageous."

Without trying to be overly melodramatic, the decision by the Officers and Executive Committee of KJ to confer the highest Torah honors of the year on me and upon my two associates in the Rabbinate at KJ, was not just a celebration of my 50th Anniversary in this congregation. It was also a statement about what a rabbi's responsibility is: To maintain the continuity of Torah in each generation. This is the underlying theme of the first chapter of the Book of Joshua: "*Hemshech*." The ongoing survival and enhancement of Torah. And what better way to focus on the theme of the perpetuation of Torah than to speak about our *Chatan Bereishit* and our *Chatan Maftir* as representing the past, the present and the future of Torah.

But first, before I speak about them, I would like to ask our *Chatan Maftir* to present the *Chatan Torah*, me! In doing so, I am preparing myself for almost anything that might be said because the presenter is particularly gifted in bringing forth the unexpected, the unanticipated and, sometimes, even the undreamed of.

Presentation of Chatan Torah, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein

by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

"*Shemona pesukim she-ba-Torah*," we are told by the Talmud, "*yachid koreh otam*." The last verses of the Torah are read by an individual. There are many interpretations of this passage, but one is that only a *yachid*, someone unique, who embodies the values of Moshe Rabbeinu, can finish the Torah and close the book on the biography of Moses.

Every year Rabbi Lookstein introduces our honoree by describing his unique qualities and explaining why he is uniquely suited to serve as a groom of the law. For whatever reason, he did not feel suited to introduce our honoree this year, maybe he doesn't know him well enough.

And so it falls to me to announce our choice of chatan Torah, and to explain why, of all members of our community, we, this year, chose this person in particular.

This Simchat Torah, we honor a member of our shul who comes from a family with a history of involvement here at KJ; indeed he and his family have been involved in KJ for...as long as I can remember. I mean, as far back as 2004 I was mightily impressed by his dedication. He was someone who worked hard during the week at his job, burning the midnight oil at his office, yet on Shabbat morning he was here quite early, earlier than most members, sometimes even earlier than me - and I know that's hard to believe. This was a member of our shul who cared passionately for chesed and tzedaka, so passionately in fact that he didn't just donate to the shul - he actually called up other members and encouraged them to give! Now nobody's perfect, and there's always room for improvement; for example, while our *chatan Torah* is quite ready to criticize other for engaging in conversation during *tefillah* or *kriyat haTorah*, I myself have seen him speaking during the sermon, sometimes for 15-20 minutes at a stretch. And quite loudly- I mean the whole shul can hear him!

In all seriousness, this year we honor our leader, our Rav, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein as *Chatan Torah*. And you don't really need me to tell you why he is a fitting person to conclude the story of *Moshe Rabbeinu*. My grandfather once noted that Moshe, before being chosen by God to lead the Jewish people, engaged in three actions. First he went out to his brothers and saved a Jew being beaten by a non-Jew, an Egyptian; then, he intervened between two Jews who were fighting; and then he saved non-Jews in crisis; Jethro's daughters at the well. Only then did the Almighty appear to him. In other words, a Jewish leader must do three things. First, he must cultivate concern for *klal yisrael*, he must be our brother's keeper, and remain ever vigilant against enemies. Second, he must cultivate a community of *ahavat yisrael*, one in which there is unity

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KJ Rejoices on Simchat Torah

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amidst diversity, where all sorts of Jews can get along, and work together, where no one is suffering because of the insensitivity of another. And third, he must embody a concern that is ultimately universal; *ahavat yisrael* is no excuse for insularity. Activism on behalf of our brethren, *ahavat yisrael*, universalism; these are the values that Rabbi Lookstein has embodied in every aspect of his leadership: as a rabbi, as a scholar, as an educator.

I conclude my introduction on a more personal note. It is the *minhag* of KJ to rise for our *chatanim* as they are escorted to the ark. This to me parallels the now prominent *minhag* to rise for a *chatan* at his wedding, a tradition ostensibly based on the sages' statement that

chatan domeh lemelekh, A

groom is akin to a king. It's interesting to note that another position compared to monarchy in the Talmud is the rabbinate. Now,

having been both a groom and a rabbi, I found these statements difficult to understand. A *chatan* acquires the absolute authority and power of a king, so that he can tell other people what to do? Not in my experience. A rabbi possesses a monarch's military might? Of course not. Though I've always attempted to explain these statements, my understanding crystallized after, in preparation for a shiur over the summer, I read and quoted an essay written by Rabbi Lookstein in honor, and ultimately in memory of his father, entitled the "Biblical Hero as non-Hero." Therein Rabbi Lookstein explained that while western culture may have glorified power and military might, we Jews find glory a very different sort of virtue. "Among our national virtues we do not number strength and power in the ordinary sense. We identify ourselves as a people of *rahmanim*, *bayshanim* and *gomlei chasadim*. These," writes Rabbi

Lookstein, "are our heroic characteristics." In a similar sense, if a groom and a rabbi are compared to a king, it is because the true Jewish king is marked not by might but love, not *koach*, but compassion and concern. After the Rambam writes of the honor due a Jewish king, he stresses that

ויהיה חונן ומרחם לקטנים וגדולים

ויצא ויבא בחפציהם ובטובתם

ויחוס על כבוד קטן שבקטניהם

"And he shall be compassionate and merciful to the great and the small, and come and go on behalf of their needs and welfare, and be concerned about the smallest among them."

Five years ago, Rabbi Lookstein invited me to give a speech from this pulpit, with the possibility that I would

become part the rabbinic staff; I knew nothing about KJ, but had heard of its formality of service, and perhaps the regal attire of its clergy. When I finished speaking, someone in the shul- I don't remember who it

We identify ourselves as a people of rahmanim, bayshanim and gomlei chasadim

was, maybe you can remind me - rushed over to me and said "It's great to have you here; don't believe anything you heard about us on the West side." But the truth is that my time with Rabbi Lookstein has taught me something about *malchut* and Jewish virtue. It has taught me that royalty is revealed not in the clarion call of trumpets but in the response to the quiet cry of someone in distress. *Malchut* is made manifest not in the stately trappings of a castle court, but in a hospital room or a *shiva* home; glory achieved not in astonishing feats of military might, but in the quiet touches of empathy and concern for our families that every one of us, over fifty years, has been blessed to have experienced from our rabbi. Truly in such a situation, a rabbi can be compared to a king; truly we can say that *chatan Torah domeh lemelekh*. And so I ask you all to rise as our Rav, our *chatan Torah*, is escorted to his place of honor alongside the holy ark.

Upcoming Sisterhood Events

Ladies' Night Out

Wednesday, December 17th

Brunch and Museum Event

Tuesday, February 24th

Evening Cooking Class

Tuesday, March 17

Weinstock? He has served at KJ first as Assistant Rabbi and now as Associate Rabbi for five years. He began here as the Director of Outreach and he has made Beginners his specialty and so we begin the next cycle of the Torah with someone who might properly be called the *Beginnerer Rebbe*. (I can only give him that full title knowing that George Rohr is in Florida this Yom Tov with his father.)

During his five years at KJ, Rabbi Weinstock and his wife, Naama, have become beloved religious leaders in our community: Their four children, Meira, Yona, Aviva, and just this past year, Yakira, have grown up here. The elder two children are students in Ramaz where Rabbi Weinstock is a beloved teacher of Talmud as a member of the Middle School faculty.

Rav Elie, as he is affectionately known, has been involved in every aspect of congregational life. He has led hundreds of Beginners through their first steps in Jewish growth. He has supervised the conversion process of many who came to us from outside the Jewish people and are now loyal, observant Jews. He has demonstrated care and concern about every aspect of the religious and ritual life of KJ, and he makes sure that everything here functions in the manner to which we are accustomed. He is, by knowledge, by person, and by commitment, the embodiment of the message of the continuity of Torah which Simchat Torah is all about.

We congratulate him upon meriting the honor of *Chatan Bereishit*, as we ask the President and Vice President of the Congregation to escort Rabbi Weinstock to his place of honor alongside the Holy Ark.

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WESTCHESTER SUMMER DAY

A premier summer program for ages 2 ½ - 15

6th-10th grade Traveling CIT program

Located in Mamaroneck, New York

Private beach on the Long Island Sound

Transportation available from Manhattan

New family discount available

914-698-8900 ext 153

www.WestchesterDay.org



Presentation of Chatan Bereishit, Rabbi Elie Weinstock by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein

Who could possibly be more appropriate as the Honoree for *Chatan Bereishit* than Rabbi Elie

KJ TO PRESENT BNEI MITZVAH PROGRAMS

KJ will once again be offering learning programs for children from our community who are of Bar and Bat Mitzvah age.

Developed specifically for KJ, the Bar Mitzvah program is an opportunity to explore, in creative and interactive ways, the challenges and opportunities of reaching Bar Mitzvah.

Through the text study of Jewish sources on daily living and ritual practice, projects, and interactive learning led by Rabbi Elie Weinstock and Rabbi Jeffrey Kobrin, 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. Classes will be held on **March 1, 8, 15, and 22.**

Girls of Bat Mitzvah age are invited to participate in a program developed by MaTaN, the world-renowned Jerusalem academy for women's Torah scholarship, which focuses on Jewish female role models from the Matriarchs to Nehama Leibowitz.

Led by Rachel Kraus, classes meet on **January 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 22; and March 1, 8, 15, 22.**

To register or inquire, please contact Rabbi Elie Weinstock at 212-774-5636 or at ravelie@ckj.org

DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM IRAs TO CHARITY EXTENDED FOR 2008 AND 2009

The recent federal bailout bill extended to 2008 and 2009 the ability of IRA owners who are at least age 70½ to make charitable contributions, including required minimum distributions, of up to \$100,000 per year directly from their IRAs to qualified charities, such as KJ.

The 2006 Pension Protection Act allowed IRA owners age 70½ or older to make direct charitable gifts from their IRAs to qualifying public charities such as KJ, but this law expired after 2007. The law has now been extended to 2008 and 2009.

If you qualify and wish to take advantage of this charitable gifting opportunity, the distribution must be made directly from your IRA custodian to your chosen charity. The amount gifted to charity will not be included in your gross income; consequently, you will not be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction. However, because the amount distributed from the IRA is not included in your income, for tax purposes, it is as if the amount were included in your income and then you received an offsetting, dollar for dollar, charitable contribution income tax deduction. For high income taxpayers, this treatment may be superior to taking a taxable distribution from your IRA and giving the distributed amount to charity, because of the limitations on itemized deductions applicable to certain high

income taxpayers. Alternatively, for taxpayers who utilize the standard deduction, the direct contribution may also be superior to receiving a taxable IRA distribution and giving the distributed amount to charity because, with the standard deduction, you do not get a deduction for your gifts to charity.

Qualified charities eligible for direct IRA contributions include synagogues, such as KJ, and publicly supported charities, but not private foundations or donor advised funds. The favorable tax treatment given to IRA direct charitable gifts applies only to outright charitable gifts and not to amounts used to fund a charitable lead or remainder trust. The amount of the direct charitable gift can also be used to satisfy your minimum distribution requirements for the year of the gift.

If you are at least 70½ in 2008 or will be 70½ in 2009, you may wish to consider taking advantage of a tax free gift from your IRA to KJ this year or next year. Please check with your individual tax advisor to determine whether this is appropriate for you. If you or your advisor have any questions, please contact Leonard Silverman at (212) 774-5680 or lss@ckj.org or the KJ Planned Giving Committee Chairperson Lee Snow at (212) 683-3636 or lsnow@ksslaw.net

NATHAN AND VIVIAN FINK MEMORIAL LECTURE

RAV HERSHEL SCHACHTER

**Wednesday, January 28
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.



FINAL LECTURE: MARCH 4

YACHAD SHABBATON February 20-21

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.

SHABBAT MORNING PULPIT PRESENTATION

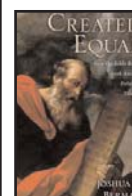
RABBI JOSHUA BERMAN

**February 28, 2009
Shabbat Parashat Terumah**

Rabbi Joshua Berman studied at Yeshivat Har-Etzion, received a B.A. in religion at Princeton University, and holds a doctorate in Bible from Bar-Ilan University



where he is a lecturer in Tanach. He is the author of *Created Equal: How the Bible Broke with Ancient Political Thought*, in which he depicts how the Bible blazed the trail for an egalitarian society—where everybody is equal before God.



CHANUKAH BEGINS SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 21

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.

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!

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.

Where's Your Yellow Card?

In the current economic climate we frequently come across stories about the decline and bankruptcy of businesses that but months ago were paying bonuses far greater than many salaries. We ourselves feel the necessity to tighten our belts, focusing our attention on getting ourselves through these difficult times. We may feel that we can not give to those less fortunate than we in the manner in which we have been accustomed, because we may feel that now we are less fortunate.

As Rabbi Lookstein stressed on Yom

Kippur: nothing can be further from the truth! While there is much to be said for being able to write a check to help those who are in need, that is not the only way that we can help others. We have plenty to give without having a penny in the bank. The opportunities are many. The Rabbi's chesed appeal focused on how much we can give. Whether through Bikur Cholim or Hatzolah, being part of a shiva minyan or the Chevra Kadisha, we are in a position to bring great comfort to those who need more than money.

The response to the chesed appeal was a flood of yellow cards from potential volunteers. It was truly heart-warming to see how many people were ready to give of their time and effort. If you still have your card, it's not too late to send it to the synagogue office. Don't remember what happened to your card? Don't worry! Whoever did not respond to the first appeal will have an opportunity to do so when the cards are mailed to those people who inadvertently left them on their seats over the High Holy Days! *Tizku l'mitzvot!*

PURIM SCHEDULE



FAST OF ESTHER, Monday, March 9

Fast begins at 6:07 a.m. and ends at 7:29 p.m.

Shacharit at 6:50 a.m. & Mincha at 6:30 p.m.

Please remember to bring tzedaka for *machatzit ha-shekel* and other holiday obligations.



MINCHA, MAARIV & MAIN MEGILLAH READING

Monday Evening, March 9

Mincha is at 6:30 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 7:15 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 7:00 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

7:15 p.m. - Second reading (quiet, no children) of Megillat Esther with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik in the Gottesman Center.



THIRD EVENING READING

7:15 p.m. - Megillah reading for parents and infants in KJ's third floor dining hall.



BEGINNER'S MEGILLAH READING

8:30 p.m. - Beginners Megillah Reading with Rabbi Elie Weinstock and Shilo Kramer in the Gottesman Center.



MORNING SERVICES AND MEGILLAH Tuesday, March 10

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

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



PURIM SEUDAH

Purim Seudah will be held in the Heyman Auditorium at 6:00. Advanced reservations required.

KESHER YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINYAN

Gottesman Center - 9:15 AM

January 17, February 7, March 7

HASHKAMA MINYAN

Max. J. Etra Chapel - 7:15 AM

December 20, January 10 & 24, February 7 & 21, March 7 & 21

TOT SHABBAT

For families with children 5 years and younger

Riklis Social Hall

February 6

MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

FILMS

Tree of Life

Sunday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m.

A Los Angeles woman tries to come to terms with her father's death by traveling to his birthplace in Italy to trace her family tree. With the help of her feisty 82-year-old aunt and some inventive animation, the story chronicles her relentless travels as she grows to understand the fascinating story of her Italian Jewish ancestors.

Rabin-Peres: Everything is Personal

Sunday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m.

An extraordinarily gripping exploration of the complex professional and personal ties linking Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, two men with radically different backgrounds and temperaments whose actions—and rivalry—dramatically shaped today's Middle East.

Naf the Street Kid

Sunday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Why does Naftali live on the street? In his music, Naf tells the stories of his own misfortune, and that of many other kids who live on the streets of Jerusalem.

Good Morning Israel

with director Amir Har-Gil

Sunday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Twenty years ago, Amir Har-Gil first documented the lives of five Israeli teenagers from widely differing backgrounds. Here, he revisits them at 10-year intervals, offering an illuminating profile of Israeli society.

Wasted

Sunday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

A candid look at Israeli soldiers who served in the Beaufort fortress in Southern Lebanon before Israel's withdrawal in 2000.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Second Annual KJ Salon

Featuring Bonnie Dietrich and other talented musicians

Saturday Evening, January 31 at 8:00 p.m.

at the home of Barbara and Dr. Terry Plasse

1725 York Avenue

Men's Club Shabbaton

in memory of Dr. Stephen Stowe

featuring Guest Speaker Rabbi Joshua Berman

February 28

KIDDUSH DISCUSSIONS

Scholarly and Revolutionary Insights into the New Testament and Jesus

with Rabbi Judah Newberger

Shabbat, January 24

The Saudi Money Trial

The story behind "Rachel's Law"

with Dr. Rachel Ehrenfeld

Shabbat, February 7

The Science and the Torah

with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik and Dr. Martin Grumet

Shabbat, February 28

PURIM:

THE JEWISH WAY TO REJOICE

March 9 & 10, 2009

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 7, 2009) 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, 5769, 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.

Seudah: A festive Purim Seudah will be held in the Heyman Auditorium at 6:00. Reservations are required.

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!

חג פורים שמח!

KJ Food Pantry Provides for New York's Needy

The KJ Food Pantry is unfortunately busier than ever. With the current financial crisis, as well as soaring prices for even the most basic of food supplies, more and more individuals are seeking the assistance of emergency food providers, such as the



Student volunteers staff the KJ food pantry.

KJ Food Pantry. With the increasing demands, we are continuing to fill our clients' food needs, as well as initiating some new and exciting programs.

Since the beginning of this fall, our Ramaz Upper School students and KJ volunteers have been preparing healthy recipes for food pantry clients. Each week, along with their fruits and vegetables, clients are receiving healthy recipe cards in their bags. The response thus far has been very positive, with some pantry clients offering their own recipes. Through this effort we are hoping to raise awareness to healthy eating on a limited budget for all, as well as to provide the opportunity for our students and members to become more involved with helping those in need.

Other areas in which the pantry is seeking volunteers include the following: Delivering bags to homebound clients, visiting with seniors, shopping for fresh



ANNUAL BNEI AKIVA SHABBATON

FEBRUARY 27, 2009

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 7:00 PM
following 5:40 PM services
at KJ**

Dinner is \$15 per person
Registration deadline: February 20th
For more information, contact
Bnei Akiva Shlichot Adi and Tamar
at 347-297-9308
or
adi@ramaz.org / tamar@ramaz.org

10TH ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

Special Gala Seudah Shlishit

Honoring Members of:

Chevre Kadisha
Bikur Cholim
Hatzolah
Congregational Chesed Volunteers

February 28th
Following 5:20 pm Mincha

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 Riva@ckj.org

fruits and vegetables, adopting a holiday with your children and providing either holiday treats or cards, and seeking out food donations from local distributors. If you would like to get involved, please contact Stacy Scheinberg at stacyron@aol.com

KJ BEGINNERS PRESENTS

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 AT 6:00 P.M.

Carlebach services followed by dinner

Save the Date: March 20, 2009 at 6:45 p.m.

Shabbat Across America

Featuring Rabbi Haskel Lookstein

Carlebach services followed by dinner

JEWISH LEARNING INSTITUTE AT KJ



You be the Judge II:

Dive into the Sea of Talmud

With Rabbi Elie Weinstock

How does an ancient system of law adapt to the modern world? See how Talmudic scholars respond to new advances in technology and society while remaining faithful to eternal principles. "You be the Judge II" presents six new cases that invite you to pit your wits against some of the best minds in Jewish history.

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

Try the first class for free!

No one is turned away for lack of funds
6 Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. starting February 11

History at Home

"The Jew in the Modern World"

featuring Rabbi Alexander Kaye

After the French Revolution, Jews had more opportunities than ever before to take part in the modern world. What challenges and choices did this change present to them? What were their responses in the realm of philosophy, politics, religion, law, art, and culture? Explore the Jewish responses to questions that are still critical to us today as Jews in the contemporary world.

January 17, 8:30 p.m.
at the home of Judy and David Lobel
1040 Park Avenue, Apt. 9F

February 21, 8:30 p.m.
at the home of Diana Newman & Isaac Corre
163 East 80th Street

WINTER LEARNING AT KJ

Crash Course in Jewish History

with Rabbi Elie Weinstock

Starts January 5th at 7:00 pm

Explorations in Hebrew Reading

with Shilo Kramer

Starts January 7th at 7:00 pm

Hebrew Reading Crash Course

with Sara Rosen

Starts February 4th at 6:30 pm

Holiday Workshops

with Rabbi Sam Shor

Tu B'Shvat

Monday, February 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Purim

Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00 pm

Passover

Monday, April 6th at 7:00 pm

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

THURSDAY NIGHT LEARNING

WITH

RABBI WEISER

The Sabbath: Day of Eternity

January 8, 15, 22, 29;

February 5

Who Said That? The Written and Oral Traditions in Judaism

February 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19

Passover:

What it Means to be Free

March 26 and April 2

Nice Guys Finish First:
Chesed in the Jewish Tradition

April 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21

Classes start at 7:00 pm

Studies in the Weekly Portion

with Rabbi Weiser

Starting January 8th at 8:00 pm

A Tribute To Musical Memory

by Cantor Mayer Davis

My love of music has taken me upon many wonderful journeys, the latest of which is a musical project which is allowing me to explore my family's musical roots. The culmination of this exploration will be an album entitled *Bridge of Generations ... A Legacy of Song*. This homage to my musical past begins with the songs that I learned from members of my family over the course of decades. Other selections on this album are melodies written by me but strongly influenced by my family's music. Many of these songs, *zemirot*, and *niggunim* have been handed down from generation to generation in my family. In some cases they were composed by family members and sung in shul. In others, they were simply songs that were "remembered," sung and informally taught at our Shabbat, Yom Tov, or Seudah Shlishit table. It wasn't always clear what the origin of the *niggun* was.

One of my fondest and warmest childhood memories is sitting with my brothers on Shabbat morning in Shaarey Tefila in Far Rockaway (a shul that was remarkably similar in style and outlook to KJ), and being enveloped by the spiritual atmosphere: the beautiful ark, the meaningful and powerful words of Rabbi Emanuel Rackman. I would look toward the Bima in the center of the sanctuary and watch with pride as I listened to the golden prayer tones of my father, Cantor Avrum Davis, wondering with the rest of the congregation how he could possibly hit the high note that was coming.

My father had a remarkable ability to bring people to spiritual heights as they listened to his beautiful voice. Yet, at the same time, he was able to involve them in tefilah as they sang **with** him. It was a wonderfully moving spiritual and religious musical experience.

My father continued inspiring

worshippers at KJ, where he officiated as Cantor for 17 years. Needless to say, my father's davening also made a powerful and lasting impression on me, and his moving melodies continue to stir me 18 years after I assumed the cantorial mantle at KJ.

My father was not the sole musical influence in my life. It behooves me to mention the many other members of my family who have had a very strong and lasting Jewish music influence on me.

I learned many beautiful *niggunim* and *zemirot* from my mother, Esther (Frankel) Davis, who even now continues to teach me.

I used to love hearing my maternal grandfather, Reb Yehoshua Frankel* daven for the *amud*. He used to sing beautiful and soulful songs to, and with, my grandmother, Pearl Elisheva



Frankel*. I also absorbed a great deal from my uncles, Reuven Frankel, Naftali Frankel*, R' Yitzchak Davis* and my paternal grandfather Reb Shalom Davis* (who sang songs to, and with, my Bubbe, Gitel Davis*). One of the *niggunim* I learned was handed down by my great grandfather, R' Meir Eichler*.

When I married Rochelle, my musical life was further enriched when I learned songs from her, and from my father-in-law, R' Chaskel Fastag (a lover of Modzitzer *niggunim*). I am told that **his** father, R' Moshe Leib Fastag* (who perished in the Shoah with many other family members), was a wonderful *Baal Tefilah*. His cousin, Rav Azriel Dovid Fastag* was the composer of the world famous standard melody for *Ani Maamin*

which is sung at Yom Hashoah memorial services held all over the world. One of the lullabies that will be sung on the album was used by my beloved mother-in-law, Gitel (Shulsinger) Fastag to put our children to sleep. She remembers her grandmother singing it to her.

In a very real way, the stories and people associated with these melodies are just as important as the songs themselves. As time passes and memories fade, I find myself wanting to remember and perpetuate the Jewish musical heritage that has helped shape me as a person...as a songwriter...as a *shaliach tzibur*...as a father...as a son...as a grandfather.

My hope is that another generation of children and grandchildren will remember and sing these songs as well... and that they will transmit them to their children and grandchildren at their Shabbat, Yom Tov, Seudah Shlishit and Seder tables.

Keeping all this in mind, it was important to me that the instrumental and vocal arrangements of these melodies be done in a manner that treats the material in a way that would uniquely, yet authentically, preserve the beauty, joy, pathos and spirit of the songs.

To this end, I have the good fortune of working with three people whose talents add immeasurably to this project: prolific composer and arranger Elliot Weiss (who, together with Ruby Davis, Harry Ballan and I comprise the Shultones, who add so much to the Simchat Torah Musaf); Rami Yadid, recording engineer par excellence, and Howard Katz, a multi-talented graphic designer. *Sof davar*, I thank Rabbi Lookstein for helping me be the best *shaliach tzibbur* I can possibly be and for encouraging my involvement in this project.

I look forward to sharing my family's music with all of you.

*of blessed memory

continued from page 4

Presentation of *Chatan Maftir*, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein

Our *Chatan Maftir*, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, who is beginning his fifth year in the Rabbinat of KJ, represents the quintessential meaning of the word "*hemshech*." He is the newest member of a generation of exalted Torah scholars and saintly leaders whose impact upon modern Jewish religious history cannot be overstated. He is the great, great grandson of Rav Chaim Brisker, the great grandson of Rabbi Moshe Soloveichik, the grandson of Rav Aaron Soloveichik, and the son of Rav Eliyahu Soloveichik, who serves as a Rosh Yeshiva at Touro Rabbinical College. And, of course, he is the grand-nephew of the Rav.

Everything that we have seen of him in the past four years has confirmed his capacity to continue the exalted tradition from which he comes. His teaching and preaching at KJ have been consistently illuminating and inspiring- sometimes even entertaining.

He is at present a member of the Judaic Studies faculty in the Ramaz Upper School where he teaches the best of the Talmud students in the senior class and a very large Jewish philosophy class, which was limited only by the size of the room. Had the 75 students, representing almost three-quarters of the class who applied for enrollment in the course been accepted, the course would have been held in the auditorium.

He is close to completing his Doctorate in Philosophy of Religion at Princeton. He has already published widely read and acclaimed articles in such prestigious

journals as *Azure*, *Commentary* and *First Things*. But, all of these glorious gifts of scholarship and talent, are balanced by very loving, human qualities of relationship to families in times of need and on occasions of celebration. This balance even extends to his ability to teach complicated Torah subjects to elementary grade school children at a *Mishnayot shiur*, and fascinating halachot at group visits to the Central Park Zoo.

He has also blessed us with the joy of his accomplished wife, Layaliza, and his adorable children, Aharon, Pinchas Tanchum, and Serach.

What a wonderful privilege we have to honor Rabbi Meir Soloveichik as *Chatan Maftir* and to prophesy about all that he can bring to KJ and to the Jewish world.

We ask the President and Vice President of the Congregation to escort Rabbi Soloveichik to his place of honor

continued from page 1

chancellor of MaTaNa, then offered her greetings and shared some of the history of MaTaNa. She never envisioned a yeshiva for women; twenty years ago it was more of an oxymoron than anything else. It started with heavenly dreams but small realities. Rabbanit Bina then spoke about Rabbi Lookstein's contributions to KJ. She recalled the words "*Avraham zaken bah beyamin*", in parashat Chayei Sarah, expounding that *zaken* (old age) can be interpreted as *chachmah* (wisdom). How did Avraham come to wisdom? With all his days. Every day, Avraham had a new, illuminating insight. He had an all-encompassing, illuminated wisdom. So, too, suggested Rabbanit Bina, Rabbi Lookstein's days are filled with insight: insight for KJ, insight for the Jewish people, reaching the ultimate level of *zikhah* and *chachmah*.

A lovely brunch followed the D'var Torah, sponsored by Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, a leader in women's advanced Torah scholarship. Shortly thereafter, Ayelet Hoffman Libson, a former Ramaz student and a graduate of MaTaNa, spoke of the wonder of the Hakhel ceremony, where the Jewish people gathered to experience the essence, the glory, and the splendor of the Torah. She stressed the importance of bringing children to the ceremony.

The final speaker was Shani Taragin, the head of the



(l-r) Rabbanit Malka Bina and Fanya Gottesfeld Heller in the mini-Hakhel audience

Midreshet Lindenbaum Beit Midrash and a graduate of MaTaNa's Advanced Scholar's program, who emphasized the importance of children attending the Hakhel, because even they can add *chidushim* to learning. Hakhel gives the Jewish people an opportunity to re-experience *Har Sinai*, to come together to share Torah interpretations, to embrace Torah, and to be passionate about it; just like the mini-Hakhel at KJ. For information about MaTaNa's programs, see www.MaTaNa.org.il



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KJ SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP:

BE A PART OF
THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Contact

KJ Executive Director

Leonard Silverman

at 212-774-5680 or LSS@CKJ.org

BNEI MITZVAH



ELIANA LORCH

Mazal Tov to Susanna Kochan-Lorch and Dr. Steven Lorch upon the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Eliana, which took place on Shabbat morning, October 11, at the Women's Tefilah group at KJ. Mazal Tov as well to the proud KJ grandmother, Hannah Lorch. Eliana read Parashat Ha'azinu and the Haftarah. She also led the Shacharit and Musaf services. Eliana presented a D'var Torah about the analogy between *Shirat Moshe* and the entire Torah and she made a presentation about her *Chesed* project, *Agunah*.

Eliana is a student in the seventh grade at the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan.



ORLY MINTZ

Mazal Tov to Dr. Elizabeth Wallach and Victor Mintz upon the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Orly Rebecca, which took place on Shabbat afternoon, November 15th, 2008, at the Women's Tefilah group at KJ. Orly read Parashat Chayei Sarah and presented a D'var Torah about her parashah. Orly is a student in the sixth grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



DANIEL BERG

Mazal Tov to Deborah and Barry Berg upon the forthcoming Bar Mitzvah of their son, Daniel, on Thursday morning, December 18 at 8:30, in KJ's Main Sanctuary. Daniel is a student in the seventh grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



JOSEPH BARUCH

Mazal Tov to Shira and Dr. Lawrence Baruch upon the forthcoming KJ Bar Mitzvah of their son, Joseph. Mazal Tov, as well, to proud KJ grandparents Rabbi and Mrs. Haskel Lookstein, and Mrs. Gladys Baruch. Joseph will read Parashat Vayeshev and make a *siyum* on *Masechet Megillah* on December 20. Joseph is a student in the seventh grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



TANI SPIEVACK

Mazal Tov to Susan and Jay Spievack upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Tani, which will take place at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun on January 10. Mazal Tov to proud KJ grandparents Gabriella Major and Rudolph Dresdner. Tani will read Parashat Vayechi. Tani is a student in the seventh grade at SAR.



GABRIELLA TEPPER

Mazal Tov to Fran and Dr. Alex Tepper upon the forthcoming Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Gabriella, on January 10. She will deliver a D'var Torah on the subject of Moshe and his family relationships. Gabriella is a student in the sixth grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



JACOB P. EISENSTEIN

Mazal Tov to Randi and Dr. Howard Eisenstein upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jacob, which will take place at KJ on March 14. Jacob will read Parashat Ki Tisa and will deliver a D'var Torah. Jacob is a student in the seventh grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



JORDANA GUREWITSCH

Mazal Tov to Karen and Steven Gurewitsch upon the forthcoming Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Jordana, which will take place on March 8 at which time she will deliver a D'var Torah. Mazal Tov to the proud KJ grandparents, Rae and Stanley Gurewitsch. Jordana is a student in the sixth grade at the Ramaz Middle School.



JACLYN MEHL

Mazal Tov to Robin Sheingold Mehl and Dr. Sydney J. Mehl upon the upcoming Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Jaclyn Esther, on Sunday evening, April 5, at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. She will deliver a D'var Torah on a topic related to Pesach. Jaclyn is a student in the sixth grade at the Ramaz Middle School.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

BIRTHS

Mazal Tov to:

Randi and Zahi Ashkenazi of Beverly Hills upon the birth of their second daughter, Kayla Arielle. Mazal Tov to the proud KJ grandmother, Rachell Maidenbaum Gober. Mazal Tov as well to the proud grandfather, Ira Gober.

Karine and Eric Attias upon the birth of their third child and second son, Natan Pinchas.

Marie and Robert Briefel upon the birth of their first grandchild, Jonah Lewis Briefel Hecht, son of Dr. Aviva Briefel and Dr. David Hecht.

Michal and Eric Creizman upon the birth of their second child and son, Caleb. Mazal Tov to KJ grandparents Vivian and Lawrence Creizman.

Abby and David Dofit upon the birth of their fourth child and second daughter, Victoria. Mazal Tov to proud KJ grandparents Arlene and Avrom Dofit.

Barbara and Eric Eigen upon the birth of their second granddaughter, Hazel Aviva.

Rebecca and Evan Farber upon the birth of their first child, a daughter, Charlotte.

Sarah and Rocky Fishman upon the birth of their second child and first daughter, Samantha Rose.

Rosie ('68) and Mark Friedman upon the birth of a grandson, Yaakov Yitzchak, born to their children, Yosef ('04) and Rivkah Friedman.

Sophia and David Gomberg upon the birth of their second child, a son, Alexander Nathan. Mazal Tov to proud KJ grandparents Gail and Ephraim Propp.

Elizabeth and Dr. Shaun Honig upon the birth of their first child, a son, Harry Heller Honig.

Naomi Ickovitz and Dr. Steven Rudolph upon the birth of their first granddaughter, Yaffa Shaindel, in Chicago, born to their children Sara Rudolph (Ramaz '02) and Mitchell Hoberman.

Debbie and David Kahn upon the birth of a grandson, Henry, a second son born to their children Rachel and Jonah Rechnitz.

Lori and Liron Kronzon upon the birth of their first children, twin boy and girl.

Kim and Jonathan Kushner upon the birth of their second child and second son, Emanuel Joseph. Mazal Tov to the proud KJ grandparents, Lee and Murray Kushner.

Bess and Leor Landa upon the birth of their second child and first son, Eitan Meyer.

Livia and Elias Marcovici upon the birth of their first child, a son, Daniel Ezra. Mazal Tov also to proud KJ grandparents Paula and Dr. David Menche.

Miera and Alan Rechtschaffen upon the birth of their second child and daughter, Chava Temimah (Eve). Mazal Tov to proud KJ grandparents Pamela and Rabbi Manfred Rechtschaffen.

Drs. Rachel and Craig Title upon the birth of twin boys.

Leah and Joel Weinberg upon the birth of their first child and son, Jayden Gabriel.

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

MILESTONES

Happy 99th Birthday to Lillian Jacobs.

Mazal Tov to Fannie Silverstein upon turning 99.

Happy 100th birthday to Morris Weiss.

Many happy returns to Gertude Linzer upon celebrating her 100th birthday.

BNEI MITZVAH

Mazal tov to:

Hannah and Ed Low upon the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Max, son of Debbie and Michael Doppelt, at the Young Israel of Scarsdale on November 8.

Zachary Zuckerman on the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat, Parshat Noah. Zachary read the entire Torah portion and he led the whole davening at a special service held in his honor at the Heschel School. Zachary is the son of Alice Gottesman and Larry Zuckerman, and is the grandson of our members Ruth and David S. Gottesman.

PROFESSIONAL / PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Dr. Inna Bakker upon her grandson Max Grozovsky's participation in the Worldwide

Math Olympiad challenge. Max won the national award as one of the highest scorers in his school district and scored in the top 10 percent of all participants.

Jonathan Baumgarten, who trained and completed the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. He was quite possibly the youngest runner there and finished the course in a time of 5 hours, 4 minutes. He did so in honor of the Israel Defense Forces and said he sang (to himself) the Marine Corps anthem to get him through the last two miles which were uphill!

Debbie Milstein, daughter of Judy and Ben Milstein, upon being the subject of an article in the Israeli newspaper, Ha'aretz. Debbie is the Director of International Trade at the Israel Trade Industry Department. She was the only Israeli ever to be an arbitrator in international disputes between Arab and Muslim countries.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mazal Tov to:

Pamela and Rabbi Manfred Rechtschaffen upon the engagement of their son, Eric, to Kim Gordon, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Neil Gordon of Savannah, Georgia.

May their wedding take place in happiness and blessing.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to:

Sandy April, upon the passing of her brother, Harris Klein.

Jay Cinnamon, upon the passing of his mother, Ethel Cinnamon.

Israel Englander, upon the passing of his sister, Toby Wechsler.

Dr. Daniel Fenster, upon the passing of his brother, Jonathan Fenster.

Elisa Pines, upon the passing of her father, Murray Pantirer.

Tessie Postel upon the passing of her son, Sanford Postel.

Judy Steinhart, upon the passing of her mother, Ruth Abrams.

Teri Szulc, upon the passing of her father, Leonard Freedman.

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

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 Riva Alper at 212-774-5670

For Information about the weekly status of the Manhattan Eruv
Call the **ERUV HOTLINE 212-874-6100, ext. 452** (Recorded Message)

East Side Mikvah
419 East 77th Street
(between 1st & York Avenues)
Telephone: 212-359-2020

West Side Mikvah
234 West 74th Street
(East of Broadway)
Telephone: 212-579-2011

In Memoriam

FRANCES FLATOW

Frances Flatow was the oldest member of our congregation. She died at the age of 102 after a number of years of illness.

Until her final illness, she was a regular worshiper on Shabbat and Yom Tov in our synagogue. She was a woman of grace and dignity, intelligence and competence. She also contributed regularly to the Annual Synagogue Appeal, never failing to be generous to the congregation of which she was a part.

An alumna of Smith College in the late 1920s, she was married to the late Sidney Flatow who, prior to his catering career, was one of the directors of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation after World War II. Mrs. Flatow joined her husband on a mission during Israel's War of Independence, and they were among the first civilians to enter Jerusalem following its siege, and they followed the IDF into the Negev upon its capture.

Frances Flatow was a caring and loving wife to Sidney, and a wonderful Jewish woman whom we will long remember.

JERRY GRUENHUT

We lost a real *mensch* in the passing of Jerry Gruenhut. He was a wonderful husband to Lynnette and a proud and loving father to Jonathan and Johanna, both Ramaz alumni.

He was extraordinarily bright; he knew the answer to everything, sizing things up insightfully and zeroing in on tasks clearly and powerfully. Like his namesake, Yosef, he anticipated things and planned accordingly.

He was a "people person" who was nice to everybody, and who, in turn, was loved by everybody. He had the most wonderful smile on his face even when confronting an illness, about which nobody knew, for the past two years. He had a nice word for everybody, and as a result, everyone had only the nicest things to say about him.

OPPORTUNITY TO MEMORIALIZE LOVED ONES

On the walls of the Main Synagogue are mounted seven tablets bearing memorial plaques, representing a permanent and dignified memorial opportunity to honor loved ones. At KJ, now in its 137th year, we keep the lights lit on either side of the plaque each year during the full month of the Yahrzeit and also when we recite Yizkor on Yom Kippur, Shmini Atzeret, Pesach and Shavuot.

The two newest tablets, each accommodating more than 150 plaques, were recently mounted at the very front of the Main Synagogue, close to the Holy Ark, affording an opportunity to new purchasers to determine with great specificity the location of loved ones plaques.

The cost of a plaque is \$1,000, which is entirely tax deductible. If you have relatives whom you wish to permanently memorialize, and/or you would like to reserve adjacent plaque spaces for yourself and other living relatives (you should not need them until after 120 years), now would be a good time to order plaques and keep all of your family's plaques together in the same location.

If you would like to speak with someone about this opportunity, please contact KJ Executive Director Leonard Silverman at (212) 774-5680 or LSS@CKJ.org

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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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Meir Soloveichik *Associate Rabbi*
Elimelech Weinstock *Associate Rabbi*
Alexander Kaye *Rabbinic Assistant*
Marc Herman *Rabbinic Intern*
Avram Davis *Cantor Emeritus*
Mayer Davis *Cantor*
Leonard Silverman *Executive Director*

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Hattie Murphy *Comptroller*
Rachel Lichtenstein *Outreach Administrator*
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Eytan Zadoff *Youth Director*

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

| | | <i>Lighting of Candles</i> | <i>Friday Evening Services</i> | <i>Saturday Afternoon Services</i> | <i>Sabbath Ends</i> |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| December | | | | | |
| 19-20 | Vayeshev | 4:13 PM | 4:25 PM | 4:10 PM | 5:12 PM |
| 26-27 | Miketz | 4:17 PM | 4:30 PM | 4:10 PM | 5:15 PM |
| January | | | | | |
| 2-3 | Vayigash | 4:22 PM | 4:35 PM | 4:15 PM | 5:20 PM |
| 9-10 | Vayehi | 4:29 PM | 4:40 PM | 4:25 PM | 5:27 PM |
| 16-17 | Shemot | 4:36 PM | 4:50 PM | 4:30 PM | 5:34 PM |
| 23-24 | Vaera | 4:45 PM | 4:55 PM | 4:40 PM | 5:42 PM |
| 30-31 | Bo | 4:53 PM | 5:05 PM | 4:45 PM | 5:50 PM |
| February | | | | | |
| 6-7 | Beshalach | 5:02 PM | 5:15 PM | 4:55 PM | 5:57 PM |
| 13-14 | Yitro | 5:10 PM | 5:20 PM | 5:05 PM | 6:06 PM |
| 20-21 | Mishpatim - Shekalim | 5:19 PM | 5:30 PM | 5:10 PM | 6:14 PM |
| 27-28 | Terumah | 5:27 PM | 5:40 PM | 5:20 PM | 6:21 PM |
| March | | | | | |
| 6-7 | Tetzaveh - Zachor | 5:35 PM | 5:45 PM | 5:25 PM | 6:30 PM |
| 13-14 | Ki Tissa - Parah | 6:42 PM | 6:45 PM | 6:35 PM | 7:37 PM |
| 20-21 | Vayakhel - Pekudei: Hachodesh | 6:50 PM | 6:45 PM | 6:40 PM | 7:44 PM |
| 27-28 | Vayikra | 6:57 PM | 6:45 PM | 6:50 PM | 7:52 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. 21- 254:25 PM | Jan. 18-224:50 PM | Feb. 15-195:25 PM |
| Dec. 28 -Jan. 14:30 PM | Jan. 25-295:00 PM | Feb. 22-265:35 PM |
| Jan. 4-84:35 PM | Feb. 1-55:10 PM | March 1-55:40 PM |
| Jan. 11-154:45 PM | Feb. 8-125:15 PM | March 8-316:45 PM |

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon - Wed, December 22-24
Chanukah Service at 7:10 am
Thursday, December 25
Morning Service at 8:30 am
Friday, December 26
Chanukah Service at 7:10 am
Sunday, December 28
Chanukah/Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Morning Service at 8:30 am
Monday, December 29
Chanukah Service at 7:10 am
Thursday, January 1

Morning Service at 8:30 am
Tuesday, January 6
Fast of the 10th of Tevet
Fast Begins at 6:08 am
Morning Service at 6:50 am
Afternoon Service at 4:20 pm
Fast Ends at 5:20 pm
Monday, January 26
Rosh Chodesh Shevat
Morning Service at 7:00 am
Monday, February 9
Tu B'Shevat

Monday, February 16
Morning Service at 8:30 am
Tuesday February 24
Rosh Chodesh Adar
Morning Service at 7:00 am
Wednesday, February 25
Rosh Chodesh Adar
Morning Service at 7:00 am
For Purim Schedule see page 7
Thursday, March 26
Rosh Chodesh Nisan
Morning Service at 7:00 am

In preparing the Bulletin, we welcome all KJ members' announcements of communal, academic and professional achievements. Please e-mail Riva@ckj.org or mail news to the synagogue, marked "ATTN: KJ Bulletin"

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